

December 2006

Small Group Kick-off and Celebration

Sunday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m. Youth and Sports Center.

Small Groups are a great way to develop friendships while studying the Bible and growing in your faith. St. Andrew's will start several new small groups on Sunday evening, Jan. 14, 2007 at 6 p.m. in the Youth and Sports Center. These small groups will be using a seven-week curriculum titled the "No Experience Necessary Bible Study." This study will help you discover God's plan and mission for your life as you journey together with Jesus and the other small group participants. The groups will form that night and continue for six weeks, concluding the study with a celebration on Sunday, Feb. 25. If you would like more information, contact Pastor John Keller or Nancy Clunis at 651-426-3261.

Small Groups: What a Blessing This has Been

by Deb Danielson, St. Andrew's Member

There is so much to be gained from a small group. When I was growing up, my mom was in a "circle," which was a Bible study. In fact, I sometimes will invite someone to join our "circle" and they will have this funny expression on their face and ask "what's a circle?" Several years ago I was yearning and seeking for more when God placed in my life a wonderful woman named Mary Blanchard. She invited me to a weekly Bible study and what a blessing this has been.

Small groups help make St. Andrew's a small, intimate church. You go to church and begin to see familiar faces and you can put a name on that face. In a small group you can experience the intergenerational knowledge of older women who have devoted their lives to living the will of God. They provide such valuable information in raising children, building strong marriages, getting through difficult times. There is incredible emotional and spiritual support in a small group Bible study.

11 Timothy 3:16 states, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Have you ever thought of the Bible as the best novel ever written? Why wouldn't we want to study something that is God-breathed? When you start to dig into the Bible, God becomes so real and you are able to see Him at work everywhere. Jeremiah 29:11 says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." The amazing thing about God is he will meet you where you are right now. God has taught me over and over again that all I need to do is trust Him and he will provide and equip. He uses ordinary people to do wonderful things. He loves us so much and desires to spend time with us. My joy and hope is in getting to know God and I hope you'll consider getting to know Him too by joining a small group.

Shalom Circle is starting "Live Wisely" which is a study on the book of James. We meet in homes the third Monday of every month and are beginning in November. We're very excited and extend an open invitation to all who would like to join us.