

The Grace Vine

The Church doors open and many blessings flood in...

After a year and a half of prayer and preparation, the doors of Abiding Grace Community Church (AGCC) flung wide open! Meeting at Central Alliance Church at 9:30 AM, we had over a hundred in attendance the first service, January 8th, 2006.

We all enjoyed a wonderful spaghetti dinner after service, served by some of our supporters. We now hold at approximately 70 adults and 40 children each week.

The leadership team has been very busy! **The last eight months have been full of "firsts"**.

Our **first Baptisms** included two entire families that completed Baptism classes.

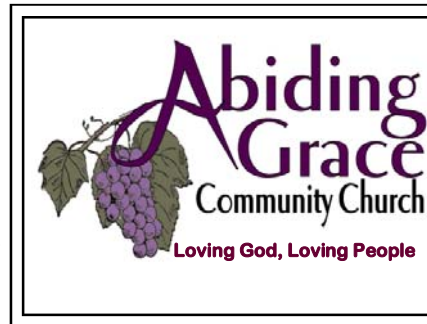
On Easter Sunday the AGCC family joined in celebration of our risen Lord with our **first communion service**. Many took part for the first time after having recently believed in Christ.

In April, we held our first "Checking out AGCC" orientation where more than 25 people came because of their interest in becoming a part of the AGCC church family. We went over the recently completed church handbook which included our philosophies, doctrine and beliefs, etc.

As we honored our mothers for Mothers Day, we also enjoyed dedicating our first seven babies back to the Lord.

In July, we started **Family Fun Nights** on Fridays. It is a night of Bible Study/ Discussion and various fun activities for everyone in the family. Various activities include games, service projects, "on the town" fun, Prayer and Praise nights and more.

In June, there were *seventeen students* that took part in our second leadership training, called **New Covenant Life School**.



The twelve leaders that attended the first training, last September, gave leadership to this training group. This 3-week intensive training will be offered twice a year. *The next one is scheduled for mid-February.*

Pastor Evan is very excited about AGCC and says: "*The fruit that 3-week training bears is bigger than the sacrifice...I'm very excited about all that God is doing...excited for the people because they are excited...I'm excited about how God is going to change, teach and use us all...excited about the growth process and opportunities to reach the community with the Gospel.*"

Faces of Fellowship



Family Fun Night - Water Games

Children's Church



Food & Fellowship - Spaghetti Dinner



First Baby Dedications
Mothers Day 5/14/06

Survey: How has being a part of the AGCC family blessed you?

"The openness & vulnerability. The love of Christ is evident. It has stretched my faith. I have had to rely on God more. It has taken me out of my comfort zone, which is a good thing."

-Johanna Kerns

" I like the teaching and comfortable atmosphere. I have had a shift in understanding grace and love. It occurs very different to me today than it did six months ago, It is real and alive in how I think."

-Renita Tyrance

" I like the church as a whole. I like the praise and worship...time of (community) prayer after we receive the message and our fellowship after service. The church has created a closeness in getting to know people and keeping a relationship with them. My life has also been changed as I'm reminded how great and powerful God is and that He's always with us and that nothing can separate us from His love!"

-Darryl Jones

"The sermon and warm welcoming of the Pastor, his wife and church family. It has begun to help me realize that there is a true godly purpose for me and my life."

-Anonymous

Prayer Requests

- Continue to hear from Lord for direction...to abide in Him
- Growth of new believers...more new believers
- Continued unity among the AGCC Body
- Good moving transition
- Praise/Worship Leader & more musicians
- Youth pastor

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We're on the web!

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AGCC supporting churches

First Evangelical Free Church

Zion Church

Grace Chapel

Lincoln City Church

Lincoln Berean Church

Faith Bible Church

New Covenant Community Church

New Hope Baptist Church (GA)

.....**THANK YOU!!**

The GraceVine Written and Produced by
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Abiding Grace is *Moving*

After eight months of ministry, our church body is having to move. Central Alliance Church (where we currently meet) has a new pastor and a new vision for outreach. They are needing to use their entire facility to accomplish what they feel the Lord is calling them to do. We had been given three months to find a new location. Our last Sunday at Central Church is August 27th.

How do we feel about this?

The good news is that we maintain a good relationship with Central Church. In fact, Evan preached for their congregation in August.

Another good thing is that we'll be able to change the service time from 9:30a.m. to 10:30a.m. That will help more families to be able to attend...more faithfully.

The bad news is that we didn't anticipate moving after only six months of ministry. Therefore as a young church we weren't prepared financially. However, we do trust the Lord and we believe that He will continue to provide for His church...and He has!

AGCC recently received a *substantial* gift from the VBS children's ministry at Lincoln Berean Church to get the items needed before moving.

We have decided to relocate to (and to help renovate) a local community center, in the heart of the community we serve, called the Malone Center. The director of the center attends AGCC and has given us the same weekly access and monthly cost as Central. **Look at God!**



The Brown Family Has Grown!

Our sons are so much fun, we thought they'd have another one!

Meet Aaron Michael Brown—as you can see, big and healthy.

He was born March 23, 2006 at 4:54pm. He weighed in at 8lbs. 4 oz. and was 3 weeks early!

An induction for VBAC was scheduled for March 21 but the day before there was a major snow storm of about 20 inches (after a very mild winter). So it was cancelled and rescheduled for a week later. However, on the 21st, I (Te Anna) started having major contractions and ended up being "squeezed in" to the hospital two days later.

The delivery was great!...no c-section needed, as prayed for. It was such a pleasant birthing experience – I could almost do it again! I was pampered the whole time by Evan, two midwives and a friend who is a doula (assistant to midwives). What a wonderful blessing!!!

The children have been doing great with their little brother! Chayah has been a great help—Aaron has really taken to her. Andrew and Ari enjoy Aaron too! Someone told Ari, thinking he might be jealous, that he was "still their baby" and he said "No, I'm a big brother!" Jealousy isn't an issue. He still likes his snuggle time with mom but he very patiently waits his turn.

Even though our family and church has grown in number, there has been so much more spiritual growth.

Life has gotten much more interesting with four little ones and a new church...a courageous adventure!

Evan says that pastoring has been more enjoyable than he thought, but he realizes he has a lot of growth ahead. (I am so proud of my husband!)

Ministry has been hectic—a lot of "firsts", much counseling, meetings, etc. There have been some wonderful

experiences and some major challenges. We rest in knowing that God is in control!

We are so thankful that Evan has his office at home. So that even with full schedules we are able to enjoy more time together as a family!



Aaron Michael—7 weeks old—
dedication day at AGCC,

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