

St. Andrew's (JKP) Monthly Newsletter *March, 2010*

Edification: It's that time of year again...time for **green beer!** So who was St. Patrick and why does he deserve his own day? Well, here he is in his own words:

"I, Patrick, a sinner, a most simple countryman, the least of all the faithful and most contemptible to many, had for father the deacon Calpurnius, ...he had a small villa nearby where I was taken captive. I was at that time about sixteen years of age. I did not, indeed, know the true God; and I was taken into captivity in Ireland with many thousands of people, according to our deserts, for quite drawn away from God, we did not keep his precepts, nor were we obedient to our priests who used to remind us of our salvation. And the Lord brought down on us the fury of his being and scattered us among many nations, even to the ends of the earth, where I, in my smallness, am now to be found among foreigners."

So he, like many of us in our day saw the reason (the "desert") of the captivity of his land being their willful neglect of the "true God" and "his precepts". So on **3/17/10** perhaps we should reflect on St. Patrick's response to his sad state:

*"And there the Lord opened my mind to an awareness of my unbelief, in order that, even so late, I might remember my transgressions and turn with all my heart to the Lord my God...Therefore, indeed, I cannot keep silent, nor would it be proper, so many favours and graces has the Lord deigned to bestow on me in the land of my captivity. For after chastisement from God, and recognizing him, **our way to repay him is to exalt him and confess his wonders before every nation under heaven.**"*

So as we lift a glass this St. Patrick's Day let it be lifted without shame in the name of *The King of all Nations who rules with justice and mercy!*

Events/Information: The next fellowship meal will be 03/28/10. At the meal in March we'll discuss the 2010 budget and review the close of the books for 2009.

Encourage: Professedly non-denominational Hillsdale College is one of the last great bastions of truly "liberal" education ("free man's education"). They instill a thorough and historic understanding of the U.S. Constitution into all their students. They remain unfettered by any federal intrusion, having never accepted federal aid of any kind. Of the college Ronald Reagan said "*Hillsdale deserves the appreciation of all who labor for freedom...your creative outreach on national issues enables little Hillsdale to cast a long shadow*". They publish a 10-issue-a-year free speech journal entitled "Imprimis". In it you'll read excellent speeches from various leaders of today and yester-year. They boast 1.8 million subscribers right now and they're shooting for 3.0 million by year end 2010. Well worth the reading – did I mention it's free?!