

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

September 2009

Our mission is to worship the Lord in unity a the Body of Christ, to share his word and to minister to the needs of his people.

From the Rector

My soul truly waiteth still upon God; for of him cometh my salvation. Psalm 62.1

As our Inquirers class draws to a close I have taken a little time to think back over the vast amount of material that we have covered. What, if anything, have we learned from our inquiring? I have tried to present the great truths of the Christian Faith as they are found in the Bible. So let me pose this question to you, "Why do we read the Bible?" There are some who read the Bible out of some sense of duty. They do it because someone, like their mother, told them that they had to read the Bible. And so they do it, but with little understanding.

Others read the Bible to know the right answers. These are people that have more than a passing interest in their faith. They may attend Bible studies, and even spend time memorizing passages of Scripture. However, for many of these, their intent is content. They concentrate on knowledge *per se*, that is, for the thing itself. It is as though they are filling up a gun with plenty of ammunition so that they can go and win a fight. In II Timothy 3.16, 17, St. Paul tells Timothy, "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God maybe complete, equipped for every good work." While this may, at first blush, lead us to view Scripture as a tool or weapon, such an attitude is misguided. Paul exhorts Timothy to remain confident in the Scripture, *because he has believed it, learned it and lived it.*

This brings me, finally, to what I believe the goal of Scripture study is: communion with God. Someone very dear to me once likened

popular Bible study to filling a bag with beautiful beads. But sadly, there is no string to connect them. Often people fill their minds with Biblical trivia, but miss the connecting theme. The theme, dear friends, is God's love letter. The Bible is God's love letter to his fallen creation. In it we may read of his reconciling love that culminated in the person and work of his eternal Son, Jesus.

But reading the love letter is only the first step. When a boy or girl receives a love letter from their beloved they don't simply read it, filing the contents away in the fact file of their brain. No! They read it, and re-read it, until they can recall the letter at a moment's notice. The letter becomes to them a figure or guarantee of the love that they share with the other. This, dear friends, is the beginning of meditation. Likewise, when we approach the pages of Scripture with love and expectation, we may strike up a conversation, a loving communion with Almighty God.

It is my intention to continue to search God's Word with you week in and week out. I want to do that in my sermons on Sunday. I want to do that each Wednesday evening as fellowship together. I am sure that if God's Word is active in our lives and in our parish that not only will he be pleased with us, but that he will be pleased to bless St. Andrew's with all that she could hope for.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Morse



Vestry Notes to the St. Andrew Church Family

Six of us spent all day, August 22, tallying over 80 questionnaire responses. The vast majority value the traditional Anglican worship that we have and want to see growth in numbers especially children. That means that we must find a way to appeal to younger families. We hope to have the Parish Profile finalized and sent to the Diocese within the next two weeks.

Fr. Morse has completed his “volunteer” time with us and has agreed to stay with us until a rector can be obtained.

The attendance for Wednesday night Inquirer’s Class has been tremendous, so Fr. Morse is planning another program.

Keep your Vestry in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Johnny Price
Sr. Warden

To the Young People of St. Andrew’s and Their Friends

***St. Andrew’s Youth Group
(ages 14 and older)***

Sunday, September 13 after the 10:00 Service

Brief meeting to determine regular schedule for fellowship nights (possibly Wednesday evenings and every other Saturday)

Contact Becky Buckner at beckybuckner@gmail.com or 214-587-5578

Or just show up in the Parish Hall

