

FAITH matters

July 29, 2024



I love this picture. It embodies the opening affirmation of the Westminster Catechism: **“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”** It also demonstrates the joy and mutual support of the clergy who have chosen to be a strong and living part of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Taken by Judy McQuilkin on the occasion of Pastor Anne’s receiving her Doctor of Ministry Degree in the spring of 2017, it shows three who have

passed into the Church Eternal, the Revs. Bob McQuilkin, Russ Brandt and Barbara Hoig. Still with us are Revs. Jack Harnish and Pam Pendexter, as well as others who we see as part of our worship, including Revs. Bruce Brooks, Jim Boehm, Craig Hendrix, Bill Koch, Fred Edmonds, Terry VanHeyningen, and Margie Osborn.

Why so many retired clergy at St. Andrews? Only half of these are Presbyterian. We don't necessarily hold the same theology. We come from divergent backgrounds. But we do share a commitment to Jesus the Christ and the values he lived and taught: Honesty, moral and intellectual Integrity, Compassion, Justice, Trust in God, Trust in His Church and its Biblical tradition, while living a life of hope and love for the world.

Obviously, one does not have to be a clergy person to share this commitment to Christian values. We clergy are at St. Andrews because we find a community of people who encourage each other to live up to our values in all we do. And I encourage you, at this time when we are considering whom to choose as the leaders of our nation, state and local community, remember these values we treasure: honesty, moral and intellectual integrity, justice and compassion. Who will give us a life of hope and love for the world? Faith matters when making choices about leadership.

~Written by The Rev. Dr. Ned Edwards

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