

“As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, ‘Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ At once they left their nets and followed Him.”

-Matthew 4:18-20

Good day, Saints,

As I am writing this newsletter piece for **November**, I preparing to do the service of **Death and Resurrection** for Tommy Highsmith. Tommy’s passing into the **Church Triumphant**, like any of the saints who have gone before us, leaves a void for those left behind, which is why we will celebrate, and remember, **All Saints Sunday on 2 November**, when we will remember those saints of the church who have entered the **Church Triumphant** since the last official charge conference.

So, I am pondering on those first saints as I consider the above passage from **Matthew’s Gospel**. I mean can you imagine being the **brother of Simon Peter**? I know that having had two sons that it is common for brothers to carry on rivalries, friendly or otherwise. In **Matthew’s** version of the calling of the disciples, Jesus calls **“Simon who is called Peter”**-a reference to the powerful transformation of identity that in the Bible is signaled by a change of name. Then we have: **“and his brother Andrew.”**

In the list of the apostles, **Peter** is always named first; **Andrew** is generally in his brother’s shadow, or even left out altogether. **Andrew** was not among the witnesses to the **Transfiguration**: Jesus invites only **Peter, James and John**. Again, it was those three Jesus invited to stay close o Him in Gethsemane, while **Andrew** was left behind. He always seems to be just outside Jesus’ inner circle: close, but no cigar.

Personally, I like Andrew. Andrew is my favorite disciple! If John Denver had had a song titled **Andrew**, I would have named one of our sons after it; for I remember that in John’s Gospel it was **Andrew** who brought Peter to Jesus. It was **Andrew** who called Jesus’ attention to the boy with fives loaves and two fish, lunch for five thousand, when the other disciples had little idea what to do. And according to tradition, **Andrew** was obedient, like Jesus, even to death on the cross, which is why Scotland’s national flag is symbolized by the **Saltire or Saint Andrew’s Cross**, symbolizing Scotland’s patron saint.

Look! There are, as I am discovering, **plants** that are made for **sunlight**, and others that flourish in the shade (I haven’t figured out my orchid, nor my late basil plant). **Some vocations** are lived in public, where the accolades are many and the temptations fierce. **Others work more quietly**, in softer light, where they may be **observed by no one but God. Obscurity**, in truth, surely brings its own temptations, I suppose, but I am wondering if, perhaps, God rejoices in the quieter saints. I don’t know. I do know that God’s ways are not our ways, and I well imagine that when all is revealed, we may well be delighted by blooms we never noticed before-those quiet saints who have gone before us, the ones who were steadfast in the faith, those who touched our hearts by their kindness and love for all.

This **All-Saints Sunday** we will remember a few of them as we recall **Margaret Carter, Sue Nowell, Dot Avery**, and **Tommy Highsmith**.

Stay faithful; stay encouraged.

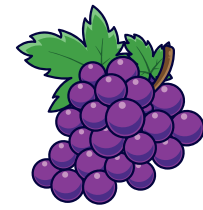
Still in His Peace,
Pastor William



Please see page 3 for upcoming dates

First Fruits of Worship

by Bruce Smith
Director of Music Ministries



Why Worship? Part 2 of the 4 Part Series

Last month we began with answering this life changing question, “Why Worship”, by describing how worship “Lifts” our heads, our perspective, and our hope. This month we go deeper in looking at the benefits of worship God has provided.

Worship “Heals”

God wants to bring healing to our souls through the activity of worship. God is Jehovah Rapha, our healer and He wants to bring restoration, reconciliation, and bind up our wounds through our devotion and love we express to Him. When we worship Him, He heals...

1. **Our brokenness** – Let’s face it – we’re broken vessels, all of us. That’s why we’re in need of a Savior. He longs to heal us of our infirmities and failures. Like any loving parent, our Father God wants to pick us up, hold us and make everything better. In fact, He can be closer to us when we admit how broken we are to Him The Psalmist writes in Psalm 34:

“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:17-18

When we come to Him in worship and adoration, He puts us back together – like a potter smoothing the clay over the cracks to make a new and more beautiful vessel.

When we worship Him, He heals...

2. **Our relationships** – An integral part of worship is harmony with others. God wants to bring healing to our relationships, so we can work in unity with our Christian family. Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:23-24

“So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and suddenly remember that a friend has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar and go and apologize and be reconciled to him, and then come and offer your sacrifice to God..” Matthew 5:23-24

Christ wants us right with our fellow man before we stand and worship Him. But in that requirement of God, we find another source for our love and praise for Him – we witness Him healing our relationships.

When we worship Him, He heals...

3. **Our bad choices** - When we sin, we need to be healed from those choices we’ve made. What we discover so powerfully in worship is His amazing forgiveness and mercy. Nothing knocks me to my knees more in the midst of worship than Him telling me – “I forgive you, and love you! Go and sin no more!” Shame is the wedge between us and God where we decide “I’m not worthy to worship Him!” But worship cleanses us and makes us right with God again. The Apostle Paul tells us...

“There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins are washed away, and you are set apart for God.” 1 Corinthians 6:11

So worship heals us. Our Lord made it that way, because He knew we would need regular healing, restoration, and reconciliation. In this way, praising God is the best medicine we could possibly take for what ails us! Now that’s a pill I can swallow with joy!

Come join us for our Homecoming/Thanksgiving Celebration on Sunday, November 16!

This year we're combining our Homecoming and Thanksgiving services into one day of worship, fellowship and food. **November 16** is the day; **there will NOT be a 9:00 worship service and no Sunday School** on that Sunday – there will be a combined service in the sanctuary at 11:00, followed by a covered dish meal.

Rev. Bettie Francis will bring the message, and we are excited to welcome her with her family. Bettie is now retired from the ministry. Before going into ministry, she was a vital part of the Westover family serving in several capacities: church secretary, organist, choir director. We have special memories of Bettie and her family and are thrilled they will be “back home” on the 16th.

Meats for the meal are provided, but we do ask that you bring sides and/or desserts – enough to feed your family and guests. Please bring your food to the Fellowship Hall before the 11:00 service so that all can be ready when worship is over.

Please pass the word to friends and family, former members, those who have not worshipped with us recently – our doors and hearts are always open and we'd love to welcome them on Sunday, November 16.

Craft Circle and Book Study

By popular demand, our November craft circle will be painting a Christmas design on fabric. We will then frame it. This craft was so much fun last year and is so beautiful! We are thankful to Barbara Smith for leading us in this craft again. Barbara will be providing supplies, so if you are planning to participate, please RSVP to Barbara so that she can make sure we have enough supplies.

After lunch (bring your own) we'll continue our book study. We're on Chapter 8, The Proverbs 31 woman. See you this Saturday!



Fair parking

A huge thank you to all who help park cars during the fair! This was an awesome fundraiser for Westover! Our final total was \$12,222. We hope to use a portion of this money for outreach and missions.

Movie and dinner night

Movie night will be Friday, November 21. Our movie will be *Same Kind of Different as Me*. Dinner will be fried chicken and “fixins.” Come join us for fellowship, food and film.

Up-coming Dates -- Please mark your calendar and plan to be with us

Saturday, November 1 **Craft Circle** 10:00 AM

Saturday, November 1 **UWF lunch** 12:00 PM

Saturday, November 1 **UWF Book Study** 12:30 PM

Sunday, 2 November: **All Saints' Sunday** (Remembering those who have entered the Church Triumphant.) **Daylight Savings Time ends.**

Set your clocks back on Saturday night.

Sunday, 2 November, 3:00 PM at White Plains UMC: **Charge Conference**

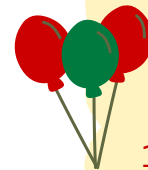
Sunday, 16 November: **Homecoming and Thanksgiving Meal**, one service **ONLY** at 11:00.

Friday, November 21 **Dinner and Movie Night** 6:30 PM

Saturday, 29 November: **Decorate the Church for Christmas.** 10:00 AM

Saturday, December 6 **UWF lunch**

Saturday, December 6 **Children's Christmas party**



Happy birthday to:

- 7 Duke Ray
- 8 Mo Holliday
- 10 Betsy Wolicki
- 10 Jeremy Marshburn
- 13 Dom Ksor
- 16 Rick Price
- 17 Adelle Todd
- 17 Susan Denny
- 18 Diane Allen
- 22 Stephen Adebiyi
- 23 Ray Bennett
- 28 Jona Medlin
- 30 Gary Wilson
- 30 Kyle T Carter



Questions or information about the newsletter? Please contact Sharron at Sharron9194@gmail.com