## St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter March, 2012

Edification: A long time ago, in a galaxy (seemingly) far, far away...we had little hands and feet around and under our dinner table. One cherished memory of those Days of Yore is related to the custom of singing hymns together after family bible reading. It was always little Hannah's job to hand out the hymnals when the time came. On cue she would hop down from the table, trundle off and return with enough hymnals in her arms to prop her chin on the top one. One evening the cue was given, but Hannah sat unmoved. I noted that she had the biggest and most mischievous earto-ear grin ever. I asked; "Hannah, aren't you going to get the hymnals for us". She replied (grin still in tact); "I don't want to use hymnals. I want to use hernals". Her-nals, not him-nals! Don't tell me feminism isn't passed down from Eve! A truly cherished memory, as is the hymn singing. Somewhere along the way we fell out of the practice. Dad's laziness no doubt, but what a great practice. Whether as a family or individually the discipline of singing, or even simply reading and meditating upon the great hymns of the faith is a rich portion of food for the soul. Music and prose have a way of settling into the soul like no other medium. Madison Ave. figured that out long ago, thus we have countless "jingles" that get lodged into our brains and run incessantly. I can still recite all the ingredients of a Big Mac even though I haven't eaten one for decades. Such is the power and permanence of music. It's said to "calm the wild beast". Luther believed the rousing singing of hymns would set Satan himself to fleeing (if that failed he threw stuff at him). There are few better ways to fix sound doctrine into the mind and soul than singing it out. And what a blessing when we all lift our voices together and we hear the great truths of the faith being proclaimed in harmony and with sincerity. Why wouldn't that make the demons tremble?!

<u>Events/Information</u>: Don't forget, March 25th we will meet for worship in our newly purchased meeting place! 114 Union St., Lagrange. The usual time will be maintained.

"I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me." - Psalm 13:6

Encourage: In Colossians 3:16 the apostle Paul directs us to; "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Here we see both the individual and the corporate benefits of hymn singing. For the individual believer it is a powerful vehicle that causes the word of Christ to dwell in us richly. It also imparts wisdom, which simply put is the skill of applying biblical principals to all of life, and the art of doing so with grace. Who can deny the staying power of hymns that call the Christian to follow Christ with vigor and resolve? From "Lead on O King Eternal" to "Lead Me O Thou Great Jehovah" the individual believer has great weapons for battle in this armory. And as for the corporate gathering of the saints; what a rich blessing it is to hear a multitude of voices melded together proclaiming and affirming the great truths of the faith. It is like, as our Pastor recently said the voices of angels. It is like the voices of angels teaching us and admonishing us in the truths of our commonly held faith. It stirs our hearts and lifts our thoughts Heavenward as we sing; "For All the Saints who from their Labors Rest" and my personal favorite; "The Sands of Time Are Sinking, the Dawn of Heaven Breaks". What a resource God through the church has provided for us. So let us take-up our hymnals (sorry Hannah, there are still no her-nals) and let us sing with grace in our hearts to the Lord!