

## Discipling our 'Young Saints' Spiritual formation a family-church partnership



**W**e were thrilled to see so many parents (and grandparents!) at our Parent Meeting this past Tuesday. Thanks to all who came out to hear what's in store for the coming school year for the "Young Saints" of St. Andrew's, from our littlest lambs in the nursery and toddlers

class, to our pre-schoolers and elementary school children, to students in middle and senior high.

Twenty-seven adults representing 40 children and youth (about 60 percent of our member families with children), heard **Fr. Ron Baird** share his thoughts about the vital importance of the Church and family in the spiritual formation of our young people, while **Tally Whitehead**, director of Christian Formation, shared plans for the coming year, introduced teachers in attendance, and outlined some of our goals and expectations. Both Fr. Ron and Tally shared that their heart's desire is that each and every child who is a part of our parish family will come to know the love of Jesus, and learn to hear his voice and follow his plan for their lives.

### Partnering with you in your child's spiritual formation

Fr. Ron spoke about how important consistency is to the spiritual development of our children and youth, and asked parents to make a commitment to bring their children to church on Sundays, and to make participation in Sunday morning discipleship and weekday youth activities a priority. Stressing

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## Improv at St. Andrew's!

Who knew our priests and ministry leaders were that funny? Or that you could have that much fun at a church meeting? Or that learning to lead like Jesus could be that entertaining? Those attending last Saturday's St. Andrew's Leadership Touchstone (SALT) gathering discovered the truth in all of these questions — and can now answer, "I know!"

*Yes, they really had that much fun! See more on the back page.*



### Youth Group resumes Tuesday Sept. 10

St. Andrew's Youth Group will reconvene on Tuesday, Sept. 10. The middle school group, grades 6-8, will go from 7 to 8 p.m. and the high school, from 8 to 9 p.m. Youth will be meeting this year at the church, having outgrown the Parish House! Stace Torio, Youth Group leader, would love an enthusiastic volunteer to hang out with the middle school students on Tuesdays. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Tally Whitehead at [twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org](mailto:twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org).

**See inside for details about a Parents Small Group beginning Sept. 10 to be held concurrent with the Youth Group meetings!**

### Godly Play teacher training next Saturday

There will be a Godly Play teacher meeting on Saturday, Sept. 7, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at church. **Karen Brust** will be leading this training to help instruct teachers in how to present the Godly Play lessons, and how best to lead our "Young Saints" in Godly Play.

We invite all past and present teachers to come and participate in this training, even if you are not scheduled to teach this year. This is a home OSU game day, but the game isn't until 3:30 p.m. so we will be done well before kickoff.

## Discipling our 'Young Saints'

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that the spiritual formation of our children is a partnership between the Church and the family, Fr. Ron outlined "the big picture" of what we hope our young people will learn during the time they are in our care.

At the pre-school and elementary level, he said, we strive to teach children the story of Salvation, with a focus on the Bible, and helping children understand the narrative of God's interaction with his people throughout history and how we fit into that story

In Middle School, we want to help students begin to look deeper at their faith, and answer questions such as "Why do we believe what we believe?" and "Why do we do the things we do?"

For our young people in High School, we seek to help them apply what they've learned through the years to their everyday life, and to build a strong foundation of faith, so that they will be equipped with the tools necessary to make wise decisions, rooted in the will of the Lord.

### Equipping our 'Young Saints'

Tally introduced a new name for our Children's and Youth Ministries — "Young Saints" — with Ephesians 4:12 as our theme: "*Equipping the saints for the work of service...building up of the body of Christ.*" You can read more about our Sunday morning discipleship ministry for children and youth in the "Sunday morning discipleship update" article on the back page.

### Teachers & volunteers needed

While most of our classes are already staffed for the fall, additional volunteers are still needed. There are opportunities to serve either for the school year, or on a rotating basis once a month.

### Getting children ready for class

Tally also discussed ways parents can help their children prepare for class on Sunday mornings, so that we can maximize the brief time we have with our precious "young saints" each week, and enhance the learning experience in the classrooms. You can read further details in the Parent Notes handout, which was distributed at Tuesday's meeting and is available in the Narthex and on the Member Connection of our website.

Parents who attended the meeting were also able to pre-register their children for the coming school year. Registration forms are available in the Narthex today, and registering your children now will allow us to better plan for the fall program and Rally Sunday on Sept. 8.

**Stace Torio**, our Youth Ministries leader, was also on hand to answer questions relating to the Sunday morning youth classes. (See details on the front page.)

### One class period or two?

Fr. Ron and Tally asked for feedback from parents about the possibility of combining our two Sunday morning class periods into one. While maintaining three Sunday morning services, a change to a single discipleship hour for children and youth would involve moving the 9:30 a.m. service up to 9:15, and offering a Children's Church during the Liturgy of the Word at that service. A combined Sunday school hour would bring children who attend the second and third Sunday services together from approximately 10:15 (or after communion at the 9:15 service) to 11:15 a.m. (with children joining their parents for the contemporary worship service). Fr. Ron stressed that Children's Church and Sunday school are two different programs. The first helps children worship God in a way that

is meaningful to them, and teaches them the flow of the liturgy; the second is more traditional discipleship, where children learn the stories of the Old and New Testament, about the sacraments of the Church, and the story of Salvation, equipping them to be able to hear the voice of Jesus and know and follow him as Lord and Savior.

Several parents expressed a desire to have a combined class, which would:

- help children develop stronger bonds with one another
- allow children to worship with their families in church
- facilitate recruitment of teachers
- provide an opportunity for all children to be in a classroom with others their own age, as there would be more kids in each level during a single time period
- enable parents to gather for fellowship while their children are in class

Among the concerns expressed were keeping the children active and involved during the expanded period they would be at church on Sunday mornings; whether there is space available for larger classes; visitors coming for the 11 a.m. service finding their children have missed most of Sunday School; and difficulty in inviting friends with children to church, given that they would have to be there later, or earlier, than the actual service times if their children are to attend class.

The consensus among the parents attending Tuesday's meeting was that the benefits of all of our children attending a Sunday morning discipleship program together are great and outweigh the negatives. Most of the parents indicated they would be willing to stay a bit longer (about half an hour) after the 9:15 service, or come a bit earlier (about 15 minutes) before the 11 a.m. service to enable us to provide those benefits.

Fr. Ron stressed that nothing definitive has been decided, and that there are certainly logistics to be worked out before any change could be made. He added, however, that he is open to any ideas that would improve the flow of services and classes on Sunday mornings.

### Please contact us for more information!

If you were unable to attend the meeting, or did attend but still have questions or concerns about the issue of one class period versus two, or have further questions about discipleship of our children and youth, please contact Fr. Ron at 740-548-5112, ext. 1 or [rbaird@standrewspolaris.org](mailto:rbaird@standrewspolaris.org); or Tally at [twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org](mailto:twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org) or 740-548-1765. We want input from all of our parents in making this crucial decision.

Again, thank you to all who participated in Tuesday's meeting, and to all of our parents for your commitment to helping your children come to know, love, and serve Jesus. It is our joy to be a partner with you in their spiritual formation!

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### Small group for parents starts Sept. 10

St. Andrew's will offer a Small Group for parents on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the church. This will be a fun, laid-back introduction to small groups at St. Andrew's for any parent who wants to come and chat amongst other parents.

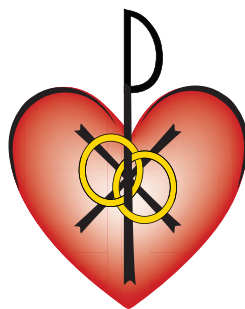
The Parents Small Group will meet for six weeks beginning Sept. 10. This is ideal for parents of middle school and high school students who are coming to church to drop off students anyway, but is open to parents of younger children as well. Childcare will be provided.

## Help your marriage be anything but ordinary!

On a Marriage Enrichment Weekend you'll learn to make your relationship central — and extraordinary!

The upcoming Marriage Enrichment Weekend is scheduled for October 5-6 at the Franklin Park Suites in the Polaris area. Members of St. Andrew's who attend are in for a treat, as three of our own couples — **Larry and Patti Cooper**, **Ken and Peggy Guenther**, and **Jim and Jackie Menke** — will be presenting couples.

For more information, or to register, please contact **Larry and Patti Cooper** at 740-369-0832 or go to [www.c-o-m-e.org](http://www.c-o-m-e.org).



## The Daily Lectionary

**Pentecost 15 (Proper 17) • September 1-7**

**Sunday, September 1** — Psalms 148, 149, 150/114, 115; 1 Kings 8:22-30 (31-40); 1 Timothy 4:7b-16; John 8:47-59

**Monday, September 2** — Psalms 25/9, 15; 2 Chronicles 6:32-7:7; James 2:1-13; Mark 14:53-65

**Tuesday, September 3** — Psalms 26, 28/36, 39; 1 Kings 8:65-9:9; James 2:14-26; Mark 14:66-72

**Wednesday, September 4** — Psalms 38/119:25-48; 1 Kings 9:24-10:13; James 3:1-12; Mark 15:1-11

**Thursday, September 5** — Psalms 37:1-18/37:19-42; 1 Kings 11:1-13; James 3:13-4:12; Mark 15:12-21

**Friday, September 6** — Psalms 31/35; 1 Kings 11:26-43; James 4:13-5:6; Mark 15:22-32

**Saturday, September 7** — Psalms 30, 32/42, 43; 1 Kings 12:1-20; James 5:7-12, 19-20; Mark 15:33-39

**Next Sunday, September 8** — Psalms 63:1-8(9-11), 98/103; 1 Kings 12:21-33; Acts 4:18-31; John 10:31-42

## Prayers for the Church

Following the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, please pray for **Bishop Raphael Hess** and for the clergy and people of the Diocese of **Saldanha Bay in The Anglican Church of Southern Africa**. Inaugurated in 2005, the diocese is one of 23 in the province, spread out over seven countries (Angola, Lethotho, Mozambique, Namibia, St. Helena & Tristan da Cunha, South Africa, and Swaziland). Please pray especially for the diocese's work in peace and reconciliation and with the youth.

Following the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, please pray this week for **Mother Susan Zakamarko**, and for the people of **St. Barnabas, Ontario, Canada**.

Following the Parish Cycle of Prayer, please pray this week for **Steve, Michelle** and **Ian Sattler**; **Chris** and **Richard Schmidt**; and **Robert** and **Marianne Schmidt**. Please also pray for the **Early Birds Bible Study Small Group** and the **Prayer Ministries**.

## September Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Chinaza Anosike	Sue Thomas	Bob Beverick
Candy Hawkins	Jane Cordova	Julie Baldwin
Jack Christopher II	Joey Girard	Ruth Eller
Nicole Winkelman	Nikki Snead	Pat Carpenter
Joe Enneking	Emily Fieger	Carol Warner
		Laurie Gillig

### Anniversaries

Pat & Liddy Schmitz	Tim & Marcie Smith	Marty & Pam Boratyn
Randy & Linda Smith	Nancy & Michael Forman	David & Amber Zak
Austin & Carla Stout	David & Carol Warner	Laurie & Jeffrey Gillig
David & Meg Patton	Judy & Chuck Carlos	Chris & Cherie Bryant
		Shawn & Nikki Snead

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## Brotherhood brats go to Common Ground Free Store

Common Ground Free Store thanks the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for supplying brats and buns for their Thursday evening shopper event. They were enjoyed by many, and were a great surprise as the freezer was empty

If you would like to help supply food anytime, just make a casserole, date it, and mark how to bake it. Please use 9"x13" pans, as the larger ones take more time to bake. These casseroles may be placed in the freezer at the Parish House or the church. Also if you do not have time you can always place a package of hot dogs in the freezers. Please just notify Marty Scott at 614-284-0182 or [mscott@standrewspolaris.org](mailto:mscott@standrewspolaris.org).

## Kroger Rewards proceeds double in last quarter

St. Andrew's registered shoppers more than doubled our quarterly rebate to \$345! Whether a regular or occasional shopper, signing up for Kroger Community Rewards with your Kroger Plus card, will help earn "free" monies. Please take a few moments to register at [www.Krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.Krogercommunityrewards.com). Select St. Andrew's Anglican Church or our number, 80910. If you have questions, please ask any Vestry member. Thank you!

## Scrip orders due today

Today is our Scrip order date for September. **Meg Patton** will take your orders and distribute your cards to you next Sunday. If you have any questions about Scrip, or how to order, please contact Meg at 740-548-7502.

**More news that space this week! Please log on to the Member Connection of our website for next Sunday's Lectionary readings, as well as "Encouragement for your time with God."**

# Improv techniques teach essential truths about leadership in ministry

More than 40 ministry and small group leaders and Sunday school teachers came out last Saturday morning for the third St. Andrew's Leadership Touchstone (SALT) gathering. Fr. Ron Baird opened the conference by expressing his appreciation to all who work in ministry in our parish. "We have a lot of programs, and they all get done because of you," he said.

Sharing some of the things he's learned about leadership during 27 years of ordained ministry, 20 of them with our congregation, Fr. Ron said, "If you lead with grace and truth, and if people know you care about them and not just the job, you'll accomplish more in ministry."

Integrity, trust, honesty and truth are the cornerstones of leading like Jesus, he added, before introducing our guest speaker, the Rev. Mike Weaver, an ordained Lutheran pastor and professional improviser. In a presentation that was interactive and fun, and led to much joyful laughter, Mike used improv techniques to teach essential truths about leadership, focusing on empowering leaders to build community, and enhance communication and understanding in ministry. He pointed out that Jesus went with the moment, frequently allowed interruptions to meet people's needs, and told stories that mattered. The key, he said, is being present enough in any given situation to respond to the needs of those we serve. "That's leadership...that's life," he said. "Jesus was the best improviser around!" (*Watch our website and next week's edition of "The Net" for additional photos from the SALT conference.*)



Top, Fr. Ron with our guest presenter; at left, Tally Whitehead (right), who organized the SALT conference, with Sunday school teacher Rachel Cherubini.



## SUNDAY MORNING DISCIPLESHIP UPDATE

Look for many exciting happenings coming this Fall! We have a new name for our Children's ministry — Young Saints! We are renaming the ministry partly to do something new, but mostly to help people think of children's ministry, not as mundane Sunday "school," but as experiencing God's grace through hands-on learning and becoming true disciples of Christ.

Paul writes in Ephesians about equipping the saints, and that is a highly important value for children's ministry at St. Andrew's.

### Children & Godly Play

This school year brings a return to Godly Play, which fits the Anglican tradition well. Godly Play is a Montessori-based approach to religious education. Bible stories and lessons about the liturgy of the church are told using multi-sensory materials, followed by a period of wondering together. Each child is then invited to respond individually to the story through play (or work) with the lessons materials, an art response or in other activity.

This year, we'll be focusing on "The Communion of the Saints," and studying the lives of some of the saints of the Church. Lessons on the Calendar of the Church Year; Advent and Lent; the great feasts of Christmas and Easter; and the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism woven through the year.

There will be two sessions of Godly Play, at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The first session will offer classes for four age groups, and the second session will be a single multi-age class to accommodate the smaller number of children who attend that service. Nursery

will be offered at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services for children ages 4 and under who are not in Godly Play.

### Middle & High School

During the 11 a.m. service, our Middle School youth will be focusing on confirming their faith, while the high school youth will be using Dave Ramsey's "Generation Change" to help them gain and expand spiritual wisdom through biblical principles on stewardship.

### Adult Bible Study

For adults we have the Early Birds Small Group at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House; George Girard's Bible Study group at 11 a.m. in the Parish House; and Ann Schnapp's Sunday Morning Apostle's Small Group at 11:45 a.m. All these adults groups welcome newcomers each week, so there is no need to sign up or feel awkward trying one out.

### Weekday Small Groups

We also have several small groups that meet in homes during the week, and see information on a parent's small group to meet during youth group on Tuesday nights inside.

### And more to come!

Watch "The Net" and your email for relevant updates concerning the goings-on at church and make a commitment to not only get your kids involved, but consider plugging into a group yourself!

*"Equipping the saints for the work of service...building up of the body of Christ." — Ephesians 4:12*

