



## *St. Andrew's Tidings*

*Week of Feb. 5, 2017*

### **The Presentation of our Lord in the Temple**

This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. According to the Old Testament, the Jews were commanded to present their male children at the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after their Birth. This was to give thanks to God and pray for the purification of the mother and health of the child, for it was considered that after the vital forty-day period it was almost certain that all mortal danger was passed. This is why this Feast has yet another name: 'The Purification of the Virgin'. The Christ-Child is only forty days old, the salvation of the world is dependent on His Mother. This is why although this Feast is a Feast in honor of Our Lord, the Church is yet in blue, for we also give great honor today to the Mother of God. Indeed, this Feast is the Feast of all mothers.

In New Testament times, we have the old custom of 'churching', which is similar to this rite of purification of the mother, which was carried out in the Old Testament, but there are also important differences. In the 1928 Book of Common Prayer it was called "The Churching of Women." Since the birth of Christ, all children, not only boys, are to be presented for Baptism. They are to be presented for baptism and chrismation.

The Presentation, the Meeting and the Purification are then all names given to today's Feast, but there is yet a fourth name - Candlemas. This name was given to this Feast in memory of the Roman custom of lighting candles, which recalls the lights in the Temple at Jerusalem. The custom spread from Rome even to western parts of Russia and in the Russian service-books there is a prayer for the blessing of candles on this day. In this country, Candlemas is connected with many popular sayings concerning weatherlore, witnessing to the popularity of Candlemas in olden times. One such saying for example is: 'If Candlemas be fair and bright, winter shall have another flight'. This means that if today's weather is good, we shall have more cold and wintry weather before the Spring.

But what does this Feast mean for us today?

Since it is exactly forty days since Christmas, it is time for us to think about the last forty days and ask ourselves some questions: What today can we present to the Temple of Christ, the Church? In what condition do we present our souls to Christ? What sacrifices have we made in the last forty days? Have we begun cultivating a new virtue? Have we attempted to give up an old vice? Have we attended church? Have we taken communion? Have we been vigilant

in prayers? Have we set a Christian example to our neighbors? Have we thanked God for all that we have received? What has changed in our way of life since the Birth of Christ forty days ago? Whatever our answers to these questions, on this, the Feast of the Meeting of Christ, one thing is certain: Christ is there to greet us wherever we are.

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**In celebration of Black History Month:**

*Meditations on the words of Howard Thurman*

*10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15,*

*In the Chapel*



**JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR  
DREAMCOAT IS COMING TO ST. ANDREW'S,  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30 P.M.**

THE WESTMINSTER YOUTH CHOIR FROM CALDWELL, NEW JERSEY, THE SAME CHOIR THAT PRESENTED PIPPIN SEVERAL YEARS AGO, WILL PRESENT THIS MUSICAL AS A PART OF THEIR SOUTHERN TOUR. WE NEED HOUSING FOR THE YOUTH, SO IF YOU COULD HOUSE 2 OR 4 AT YOUR HOME ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup>, PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET IN BYRNE HALL. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 36 YOUTH. THEY ARE ALREADY PAIRED WITH A ROOMMATE.

**ADULT FORMATION**

**9:00 a.m. SUNDAY MORNING**

**"WHY JESUS MATTERS"**

## **EVANGELISM MATTERS! POT-LUCK**

**At the invitation of Bishop Kendrick, and with help from the St. Andrew's Foundation, Margaret+ and Anne Staley, our Vestry Liaison for Evangelism/Servant Ministry, joined Bishop Russell and The Rev. David Knight, Rector of St. Simon's, Ft. Walton Beach, along with their deacon, in attending Evangelism Matters! In Dallas, Texas. This workshop was sponsored by Forward Movement of the Episcopal Church and was an incredible experience. Speakers included Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Reconciliation; and The Right Rev. Porter Taylor, retired Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina.**

**On Sundays, February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have Evangelism Matters! Pot-luck Luncheons following the Sunday Service for you to see these folks and become as excited as we were. Plan now to attend!**

**FAITH COMMITMENT THOUGHT:  
CONSIDER TITHING YOUR INCOME  
TAX REFUND TO THE CHURCH!**

**IT'S COMING: "PROJECT RESOURCE"  
.....STAY TUNED!!**

**CHECK OUT THE BEAUTIFUL NEW  
LIGHTS AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE  
NEW NARTHEX. THESE WERE  
CREATED BY COLLEEN GREEN FROM  
THE LIGHTS THAT USED TO BE IN THE  
WORSHIP SPACE.**

**THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF  
COAST IS ONCE AGAIN PRESENTING**

**Discipleship Day**

**March 25, 2017 at St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
in Niceville, Florida**

**Mark your calendar and let the office know if  
you are going! Let's have a great crowd. There  
will be a number of interesting work-shops.**



Prayers to Go

Prayers to Go is up and running on the Hospice floor at Bay Med. If you want to participate, and have not attended training, or have not finished training, see Tom Brewer.

## **New Nursery Attendant**

**We want to welcome Kathleen Turner who will be our new nursery attendant. Kathleen will be in the nursery each Sunday from 9:30 a.m. through the service. Please be sure to thank Kathleen for taking on this responsibility.**

## **Cathedral Chairs and Hassocks**

**There is still time to purchase a chair or hassock in memory of or in honor of someone. These make very special gifts.**

## *Forward Day By Day*

*The large print and smaller versions of Day by Day are available on the rack in Byrne Hall. Please be sure to purchase one.*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who donated to the "cause" these past few weeks. With your help I sold 15 coupon books, enough to get us on the way to our Senior Grad bash. What's especially poignant in this case, is the fact that without your patronage, some of these seniors would not have been able to go..... so again please accept my sincerest gratitude. God Bless, Raf Knap

### **St. Mary's Guild**

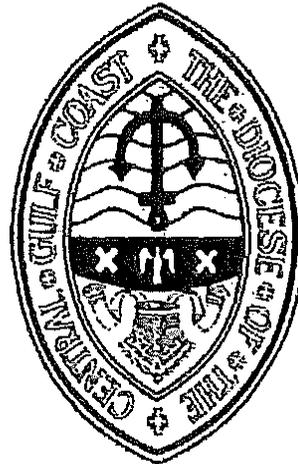
**Valentine's Day is Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>! A great day to remember our Guild meeting at Vera Lansings, 414 26<sup>th</sup> St., Lynn. Haven. Our program is our anticipated story telling with Judy Cooley. Always such fun! You won't want to miss it. Hostesses will be Barbara Sontag and Mary Wimpenny. Bring a happy  !!**

*Thirty-Sixth*  
**Men's Conference**  
*and Retreat*

March 3, 4, & 5, 2017

**PETER**  
*A Man for All Seasons*

*Presented by*  
Rev. Dr. Russell Levenson  
*Rector St. Martin's Episcopal Church*  
*Houston Texas*



*Episcopal Diocese*  
*of the*  
*Central Gulf Coast*

Beckwith Camp and Conference  
Center  
10400 Beckwith Lane  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532-6060



## **SUPPER AT GRACE**

**Thursday, February 16**

**Please join us to prepare and to serve Supper at Grace Church, Panama City Beach. We will begin in Byrne Hall at 9:00 AM making sandwiches, packing lunches and doing prep work for supper. We are done in about 1 ½ hours. We need helpers at 3 PM at Grace to cook and set up, at 5 to help pack to-go boxes and at 6 to serve and help clean up. Come for whatever time you have and help us welcome those who come to eat. For more information contact Teri Floore or Sally and Tom Brewer.**

*(Names are left on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified for a longer time)  
Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Mike, Warren, Ed, Nell, Sandra, Margaret & Bill, Dr. Benton, Sandra, Meagan, Rick, James, Eric, Crystal, Ally, Rita, Cynthia, Brian, Ray, Carol, Charlie, Jesse, John, Shawn, Judy, Kate, Mat, Mike, Shirley, Pat, Juana, Cindy, Mandy, Elizabeth, Dawn, Rick, Mary Lou, Josh, Debra, Donna, Robbie, Vickie, Anne*

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad:  
David, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard, Ivan, James*