

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)
First Friday of Each Month
Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

Garry Banks, David Collins,
John Thompson

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Troy Antle, Richard Brundige,
Matt Thompson, Adam
Litmer, Bill Morelan, Jim
Parsons, Pat Seabolt, Adam
Daniels, Jamie Powell

NOTE

Blake and Brianna Ratliff will
be working and worshipping
with the brethren in Danville.
They are fine Christians and
will surely be an asset to the
Lord's church in Danville as
they were here. Make sure to
wish them well and remind
them to visit from time to
time!

“Equipping the saints for the work of ministry”

*And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ He
confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the
Christ.” (John 1:19-20)*

John had a job to do (John 1:23-27) and he was
determined to see it done. His job can be summed up in this
way: Clear the way for Christ. Prepare the way for Christ. Get
out of the way of Christ.

There is a sense in which we bear the same sort of
responsibility. Part of our calling is exposing darkness
(Ephesians 5:11). Whether this is the darkness of ungodliness,
incorrect ideas about Christ, or false presumptions that stand
between someone and a relationship with the Lord, they must
be cleared away. Part of evangelism is shining the gospel light
upon those things and clearing away such hindrances.

Afterward we can begin to prepare the way for Christ.
It is not enough to seek to remove ungodliness or to speak
against false ideas. There needs to be even more attention
given to that which must replace them. This is helping to
prepare the way for Christ.

Finally, we need to get out of the way of Christ. Let
us always remember that it is not us but our Lord that
people most need. As John said, *I am not the Christ*. Let us
keep the focus strictly upon Him. We cannot save anyone
but He certainly can. Always shine the spotlight on Jesus,
not yourself.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd, Paul Atkisson, Barbara
Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krissow,
John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail
Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit,
Valerie and Barry Boyd, Wilma Lawson, Jannett's
mother and stepfather, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young,
Doris Baker, Lyn Kincaid, Bernard Larch

University Heights Messenger

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Andrew-The Great Introducer

By Adam Litmer

Of the first foursome of apostles, Andrew is very much in the background. He
was not present at some of the important events that included Peter, James and John
(Matthew 17:1; Mark 5:37; 14:33).

Andrew is best known for being Peter's brother. It is often difficult to live in the
shadow of a sibling. How often do we see one sibling bitter and angry at the success
of another? Perhaps they've been compared to that sibling their entire lives and
they've been told that they just aren't stacking up. Perhaps such had been the case
with Andrew. Clearly Peter was the dominant personality of the two. Peter was the
one taking control of every situation; always speaking for whatever group he
happened to be associated with. Peter was a born leader while Andrew was most
comfortable in a supporting, background role. Andrew means “manly” and this
apostle was named quite appropriately. He was simply too much of a man to harbor ill
will toward his dominant brother.

While Andrew may be the least known of the first foursome of the apostles, he
played a very significant role. Have you ever noticed that in the few times Andrew
rises above the group to be specifically mentioned he is without fail introducing
someone to Jesus Christ (John 6:9; John 12:20-22; John 1:41-42)? Andrew seemed to
have understood better than the other apostles that Jesus wanted to meet anyone who
wanted to meet Him, even if it was just a single individual soul (John 6:37). He was
not known for preaching to huge crowds and converting thousands at a time, but he
was very skilled at bringing the single, individual soul to the Lord.

Interestingly Andrew was one of the two apostles to have first met and
conversed with Jesus. Take a moment to read John 1:35-42. He spent the latter part of
a day with the Lord. The first thing he did upon leaving the Lord's presence was run
to the person he loved most in the world, his own brother, to give him the news that
he and John had found the Messiah.

Let's consider this single act from Andrew for a moment. While both he and
Simon Peter possessed very evangelistic hearts they went about their work in two
very distinct ways. Peter was always out front teaching the crowds. He must have

been a dynamic and passionate speaker. He would stand before low and high alike, before the ruled and the rulers. In short, Peter made a lasting impression when he spoke and he was comfortable doing so before large crowds. Andrew never appears to us preaching great sermons to large multitudes. Instead, he was busy introducing single individuals to Christ. Yet in bringing his brother to meet the Lord, the loving and selfless action that led to Simon Peter's conversion, Andrew paved the way for the creating of one of the greatest soldiers of Christ to have ever lived. All the fruit of Peter's ministry can be traced back to the single action of his brother introducing him to Christ for the first time.

In searching through the Scriptures I have not been able to find an example of Andrew speaking that did not in some way relate to him introducing someone to Jesus. He wasn't loud or in the spotlight. He wasn't wrestling with Peter for leadership in the group. What he was he continues to be: the very definition of those who labor diligently but quietly in unseen, humble places.

When I think of the great pillars among the apostles Andrew is not the one who comes to mind. I think of Peter, whose very name means, "rock." I think of James and John, the passionate and sometimes volatile "sons of thunder" (James 3:17; Luke 9:51-56). Even so, Andrew's work was every bit as vital and important as that of his better known brothers in Christ.

Andrew should serve as a lesson and example for each of us as Christians. Most of those who have come to the Lord did not do so because of the eloquence and power of a moving sermon. Rather, they came to the Lord through the efforts of an individual Christian speaking to them at the workplace, at school, at the gym, or across the fence. Were he among us today, I imagine that Andrew would be one of those saints who regularly brings visitors to the worship service and seems to always be involved in Bible studies. Those types of Christians are vital to a congregation. Truly, we should each be striving to become more like Andrew. I'm certain Peter never forgot the day that his brother introduced him to the Lord. How many can remember the day we did the same?

Best Friends?

By John Thompson

Friendship is a wonderful gift from God. He created us with the need to have relationships of various sorts with others, and one very important relationship is that of friendship. Put a group of people together, let them interact together for a few days, and friendship groups begin to develop. People who share the same interests are naturally drawn to one another and quickly become friends. Some friendships begin in childhood and last throughout life. Other friendships last only as long as the circumstances prevail that originally brought the friends together. While some friendships simply dissolve on

their own, others end in animosity and hostility because one friend was using the other or betrayed the other.

People who had good friendship experiences will often speak of a best friend or friends. Perhaps one will speak of a best friend in high school or college. Out of all of one's friends, a best friend is the one with whom you are closest, the one you spend more time with, the one you tell things no one else knows, the one who seems to know you best. When your best friend tells you that you acted incorrectly or acted cruelly you feel no need to be angry or to retaliate. The importance of a best friend cannot be overemphasized. Marriages work best when husband and wife become each other's best friend.

The Bible is not silent concerning friendship. The friendship of Jonathan and David began this way: *As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.* (1 Samuel 18:1) Out of this friendship Jonathan risked his own life to save David's life; willingly accepted that his father's kingship would not pass on to him; and incurred the hatred of his father Saul. Truly the special friendship between Jonathan and David personifies the statement we find in Proverbs 17:17, *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.* Proverbs 18:24, perhaps more so than any other scripture states what makes a best friend the best. *A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

There really is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. There is a friend who will stick closer even than the one you call your best friend. This best friend is Jesus, the Christ; Jesus, the King; Jesus, the very Son of God. It is not unusual, from time to time, to wonder about the authenticity of one's relationship with a best friend. You might begin to question if the one you call your best friend considers you to be his best friend in return. With Jesus, one never needs to wonder about such things.

You are Jesus' best friend, and so am I. Jesus told his disciples, in John 15:13, *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.* In one sense, Jesus gave His life for everyone, and so, in that sense everyone is Jesus' best friend. However, there is another level of spiritual friendship. Jesus went on to say, in John 15:14, *You are my friends if you do what I command you.*

You are Jesus' best friend because He died for you; He did as much for you as He did for everyone else. But is Jesus your best friend? That claim can only be made if you are willing to do for Him what He did for you. Are you willing to crucify your old self, bury your old self in baptism, and rise up in newness of life? Are you willing to do what He commands, and only what He commands?