

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday (the 14th) Mike and Fiona Floyd will join us for the 10 AM service to give us **a time of Drama ministry**. They will be presenting a piece tied to our readings on serving and loving others as Christ serves and loves us.

AN INVITATION: On Sunday, March 21, the Vestry invites everyone in the congregation to an **Open House at our new office** after the 10 AM service. To get to the office, go south on Levan Road to Plymouth Road, turn left at the light and then right again into the strip mall. The office is at the west end of the mall, two doors east of Quiznos Sub Shop.

IS THE FOLLOWING ON YOUR CALENDAR? On Saturday, April 24, we will have an opportunity to learn about **some ways we can minister more effectively in our community**. Andee Marks is coming from Lexington, Kentucky, to lead us in a discussion of some things that she has learned over the years. God has perfectly equipped his people to accomplish the work of his kingdom: clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, ministering to the sick, visiting those in prison, welcoming the stranger. Yet the lament often heard in churches and faith-based non-profit organizations alike is, “We just don’t have enough volunteers to get the work done.”

Andee seeks to address this issue by increasing the volunteer quotient in churches. This can be accomplished through the development of an equipping church model and the necessary processes to support that culture, then connecting those congregations to community-based serving opportunities. **Merging vibrant serving congregations with non-profit organizations releases the power of Christ to transform communities**. So SAVE THE DATE (April 24) and join us for this important workshop in our life as a parish.

In the office we have a pamphlet on the **Journey to Wholeness in Christ Workshop** that will be led by Conlee and Signa Bodishbaugh on April 15-17 at the Third Reformed Church in **Pella, Iowa**. Conlee recently retired as the senior pastor of Christ Anglican Church in Mobile, Alabama, and was mentored by Leanne Payne. Signa is the author of two books, [The Journey to Wholeness in Christ](#) and [Illusions of Intimacy](#). The Workshop is basically a ministry of healing prayer. It offers the tools and opportunities for each participant to experience the deep-heart healing power of the Spirit of God. We are all invited to come apart from our usual routine and invite the Lord to heal, restore, refresh and bless us during the Conference. If you would like a copy of the brochure, contact the church office.

The lessons for Sunday are printed below. I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our services.

Yours in Christ,
Allen

Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10-11

If there is among you a poor man, one of your brethren, in any of your towns within your land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him, and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him; because for this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, you shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land.

PSALM 119:9-16

- 9 How shall a young man cleanse his way? * By keeping to your words.
10 With my whole heart I seek you; *
 let me not stray from your commandments.
11 I treasure your promise in my heart, * that I may not sin against you.
12 Blessed are you, O LORD; * instruct me in your statutes.
13 With my lips will I recite * all the judgments of your mouth.
14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees *
 than in all manner of riches.
15 I will meditate on your commandments * and give attention to your ways.
16 My delight is in your statutes; * I will not forget your word.

1 John 3:16-18

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and in truth.

Luke 6:27-36

Jesus said, "I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them.

If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is

that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."