

# SAINT ANDREW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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July 2010

Dear Friends,

During the past month in Children's Church, the children have been learning lessons drawn from the life of the infant Moses. As you may recall, Moses was born at a most unfortunate time - a time in which male Hebrew children were being threatened with death because the Egyptian Pharaoh thought that his slaves (the Hebrews) were becoming so numerous that they threatened national security.

*Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." [ . . . ] Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live." (Exodus 1:8-10, 15-16)*



Many of the Hebrew midwives refused to follow Pharaoh's command to kill the infant boys. *But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live (Exodus 1:17).*

The righteous social disobedience of the midwives is exemplary for everyone who fears God more than man. Though we are to obey the law of the government in most circumstances, God's law has greater authority for us. When the government (or anyone in authority over us) commands us to do something that is disobedient to God's Word - we have the duty to disobey and instead obey God. In the Bible there are numerous examples of righteous individuals refusing to obey edicts that would have compelled them to disobey God (the young men Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are ready examples).

But when those in authority over us instruct to do that which is *not* disobedient to God's Word - God's Word commands us to obey (even if we don't like it very much). Consider, for example:

. . . the words of St. Peter: *Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, 14 or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. 16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. 17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. (1 Peter 2:13-17)*

And St. Paul to the church in Rome: *Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, 4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 7 Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. (Romans 13:1-7)*

Or St. Paul to Titus - *Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.* (Titus 3:1-2)

Notice what Peter says about the point of civil obedience (v15): “. . . *that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people.*” Christians should choose to live in a way that commends both the gospel and the Lord whose redemption the gospel proclaims. We should desire that all that we do would indicate to others that we live not for ourselves, but for Christ and (to a lesser, but still very significant extent) for the good of others. Sometimes this will entail being obedient to others (*especially* when we don’t “feel like it”) and other times it will necessitate disobedience, so as to obey God. In either scenario, let us pray that all that we do would be honoring to God and to the good of others.

## NEWS & NOTES

- **An Opportunity to Serve.** St. Andrews and Dogwood Acres Presbyterian Church are taking turns doing a “major” cleaning of the building, alternating each week. Our weeks to clean are the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month. Please sign up to help!

- **Children’s Church.** Please prayerfully consider being a part of this important ministry. Volunteers serve in teams of 2 for one month. We have lots of great materials for your use and we will also provide training in preparation for the lessons. Speak with Fr. Patterson for more information.

- **Weekly Preparation for Worship.** Prior to the service each week, all are invited to gather in the room just to the left of the nursery for a time of prayer.



- **Community Group.** Our Community Group continues to meet each Wednesday (6-8pm). We are discussing C. S. Lewis’ book *The Screwtape Letters*. All are welcome to attend. Childcare provided.

- **Church Picnic.** Mark your calendars and please plan to join us on July 18th for a church picnic/BBQ. Please see Pauline Urban for more details.

- **Missions Trip.** Ben Peddycord is planning to spend 6 months in Ireland, beginning in July. Ben will be serving with a Christian mission and he is seeking to raise financial support for his trip. Please speak with Ben for more details.

## GRACIAS!

- **Many thanks** to Tom Petty for coming to preach on June 27th. Thanks also to everyone who helped by cutting out those (numerous!) felt board characters.



Happy Fourth of July! *A Collect for Our Country.* Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favour and glad to do you will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many lands and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice an peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Christ,  
*Jan Patterson*