



## Brian and Janet Barclay

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December  
2009

**Wouldn't it be great to have a map** for our life or ministry, something that shows what to do and where to turn next? Maybe it's more like a compass- needing to trust a pointer that is steady and directed by more than what we see around us. Those Magi, who carefully followed a new star over long distances- to a different country and culture to worship Jesus- could probably teach us something about this.

**Last weekend we had an outing with St. Andrew's people to learn more about following God, by experiencing travel with a map and compass in an unfamiliar place.** Afterward, one person commented "that part about needing to reorient our map to align our understanding with reality- that's exactly where I am in life. And I'm still not sure what I need to do next."

We have to look closely at the landscape and consider where we are, then try to find that on the map- our portable representation of reality. **In life with God, we observe circumstances, consider scripture, pray, and converse with the community of believers to decide what direction to continue in and how to reorient ourselves to stay on course.**

As this year closes, Saint Andrew's community is looking around the landscape of the past year to see where we are as a church and where to go next. Some of the things we're noticing are . . .

- an atheist has become a big admirer of Jesus;
- there are about 50 participants, with an average attendance of 35;
- 20 percent of the church moved out of state this summer (a reality of ministry among young adults)
- a transgendered person has trusting friendship with followers of Jesus;
- 4 new families have connected to the church this fall, beginning to create a more stable base for the church
- we've started a monthly spiritual formation time to help the community connect with God in a deeper way
- a youth group of about ten sprang up around a pair of sisters who invited their friends;
- lay leaders are being encouraged, disciplined, and trained, with more staff attention;
- congregation and staff are transitioning from a small organization with one leader to a larger, more complex organism with a leadership team.

We are gathering for our first regular (quarterly) congregational meeting Sunday December 13. It's a significant opportunity to help increase ownership and vision among the growing core of the congregation. We want to correctly interpret the times and the prominent features around us, trust God's direction, and go there together, realigning our map and plans for church with what God shows us. **Please pray for us as we make this transition to more leadership & ownership within the local congregation.**

**Your prayers and financial partnership are helping many people meet and get to know Jesus and you are helping this fledgling church become rooted & established.** Thank you! Financially this year has been a challenge for us and for St Andrews. Due to unexpected funding losses (ours and the church's), our salaries were cut significantly for half of 2009 and for 2010, and we are still facing a deficit as we close this year. **Would you consider a year-end gift to help us end in the black or a new / increased regular gift to help with our ongoing funding needs?** St Andrews currently has a matching grant that will match all new / unexpected gifts (including gifts for us) up to \$4,000 that are committed before Jan 31. We have included a gift envelope for your convenience. Thanks!

Merry Christmas!!  
Brian, Janet & Ian

Gifts can be sent to:

St Andrews Christian Church  
81 St Paul Street  
Burlington, VT 05401

You may include a note that you wish the gift to be credited to us, but please do not write our name on the check. Thanks!



Enjoying a warm day during the outing on direction & orientation