

◆ ◆ ◆ **more*** from St. Augustine's . . .

"Best Bible Study Ever"

New 8-Week Disciple Bible Study Coming Here

"People of the book." Down through the centuries this is how Christians have been known. Of course, their sacred book has been the Bible, derived from a Greek word, *biblia*, which means 'books' or 'library of books.'

Bible study can truly be fascinating. You may doubt that if in past years your plan has been to start with Genesis and read straight through to Revelation. Chances are you made it to Leviticus and gave up. Or maybe you did a little better. But your struggle is not so surprising because the Bible is not always easy reading. In fact it often requires considerable effort, and a little help.

An example: when Philip encountered an Ethiopian who was reading the scriptures, he asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" Looking up from the book of Isaiah, the man said, 'How can I, except some man should guide me?' " (Acts 8:31). So our frustration and confusion have been around for centuries.

The Disciple Bible Study starting at St. Augustine's on October 20th will guide us, help us grasp the essential truths in the Old Testament. One of our goals as God's people, Jeremiah tells us, is to have the *Torah* (first five books of the Old Testament) written on our hearts.

"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (Jeremiah 31:33)

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#18, October 2, 2005

Message from Isaiah: For Us. For Today.

*"In this time of darkness, let us
serve as the light
That brings comfort and
strength, hope and redemption.*

*It is our hands that move stones
And our hearts that move
mountains
Sowing the seeds
Of unbroken tomorrows.*

*If you offer your compassion to
the hungry
And satisfy the famished
creature
Then shall your light
Shine in darkness
And your gloom
Shall be like noonday"
Isaiah 57:10*

12 Days Now Till Si's 110th Birthday. WOW!

You probably know two people aged 55. Or another three who are 16, 33, and 61 ... which add up to 110. But in our midst it takes only one person to achieve 110 years of life.

On October 14th our own **Silas Simmons**, a member here for over 30 years, will celebrate his 110th birthday. But the no-surprise festivities will go on for a full week. Of course there will be multiple parties at Suncoast Manor, Si's home now, during that week. Our Men's Brotherhood will honor Si with a dinner and special program at The Piccadilly restaurant. "Si's whole church family" **Bobby Allen** says, "is invited to the Piccadilly party." Watch here for more details.

My View ...

It's Saturday afternoon and I just left a church hall transformed. No, not me (not yet!) I mean the hall itself. St. Augustine's big, many-purpose room is now brighter, cleaner, fresher. And it now says "This place is cared for." **Joie' Cutliff-Newton**, **Greg Duckett** and **Yate' Cutliff**, all spattered in paint, were beaming even more than their newly tinted walls. Furniture had all been moved to the center and sunlight was streaming in those new front doors.

And just beyond our recently completed partition, four more people were refining what was started several weeks ago: a major transformation of color in our sanctuary. **Joyce Corn**, her son **Jeff Corn** and two of his apparently very special friends, **Kathryn Berman** and **Michael Short**, were bringing a new subtlety to the very center of our parish worship

"It just wasn't right the first time," Joyce said last week. "So I got a specialist to tell me what I'd done wrong."

Once again this was another new mix of talent and muscle that was reshaping St. Augustine's. This band of volunteers was not just "the usual suspects" at our church – those few faithful who've been the glue for so many years -- but some new people with some different thinking and some new vigor.

Now we know that wall color is a touchy issue at any church, fraught with both "aahs" and "ughs." This time our sanctuary's metamorphosis seems a bit less jarring. Some traditional details are getting de-emphasized and contrasts are perhaps more nuanced than before. Since even pastel hues can activate moods, our Junior Warden hopes this newer combination establishes just the right mix of comfort, repose and alertness to God's presence.

....You can smell the improvements around here!

Tom Krug

