

*Come Away
And
Rest Awhile*

Mark 6:31

The ARC-ives

Volume II, Issue 5

February/March 2007

The Newsletter of the Association Retreat Center

**Be sure to register
early for:**

**Couple's Retreat
(February 16-17)**

And

**Women's Retreat
(March 30-April 1).**



Thanks to all the Volunteers who helped make the benefit Dinner Theater as success. God Bless You, Everyone!

Over 2000 Attend 'The Carol' at The ARC

Over 70 people from a variety of churches were involved in the 2006 production of *The Carol*. A distinguishing characteristic of *The Carol* is the sense of family that builds within the cast. Over 25 'Carol' family members had performed in at least one production of *The Carol* in the past!

This year marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of *The Carol*. In that time there have been 9 productions and 17 performances. Director Kevin Carlson wrote all of the music and adapted the script from the classic story Charles Dickens' originally published in 1843.

While it was exciting to have 2000+ people attend the 8 performances of *The Carol*, cast members had a higher goal.

At every rehearsal, the cast members prayed that friends and family attending *The*



Carol would find Jesus through the drama. To God's glory, we know of five individuals that prayed the prayer of salvation as a direct result of *The Carol* performances.

This year, a special matinee performance of *The Carol* was part of The ARC's benefit dinner and silent auction. Guests were treated to a delicious meal, great fellowship and their own private viewing of *The Carol*.

Businesses and individuals also donated items for the silent auction. Proceeds from the event raised over \$8,000.00.

While ARC staff did a large part of the planning for the event, none of it could have

been possible without our volunteers.

After the opening night performance, the gymnasium was transformed from an auditorium seating 600, to a dinner theater setting. The next day, after the dinner theater was complete, the same group transformed the dinner theater back to an auditorium for the evening performance!

In all, nearly 60 volunteers put in over 1000 hours to make our benefit a success!!

The ARC staff and cast of *The Carol* wish to express our deepest appreciation to all those who helped make this year's production and benefit a success.

Preparations are already underway for next year's Christmas celebration! See our website (www.arc-aflc.com) for updates.

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INTRODUCING ARC ADVANCEMENT

The ARC leadership has been investigating how we can improve our ministry to the over 12,000 guests who visit our campus every year.

Retreats and camps offered at The ARC enable people from virtually every social, cultural and economic class to 'come away and rest awhile' in a safe and nurturing environment. Many find faith in Christ

for the very first time. Others rededicate themselves to serving their Lord and Savior in ways they have never done before.

ARC ADVANCEMENT exists to build a body of believers dedicated to strengthening the ministry of The ARC through prayer, volunteerism and financial support.

Our goal will be attained as we build and maintain better

relationships with those we serve.

We thank God for the many who already support our ministry in various ways. Through ARC ADVANCEMENT we will recognize those who have given so generously and provide avenues for others to minister through us.

ARC ADVANCEMENT is

(Continued on page 2)



Upcoming AFLC Events:

SIDE X SIDE

*Grades 7-12
February 2-4*

Sno Daze

*Grades 4-7
February 2-4*

Couples Retreat

February 16-18

AFLC winter retreats

Register early for these upcoming AFLC retreats.

SIDE X SIDE /SNO DAZE Retreats were held **February 2-4**.

Thanks to all the leaders who made this retreat possible. Please pray for the campers as they go back home.

Couple's Retreat

Couple's Retreat will be held Friday night and Saturday, February 16-17. Cost for the retreat is \$120.00 per couple. This year couple's are given the option of staying Saturday night for an additional \$30.00. Receive a 10% discount by inviting couples who have never attended the Couple's Retreat before!

Couple's Retreat will fea-

ture Pastor Jerry & Kristi Nelson from Onalaska, WI. Pastor Jerry is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and instructor in Human Development and Family studies as UW-Stout in Menomonee WI. Kristi is finishing her masters in counseling and is working toward obtaining her license.

The Nelson's have been foster parents to over sixty children. They also conduct regional marriage seminars combining lecture, skits, and interactive activities.

Music leaders will be Paul and Betsy Welsch.

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat is March 30 to April 1. Speakers, including Mary Pollestad, Alicia

Baird and Ruth Rautio, will address topics such as: *Am I laying other foundations for my life-other than Christ?; Laying down the weight of guilt, fear, anxiety and forgiving myself; Taking care of my body spiritually & physically; A happy woman-singing a new song.*

Registration for the Retreat begins at 6:00 pm Friday night, with departure following Sunday morning worship.

Don't miss these great opportunities for fellowship.

Please register at least 10 days before the Retreat. You can register online (www.arc-aflc.com), by email: arcregistration@centurytel.net or phone (800-294-2877). More information can be found on our website.

AFLC Update

AFLC Youthworkers Retreat



Kirk Militzer spoke to over 40 AFLC youth workers January 12-14. Militzer challenged those gathered to look at the reasons so many youth are leaving our churches.

Annual AFLC Pastor's & Wives & Home Missions Conference



Pastor Bob Lee presided over the conference. Pastor Lee will 'retire' this fall.

AFLC Home Missions Board had their annual conference January 15. Pastors and their wives met for a week of physical and spiritual rest January 16-18 at the ARC.

Guest Bible teacher this year was Rev. Joel Rolf, AFLC Bible School Dean. Pastor Rolf encouraged those attending to keep priorities clear in ministry. Workshops were also held regarding spiritual and physical health, as well as family relationships.

Over 150 pastors and their wives attended the conference. Please remember these servants of Christ in your prayers.

ARC ADVANCEMENT
(Continued from page 1)

NOT a new or novel way to get money. It is a prayerful desire on the part of ARC board and staff members to enhance our ability to serve the local church so that, in the end, the body of Christ will grow and be strengthened.

To find out how you can be involved in **ARC ADVANCEMENT** contact us; By phone (800-294-2877), Email: arcadvancement@centurytel.net, or our website: (www.arc-aflc.com).

*Mike Fisk
Director of Development*

The 'New' Tabernacle continues to take shape



Phase two of refurbishing the Tabernacle is nearly complete thanks to donations of building materials and volunteer labor to help the ARC staff.

The main auditorium can seat 300+ people and comes complete with stage lighting and a kitchen area in back.

The 'blue room' as it's been called, is being insulated and new lighting and carpet is being added as well.

Over Pastor's Conference we had help with remodeling that dreary, dark entryway you may have remembered. Lighting has been added to give your first impression of The Tabernacle a bit more welcoming. We are continuing to pray for provision of carpeting for the main room, and funding to start phase three. That phase will consist of completely refurbishing the restrooms.



Thanks to Bob, Dennis, Steve and Duane (our friends from St. Luke's Lutheran in Schweer, IL), for their help in working on the Tabernacle entryway and blue room during Pastor's Conference! Roger Timm (not pictured) has also put in some long hours. Thanks again, guys!!



Spotlight on the ARC: Mike Fisk

Over the years the ARC has been a place where people can get away and take time to regroup. For some, that is a weekend, or a couple days. For others, it takes a bit more time.

Mike Fisk is the ARC's newest official staff member, although he has been hanging in the shadows since 2002. Mike 'landed' at the ARC when his marriage fell apart. A few short months later, he found himself out of a job. Mike had been a teacher, and a bi-vocational pastor. But in 2002 all that came to an end, as did his marriage. "2002 was the worst year of my life," he states. "During that year I saw everything that offered me stability, from societies viewpoint, come crashing down. All I had left was my faith in Jesus, a few friends...and the ARC."

Since then, Mike has worked temporary jobs, and spent a lot of time trying to decide what God would have for him next. It was during one of those times when Pat Flanders approached Mike and asked him if he would be interested in writing some grants and helping with some of the development aspects of the ministry at the ARC.

"I jumped at the chance," Mike says, "I love writing and have always been interested in the process involved in grant writing."

One of the first projects Mike tackled was to develop the ARC's first ever newsletter, *The ARC-ives*.

Over the past couple years,

Mike has attended workshops on fundraising, grant writing and development.

Two grants have been received for the ARC so far. One allowed Mike to attend a class on grant writing, the other enabled the ARC to host a three-day workshop in October on development.

Mike also helps keep the ARC computers and network up and running. "I ran into that job by default. No one else wanted it!"

Mike was brought on staff full-time in January as Development Director. His duties will be to implement the goals and vision of ARC ADVANCEMENT, the ARC's development program.

"We've learned in our studies that development isn't really about money. It's about relationships. My goal is for the ARC to work hand in hand with AFLC and local churches and groups to grow stronger as a result of their use of our facilities."

"Over the years the ARC has been a place of retreat for many who, like me, have endured hardship. My desire is that everyone who leaves this place will know we serve a Loving, Merciful and Graceful God of second chances."

The ARC looks forward to working with Mike in his vision to see the ARC continue to be a support arm to the body of Christ.

To the ARC staff:

Thank you so much for your generous and amazing hospitality for our scrapbooking retreat. We had a wonderful extended weekend at the ARC.

I really appreciate the extra effort you give for us to stay and scrap in GNL. The tables were places just as I had requested, nice chairs were brought over, even chocolate chip cookies were delivered to us!

Jim even offered to raise the two tables used for die-cutting to make our cropping easier on our backs. Thank you for all your thoughtfulness.

Truly, the kindness and genuine hospitality that everyone on your staff shows is the hallmark of the ARC. It's what keeps us coming back.



My desire is that everyone who leaves this place will know we serve a Loving, Merciful and Graceful God of second chances.

THANK YOU!!

To the many individuals who helped make **SIDE by SIDE** and **Sno Daze** a success!!

WANTED!!

Experienced carpet layer to assist with installing carpet at The ARC. If you can help contact us at: 800-294-2877 or arcadvancement@centurytel.net

ARC notes:

Praise God for...

- At least five decisions for Christ as a result of *The Carol*.
- Donations of materials and labor to begin the second phase of the Tabernacle remodeling.
- The safety of ARC staff over the Christmas Holiday season.
- Financial provisions during

the past year.

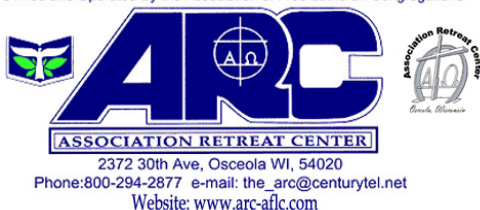
- Jim and Lori Keller's NEW grandson!
- Strong bookings for 2007 with several new groups.
- All of our volunteers.
- \$50,000 of in-kind gifts (chairs, building materials, etc.) in 2006
- \$73,162.69 in monetary donations in 2006

Please be in prayer for...

- ⇒ Annual fundraising efforts at The ARC.
- ⇒ **ARC ADVANCEMENT:** That we can continue to help strengthen the local church.
- ⇒ For the health and safety of our staff and their families.
- ⇒ For continued growth of

our ministry to serve the multitudes of people who need to find Jesus.

- ⇒ For those on our staff experiencing health issues
- ⇒ Your local church, pastor(s) and their families.
- ⇒ The American Bible Society visit to The ARC in March for a filming session.



The ARC is a non-profit ministry owned and operated by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Established as a camp and retreat center in 1979 we are open to religious and secular organizations and groups ranging in size from 25-600 persons.

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The ARC offers the perfect setting for your group to leave the chaos of society and find a quiet place to rest, reflect and re-energize. We welcome you to 'Come away, and rest awhile.' For information on booking the ARC for your next group event contact us at: the_arc@centurytel.net or call us at 800-294-2877. You can also visit us on the web at www.arc-aflc.com.

"Come away and rest awhile"-Mark 6:31

KEEP UP TO DATE ON
THE ARC.
VISIT US ON THE WEB.
WWW.ARC-AFLC.COM

February/March Groups and Events at The ARC

There's still time to book your event for 2007! Call or email soon to get the best available dates.
Email:
the_arc@centurytel.net
Phone:
800-294-2877
Website:
www.arc-aflc.com

Workday 2007!!

Plan now to join us for ARC Workday 2007. Tentative date is May 19th. Volunteers may want to take advantage of a free night (or two) stay at the ARC.

This is a great time for food, fellowship AND an opportunity to help The ARC staff prepare for a busy summer camping season. For more information, call 800-294-2877 or watch our website: www.arc-aflc.com.

FEBRUARY:		MARCH:	
2-4	AFLC Sno Daze AFLC SIDExSIDE Creative Memories/Annette Emmanuel Christian Center – Young Adults	2-4	New River Assembly of God – Men Creative Memories/Kay St. Croix Valley Faith Formation Creative Memories/Sue
9-11	New Life in Christ Church Emmanuel Christian Center-Jr. High Church of the Resurrection – Brooklyn Park Creative Memories/Julie New Life Christian Church-Women	8-11	St. Rose of Lima Lady Slippers Creative Memories/Jeni Crump Youth Alive Maranatha
14	First Baptist Banquet	10-12	New Hope Community Church/Alpha
16-18	AFLC Couple's Retreat First Baptist Church-Cambridge Men Emmanuel Christian Center – Sr. Youth Friendship Church Youth Retreat Southtown Baptist – Youth Emmanuel Christian Center-Youth SubZero	16-18	Apostolic Church Peace Lutheran MN Christian Fellowship of the Blind Mixed Sampler Quilt Guild Crazy Croppers Open Arms Men's Group Sue's Scrap 'n' Stamp Urban Refuge St. Paul EV Free
23-25	North Heights Alpha Grace Church (Young Adults) Creative Memories/Sue Stillwater EV Free Men's Retreat	March 30-April 1	FLY Committee Creative Memories/Laura AFLC Women's Retreat
24-25	Maranatha Assembly Alpha Church of the Open Door		