

**ST. ANDREW'S NETWORK**  
Newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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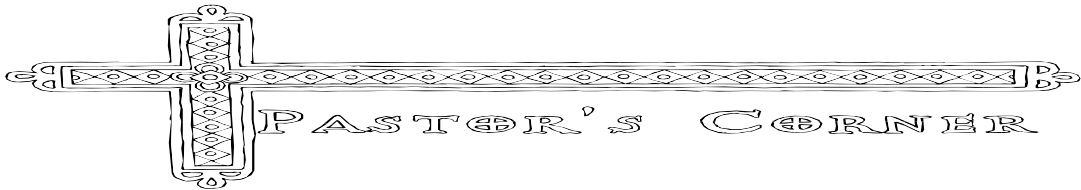
**ST. ANDREW'S MISSION STATEMENT**

*"We are a welcoming family of believers in Christ Our Savior and are committed to Sharing God's unconditional love with all."*

May 2008

**PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION**

Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 -12:30 PM  
Father Ted is often in the Office on Saturday from 9AM -12 PM  
Call for an appointment



**PASTER'S CORNER**

**Reflections from Father Ted**

The reading from John 7:37-39 on Pentecost Sunday leaves me wondering ...wondering why more people don't come to Jesus in faith to receive the living water he has to offer. What is it that makes coming to a man, who claims to be the Son of God, and whose resurrection has been attested to be thousands of witnesses, so hard?

I wonder what people are afraid of? Is it being duped? Is it because all faith in something unseen and not provable by science is simple foolishness? Why are they afraid of one who offers only freedom from sin? And why are people so afraid of receiving a new life, a life that is not encumbered by the ways of the world, but rather is a life that is liberated to do as God calls?

Being duped is easy...the best test for that is to look around and see how many people have been duped and by what. Yes, sometimes people of faith get trapped in cults, in clergy worship and other potential disasters, but for the most part people of faith, particularly those who put their faith in a tradition that has been around for a long time, are worshipping something that probably bears some truth.

Those who put their faith in the mysteries of science, and science is a fascinating mystery, are putting their faith in things that only the human mind can know and prove. In short they believe that if I can't know it and prove it then it can't be. That's a pretty narrow mind set. I would argue that it is a mind set of one who really does not want to take a venture into the unknown...and the unknowable. The reverse is true as well. Those who reject the power of science to understand God's creation, as best as we can, sadly also limit their possibility of learning and growing.

I think there may be another fear, a deeper fear. A fear that is so deep that we often run from it, either intentionally or unintentionally, because of what it imposes upon us. Think about how free we would be if we truly accepted God's offer and promise of sinlessness. Think about how much power and strength we would have if we truly claimed, in faith, the promise of new life given to us in baptism; and think about how little there is to fear if we truly believe that Jesus defeated death and gave us eternal life. Faith in Jesus, true deep faith in him sets us free...and if we are free and unencumbered by the world and its desires, we can exercise "free will," that precious gift given to us by God from the beginning of time. A gift we lost when we became ensnared by the temptations and challenges of the world and ultimately sinned. I believe that in Jesus we have been restored, given new life, and now for the first time have true "free will" to believe in God; to have a relationship with God; and to do as God calls each of us.

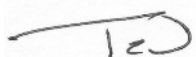
I wonder if we aren't afraid of our own "free will", and the extraordinary power it gives us. If we are truly free to do as we want or are called to by God then we have responsibility. We are responsible for our choices and actions. Now that's scary. God has set us free to choose. Through Jesus Christ we have been freed again to decide by ourselves how we are to live our lives.

Pentecost marks the founding of the church. We are inheritors of that gift from the Holy Spirit. In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and are anointed as Christ's own forever. In baptism we have been set free to live as Christ calls us. In baptism we have been set free to bring Christ's life giving word and water to the world. The question is "Will we choose to exercise our 'free will' and do as Christ has called us?"

As Pentecost approaches think about what gifts you have been given and ask for God to help you set yourself free by drinking the life giving water offered by Jesus. And once freed work to stay free by walking with Jesus – walk with him in your daily lives, in your quiet time, and in your time with your friends.

Be bold and take the gift of freedom given to you by Jesus.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'TJ' or similar, written in a cursive style.

## John 7:37-38

“On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

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### **MAY 2008 SERVICE HELPERS**

The Altar Guild for May is Sharon Gilbert and Jeri Dunham.

#### **May 4**

Chalice: Harold Herman and Marcia Warren  
Lectors:  
Greeters: Bob and Jan Rose  
Acolytes: Brett and Brandon Erickson  
Nursery: The Eshlemans and Lisa O'Donnell  
Senecal  
Flowers: The Hoffmans  
Coffee Hour:  
LEM: Monica Hazelwood and Lyn Babcock

#### **May 18**

Chalice: Linda Hoffman and Nichol Free  
Lectors:  
Greeters: Debbie Galbraith and Cindy Elliott  
Acolytes: Maggie Morehouse and William Davis  
Davis  
Nursery: Kristina Faber and Allison Carey  
Flowers: The Cains  
Coffee Hour:  
LEM: Amy Pryce and Lesley Carter

#### **May 11**

Mike Morehouse and Amy Pryce  
  
Bud and Gretchen Kitts  
Hannah and Davis Richardson  
The Lowerys and Chrissy  
  
The Beatties  
  
Linda and Craig Hoffman

#### **May 25**

Arnold and Cynthia Gee  
  
Al and Phyllis Douglas  
Virginia and Samantha  
  
The Hawkins and Kim Steenstra  
The Harkins  
  
Arnold Gee and Deanna Stouffer

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### **OUTREACH MEETING SCHEDULED**

There will be an Outreach meeting on Sunday, May 25th immediately after the 10 o'clock service. We will be forming a group to discern what St. Andrews is called to do as a parish. Light lunch will be provided. All are welcome. Please RSVP by phone or email to Marcia Warren or Ed Warren at [marciawarren@comcast.net](mailto:marciawarren@comcast.net).

### SEEKING A NEWSLETTER EDITOR

St. Andrew's is seeking an editor for its monthly newsletter; duties will commence with the September 2008 issue. Time is required about 4-5 hours total per month.

What are we looking for? Someone with strong computer skills and a firm command of English language and grammar; a person with the time to collect and assemble the various pieces of the newsletter each month; someone who can build on the great foundation that Vic Karcher and others have developed and take the newsletter to the next level.

If you're interested, please contact Lesley Carter ([lcarter@naspweb.org](mailto:lcarter@naspweb.org)) or Fr. Ted as soon as possible. Also, please be sure to thank Vic for his hard work on the newsletter when you see him!

### ST. ANDREW'S CHOIR NOTE

The last choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### MOTHER'S DAY POKER RUN FOR WOMEN IN NEED.

Don't forget about the St. Andrew's annual outreach project to benefit **Women in Need**. This year's rally event will be held on May 10, 2008 with a rain date of 17 May if necessary. We are continuing to gather donations from local merchants and could use a few more helping hands to complete our efforts. The committee is preparing to finalize plans for the event day and have already set up a "Sign up Board" in the PLC. Please come forward and sign for a duty or more. We can use all the helping hands we can get. This year we will have a \$1,000.00 GEM dig donated by Belle Jeweler's, a 50/50 raffle on site, a raffle for a US flag flown over Afghanistan with certificate and many door prizes for the registries. We will be manning the food stand, Ice Cream trailer, registration table and raffle table. We also need traffic cops to help direct the bikes and cars so that havoc does not reign supreme. Music will be provided again this year by "Nasty Habits". We also need volunteers to man the mid-point check-in at St. Andrew's. The committee is looking at the possibility of having event tee shirts available for all workers. This will help make the volunteers a stronger part of the event. In addition, we will be raffling off an English Tea Table at St. Andrew's beginning Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Icon Dinner. The English Tea Table has been donated by Interiors by Decorating Den (Mary Ann Fisher) and has a retail value of \$185.00. The drawing for the Tea Table will be held in the parish life center after the 10AM service in the PLC on Mother's Day May 11, 2008.

So a special invitation is sent to all of you to join us in making this worthy outreach for Women In Need by the St Andrew's community a huge success. We look forward to great work of love for this event. Harold Herman, event chairperson.

## MEN - MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 11TH.

Wondering what to get your loved one? Tired of the same old candy, flowers and dinner out? Give her a real treat - a weekend away from the kids, kitchen, laundry, and maybe, even you! The Women's Retreat at St. Joseph's Institute is just the ticket to rejuvenate her soul, body and mind. Not only will she be with like-minded women from St. Andrew's in a peaceful wooded setting, she can experience a massage, yoga, have a facial and explore the spiritual aspects of her life. Or she can enjoy walks, bird watch, read a book, sleep, take a class or not. It's her weekend. Boy will she be refreshed when she gets home!

Not yet a mother? Come join us and those of us with experience will let you know what it's really like in those chats before bed. Actually this could take care of your presents not only for Mothers Day but her birthday and anniversary too. Talk about one stop shopping. Reserve the weekend of September 12 - 14 to give your lady (or yourself) this wonderful experience presented by the Women's Social Group. For further information see Jean Schlecht or Cindy Stitt.

### KNITTING KNEWS

The Knitting Group will meet on Monday, May 5th in the dining room of the Episcopal Home from 6:30 to about 8:00 PM. We are currently working not only on prayer shawls, but scarves, booties, caps, mittens, and sweaters. These items will be given in the name of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to those who truly are in need. Can't knit but would like to learn? Come, we'll show you how. My how we have grown in our mission and in our enjoyment of one another.

### MAY LIBRARY NEWS

If you enjoyed the movie, Amazing Grace, about the great English abolitionist, William Wilberforce, you'll love the companion biography also titled Amazing Grace. Written by the American author Eric Metaxas, it is subtitled, "*William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery*" and presents a very readable account of a deeply inspired man who gradually destroyed the casual acceptance of slavery, culminating in its official abolition in the British colonies by Parliament in 1833.

We have also acquired two books about the 2006 West Nickel Mines tragedy – the killing of the Amish schoolchildren by a deranged milk truck driver. Both books explore the remarkable response of the Amish community, in their demonstration by speech and action of the core Christian principle of forgiveness. Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcended Tragedy is the work of three specialists on Amish culture - Donald Kraybill, Steven Nolt, and David Weaver-Zercher, professors at Elizabethtown College, Goshen College, and Messiah College respectively. Forgiveness: A Legacy of the West Nickel Mines Amish School is by John Ruth, a Mennonite minister, writer, and filmmaker, and is essentially a small book of meditations on the theme of forgiveness.

**Editor's Note:** Deadline for inputs to the monthly Newsletter are due to Vic Karcher by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. There is a "Newsletter Box" outside the office in the hallway to deposit hard copy items. You may also send your inputs via e-mail to [vickarchersr@comcast.net](mailto:vickarchersr@comcast.net). If you have any questions please see Vic after the Service on Sundays or call 717-352-4699.

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