

The Circuit Writer

Mt. Jackson United Methodist Church



The Pastor's Epistle...

Pastor Ken's shared response to the question: What changes has the practice of ministry had on your understanding of the "Lordship of Jesus Christ" and the "work of the Holy Spirit"?

The practice of ministry has bridged the gap for me between the witness of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through Scripture and the witness of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit through people. This bridging of the gap is the bringing together of my concept orientation and my life orientation of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. This marriage of concept orientation to life orientation has given me further freedoms in witnessing to the activities of Jesus Christ and of the Holy Spirit.

In the earlier years of my Christian life before discovering cohesion between my concept and life orientations of God, I polarized God and the world almost as if God were against the world and the world was without God. In this mindset with God and the world polarized, my study of the Scriptures and my prayers were in many ways a time of gathering arms to attack the ideologies which I had labeled as worldly. Regardless of how compassionate I came across in my disapproval of people's worldliness, I found myself distancing others from the kind of relationships which lead to Jesus Christ. As I discovered the work of God's Grace in my own life I quickly began discovering God's Grace at work in the world. I was becoming less concerned about the symptoms of people's sin orientation and more concerned about God's position of healing in the lives of those around me. My life as a Christian who was seeking the Lordship of Christ both personally and interpersonally had now bridged the gap between concept and life. My zeal to share the Lordship of Christ with others now begins by affirming God's presence and love already intricately woven into the lives of people.

As I experienced Christ in others more consistently my concept of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit became less ideological and more personable. My efforts to understand God within the context of ideology was a de-personalizing of God in which I was trying to understand God's nature and existence without taking into account God's external life. As I began taking into account God's external life, my engagement of God's inter-

nal life came alive. As God's internal life came alive, my understanding of the Holy Spirit saw the most dramatic changes. The functional activities of the Holy Spirit went from being isolated as the person of the Trinity who showed up when people were having Mountain Top experiences to being the person of the Trinity who is sent by the Father to mediate Christ's forgiveness, healing, revelation and salvation.

These significant changes which have taken place with my understanding of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and of the work of the Holy Spirit reflect the progress of God's Grace in my life. As my theological formation has transitioned towards a Wesleyan embrace of Grace, a whole new world of God's compassionate life has opened up for me as a follower of Jesus Christ.



**"Christianity and World Religions:
Wrestling with Questions People Ask"
Non-Consecutive 6-Week Study
Begins Sunday, November 9th
6:00-7:00 PM
Church Library**

Please contact Bonnie Good [477-3143]
if interested in participating.

A Thought to Share

A haze on the far horizon
the infinite tender sky
The ripe rich tint of the cornfields
and the wild geese sailing high
And all over upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod
Some call it Autumn
and others call it God

Unknown Author.

This little poem was given to me by my sister's roommate when I was around 15 years old and every year about this time I always think about it. Just wanted to share it with others.— Joan Bynaker



Budget Update Thru October 2008

MJUMC's '08 Budget \$86,152.12
52 Sundays

	October Offering	Year-to-Date Offering
Actual	\$5,823.78	\$72,184.89
Needed	\$6,627.08	\$71,241.11
Difference	- \$ 803.30	+ \$943.78

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### Happy November/December Birthdays!



- 11/01 Ken Hackenbracht
- 11/01 Oliver Henry
- 11/20 Judy Dove
- 11/21 Douglas Estep, II
- 11/22 Ethel Garber
- 11/30 Luci Dent
- 12/01 Terri Dent
- 12/02 Karey Rexrode

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Methodist Men's Message



Our Methodist Men enjoyed a Pot Pie supper served by the Methodist Ladies on Wednesday, October 15th in the Social Hall. Twenty members and guests were present. Pastor Ken opened the meeting with a prayer. After the meal, President Howard Hackenbracht called on Jack Sperry for devotions, the Secretary's report was given by Ken Hackenbracht, and the Treasurer's report by Doug Estep.

President Howard asked Jack Sperry and Richard Orndorff to submit a list of officers for 2009. Next, we talked about having a spaghetti supper on Friday, November 14th. Lawrence Frye is in charge of the project. The Men and Ladies will work together on this dinner.

Program Chairman Jack Sperry had the program and told about his grandfather's country grocery store in Middletown, VA. His grandfather, Edward R. Sperry, started the business in the late 1890's and retired in 1949. Jack told what it was like as a kid to visit the store in the evenings and listen to the stories told by the men who would visit the store after supper and lis-

ten to radio shows like "Lum and Abner," Gabriel Heater, and other events. Also, he talked about what some of the items that were sold there. Jack had pictures of the store and some cancelled checks dating from 1899—1936, to pay for goods purchased. Everyone seemed to enjoy the presentation.

Richard told the group the Christmas Candy orders were due Sunday, November 9th.

Our next meeting will be November 19th. We will eat at 6:30 PM. The program will be stories of what some of our members did to make money when they were young. That should be interesting...

Jack Sperry, Reporter

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### We are Delighted to Welcome our Newest Members to MJUMC...



**Pat Callis**  
89 Rocky Mountain  
New Market, VA 22844

**Edna Carpenter and her son  
Scott Carpenter**  
3737 Jadwyn Road  
Woodstock, VA 22664

**Boot Downey**  
199 Orkney Drive  
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842

**Carl and Toni Mishler**  
P.O. Box 144  
300 Forest Hill Lane  
New Market, VA 22844

**Jon Reynolds**  
1212 Dodson Road  
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842

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Congratulations Tracey!

Stonewall Jackson High School hosted the Shenandoah District Cross Country Championship... Under sunny skies, Stonewall Jackson senior Tracey Swope took first place for the girls, with a school-record time of 22:26.

By Dennis Atwood, Daily Sports Correspondent
{We're so proud of Tracey, part of our church family!}

Andrew, the Apostle who Shared Christ Personally



Even though this is November and Pentecost comes in May or June, I would like you to stop and think about Pentecost for a moment. A great sermon was preached that day by Peter. He had the attention of the whole crowd for that most powerful sermon. (Read Acts 2:14-41 for Peter's sermon.) In excess of three thousand people came to know Jesus as Savior that day. In the crowd that listened was Peter's brother Andrew. Can you imagine what Andrew was thinking? "Peter my brother... how thrilled I am that I led you to Christ almost three years ago. Little did I realize how wonderfully God was going to use you. I'm so glad Jesus urged me to accept the Messiah as I did."

Yes, Jesus called Andrew and Andrew went to his brother Peter and told him about the one who was called "the Lamb of God." Thus Andrew became the founder of personal evangelism. In the United States about ninety years ago there was a man named Edward Kimball, who was a Bible teacher. He was also quite a "witness" for Christ. At his insistence, after witnessing to a young shoe salesman, the young man accepted Christ as his personal Savior. Little did Mr. Kimball know what the young shoe salesman would become. You see, the young man's name was Dwight L. Moody, a dynamic evangelist who preceded Billy Graham. He was the Billy Graham of his day. It just goes to show that we just don't know when we share Christ with someone, where it might lead. Andrew didn't know either. Andrew, the quiet one. Peter, the thundering one.

Andrew had admiration for his brother, but he had no desire whatsoever to become a second Peter. He was content with second place. As a fisherman from a family of fishermen from Bethsaida (John 1:14), Andrew, whose name means "manliness" was indeed a manly man. All of the rough fishermen of his time were. His brother Peter and he shared the same home until Peter got married, but the two continued to work together reaping the harvest of the sea. There are not many references to Andrew in the gospels, but what is recorded of him reveals him as a humble, unassuming, devoted and consistent disciple of Christ who enjoyed a special intimacy with the Master (Mark 13:3). Andrew was probably younger than Peter. In Bible times, men were known by their father's name, but not so with Andrew. Instead of being called, "Andrew, son of John of Jonas," he was always referred to as Simon Peter's brother.

Andrew and John were the first disciples called.

Andrew knew the Lord before Peter. In the early church, he was referred to as "Andrew, the first called," a reputation he shared with John, who referred to himself as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." John, who wrote the gospel that bears his name. John, who gives us a record of the circumstances under which Andrew came to know Jesus. John, who also informs us that it was Andrew who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes. John, who tells us how Andrew and Philip sought out the Greeks and introduced them to the Lord. (The disciples were Jews, the Greeks were Gentiles.)

With these facts and references from Luke and John, we gain our information and get an idea of the kind of man Andrew was, as well as learn some of the elements for the making of true discipleship. Before Andrew was a disciple of Jesus, he was a disciple of John the Baptist. We first meet Andrew, not in Galilee, where he lived, but at Bethabara, beyond Jordan, about fifty or sixty miles from his home. John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing there and Andrew was there listening... hoping to learn a bright side beyond the gloom of the Old Testament prophecies. The preaching that he and Simon and Philip heard from this rugged preacher was far different than what they had heard from the scribes to whom they were accustomed. Synagogue ministry was cold, formal and lifeless... chiefly about the lesser things of religion. Andrew had been taught that ceremonialism, which toughed no conscience, affected no heart and left the deep longing of the inner soul untouched and unsupplied. John the Baptist, a rugged, rather odd "Grizzly Adams" sort of guy, fearlessly was tearing to shreds the priestly teachings of the scribes. He was preaching the necessity of repentance with an electric kind of thrill to the religious leaders to whom holiness was an abstract term... to whom holiness was on the outside, not on the inside.

John the Baptist rebuked their formalistic and hypocritical acts as he told them about one greater than themselves or himself who was yet to come. Young Andrew, who was a seeker by nature, was aroused by this new type of preaching. Scholars assume that after hearing John preach baptism by water, Andrew and his friends were probably baptized and became disciples of John the Baptist. If Andrew had not been zealous for God, he would not have accepted the stern preaching of John. Following what John had preached about one greater who would come after him, Andrew waited for the Messiah making himself prepared to enter Jesus' service at his appearance. Therefore, when Jesus came on the scene, Andrew was not being disloyal to John the Baptist when he forsook all to follow Jesus because it was to this end that he had become a disciple of John. Andrew was prepared. We would say today that Andrew had experienced previent grace...God's grace that takes care of us until we accept him into our lives.

God bless... Cyndy Frye

