

*Philippians 4:4-13*

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. <sup>10</sup> I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> **I can do all things through him who strengthens me.**

*1 Samuel 17:41-50 David and Goliath*

<sup>41</sup> The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. <sup>42</sup> When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. <sup>43</sup> The Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field." <sup>45</sup> But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, <sup>47</sup> and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; **for the battle is the LORD's and he will give you into our hand.**"

<sup>48</sup> When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. <sup>49</sup> David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground. <sup>50</sup> So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, striking down the Philistine and killing him; there was no sword in David's hand.

*Daniel 6:7-10, 16-22 Daniel and the Lion's Den*

<sup>7</sup> All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." <sup>9</sup> Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

**<sup>10</sup> Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously.**

<sup>16</sup> Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!" <sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him. <sup>19</sup> Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the

### **Faith of the Martyrs**

One of the earliest Martyrs of the church was a bishop by the name of Ignatius. On his way to his death in Rome he asked that no one rescue him as dying would prove his confidence in Jesus' resurrection. Read words from one of his letters:

"For myself, I am convinced and believe that even after the resurrection he was in the flesh. Indeed, when he came to Peter and his friends, he said to them, "Take hold of me, touch me and see that I am not a bodiless ghost" and they at once touched him and were convinced, clutching his body and his very breath. For this reason they despised death itself, and proved its victors. Moreover after the resurrection he ate and drank with them as a real human being, although in spirit he was united with the father. I urge these things on you, my friends, although I am well aware that you agree with me... Why, then, have I given myself up completely to death, fire, sword, and wild beasts? For the simple reason that near the sword means near God. To be with wild beasts means to be with God. But it must all be in the name of Jesus Christ. To share in his Passion, I go through everything, for he who became the perfect man gives me strength.

den of lions. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" <sup>21</sup> Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong."

### ***The Values of St. Andrew UMC***

The past three weeks we have looked at the first three values of Abundant Grace, Unexpected Extra, and Radical Hospitality. In this All In series, we are identifying values that have defined St. Andrew UMC in the past and also values that we hope will define St. Andrew in the future. Values are those things that are at the core of our being. They are not always specific actions that we do, but these values infuse everything that we do.

This week we talk about our value of:

### ***Can Do Confidence***

For the last year, St. Andrew staff and lay leaders have entered into a conversation clarifying the vision, mission, and values of St. Andrew. The last sermon series dealt with the new mission of the church – "Calling the Christianish to become Passionate Servants of Christ." This sermon series, entitled "All-In" looks at the values of our church:

### ***Abundant Grace Unexpected Extra Radical Hospitality Can-Do Confidence***

St. Andrew lives some out some of these values extraordinarily well. We will have to work on all of these and hold one another accountable to these values if they are to

define us as we move forward into the next phase in the life of St. Andrew. Our future depends on our ability to articulate these values and live into them.

### ***Can-Do Confidence***

What would attempt do if you knew you couldn't fail? The good news about Jesus' death and resurrection is that we can't fail. The victory has already been assured. Our God will prevail.

We learn this throughout scripture. David was just a boy when he faced Goliath, and yet he knew that God would protect him. He exhibited a confidence in God at the risk of his own life. David knew that God will prevail.

Daniel knew this as well. He was under orders not to pray to God, or else he would be thrown in the lion's den. He maintained confidence in God and continued to pray where others could see him even though death was his likely reward.

Sometimes I wonder whether Daniel expected to be rescued from the Lion's den. In the stories of the martyrs of the church, many of them did not expect to be rescued – their confidence is in the resurrection. In fact, the Bishop Ignatius quoted in the prior box told people not to free him because of his confidence in the resurrection of Jesus.

It reminds me of a quote in my class on Christian ethics -

*It is better to fail in a mission that will ultimately succeed than succeed in a mission that will ultimately fail*

No matter how our individual stories turn out – our job is to keep the faith with the knowledge that God has asked us to be his hands and feet here on earth. We are not in charge of making sure that everything succeeds, but rather we are charged with stepping out in faith.

For this is what Confidence means – with faith. Can-Do Confidence is our willingness to hold fast to the promises of God and step boldly out into the future God commands of us. This church had a Can-Do Confidence when we decided to start this church. It required a bold faith to start a new venture like a church. It is like a step towards a giant holding merely a slingshot and a belief in an almighty God.

We chose this Sunday to discuss a Can-Do Confidence at the same time that we gather our commitment cards for 2012 operating budget. Giving money to a church requires faith. There are so many other places to put our money – houses, education, stocks, bonds, etc... Why would we give money to the church?

It is simple – God asks that we give him a portion of our money and we, as children in faith, have confidence that God will succeed and that we will do everything in our power to work on behalf of that vision. We give of our time, our talents, and yes, our money because God can do amazing things when we step out in faith and we offer all we have to that vision. As you ponder your gifts to the church for the next year, where do you put your confidence? In the markets? In stocks or bonds? Or will you invest in the kingdom of God.

St. Andrew is stepping out in faith, with a Can-Do Confidence, to live out God's glorious future. Scripture has promised that God will succeed. The question remains: will you join God in this endeavor? David did. Daniel did. St. Andrew will. Join us in our value of having a Can-Do Confidence.

### The All-In Prayer

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, wrote this prayer and called it a "covenant prayer." We believe that each of us are called to be passionate servants – to be All-In for God. We begin that process by opening us up to the Holy Spirit through prayer. We are asking all of those at St. Andrew to pray this prayer every day during this series and see how God might use us when we are willing to be "All-In"

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine, and I am thine.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

For this Sermon Series, we ask you to pray this prayer every day and ask ourselves, what might this world look like if we All Went All In?

## Questions for Discussion and Reflection

Here is the idea: We are all called to live out Christ's values in this world. St. Andrew lives out those values in a particular way, that we have defined as Abundant Grace, Unexpected Extra, Radical Hospitality, and Can-Do Confidence. These values have defined us and hopefully will continue to define us even more as we live into our next 25 years.

Can-Do Confidence: The notion is that God is the one who will finally redeem and transform this world. When we, as the church, step out in faith and enact the kingdom of God here on earth, we are acting with confidence – with faith. God can use that faith to transform everything.

William Abraham, a professor at Perkins School of Theology said once– "The question is not whether or not God will accomplish God's purposes in this world. God will. The question is whether or not God will find us fit instruments to achieve his purposes."

*How is God calling you to step out in faith, with a Can-Do Confidence?*

*Do you see the investment of your money as an indicator of what you have confidence in? How have you shown (or are you being called to show) confidence in God through your financial gifts?*

*What ways is St. Andrew being called as an entire church to step out in faith with a Can-Do Confidence?*

*Great things are ahead for the church in general, and St. Andrew in particular. How might you be called to participate in God's mighty acts of salvation?*

## ***Daily Bible Readings***

Before reading each passage, take a few minutes to get a sense of the context. Your study bible should help. Jot down a few questions that come to mind from your reading of the passage.

<p><b>Monday, Acts 5:17-33</b> – The disciples preaching after their arrest and release</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, Romans 8:38-39</b> – Nothing can separate us from the love of God</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, 2 Corinthians 3:4-12</b> The boldness of the faithful</p>	<p><b>Thursday, Ephesians 3:1-21</b> Paul explains why he is a prisoner for Christ</p>
<p><b>Friday, Revelation 21:1-7</b> God will redeem this world and make it new again.</p>	<p><b>Weekly Joys and Concerns</b></p>

## Scott's Tuesday Lunchtime Class

We meet at 11:45 in room 127 on Tuesdays.

**We will not meet this week as Scott is leading a trip to the Holy Land.**

When we return, we invite you to join us whenever you can.

Bring a study Bible.

## Young Adult Fall Schedule

- Mondays Nov 7, 14, 21, 28, and Dec 5, 12, Bible Study at 2600 Ventura Dr Apt 822. 7pm.
- Saturday, Nov 12th, Habitat for Humanity, email [dfenwick@standrewumc.org](mailto:dfenwick@standrewumc.org) to sign up
- Friday, Dec 9th, Young Adult Christmas Party. 7005 Windhaven Parkway #12, The Colony, TX.

For Questions, please e-mail [ajones@standrewumc.org](mailto:ajones@standrewumc.org) or call at 214.291.8018.

## Sermon Notes