

*“Searching for More I.C.E.”*

I know it has been a really crazy winter – weather-wise, at least; and, no, I’m not totally crazy to be asking for more I.C.E.! I like to use sequences of letters to help me remember things, such is the case in this issue of the *Almanac*.

I have had a lot of time to ponder my professional future and the future of the Music Ministry at St. Andrew’s this winter, as our totally bizarre weather has come through the area over and over again. Actually, I got bored with the Hallmark Movie Channel and reading and memorizing Scripture for Wednesday Bible Study, etc., etc. etc. – probably much like some of you.

The result of this pondering is that my thoughts continually returned to these three things:

1. I need to continue to INVEST in my skills, my music library, my understanding of the Bible, and my People Care of Ringers and Singers. I’m good, but I can be better!
2. I need to continue to COMMUNICATE clearly to those around me, particularly those I lead on a weekly basis. I shouldn’t expect to get the results I desire, if I don’t clearly communicate the intended outcome of a rehearsal or presentation of music. I’m good, but I can do better!
3. I need to be ENERGETIC, both when I’m alone and when I’m with others. There are enough blah situations and people in this world. I don’t need to add to this huge problem. I’m upbeat, most of the time; but I can radiate more positiveness!

So you ask, why do I share this in the Church newsletter? Let me tell you! I have told many of you that I have a thing inside of me that keeps telling me that the year 2019 is going to turn out pretty great – something special, as our Congregation has a reputation of being! We can’t leave everything up to the Session and the Pastoral Nominating Committee. In order to push us forward in 2019, we need to bring on the I.C.E. even more.

I believe we have hung together quite well, since the retirement of Pastor Borycz. As springtime begins showing its beauty and freshness, I’m challenging us, as a Congregation, to do the same. It takes a team of Volunteers and Staff to run our Church. ... INVEST in that Team Effort by doing what you are able to do. Only you can define the opportunities for you.. ... COMMUNICATE positively about “our” Church. You don’t stand quietly by when someone speaks inappropriately about your family. Likewise, stand up and be a Public Relations Representative for St. Andrew’s wherever you go. Tell people why it’s “Something Special” in your life. ... With the Congregation’s average age being over, let’s say, 60+ (LOL), we need to be a source of energy. We need to ENERGIZE the folks around us, the folks we talk to, the presentation of ourselves in public, our actions in the check-out line at Meijer. It can start simply as a smile. Again, it’s your decision where you can best expel energy into the world around you; and, especially your St. Andrew’s Congregation.

Now that you are better informed about I.C.E., I pray that we can become an even brighter beacon of hope, both inside and outside our walls.

God Bless,

*Merle*