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This Week at St. Andrew's

August 25, 2020



Parable from the Pastor

First Presbyterian was holding their own. They were stuck on 30 in worship (and had been for 3-4 years.). The building was in good shape, complete with a fairly new kitchen, dining and fellowship area. The music program was excellent with a full-time musician who provided weekly anthems and a well-rehearsed choir.

The town however was caving in and a source of incredible anxiety of the city and church leaders. The city's major industry had closed vacating an industrial complex in which 4000 employees were suddenly without a job and emptying a 40-acre complex. Businesses closed and the three downtown mainline churches hemorrhaged members. What was the 125-year old Presbyterian congregation to do to infuse new life when new life was rare in this sudden ghost town?

The standard answer to any crisis had always been "Call a new pastor. A young pastor who will be able to bring in young families." Others claimed the church's future was absolutely dependent upon the call of a middle-aged pastor, perhaps a former seminary professor whose academic pedigree was impressive, and she would be able to attract new members from the college 20 miles away.

It was not until the church looked into the mirror and saw the potential staring back that they realized their future was not centered in the hire of a magical super-leader. Their future was dependent upon a new willingness to ask the question, "What if we realized that our purpose was solely dependent upon our desire to work together as a team more committed to God's vision than our own?" What if they recognized that the true nature of their purpose was not about an aging building but what they could do together in the solidarity of small groups?

They began offering their kitchen to the local health department to provide cooking lessons for new moms. They hosted a monthly farmer's market and sold locally grown vegetables to provide extra funds for a food bank. They welcomed music students to use their sanctuary for their master's recitals. Most significantly, their sponsor of a refugee family helped center their mission not in what necessarily happened in a building, but in new ways of delivering cups of cold water to thirsty people in Jesus' name.

St. Andrew's building awaits our return. St. Andrew's Church has never left. We are called to consider our mission and vision? If our mission is tied up only in Sunday worship, then we have missed the mandate in the Great Commission that calls us to go out and impact the world for Christ's sake. What do you consider the mission of St. Andrew's? What are we called to do and who are we called to be? It is worth our consideration...

The deadline for
submissions to The
Link newsletter is
Sunday, Aug 30th



[Click here for the hymn](#)
[Tell Me the](#)
[Stories of Jesus](#)

This hymn was written in 1885 by William Henry Parker. William was born in Basford, Nottingham, 4 March 1845; and died in Basford in 1929. He was apprenticed as a machine-constructor in a lace-making factory, and later worked for an insurance company, of which he became head. He became an active member of Chelsea Street Baptist Church, Nottingham, and a teacher in the Sunday School. He published a book of verse, and wrote hymns for Sunday School Anniversaries.



Teaching Faith Through Action

Church researchers and leaders suggest that grandparents and caring adults in our faith communities can play a significant part today in the faith formation of young people. Caring adults help children engage with God using liturgy and story, adults can help children recognize that God engages with them and that they can engage with God. For example:

-Each Advent an older woman took an Advent calendar home from church to use with her neighbour's children. Each day after school she served them hot chocolate and used the calendar's daily devotional.

-Adults can develop routines through liturgy (e.g. lighting a candle before reading a Bible story), by repeating phrases (e.g. "The Lord be with you", "And also with you"), and by praying (e.g. The Lord's Prayer or grace at mealtime), which mark God's engagement with us.

Wise adults will tell stories of their own lives when they experienced God. Children need to know God is at work in the lives of people they know; in this way they learn that God was active in the Bible and is still active now. And it's OK to talk about it. - From the PCC resource: The Role of Grandparents and Caring Adults in Faith Formation of Children and Youth



Try setting up a time to pray with or read bible stories to grandchildren, godchildren or other close young people while on a video chat like zoom.

Rejoice with those who rejoice;
mourn with those who mourn. Live
in harmony with one another. Do
not be proud, but be willing to
associate with people of low position.

Do not be conceited.

-Romans 12:15+16



Engaging with the Readings

Every week, this newsletter provides a list of some or all of the lectionary readings. When you read them, consider asking these questions:

1. What is God doing in this Bible reading?
2. How does this Bible reading relate to your congregation or community?
3. What might God be saying to you through this Bible reading?

Sit with these questions and see if any answers come. Consider calling or emailing a friend or making a few personal notes on your answers in a journal.

Read From Your Bible This Week

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

