



St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, July 14, 2013

The Deacon's Message

After I was ordained by Bishop Duncan, along with seven others, in early 2011 he met with us privately as a group. His charge to us was to serve as deacons by taking the Church into the community, and the community back to the Church. It sounded like a big task then, and it continues to be.

I have spent much of my time searching for ways to do that, sometimes more successful than others. Falling back on my education background I have led various Christian Education programs, including Education for Ministry programs. I'm taking a bit of a break from that now but if a need develops I will be glad to mentor another group. I serve as a chaplain when called by the larger community, a role I enjoy. I still have some new ideas that I want to work on in the future, but a year ago I picked up a paper while traveling and read about a "Pub Theology" program in the Milwaukee area.

It sounded like an idea that would work here so I spoke with Margaret about the idea, she was fully supportive and encouraged me to get started. My vision was a ministry of bible study in a location away from a traditional church, a place open to fellowship, food available and refreshments. When I first met Robin at The Place on Harrison Avenue I knew we found a home for this ministry. Almost a year later we are still going strong.

If you haven't had a chance to join us yet you should know some of the crowd will gather as early as 5:30 every Monday but we really don't start until 6:00. Many of the regulars are people from St. Andrews Episcopal, but several are not. Some attend other Episcopal churches, some are from very diverse denominations, and several do not attend any church on a regular basis. More than once we have had strangers sitting at the bar come join us, which was my desire when we first started this ministry. We usually open with prayer, order dinner from the excellent menu of traditional pub fare, read several different translations of the Gospel for the following Sunday, and discuss it while we eat. Sometimes the discussion will stay on the same reading all night, other times we drift off to other readings for the week. The discussion helps all of us to understand the Gospel; just as each translation has subtle differences each of us will hear slightly different points to the Gospel. It really brings the Gospel of our Lord alive for all of us. The following Sunday when I proclaim the Gospel in our service I truly feel like it is a familiar story; not just because I've heard it before but because as a group we have dissected it and heard everyone's take on it. I can also look at the congregation members that were with us on Monday night and see that same look of confidence on their faces. We always close with prayers, truly prayers of the people present, and dismiss around 7:30

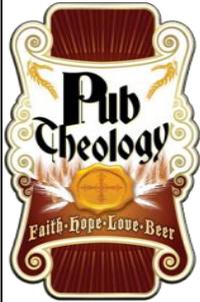
So what is your ministry? From the Book of Common Prayer (page 855) the ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

This really is not just a Sunday morning task, ministry is a 24/7 job. I hope each of you finds a ministry in your life, whether it's leading your own ministry in the community or simply joining with us on Monday nights. We always have one more chair, if you can't come then send a neighbor. If you can come then bring a neighbor with you, we will always make room at the table for two or more!

The last part of the BCP's definition of lay ministry talks about taking place in the governance of the Church; this would be being a member of the Vestry in our case. Our vestry members are the lay leaders of our church; the ministries of our church represent them as a show of their leadership. I would sure like to see more of our vestry members present on a Monday night; come check out our ministry in the community, study the Gospel, enjoy some fellowship, and represent Christ and his Church.

Peace+,
Raymond

***LAST CALL FOR FOYER GROUPS-Please
sign up for a Foyer Group on the bulletin
board!***

<p><i>Pub Theology Tomorrow Night 6 p.m. "The Place" on Harrison</i></p>		<p><i>Bring a Bible-no experience necessary!</i></p>
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CURSILLO!

THE NEXT CURSILLO (#151) IS SEPTEMBER 12-15. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO, APPLICATIONS ARE IN BYRNE HALL ON THE RACK. IT IS FREE! AND A CHANCE OF A LIFE TIME!



In celebration of St. Andrew's **100th** year (2014), we are gathering recipes to publish a St. Andrew's Centennial Cookbook. Submit your favorite family recipes as soon as possible.

Forms are located near the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Put completed recipes in the box labeled "Completed Recipe Forms" by **July 31**. Be sure to indicate how many recipe books you'd like to preorder for your family and friends. They will make excellent gifts!



Wanted: Photos of the Past – We are on the lookout for photos of people/events in the past 100 years at St. Andrew's. Please contact Dick Seeberger if you have photos to share.

Please keep the following in your prayers, Marcie, Kelli, Gloria Mae, Helen, Michelle, Joni, Sandra, Rosemary, Warren, Iva, Anne, Bev, Martha, Mickey

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, Mike, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan