

ABIDE report from Karen Hendley to the Church Council 10/17/2017

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be consecrated for the glory of God!
Members of the Abide team

Johnnie Richey
Ben Middlebrooks
Karen Hendley
Leslie Hassell
Frances Long
Bart Reddoch
Dale Landis
Judy Faye Garner

We recite our mission statement each week: Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” This is the same mission held by the Abide team. The Abide vision is

- Abiding in Christ
- Advancing God’s Mission
- Alive in God’s Glory

We are just beginning to understand the program and our roles.

The core of the Abide Program is spiritual formation. The purpose is to build a team that studies, prays and grows in connection to God, learning about community, following and leadership. It is the goal that this team will build on all of the good things happening in our church and lead the congregation in effectively creating a vibrant, active disciple-making faith community. The team has chosen me as their facilitator. Though Bart is a great spiritual leader, by design he is an equal member of the team, not leader.

Our coach, Ellen Harris, who is from Alabama, will communicate with Bart and me regularly via teleconference. It is our intent to communicate with you and the whole congregation on a regular basis, as we have already begun doing. When the time is right we will begin including more folks in this journey. Many of you recently completed the Path to Discipleship study and I would encourage you to refer to that resource as you seek to deepen your relationship with Christ. Right now, your participation through prayer is the most important way you can support us. Please pray for us as we continue to seek God’s direction in this process. We are praying for you daily!

So far we have:

1. attended 2 day long retreats to acquaint us with the Abide program.
2. completed a Bible Study entitled First Fruits
3. committed to daily prayer and meditation
4. begun sharing Glory Sightings and our insights with the congregation

Next we will begin meeting at least 8 hours per month for the next year. I speak for the entire team when I say that we are VERY excited about the potential this process has for our church.

Do you have any questions? Contact Karen Hendley 903-920-7724 or Bart at the church office.
Thank you for your support.

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