



# THE ARC-ives



Volume II Issue 3

The Association Retreat Center, a ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

Fall 2006

## The ARC Ministers to Families

Christian research specialist, George Barna recently reported a sobering statistic on American family life and spirituality. While more and more people profess to believe in Jesus Christ, there is no apparent change in lifestyles or values. One way this is shown is in a divorce rate among 'born-again' Christians (35%) that is no lower than those who do not profess to believe. For those who remarry after divorce, 3 out of 4 will become divorced again. Complicating the situation is societies progression away from the traditional family.

Two factors in the demise of families are communication and finding the time to build relationships. The ARC has long been a place where families can come together to build or rebuild relationships. Family camps have become a great way to pull the family away from the pressures and stress of daily living in order to gain perspective on the things that are really important. This summer four groups found the ARC as a place that is quiet and 'family friendly'.

Grace Church is a growing metropolitan church of over 4000 members. For the last nine years, Grace Family Camp has been a place to bring in new families and fellowship with other Christian families in a safe environment. The camp meets over the fourth of July and holds its own parade and fireworks.

The AFLC family camp in July provided opportunities for families to grow to-

gether spiritually, physically and socially through small and large group interaction. Drawing from the ARC theme for 2005 "YES! Free Indeed" young and old alike learned how we are free to love, to live and to handle the pressures of life in the world. Special breakout sessions also allowed adults a chance for in-depth learning about parenting and knowing what we believe.



Another family camp, of sorts, is the Hauge Foreign Mission, which supports mission groups from Norway and Hungary. They have been coming to the ARC for over 15 years, inviting missionaries from Norway or Hungary to the camp to share about missions and spiritual growth.

Catholic Communion & Liberation (CL) is an international Catholic movement made up of lay people, priests and religious of all ages. Communion and Liberation hold camps throughout the country, which they refer to as 'vacations'. A 'vacation' is an opportunity to live a few days allowing Christ's light to determine how time together is spent.

With all of these camps, the underlying theme is getting away to rest, refresh and recharge their physical and spiritual batteries in a safe environment. Please pray the ARC will continue to be a tool God can use to strengthen families.

# The Carol

ARC Christmas Dinner Theatre  
December 9, 2006  
11:30 AM

ARC Christmas Matinee Dinner Theater will present The Carol, a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" December 9th, 2006 as an ARC fundraising event. This will include a noon meal offered for \$35.00 per person, the performance and a Silent Auction.

The doors will open at 10:30 a. m. to begin the Silent Auction, followed by the noon meal and performance. Bids for the Silent Auction will end at 2:00 pm and items will be awarded at 4:00 pm.

Please call to reserve your tickets-800-294-2877. When you make your reservation there will be an option of entrees.

More information is available at: [www.thecarol.org](http://www.thecarol.org)



## ENCOUNTER WITH GOD



The Maranatha ministry has used the ARC to help people have a meaningful encounter with God. Several times a year Maranatha brings various groups to the ARC for three-day "ENCOUNTERS".

These "ENCOUNTER" events focus on three main areas of a person's spiritual journey. The first day, focuses on inner healing. Participants are encouraged to deal with their feelings about themselves and others. They are asked to go back to how they felt growing up. For some, their parents left them alone in Mexico. Others may have suffered emotional, physical or sexual abuse. This process will lead naturally into the need to forgive. Often, when a person sees how much God loves them, and how much He has forgiven them, they are led to work through the process of forgiving themselves and/or others.

The second day of "ENCOUNTER" focuses on deliverance. For some, this may mean the need to be delivered from evil spirits, or feelings of guilt, fear or anger. Others may seek deliverance from sickness. Whatever the need, the power of the great 'Deliverer' is sought to change the lives of people.

The third day of "ENCOUNTER" focuses on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the people. Many people coming to these events have known about the love and power of Jesus Christ for years. Some may even have accepted Him as Savior earlier in life. Still, they have never experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in control of their lives.

The power of the Holy Spirit is evident in many lives as they leave the ARC and return home. Many have found the love and forgiveness that only Jesus can offer. Others have rededicated their lives and experienced the inner power of the Holy Spirit for the first time. The circumstances of their lives may not have changed when they return home. The difference is that now, as a result of this 'ENCOUNTER' with God, they have the inner power of the Holy Spirit to guide them.

## CRISTO VIVE INTERNATIONAL **BUILDING DREAMS... CHANGING LIVES!**



When Jordana Engebretsen lost her sight and much of her mobility at the age of 21 due to Lupus, she could have given up, but God had other plans for her. After working with special needs children in Ecuador in 1998, Jordana answered the call of God to bring the love and joy of Jesus to special needs children and youth across the world.

Since then, Jordana's vision to provide camping experiences for children and youth with disabilities has grown into an international ministry. Today, Cristo Vive international has camps in the USA, Kenya, Ireland, Mongolia and Ecuador. Each camper has a special friend to mentor them, spend time with them and share the love of Jesus with them. Several families have joined the family of God through these camps and their effects in the lives of those with disabilities.

Cristo Vive held its USA camp at the ARC June 13-17. Besides enjoying our facilities and lake, they were treated to a ride on the Osceola Train. What an experience to watch the love of Jesus permeate the lives of these campers and their friends.

Jordana states, "I have been blessed tremendously by God through these experiences. I have learned much about God's love and His ways of expressing His love for all people, regardless of their abilities."

Cristo Vive offers short-term missions experiences to those who may be called to minister to those with disabilities.

If you would like more information about this ministry check out their website:[www.cristovive.net](http://www.cristovive.net).



## Spotlight on the ARC

### Dave and Valerie Anderson

Dave Anderson has been around the ARC since it's beginning. He remembers, at the age of 12, walking through knee-high weeds and wondering why on earth anyone would want to come to a place like the ARC.



At the time, overhead steam pipes and electrical wires and buildings with broken windows gave the place a dark, eerie feeling. Dave and his family volunteered many weekends that first year to make the ARC ready for it's first camp. Now, Dave is Director of Food Services at the ARC, as well as carpenter, painter, sheet rocker, carpet layer and assorted other duties as needed.

Dave grew up in the Amery area and began attending Amery Free Lutheran when the church was only two years old. Besides being in church whenever the doors were open, Dave attended Youth and Family camps every year at the ARC. "I prayed the 'sinners prayer' a hundred times," Dave remembers. However, one night at family camp, Dave gave his life to Jesus for good.

After high school, Dave attended AFLBS where he met his wife, Valerie. Val's dad was in the USAF and she spent her growing up years moving from place to place. Some places of note were Bangor, Maine, Germany and Spain. Finally, the family settled in Cloquet, MN.

Dave and Valerie were married in 1987 and moved from AFLBS to Crown College where Dave attended classes and Valerie received her degree in Elementary Education. The couple moved to Robbinsdale, MN where both worked at LeeAnn Chinns and other jobs. Dave eventually went back to school at Northwestern College in Roseville, MN where he received his degree and began working towards licensure as an athletic trainer.

While preparing for his final exams, Dave realized that his family was more important to him than a career as a sports trainer. Since his work would take him away from his family on nights and weekends, he pursued other avenues.

While at the ARC for family camp, in 1995, Dave was offered a job by Eric Westlake. At the time he was out of work and wanted to move his family out of the city and into the area. It seemed like the right time. Dave began working part-time at the ARC and commuting to the cities until the family moved to the ARC in 1996.

Currently, Dave and Valerie live outside Amery with their four daughters. Brittany (15) and Kimmy (14) attend Amery High School. The twins, Erin and Annie (8) are enrolled at Mustard Seed Academy, where Valerie is a teacher. The family is heavily involved in Amery Free Lutheran Church besides their work at the ARC. They also enjoy hunting, golf and spending time together as a family.

Dave has seen many blessings since he became involved with the ARC. It is a special joy for him to see the addition of the gymnasium; the refurbishment of buildings and the way the camp is being used for the glory of God. Dave has also been blessed during his time here by the addition of the twins to the family and having the opportunity to build a new home.

Dave had never thought of being in the ministry, but his involvement in the ARC has shown him that ministry comes in many different forms. "One of my spiritual gifts is serving and that is what I want to be remembered as *one who serves others*." Ministry brings its challenges. Family can become infrequent, especially during the summer months. Other jobs may pay more. But when you are where the Lord wants you, He seems to provide, although not always in the ways you hope.

Thanks to Dave, Val and the girls for your many contributions to the ARC.



## AFLC YOUTH CAMPS

### FLY Boot Camp held at the ARC



AFLC Youth Ministries held its FLY Boot camp at the ARC July 10 - 15, 2006. The Camp, formerly called the Leadership Training Conference, is a week designed to help youth grow spiritually. The goal of camp leaders is to take youth out of their comfort zone and see God in action. This is done by giving a solid week of training through hands-on experiences that focus on building leaders that will strengthen youth groups in the local church so that they will impact their communities.

Jeremy Larson, of the AFLC Youth Board states, "The uniqueness of this conference...is that it also goes on to provide practical training for students that have a heart for the world, but just don't know how to go about reaching it. We must 'always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.' We must be prepared."

For further information and pictures of the FLY Boot camp activities go to the AFLC website ([www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org)) and click on Youth Ministries.

### JUNIOR CAMP



Junior Campers spent June 11-16 at the ARC, learning how to be free and enjoying some great summer weather.



Pastor Andy Britz was the teacher this week, and friend Scott Lee helped him with the music.



Everyone had a great time at camp!

### Mary/Martha house gets a facelift



Thanks to the generous donation of some vinyl siding, the Mary/Martha house is getting a face lift this fall.

### Kids Camp



Kids Camp was held on June 16-17. There were 18 campers registered for this camp.



Nathan Monseth & Kyle Torfin were the leaders and taught on the theme "Long Story Short"



## PLAN NOW!!

2007 is full of exciting **AFLC** camps and retreats. Register early so you will not miss any of these chances to “*come away and rest awhile.*”

**Sno Daze** (grades 4-7)  
February 2-4

Register early for **AFLC YOUTH CAMP** and receive a “**ROCK SOLID**” T-shirt **FREE!!**

**SIDExSIDE** (grades 7-12)  
February 2-4



**Couples' Retreat**  
February 16-18

## Clergy Appreciation Month

In honor of our Pastors and their spouses, the ARC is offering a **Pastors' Appreciation Banquet and Retreat**. This special time for Pastors and spouses offers several options which include a banquet only or the banquet plus a one or two-night retreat. The Retreat will begin October 9<sup>th</sup>. **Show your clergy how much you appreciate them!** Please check our website ([www.arc-aflc.com](http://www.arc-aflc.com)) or call for more information (715-294-2877).

## Classics Retreat

(for those 55+)

Sept. 22-24

\$75.00 per person

Pastor Ted and Dee Berkas will share in music and word. Arrival time is 5:00 pm with registration at the Tabernacle. The retreat concludes Sunday. Please join us!

For a detailed schedule of events see the information on our website: [www.arc-aflc.com](http://www.arc-aflc.com).

Register by phone (800-294-2877) or online. If you register online you will receive a confirmation by email within 5 days of registering online. **Bring a friend and receive 10% off your registration fee!**

### *October (continued)*

- 20-22 New Hope Community Church  
Sanctuary Covenant  
Creative Memories/Laura  
Creative Memories/Sharon  
Creative Memories/Bridget  
Creative Memories/Diane
- 27-29 Sue's Scrap 'n' Stamp  
First Baptist Church – Cambridge  
North Heights Alpha  
Church of St. Timothy  
Creative Memories/Carol

### **NOVEMBER:**

- 3-5 Mixed Sampler Quilt Guild  
Emmanuel Christian Center (two groups)  
Maranatha Assemblia De Dios  
St. Odilia Youth  
Church of the Resurrection
- 10-12 Emmanuel Christian Center (two groups)  
Urban Refuge  
Living Word Chapel
- 17-19 St. Bridget's Women's Retreat  
Emmanuel Christian Center  
Vision of Glory

# ARC EVENTS

### **SEPTEMBER:**

- 2-4 MN Christian Fellowship of the Blind  
Mission Christian Elim
- 8-9 Mustard Seed Academy  
Maranatha Assemblia De Dios  
Risen Christ Church  
Good Shepherd Christian Academy  
Emmanuel Christian Center  
Tres Dial planning committee
- 15-17 Twin Cities Chinese Christian Church  
Maple Grove E. Free  
Mt. Sinai Church of God Men  
Minnetonka HS concert choir
- 22-24 Tres Dias  
AFLC Classics Retreat  
Living Hope E. Free  
Creative Memories/Sarah
- 29-Oct. 1 Heart of a Warrior  
Tres Dias  
Quilting Queens

### **OCTOBER:**

- 6-8 East Lincoln Alliance Church  
Creative Memories/Julie  
Creative Memories/Jody  
Creative Memories/Kay  
North Heights Men's Retreat
- 9-11 Pastors' Appreciation Banquet/Retreat
- 12-15 Exodus Regional Eagle Wings Ministry  
Creative Memories/Janelle & Lisa  
Creative Memories-Char  
Peace Lutheran/Coon Rapids Youth  
Campus Crusade UW-EC



## The Encouragement of Family

Pat Flanders  
Director, The ARC



It is Saturday July 29 and the last of our Family campers have just departed. The camp is quiet now, after a week of constant activity. Although I am ready for a nap, I'm reminded of Isaiah chapter 40. The promise of verses 28-31 is that God will sustain us even when we are tired and strengthen us when we feel weak. He never grows tired and He always understands us, even when we stumble or grow tired. As I pick up the trash in preparation for the next camp coming in God's promises lift me up once more.

What a blessing the last week has been! Our ARC staff has worked hard throughout the many long days of the last week. Changing schedules, working long hours and encouraging one another when things didn't go as planned.

Guests were blessed as well. Wonderful speakers directed our hearts towards the Truth of God's Word. Praise teams led us in worship of His greatness. VBS teams, recreation and craft volunteers, and many other volunteers were such an encouragement to us. God's Spirit was definitely at this camp. I was blessed to see people helping where needed and encouraging each other throughout the week. I believe that this Family Camp was just how God wants His family to be. We even worked in a little fun with our new staff member ARChy.

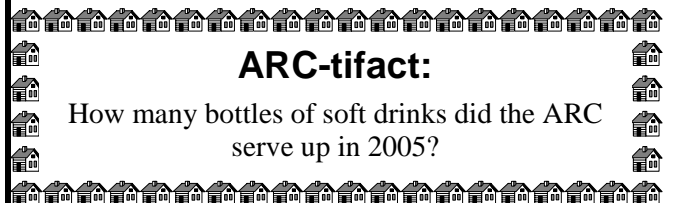
We are extremely blessed to be a part of this ministry called the ARC. Each year 10,000 new friends from about 250 groups cross our path. We are set apart to serve these servants of God's kingdom as they, in turn, are helping those whom Christ died for. But it is a special blessing when, several times a year, we can be refreshed with fellowship from our own AFLC family.

While I am confident that our God is a great and generous God, I pray a lot about our finances. Historically December has been a deficit month at the ARC. This year we are holding our first ever benefit/dinner-show. I am praying that this benefit will raise \$30,000. Funds from this benefit will be used towards debt incurred from past expansion of our ministry. Any money raised above that amount will go towards operating shortfall and our new endowment fund.

*Thank you Lord for setting this place apart for your work. I thank you for the privilege of being a part of the many souls that have come to know and grow in Jesus at the ARC this year. I thank you Lord for the so many people who have helped us here this year, and the provision of materials and equipment for your service at the ARC. I pray that you would go ahead of those who have so diligently prayed and done your work on behalf of this your ministry called the ARC. Amen.*

### CAN YOU HELP?

In the past, we have been blessed with partners in our ministry who have generously loaned us money to fill gaps in our budget shortfall during the winter months. This fall and winter notes are due totaling \$50,000.00. Please pray for provision to replace these notes. If you feel led to help, please contact Pat Flanders by phone (800-294-2877), or email (pjfland@centerytel.net).



### ARC-tifact:

How many bottles of soft drinks did the ARC serve up in 2005?



## A Plan for the Future

Mike Fisk

There is an old saying that goes, “No one plans to fail, they just fail to plan”. Proverbs 13:22a follows that wisdom when it comes to planning your financial future. The verse says, “A good man leaves an inheritance for his children’s children, but a sinners wealth is stored up for the righteous.” (NIV).

This verse shows an interesting dichotomy. The person who is wise with finances will not only be a blessing for his children, but for his grandchildren. He plans now for the future so his legacy will be preserved. The other part of the verse is sobering. Those who live for today, and don’t take into consideration how money is spent now, will only see it end up in the hands of those who planned.

Over the coming months, the leadership of the ARC will be exploring avenues that will allow you to guarantee that the ministry of the ARC will be here for your children and your grandchildren. In June, we were notified that we had received a grant, which will be used for developing a plan to grow our endowment fund and establish a solid donor base.

What this means for you, as an ARC supporter is that you will be able to plan your gifting strategy in such a way that your legacy will be preserved both in the family and in this ministry. There are many ways that you can give now and still have that retirement account you are working for.

Endowment funds are a vital part of our development plan. The capital in the fund is never touched, yet we can use the interest gained from that fund for capital improvements and scholarships. Imagine being able to know that children who could not otherwise attend the ARC are learning about the love of Jesus because you helped us plan today for tomorrow. Better still, imagine if that young person was your grandchild!

Be praying now about how you can plan your future and at the same time insure that the ARC will be here for your children and their children. If you would like more information about how you can be a vital player in the financial ministry of the ARC call us (800-294-2877) or email us ([the\\_arc@centurytel.net](mailto:the_arc@centurytel.net)) today.

### Giftng program helps you make a bigger impact

Over the years, the ARC has been blessed with many generous donors who demonstrate their support for our ministry. Their gifts have been supplemented through a wonderful gifting program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called the GivingPlus Program.

Through the GivingPlus Program, you can help the ARC meet current needs in a way that increases the impact of your gift. For more information on how you can be a partner in our ministry and participate in the GivingPlus Program:

- ◆ Contact the ARC at: [the\\_arc@centurytel.net](mailto:the_arc@centurytel.net)
- ◆ Visit [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). In the “Help Center” click on “I want to find,” then scroll to “Gift Matching.”
- ◆ Contact your local Thrivent Financial Representative



### PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- ◆ Praise for a very safe and successful summer camping season.
- ◆ Praise for the safe return of our summer ‘staff’ missionaries: John Flanders (Thailand) and Heather Koller (Tanzania).
- ◆ Prayer for the family of Gene Barnum Smith as Myrtle passed into the presence of her Lord and Savior.
- ◆ Prayer for Phil and Hazelle Featherstone as Hazelle is in the Hospital.
- ◆ Prayer (and Praise) for Bob Dietsche as he recovers from a mowing accident.
- ◆ Prayer for our upcoming Fall/Winter retreat season.
- ◆ Prayer for funding during the slow winter months.
- ◆ Prayer for wisdom as the board contemplates future giving programs and funding of our endowment fund.
- ◆ Pray that Jesus would be glorified in the lives of staff members as they minister to campers throughout the year.
- ◆ Pray for safety as staff members work to provide a safe environment for our campers.

# THE ARC-ives

The Association Retreat Center  
2372 30th Avenue  
Osceola, WI 54020

*The Association Retreat Center  
A ministry of the Association of Free Lutheran  
Congregations*

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## ARC Staff & Board Members

### **Director:**

*Pat Flanders*

### **Director-Guest Services:**

*Jim Keller*

### **Buildings & Grounds:**

*Gene Vukonich*

### **Housekeeping:**

*Mary Howard*

### **Food Services:**

*Dave Anderson*

### **Board Members:**

*Mr. Dale Bentley*

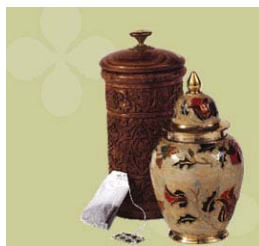
*Pastor Tim Carlson*

*Dr. Steve Johnson (Chairman)*

*Mr. Cliff Seldal*

*Mr. Roger Timm*

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