

St. Andrew (JKP) Monthly Newsletter
May, 2012

Edification: Back in my B.C. days (i.e. Before Christ) one of my favorite B.C. songs was "Dazed and Confused" by Led Zeppelin. I don't know why I liked it so much. Maybe it was the eerie sound. Maybe it was the haunting, almost pleading resonance of the guitar. Maybe it was just that the title itself really captured the essence of my life at that time. Whatever the appeal, I thought that after I was converted to Christ I was leaving those Dazed and Confused days and ways far behind. But when we look out over the broad spectrum of the Church in our nation today might it not be characterized as Dazed and Confused? Perhaps we wouldn't say "dazed", but at least mightily confused. And the confusion isn't simply over secondary matters, if there even are secondary matters when it comes to the Church. Over foundational stuff the Church of our day is in an appalling state of confusion. She doesn't grasp the importance of sound, confessional doctrine. She can't decide what exactly constitutes biblical worship, or if the bible should even guide and regulate our worship. Yet again, over the seemingly straight forward issue of who may be ordained to the offices within the Church there is much confusion. Possibly though the most profound confusion is in her understanding of what exactly she is to be doing in the world. What is her function in the world of fallen men? Is it to entertain with religious and inspirational events? Is it to perform social works of reform and relief; to feed the hungry and improve the wicked? According to America's Favorite False Prophet, Joel Osteen it is to point the way for essentially good people to have their Best Life Now. Heretics aside, what exactly is the Church here for? What is she to be doing now? If we're confused about this isn't it likely that whatever we do as the Church will be a confusing mess? And in turn won't that lead to a general confusion over what really is the true *Stairway to Heaven* (sorry, I couldn't resist)?

Events/Information: Remember our upcoming church building work day; May 19 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

"So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you..." - Romans 1:15

Encourage: Acts 6 reveals plainly to us that which is the primary function of the Church in the world. The function of the Church in the world of fallen men is to meet the most essential need of fallen men, and I don't mean waiting tables. The most essential need of fallen man is to hear the word of God preached that he might be given the grace of saving faith and thereby be reconciled to his Creator. When the ordained ministers of the gospel we're being distracted from the ministry of the word something had to be done immediately. Not that the genuine needs of the community should be ignored, but they must not be permitted to interfere with that which is central - the preaching of the word of God. And you'll note in Acts 6 after all things are set in proper order "the number of disciples multiplied greatly". Why? It wasn't because everyone now knew where to get free food and clothing. It was because now "the word of God spread". It was due to the commitment of the early Church to the primacy of preaching. Has something changed in our day that makes that outdated? No, it isn't only *The Song that Remains the Same*. The condition of man remains the same; lost sinner. The need of man remains the same; reconciliation with his Creator. And the means of that reconciliation remains the same; the preaching of the gospel. The gospel isn't what we live it's what we preach. It is the power of God unto salvation.