

SAINT AIDAN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*...where people come together...*

*I AM  
THE VINE...  
... YOU ARE  
THE BRANCHES*



*I AM THE VINE...  
... YOU ARE THE BRANCHES*

*By The Reverend Justin Alan Lindstrom\**



In the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches and encourages his disciples the distinction between those who believe in him and those who do not by comparing them to a vine and branches. Basically, those who believe in Jesus are branches that are connected, rooted, and nourished by the vine, who is Jesus. Those who do not believe in him are cut off, they wither, and they are thrown into the fire.

To some degree these are harsh words but they are so true for us. When we are rooted, connected, and nourished by God in Christ we will bear fruit, the fruit of love, care, forgiveness, and salvation. When we are not rooted, connected, and nourished, we often times feel lost, hopeless, and defeated.

Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church is a place where people come together to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We exist to connect people to Christ, get people rooted in the Word of God, and to be nourished through the Sacraments. When this occurs great fruit is produced. We are a community of people who bear much fruit and show deep love to others. It is incredible to hear the countless stories of how each and every one of you carry the message of Jesus Christ into your daily lives as his disciples. This brings us joy and brings the joy of Jesus to others. We want to hear those stories, so on the back of the Annual Giving Card we ask how you bear fruit, show love, and make joy complete in your daily lives. Please share with us!

Saint Aidan's was founded on four core values. Almost a decade later, these values still guide us in how we provide ministry for those who come together in and through Saint Aidan's. So what do these values mean as we are encouraged to be followers of Jesus Christ, as we are branches on this amazing vine of God in our lives?

**RELATIONSHIPS:** We are connected to other people and to Jesus Christ. We need Jesus and without him we would be lost, empty, and hopeless. With him, we are fulfilled, restored, and renewed. We not only find this in our relationship with Jesus but we also find this in our relationship with fellow believers and disciples.

**TRANSFORMATION:** The church provides opportunities for God to transform our lives. When we are connected and rooted in Christ we will be transformed over and over again. We will be renewed and restored on an ongoing basis by Jesus Christ's love, grace, forgiveness, and mercy.

**DISCIPLESHIP:** We are the disciples of today! To be the branches, we are to be nourished in the Word of God, teachers to each other, so that we can be living testimonies of Christ's great love, grace, forgiveness, and mercy. We are to remain in Christ's love to show that we are his disciples by bearing fruit, the fruit of caring for others, loving all people, and serving all who are in need of any kind.

**OUTREACH:** When we are in relationship with Jesus Christ and others, when we are open to God transforming our lives, and when we enter the journey of learning to be a disciple, we will be compelled to reach out to all people to be a witness, to share, the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We will bear fruit. We will show love. And in all of this our joy will be made complete, as we bring joy to others so that they can have a relationship with Christ, be transformed by God learn how to be a disciple in their daily lives.

To make this happen, we must remain connected, rooted and nourished in Jesus Christ. We do this through participating in the life of the church, by serving through sharing your gifts and talents with us, and by giving your resources to the ministry. To be a branch that bears fruit we are called upon by Jesus to participate, serve, and share our resources. I encourage you to realize how necessary it is in your life to be here and share in the life and ministry of Saint Aidan's. I encourage you to recognize how you want to serve our community by giving of yourself, your gifts and talents. I encourage you to discern a commitment of your resources to the ministry of Saint Aidan's, fill out the Annual Giving Card, and join in being rooted, connected, and nourished by the love of Jesus Christ!

God's Peace,



**The Rev. Justin Alan Lindstrom**  
Vicar

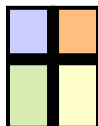
***I AM THE VINE...***  
***... YOU ARE THE BRANCHES***

**JOHN 15:5-11**

*<sup>5</sup> Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

***FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY***

Financial Peace University is Dave Ramsey's highly successful money management and debt reduction system based on the principles of God found in Holy Scripture. Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church will offer this course beginning in 2012 in order to help people manage their resources in Godly ways, to reduce debt, and to be more joyful givers. A lifetime membership for the Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and other resources offered in the Great Recovery program is \$99. We invite you to take the Great Recovery challenge, and as you make a commitment to the church accept the commitment the church makes to you and sign up to take the course so that together we can help the economy recover but more importantly live into the commands of God.



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*...where people come together...*

**2012 ANNUAL GIVING CARD**

*Stewardship is our way of life...  
the way we bear fruit, share love,  
and make joy complete!*

**I/we commit to: \$ \_\_\_\_\_/year**

**and I/we will give our gift:**

weekly  monthly  quarterly

**I/We want to participate in Financial Peace University...my/our deposit of \$50 is enclosed.**

**I/We want to talk to:**

- o The Vicar
- o Finance Committee
- o Stewardship Team

*Please help us keep our records current by providing updated information.*

NAME

STREET

CITY

ZIP

PHONE(S)

E-MAIL(S)

SIGNATURE

*I/We bear fruit, share love, and complete joy by:*

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*Thank you for making  
Stewardship your way of life and bearing  
fruit...may your joy be complete!*



I/we understand that Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church needs my commitment to plan for its ministries, and that I may raise or lower my commitment at any time by contacting the Treasurer, Doug Neaves, at treasurer@staidanshouston.org. All information is held in strict confidence.



*From the fullness of his grace we have  
all received one blessing after another.*

(JOHN 1:16)



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