



St. Andrew's Tidings

Message from Deacon Ray

So what is a disciple?

In this week's Gospel reading Jesus is starting to round up a group of men to be his disciples. He starts with two fishermen, then two more, and offers that if they will follow him they can become "fishers of men." In the days to follow he rounded up another eight that became His twelve

disciples. The original twelve disciples/apostles from Matthew 10: "These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him." Each Gospel tells the story a little different with a slightly different list of names, but it was the same twelve that followed Jesus to listen, watch, and learn.

The Great Commission then tells us all to be disciples, as we will hear later this year from the Gospel according to Matthew (using The Message translation here): Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally. Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

By definition a disciple is simply a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.

This process requires believers to respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting to examine their thoughts, words and actions and compare them with the Word of God. This requires that we be in the Word daily—studying it, praying over it, and obeying it. According to Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

1. Putting Jesus first in all things; the disciple of Christ needs to be set apart from the world. Our focus should be on our Lord and pleasing Him in every area of our lives. We must put off self-centeredness and put on Christ-centeredness.

2. Following Jesus' teachings; we must be obedient children and doers of the Word. Obedience is the supreme test of faith in God, and Jesus is the perfect example of obedience as He lived a life on earth of complete obedience to the Father even to the point of death.

3. Fruitfulness, but our job is not producing fruit. Our job is to abide in Christ, and if we do, the Holy Spirit will produce the fruit, and this fruit is the result of our obedience. As we become more obedient to the Lord and learn to walk in His ways, our lives will change. The biggest change will take place in our hearts, and the overflow of this will be new conduct (thoughts, words and actions) representative of that change. The change we seek is done from the inside out, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It isn't something we can conjure up on our own.

4. Love for other disciples; scripture tells us that love of other believers is the evidence of our being a member of God's family. Love is defined and elaborated on in 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. These verses show us that love is not an emotion; it is action. We must be doing something and involved in the process. Furthermore, we are told to think more highly of others than of ourselves and to look out for their interests. Philippians really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life: "our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus." What a perfect example He is to us for everything we are to do in our Christian walk.

5. Evangelism - Making disciples of others. Now if you have read me this far using the "E" word really scares most Episcopalians, certainly scares me. However, we aren't talking about standing on box at the corner of 23rd street screaming bible verses to passing motorists. We simply have to be examples of the things that Christ tells us about, others will follow your example. We are to share our faith and let nonbelievers know about the wonderful changes Jesus Christ has made in our lives. No matter what our maturity level in the Christian life, we have something to offer. Remember that it does not have to be verbal; St. Francis of Assisi sums that up in one of my favorite quotes: "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words."

Too often we believe that we don't really know enough or haven't been a Christian long enough to make a difference. Not true! Some of the most enthusiastic representatives of the Christian life are new believers who have just discovered the awesome love of God. They may not know a lot of Bible verses or the "accepted" way of saying things, but they have experienced the love of the living God, and that is exactly what we are to share.

So where are you with this? God loves you; work hard to be a disciple in all that you do every day!

The Reverend Raymond Wishart, Deacon

Pledge Card Ingathering This Sunday

You are invited to bring your pledge cards this Sunday and drop them in the plate provided and they will be blessed on the altar. Also, if you have not made a pledge to living stones, you are invited to include that as well. Ancient Israel practiced the custom of stacking stones to "remember" the faithfulness and goodness of God, as well as events that happened in their lives. These stones symbolized a place or a time when the people experienced the provision, protection, blessings, or undeserved gifts from the generosity of God. We "stack stones" as it were when we give back to God for all God has done for us here in this place.

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR
CURSILLO IN MARCH.**

**SEE LINEE` MORGAN OR MARGARET FOR
APPLICATIONS. WE ALREADY HAVE 7 GOING!
Margaret and Anne Staley will be on staff.**

NEW SERIES FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

FRANK LO'PEZ WILL LEAD THE 9 A.M. ADULT CLASS IN

Richard Rohr's book, "Breathing Underwater."

Rohr, a Franciscan priest, is the founding director of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the author of numerous books such as "Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality, and Wondrous Encounters: Scriptures for Lent. Books will be provided. The series begins this week.

LIFELINE SCREENING COMING TO ST. ANDREW'S

St Andrew's Episcopal Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 2/10/2014. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners**

Living Stones Renovation and Renewal

Where Are We Now? #4

It has been three months and three weeks since our kick-off Commitment Dinner at the Yacht Club. Since then we have raised over \$147,670. Architect fees have totaled \$40,520. Presently, we have over \$103,000 cash in hand. We have a loan commitment from the Diocese of \$100,000. We are, also, in the process of obtaining a bridge loan from Hancock Bank, which will allow us to start the renovation work.

Presently, we are gathering St. Andrews' financial records for the past four years, a bank requirement. Our accountant has begun the audit for 2013. One problem is the fact that our records are incomplete for the years 2010 and 2011, during the time misallocations of church funds was occurring. We wish to create a narrative for the bank, detailing how we made up the deficits and restored our financial standing.

Our Capital Campaign records show that a total of fifty-four households have made formal pledges, and to date have made contributions of \$39,700. We have also learned that a total of \$22,438 has been contributed by those who have not made a formal pledge, but who have been faithful and generous in their giving .

We have received a bid from Anderson Construction, which the Vestry, Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee agree is beyond that which we care to contract for. We will begin reviewing the costs item by item, and work with the contractor to align costs.

Numbers can tell us much, but not everything. Numbers do not speak to the spirit of that Communion of Saints called St. Andrews Episcopal Church. It is a spirit that helped us rally and recover after a devastating loss of financial resources and trust. It is a spirit that has not been satisfied to simply survive disaster and division, but is determined to continue making a difference in the lives of others. Other congregations may have been satisfied to await developments. We decided to control developments. With the arrival of Margaret, one of our first decisions was to restore our Diocesan Pledge to former levels, a commitment we continue to honor to this day. New forms of worship have been introduced. Through the leadership of our deacon, Ray, we have reached out to a wider community. Cursillo has been revived. Adult Sunday school is once again meeting. I do believe that the Holy Spirit is working in us to bring the Living Stones to life, and that we shall be successful. We have only look at what has been accomplished in four and a half months.

January Centennial Challenge

Thanks to everyone who gave input for the centennial banner. Dr. d'Albertis is currently trying to incorporate those ideas into a banner.

Our senior warden, Nancy Young, suggested that since local food banks are low, our Jan. centennial challenge could also include collecting **100** food items to be donated to local food banks. Please bring your canned goods or nonperishable food items and place them in the baskets below the bulletin board in Byrne Hall.

MEN'S CONFERENCE AT BECKWITH

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1

WHY THE LITURGY ROCKS: HOW EPISCOPAL WORSHIP CAN LEAD TO HEALTHY AND AUTHENTIC LIVING

PRESENTED BY

*THE VERY REV. IAN S. MARKHAM, PHD
DEAN AND PRESIDENT OF VIRGINIA SEMINARY*

SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD!

Winter in Indiana

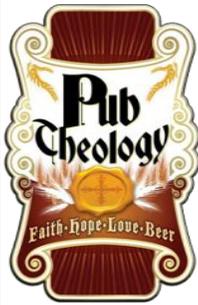
The earth lay silent beneath a blanket of white.
The only sound to hear is my footsteps crunching their way on this quiet night.
The moon shines softly on this blanket of snow,
Sparkling like diamonds as onward I go.
So beautiful to behold, I thank God for all he has bestowed.
'Tis a quiet and beautiful walk: time alone for God and I to talk.
Crisp and clear; deep breaths I take,
To renew my strength and meditate.Christine Howk

POLO SHIRT SALE



PLEASE SEE ELAINE IN BYRNE HALL AFTER THE SERVICE TO ORDER AND PREPAY FOR OUR 'NEW' ST. ANDREW'S POLO SHIRTS. CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO: ST. ANDRE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WITH POLO SHIRTS ON THE MEMO LINE. COST IS \$15 FOR S, M, L AND \$16.50 FOR XL AND ABOVE.

*Pub Theology
Tomorrow
Night
6 p.m.
"The Place"
on Harrison*



*Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!*

Please keep the following in your prayers : Faye, Nancy, Maxine, John, Paul, Kylie, Marilyn, Michael, Maria, Mary, Charlotte, Sue, Evan, Ann, Keith, Jay, Colleen, Joy, Jane, Dee Dee, Donna, John, Maggie, Anna, Frank, Katie, Aubree, Sue, Colleen, Betty, Jimmy, Bubba, Mary Ruth, Lettie, Leslie, Sandra, Marilyn, Mary, Alexis, John, Evan, Cindy, LaVern, Daniel, Doug, Eli, Kyle, Bob, Sean, Tim, Libby, Marilyn, Sue, Michael, Kyle, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Colleen, Ryan, Joy, Jane,

*Anna, Michela, Doris, Helen, James, Maggie, Pat, Judy, David, Jerry, Amy, Julie,
Frances, Henry, Lena*

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; Jeff,
Bowe, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian,
Jason, Billy, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan*