

# A Few Words From Your Pastoral Staff

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Dear Member of the Auburn Church Family,

As I sit here writing this letter, it is 171 years since one of the most significant events in the religious history of the United States - the day that brought, for all practical purposes, one of the greatest religious revivals in history to a close.

Out of the ashes of that very disappointing experience, what religious historians today call The Great Disappointment, the day Jesus was supposed to return to earth in triumph and didn't, God eventually raised up a people with a very special purpose - a people called to be a servant catalyst to inspire the rest of Christendom with an urgency to prepare this world for Christ's actual return, and to do so in as attractive and alluring a way possible.

That is also our role in our community. We are not the only Christians in the Auburn area, nor is our church the only one that God is using. But, we are a people with a purpose - to attract and grow committed, passionate followers of Jesus through worship where God is present and participating; through relationships that are life changing; and through service that shows how God feels about people. In other words, we are committed to fulfilling our Christ given mandate in Matthew 28:19-20.

So, what does a growing, committed disciple look like? We have examples in the lives of the 12 students Jesus chose to be a part of his inner circle when he was here on earth. That is why this sermon series, "12 Guys Just Like Us," is focused on the lives of 6 of them - Peter, Andrew, John, Thomas, James and Judas. It is a series I think you will find very meaningful and which the friends you invite to share Sabbath with you will as well.

Cordially,

Pastor Dan M. Appel

## Information You Can Use

I was looking forward to preaching this week on the life of John - Jesus' cousin and the brother of Andrew. Unfortunately, events have conspired to make that impossible. I have been asked to have the funeral, on Sabbath morning, of Steve Leighty, the Auburn oral surgeon and a very special friend. So, Pastor Dave will be sharing this week from the life of John. I look forward to seeing you next week as we look at the life of Peter - self-made fishing tycoon and friend of Jesus.