

The Rev's Reflections...

2006 has been a blur in many ways. So many changes have taken place that it is difficult for me to track them all. On January 1st, 2006 I was in a vibrant team ministry with Jan Hazlett and by December 31st, 2006 I found myself on my own. What's the cliché, "What a difference a year makes?" True for me! I'm sure you have experienced the same in your own lives.

We have grown in worship together. We have shared the sacraments graciously offered by our Lord. We have celebrated with joy the powerful ways in which God is moving in our lives. We have come alongside those who have been devastated by life's fragility. We have been the embodiment of Christ in this place, truly the Body of Christ. That is something to celebrate and to give thanks to God.

This Annual Report expresses the breadth of ministry that has occurred at St. Andrew's over the past year. I'd like to take this opportunity to share two areas of ministry that have been a growing edge for me and have offered profound encouragement to my ministry here: the Friday Brown Bag Book Club and The Bible Trail. These ministries have blossomed in 2006 and have been deeply fulfilling to me personally. I've loved the interaction with each of you as we have discussed a work of popular fiction and have watched your fascination as we seek to incorporate our faith and witness into these sometimes seemingly secular works. By reading the Bible from the beginning, the Bible Trail has been a source of strength to me this past year. Day by day, I find myself living and breathing the narrative of the scriptures. I hope you've found it as meaningful as I have.

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to work with the rest of the staff here at St. Andrew's. May, Fred, Andrew, Darlene and Jim are very special individuals who make working here a joy. In their own ways, these people make it fun to be here. Like you, I was deeply saddened at Jan's leaving. I will always consider our time together as a true blessing to my life and ministry. I'll miss her presence among us.

As we enter 2007, I begin my fifth year of ministry among you. Church dynamics experts say that this is a pivotal year in the life of a congregation in its relationship with their minister. This is the year where strong bonds of trust begin to emerge. It's at around five years that some real and profound shifts in direction begin to occur as the congregation becomes more comfortable with the leadership style of their minister and the minister begins to feel that they can exercise more influence effectively. I'm looking forward to this New Year (that's already one quarter over). If the first few months are any indicator, I sense we are going to have a very good year. May our time together be an expression of God's Spirit working within each of us to further the kingdom of God in this place and throughout the world.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. John Borthwick