
Saint Andrew's Anglican Church

April/May 2010

Dear Friends,

Just a few weeks ago Saint Andrews had the great privilege of hosting The Right Reverend Jackton Lugumira, Anglican bishop of the Diocese of Lweru (Tanzania). Bishop Lugumira's diocese is a missionary diocese in at least 2 ways: (1) *it is a new diocese* – it is the product of missions minded expansion and (2) it is a diocese that is *committed to missions*. Allow me to comment briefly about both of these ways in which Lweru is a missionary diocese –

Lweru is a new diocese (only 3 years old), established so as to further the growth of God's Kingdom in Tanzania. The Anglican Church in Tanzania saw the need for a new diocese to be established and so Bishop Lugumira was sent back to his ancestral homeland to be the first Anglican bishop in that region. An implication of this is that (because it is a brand new work), the bishop's diocese has almost no financial resources. Every evangelist, catechist, deacon or priest enters into the ministry of Lweru diocese knowing that their salaries are not guaranteed and that they will not have many material comforts. In fact, the bishop himself rarely gets paid (he has not received a salary for the last 8 months). Father Enoch, who is one of the priests that I visited last August, is "paid" by means of the offerings that his people bring to the church each Sunday. Normally these offerings are simply a portion of what they have at hand – a portion of corn meal, a cup of rice, perhaps a chicken or some eggs.

Lweru is a diocese committed to missions. Since he became the bishop 3 years ago the number of churches in Lweru Diocese has nearly doubled!¹ This growth has come by means of the planning of new churches. The bishop told me that just after he moved to the Lweru region, he gathered the clergy of the diocese together and began to speak to them about his desire to plant churches. Most of the priests reacted negatively! "We already have so few resources," they protested, "we should spend them on the churches we already have. If we use funds to plant new churches, we will all suffer more." Bishop Lugumira left that meeting very discouraged that most of the clergy did not see the value of establishing churches in areas where there was no Christian witness. All of the churches already established were situated along the main road. To venture off of the main road would mean fewer comforts (electricity is less readily available and fresh water is harder to come by) and greater isolation from such things as hospitals and clinics. But the villagers living in these more remote areas need to hear of the love of God and the Cross of Christ every bit as much as those who live along the road.

How did he respond to this less than heartening response? He led by example and he taught. The first thing Bishop Lugumira did was to begin to pray that God would show *him* where *he* should be at work to plant new churches. The bishop did not simply say "go and plant a church," rather he said "come with me and watch as *I* labor to do this thing to which I believe God has called all of us." God showed favor to the bishop and after some time a few new churches were established and began to grow. Those who were watching began to see the wisdom of church planting and God started to change the hearts of more and more people to offer themselves to this work.

Please pray for Bishop Lugumira and for the work that he is doing for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom in Tanzania. Please also consider how you might contribute to the ongoing needs of that ministry. A few of you have already made generous contributions, either for his salary or for specific needs within his diocese. On behalf of the bishop and the people of Lweru Diocese, allow me to offer my deepest thanks!

Read a full report about the Diocese of Lweru by visiting the [Writings: Essays and Articles of Interest](#) section of our website.

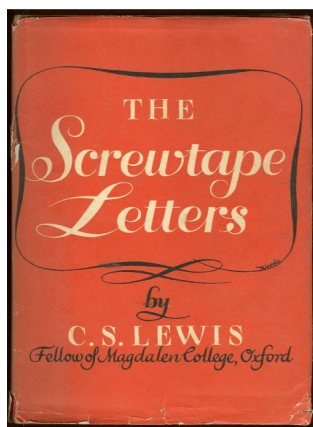
¹ When the Diocese was launched we had 12 parishes (only 10 had priests). Now we have 18 parishes. We started out with 13 priests and now have 26; the number of evangelists has grown from 27 to 77; and we have expanded from 38 churches to 65.

NEWS & NOTES

- **A New Worship Space for Saint Andrews.** God willing, beginning on Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd) Saint Andrews will begin meeting at Dogwood Acres Presbyterian Church (1024 Park Dr., Asheboro – from 220, take the Presnell exit, and turn west, the church is almost immediately on the right hand side). Our service time will remain the same. The sanctuary at Dogwood Acres will provide us with considerably more space than our present location *and* there are excellent classrooms which we can make use of for our nursery care and children's ministry.



First Baptist Church (and Heartspace Ministries) has been a very kind and gracious host to us since we began meeting in their buildings in October of last year. If you have the opportunity to thank Dr. Rodgers or Rick Davis – please do so!



- **Community Group.** At St. Andrews, we believe that being a community entails more than simply seeing each other on Sundays. Community Groups provide us with the opportunity to build and deepen friendships, have great food together and talk about things that seem important to us - all in a casual and informal setting. For the past several months, a number of us have been meeting each Wednesday evening in the home of a parishioner and it has been a great time! Beginning on May 12th (6-8pm) we will begin to read C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*. Our format is simple: we gather to eat and then we chat about the chapter of the week. Sometimes those attending will not have had the opportunity to do the reading - and that's ok! All are invited to come and see what these gatherings are like (no commitment required).

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact our Pastor at 336-465-2840 or jpatterson@standrewsasheboro.com. If you have been waiting for a good time to join the Community Group – this is it! Visit "Upcoming Events" under the News and Information section of this website for a description of *The Screwtape Letters*.

- **Kicking off the summer with an event in our community.** On June 11th – we have reserved the Sunset Theatre for a special screening of the award winning film *As We Forgive*. This is a great opportunity for us to let Asheboro know that St. Andrew's exists! Read about the film at <http://www.asweforgivemovie.com>.



What can you do?

❖ *Pray* for this event. ❖ *Invite* friends. ❖ *Volunteer* to help.

I could really use some help organizing this! We need help and ideas on how to advertise and invite others. Are you interested in serving in this way? If so, please speak with me ASAP.

- **On June 6th we will begin a sermon series on the book of Ephesians.** This series will take us through the summer and into the fall, terminating at (or before) Advent). Please begin to pray that we as a church might hear what God wants to teach us in this wonderful New Testament epistle.

- **Does anyone know how to sew?** We are in need of a volunteer to help make some linens for the altar. If you can sew and are willing to help, please let me know.

- **Congratulations** to the 8 people (Marlo & Steve Francis, Nick Wiley, Sharon & Dan Wiley, Sara Patterson and Stuart & Kay Fitzpatrick) who were confirmed on April 25th! View pictures on the church's facebook page.

GRACIAS!

- Special thanks to all the parishioners who continue to tithe faithfully to the work of this new mission. Thanks be to God that for the 3rd month in a row we have had a balanced budget.

- Thank you to Pauline and Marlo for organizing such a wonderful Reception in honor of Bishop Lugumira and in celebration of the confirmations! That was a great night of fellowship together.

In Christ,