



# The Vine

*St. Andrew Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

316 West Fourth Street  
P. O. Box 6041  
Auburn, IN 46706  
(260) 925-8464  
standrewepc@sbcglobal.net

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***Who are they? Where are they? I must find them! I am their leader!***

This was a slogan in a picture frame that I had mounted on my wall behind me in my office at a major corporation. I cannot tell you who first wrote this, so giving credit is not possible at this time. Suffice it to say that "leadership" is a calling in any organization, but even more so in the church. God has called those who He has predestined to lead His flock. Even as I write this, the Nominating Committee is in the process of seeking to discern who it is God is calling forth in the next three years to put His plan into action here at St. Andrew.

For the past six months the Elders have been gathering approximately every two weeks to discuss and discern what it is that God has planned for St. Andrew. In His sovereignty, God already knows what it is we will be doing next week, next month, next year and even ten years from now. Our role, as the leaders of the church, is to discern and discover what that plan is. We have been prayerfully considering many aspects of the life of the church. For those of you who have been involved in vision statements and mission statements in your corporate organizations, you know that an overall objective or vision is the beginning of the process.

This was the first issue we tackled and not an easy one, I might add. Our goal was to look far enough down the path God was leading us on and at the same time, keep our sights on the near term as well. A vision statement becomes the umbrella that our action plan will emanate from. It is the overarching direction that each ministry and action of St. Andrew should be striving for. As we intentionally take action in our various ministries, and the subsequent activities that are born out of those ministries, each activity should be conducted with the intent of meeting that vision. In other words, an activity or ministry should move forward asking the question, "Are we meeting the desired outcome of our vision with regards to this activity? Are the results of this activity, whether it be worship, small groups, children's ministry, women's ministry, men's ministry, etc., directed toward the desired outcome of the vision?"

While all of this can sound rather complicated, what the leadership of St. Andrew is asking for is that with every activity we do, how is that activity reflecting the vision we believe God has planned for this body of believers. This means that as projects and activities are planned, the reason for doing them at all should have an intentional purpose directed toward the vision we believe God is giving us.

By now, you're probably wondering what that vision is. After a lot of prayer and discussion, we believe that we have come to the point of recognizing what it is the Lord has cast for us. Here it is!

**We are a loving family of prayerful believers spreading hope through the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

There are four key words in the vision statement that we believe reflects the congregation and flock that God has brought together for His glory here at St. Andrew. They are **family, prayerful, hope** and **truth**. As the called leaders of the church, we believe that these four words best reflect a description of who we are. In other words, do the ministries and activities reflect a **family** environment? Do they reflect a time of **prayer** and **prayerful** consideration before embarking on them? Do they give those who participate **hope** in the future in their relationship with Jesus? Do they reflect the **truth** of the Scriptures as presented to us through God's holy word? That is what the purpose of the vision statement is in regards to the activities and ministries of the church.

Under this vision, the leadership has identified five areas that are the focus of our ministries at St. Andrew to lead us toward that vision. While space is not available to go into extensive detail at this time, we have identified five "aims" as key areas within the body of believers at St. Andrew. These five "aims" are **worship, education, families, missions** and **obedience and discipline** through discipleship. Each one of these areas entails an immersion of the leadership and the body into developing an "excellence" with the purpose of glorifying God in each of these areas. In the coming weeks, I will be sending out information about each of these areas, beginning with worship.

This process is not "set in concrete" as the saying goes, but rather is a work in progress, just like each one of us. We are continuing to meet and evaluate as we go forward. The ideas put forth by the Elders, as we have gone through this process, do not have personal ownership for us, but rather are the direction we feel God is leading us. We will be intentionally observant in seeking confirmation of God's leading in this. While we will go forward with boldness in the power of the Lord, we will also be looking for the leading of the Holy Spirit in each of these areas.

It is our plan and intention to garner your feedback as members of this body. As I said earlier, this is not "cast in concrete." It is a vision in progress. The elders are currently looking at ways in which your feedback can be obtained and I will share that with you in the near future. Due to seriousness of the subject and the future of St. Andrew, one option would be to have a congregational meeting. This is just one idea. Please feel free to share others with me.

By God's grace and His mercy, and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, it is our desire and should be the desire of the body of believers at St. Andrew to do the will of the Father. By His blessing may it be so.

*Pastor Joe*



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Best wishes to the following members of our St. Andrew EPC family who are celebrating **birthdays** during the month of **August**:

**6 – Ruth Reinhold**  
**7 – Jim Kaiser**  
**10 – Tim Reiling**  
**13 – Cindy Spear**  
**Justin Manon**

**14 – Diane Leroy**  
**15 – Jeri Cooney**  
**24 – Kayla Clingan**  
**31 – Kayleigh Warner**



**HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY**

Best wishes to the following members of our St. Andrew EPC family who are celebrating **anniversaries** during the month of **August**:

- 1 – Dan & Peggy LaTurner**
- 5 – Pete & Debbie Thompson**
- 11 – Randy & Carrie Louth**
- 20 – Len & Mary Feddema**
- 24 – Larry & Jeri Cooney**
- 26 – Todd & Lisa Fites**

# Christian Education



**Sunday School**

**There will not be any Sunday school during the month of August. We will resume classes on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**There will not be any Wednesday Night activities during the month of August. We will resume on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.**



Christian Education  
Teachers' Meeting

is planning a very important  
on Saturday, August

# Teacher Training



27 from 9:00am to 12:00pm -- come early for donuts and coffee. The seated Elders will be attending to share the vision for the church and lend support to the teachers. All teachers are invited, and we hope you will mark your calendars now and plan to attend. All levels of Christian education will be addressed from children to adults. Teachers involved in Kids' Club need to be there also. We want to be well prepared for the coming year, and seek a level of excellence in all that we do as we serve God.



# Calendar of Events

Please mark the following  
dates and times on your calendars:

**August 2**

**Trustees meeting @ 6:30pm**



**August 6**

**Clothing Give-away @ 9:00am**



**August 7**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**



**Church Picnic at Miller's**



**August 9**

**Mission's Meeting @ 6:30pm**



**August 16**

**Session Meeting @ 6:30pm**



**August 23**

**Facilities Meeting @ 5:00pm**



**August 27**

**Teacher training @ 9:00am**



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## Upcoming Events

**September 10** – St. Andrew Block Party 9:00am – 3:00pm

**September 17** – High's Chicken Bar-B-Que 10:00am - ?