



April/May 2010

A Faithful Church for Today's Vermont

NUTS and BOLTS

For the most part, this newsletter has been dedicated to the big picture. I often try to reflect where St. Andrew's is in its growth-process. How are we moving toward maturity? In what ways are we struggling?

But you may wonder, "What do you do?" What is different at a new church, and what's the same? This month, I am going to highlight 4 activities our church is engaged in right now. Instead of talking about the frame, I'm going to talk about the nuts and bolts of the ministry.

TRANSITION to INTERNAL LEADERSHIP

This March, one of the most significant events in our short history took place. At our congregational meeting, a group of 5 individuals were called upon to provide leadership and oversight to our church. This new leadership team is responsible to guide our church through a decision-making process about our future— and to provide spiritual direction, oversight to our staff team and over our financial resources.

For the past 2 years, we have relied very much on the wisdom of 2 pastors from our region, Larry Detweiler and Steven Jewett, as we've sought direction for our church community. It is highly significant for us, though, to have a group of mature and talented individuals from within our community— who worship with us and know our community— ready to take the lead.

There is a different level of trust in the church for the new leadership team. We've only met once so far, but I believe we are already becoming a different church because of this important event..



Adelaide celebrates the installation of our new leadership team with jazz hands.

Praying for St. Andrew's:

There are two key things happening for St. Andrew's right now — our transition to internal leadership and the completion of a new mission statement.

Please pray that our leadership team would become unified and that we would create a mission statement that becomes a rallying cry for our whole community.

JASON HARROD CONCERT

One of the things that has been truly life-giving, in my experience with St. Andrew's, is that we have culture that embraces a holistic understanding of Christianity. We care deeply about people's relationship with God. But we also care about our relationships with one another, our relationship with the creation. And we believe that

creativity is an important part of what it means to be a human being, who is made in the image of God.

So we don't have to have some other reason to have a concert. Good music doesn't need to be justified by turning it into propaganda.

OK, I'll come down off my soapbox now, and simply say that we are thrilled to have the opportunity on May 2 to sponsor a performance by singer-songwriter Jason Harrod (www.jasonharrod.com). The music will be terrific; it will be a great community-building event. You should come.

And it isn't too late, if you would be interested in helping to sponsoring this event. It

could be a personal or business sponsorship. Just let me know if you're interested.

For more information about St. Andrew's, please visit our website: www.standrewsvt.org.
Or feel free to contact Kevin Fitton at Kevin@standrewsvt.org or (802)922-3569.
Checks are payable to St. Andrew's Christian Church and are tax deductible.

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CHANGES SERIES

Oftentimes, we format Sunday worship as a Biblical study. This winter, we spent 12 weeks studying the book of *Mark*. Last fall, we did a series on Biblical poetry. Before that, we did a long study on *I Samuel*.

A couple weeks ago, we started something a little different—a worship series we're calling "CHANGES." We started the series on April 11 and it will continue through the summer.

This series addresses questions surrounding how human beings grow. Why should I be willing to change? Why is change so hard? In what direction should I be growing? How does change happen?

Each week, we are taking one of these questions about growth and discovering what the Bible says about that topic. We are shaking things up. Yesterday, at our worship service, we set up rows of chairs instead of our regular coffee tables. Change is in the air at St. Andrew's.

A NEW MISSION

Why would such a new church need a new mission statement?

3 years ago, when we were looking into the future, it was difficult to look too far ahead. What we talked about, as we forged a vision for a brand new church, was a vision for a worship service that would bring together seasoned Christians with those who were exploring Jesus for the first time. We talked about how we could approach people with different learning styles, how we could invite people in to the worship experience, instead of talking at people.

Now we've created the worship service, but we want church to be more than that—we want to establish an outreach to our community; we want to create a system for training and discipleship. And to do this effectively, we need a mission statement that delineates what St. Andrew's is and how it functions. We do lots of stuff, but it's always hard to decide which things we should be doing and

which things to say no to. We need a standard that we can all agree on.

Thank you for your support.

-Kevin



Do you want something different from your life?

Have you ever wondered why change is so hard?

This spring, at St. Andrew's Christian Church, we are talking about how human beings grow and change. We will look to the Bible for insight into questions like, "What is it that keeps us from changing?" "What sorts of change will help me grow?" and "What is it that sparks change in people?"

For more information about this series, the church, or for directions, visit www.standrewsvt.org. Or call (802)922-3569.



Seek.
Create.
Change.

(left) This is the invitation we created to our CHANGES series. Of course, the Christian word for the type of change we're talking about is sanctification.