

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter  
*November, 2011*

Edification: *"How the mighty have fallen"*. Some things seem immovable. Some things seem permanent, fixed and unshakable. Some things - like Joe Paterno at the helm (throne?) of the venerable Penn State University football program. To call Joe Paterno a living legend is an understatement. His reign at Penn State is almost mythical. Like Zeus from Mt. Olympus his steady eye and unwavering hand guided much more than a college football program. His system produced men, real men - men of sterling character. Leaders at all levels emerged from the hallowed halls and locker rooms of that revered university, and for nearly 60 years it was Joe Paterno that was looked-upon as the genius and moral force that fed that legendary emergence. But let's speak even more frankly. More than simply a force at Penn State Joe Paterno and his program *were* Penn State, and not only to the outside world. Witness the riotous behavior that enflamed the student body upon hearing of Paterno's firing, a firing that most see, though painfully so as just and necessary. Yet they protest violently. A Legend? A Myth? A god? The annals of college football will be forever graced with the imprint of the mighty leadership of Joe Paterno. And the annals of college football will be forever disgraced with the stain of the catastrophic failure of leadership of Joe Paterno. To have lived a legend but die an object of scorn and disappointment - *how the mighty have fallen* indeed! But wasn't it inevitable? Wasn't the "proverbial", or rather "prophetic" handwriting on the wall? Can a man or any institution mock God, the true and only God? Can a man raise himself, or be raised by others above his proper place and not be pulled down eventually? Even the great King Nebuchadnezzar was made to crawl on all fours, eat grass and mumble incoherently for his self-exaltation. God knows how to humble the proud, and the great danger of leadership is that it's often the followers that do the exalting. But God cares not whom it may be that lifts-up the idol, He's going to bring it (him) down. And that so the eyes of all the idolaters might see and their hearts fear.

Events/Information: Don't forget the upcoming Thanksgiving fest at the Barfield home 11/20 @ 6:00. Please bring a dessert to share. Remember also the Christmas party at the Miranda home 12/09 @ 7:00.

*"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some..." - Hebrews 10:24, 25*

Encourage: In Judges 5:2 we're told *"When leaders lead in Israel, when the people willingly offer themselves, bless the LORD"*. It is owing to the LORD when we have leaders who lead. It is evidence of His mercy to His feeble, dust-formed people. He knows we need leaders we can hear and see and follow. At times He provides leaders that inspire hearty and happy allegiance, leaders in whom the truth sounds deeply. But if we forget Who it was that raised-up this leader, if we forget Who it was that has mercy upon us to give us such a leader, and if we begin to exalt that leader far beyond his rightful place in our own minds, God will not be mocked. He will bring down that leader right before the watching eyes of all. He gives us leaders to follow, not worship. When He gives us good and godly leaders that we can admire it ought to move us to thank *Him*, not lionize *them*. We don't do anybody any favors when we fail to do so. Just ask those violated, shattered young men if they wish someone had plucked-up the courage to set aside the sinful hero-worship for their sakes. Even if it meant admitting that the legends of the gods are all myths. There are no gods on Mt. Olympus. But there is a God upon Mt. Zion, the true and only God. And He will share His glory with none!