



Christian Community

‘Determining need is a matter of discernment...Does ‘need’ mean bare necessity, or what is needed for me to grow & flourish?’

[Prayer & Community; The Benedictine Tradition : Columba Stewart OSB : DLT : 1998 :P.94]

‘In a Christian community, everything depends upon whether each individual is an indispensable link in a chain. Only when the smallest link is securely interlocked is the chain unbreakable.....Every community must realise that not only the weak need the strong, but that the strong cannot exist without the weak.’

[Dietrich Bonhoeffer : Life Together : Harper & Row : 1976]

“When someone steals another's clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.”

St. Basil The Great - Bishop of Caesarea died 379 AD

Week 1. Abundant Community

- What does ‘abundance’ look or feel like to you?
- Read Acts 4:32-35
- How do you feel about your possessions & resources? Would you be happy to share them with others?
- Read the quote from Columba Stewart & discuss. What do you think ‘need’ may mean today? Have our ‘needs’ *really* changed?
- Where does the desire to share resources spring from?
- In our society many prize individualism over community. What has the past year has taught us about the importance of Community?
- Early Christians felt profound responsibility for one another. Do you feel a sense of responsibility towards others in the Christian community?
- Do you agree with the quote from Bonhoeffer about the weak & strong needing each other?
- Read the quote from St Basil. How do you respond to his challenging words?
- Read Acts 4:36-37 & 5:1-11. How might we become more generous with our resources? As a Church? As we reflect on our own personal abundance?
- Close in prayer for one another.

