
Saint Andrew's Anglican Church

March 2010

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ!

One of the things that I most appreciate about being a part of the Anglican Church is that we follow the contours of the Christian year. Beginning with the season of Advent, we then celebrate Christmas, Epiphany, Lent - passing through Holy Week to - Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday (the long season of Trinity stretches through the entire summer).

This annual journey which the liturgical calendar guides us through is a Christ-centered journey following the contours of the life of Jesus. It is meant to be an aid in keeping our eyes focused upon Jesus. The hope is that by making this journey year after year, we will grow to both apprehend and accept more and more fully the unfathomably great love that God has for us. As we accept and marvel at His love for us, we must also answer the call to proclaim (both in word and deed) His love to others.

Let us briefly consider one way in which focusing upon God's love relates to the mission of St. Andrews. Our calling to labor to see a new Anglican church planted in the city of Asheboro must be a labor of Christ focused love. We must be careful, however, that it not become a labor of *self focused* love. Our natural inclination is to focus upon ourselves (*our* needs, *our* wants, *our* desires, etc.), even when doing "holy" work. But work that is truly holy (that is, work that is truly sanctified and set apart for God – which is what it means for something to be holy) is work that is given over to God and done for Him (not ourselves).

The implications of being motivated by love for others in our church planting work are many and varied. It leads us to ask such questions as:

- What is the relationship between the content and form of our worship services on Sunday and our mission to reach out to others with the love of Jesus?
- In what ways could we demonstrate the love of God to others throughout the week?
- What needs are there in Asheboro that we as a church might endeavor to address?
- How does St. Andrews' financial stewardship reflect our commitment to the Great Commission?

It will be good for us to prayerfully consider these questions (and others).

¹² Nevertheless, (. . .) we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. [. . .]

¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. (1 Corinthians 9:12a,19-23)



A few notes regarding upcoming Sundays or Holy Days:

❖ **Passion Sunday** – The 5th Sunday in Lent is called "Passion Sunday" and it is the beginning of Passiontide (comprising the last 2 weeks in Lent). You will notice that the lessons begin to address the passion of our Lord.

❖ **Palm Sunday** – The last Sunday before Easter, this is the beginning of Holy Week (there is a Collect and Lessons appointed for each day in Holy Week because it has long been the practice of the Church to have a Holy Communion service on each day.) The blessing of the Palms and the Procession of the Palms signify Jesus' Triumphant Entrance into Jerusalem. The Procession of the Palms is first attested in Jerusalem in the 300's but it is likely that it began before that.

❖ **Maundy Thursday** – This is the Thursday before Easter. The word "Maundy" is taken from the Latin translation of Jesus' words "*mandatum novum*," – "a new commandment (I give you . . .)" (John 13:34). Jesus said this within the context of washing His disciples' feet which served as an explanation to them (not merely of humility) but of one aspect of the meaning of His coming death.

