



## *St. Andrew's Tidings*

*Week of March 12, 2017*

### *Message from Margaret+*

This week's Gospel from John shows us the figure of Nicodemus, who stands for the best there is in Israel. His good qualities of mind and of life have made him a ruler of the Jews—indeed, a teacher of the nation. He is a Pharisee. It's easier to become a leader of your people if you can be identified with traditional values. And Pharisaism isn't bad in itself. Certainly it wasn't bad as Nicodemus lived it. Pharisaism tried to know and to do the will of God, which it saw as defined in specific commandments that were to be obeyed at all times.

The disputes Jesus had were not so much with Pharisaism as with particular Pharisees (and there were a good number of them) who were so convinced that they already had everything right that they couldn't learn anything more. To Nicodemus' respectful greeting, Jesus responded with a challenge. Unless a person born *from above* (this is more accurate in the Greek than 'born again') that person cannot see God's Kingdom. This really declares that we must look to God as the source of our values—as well as the explanation of our very being.

We cannot afford to rely on even the best of human systems, of which Pharisaism is an example. Nicodemus recognizes the challenge and isn't ready to deal with it. How can a person be born when he is old? How can one revise values? To be born of water clearly implies baptism and the mention of the Holy Spirit indicates that the baptism is not merely a cleaning, but, even more, an empowerment. Being led by the Spirit is the real meaning of being *born from above*. The unpredictable leading of the Spirit is more than Nicodemus can fit into his system of belief. He may be Israel's teacher, but he hasn't any way of dealing with it.

As John's Gospel develops, Nicodemus continues to give his mind to the heavenly things that he cannot understand. When Jesus' body is taken down from the cross, Nicodemus assists Joseph of Arimathea in the burial. Here Jesus sets

before him the heavenly things that he *must* contemplate. There *is* one who has come down from heaven. As Son of Humanity, he will be lifted up, but that will occur, paradoxically, on the cross of rejection. In this he will demonstrate that God so loved the world that “*he gave his only son*” so that *whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*Blessings and love for a holy Lent.*

*Margaret+*



***STATIONS OF THE  
CROSS: EVERY FIRDAY IN  
LENT. 11 A.M. FOLLOWED BY  
A LIGHT LUNCH.***

**This Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have the second Evangelism Matters! Pot-luck Luncheon following the Sunday Service for you to see. Plan now to attend! Hear the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon for Evangelism for the National Church.**

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR EVANGELISM MATTERS SURVEY  
THAT YOU RECEIVED AT THE POTLUCK.**

**THERE WILL BE A RED CONTAINER TO PUT THEM IN  
BYRNE HALL BY THE BULLETIN BOARD.**

**COMING JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>. SHARING FAITH DINNERS**

**Join tables all around our diocese for an evening of  
listening and sharing, plus a delicious dinner here at  
St. Andrew's! *For more details, contact Anne Staley at 850-  
624-0844***

**ST. MARY'S GUILD**

**WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN?**

**Ann Robbins will tell about local historical facts at the  
St. Mary's meeting, March 14 th at 10 a.m. at the Bay  
County Library. Mark your calendars, ladies for an  
interesting time! Hostesses: Mary Wimpenny (Coffee)  
and Shirley Gobat (cookies).**

# Volunteer Today. Be Rewarded for a Lifetime.

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that will give you a sense of purpose and worthwhile work?  
Do you want to know that you make a real difference?  
Are you willing to use your unique skills and experiences on the job or to gain new ones?  
Do you hope to make new friends and serve as part of a team?  
**Covenant Care promises these things and more to our volunteers.**

## Volunteer Training Workshop

March 13 and 14 (both days)  
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Covenant Care  
107 West 19th Street  
Panama City, Florida

**We'll help you find the place that is just right for you.**  
Support Hospice Patients & Families · Serve Bereaved Family Members  
Provide Administrative & Clerical Support · Assist with Fundraising or Community Outreach Efforts  
Give Loving Support to Covenant Care Kids · Honor Veteran Patients  
Care for Alzheimer's Patients and Caregivers

Information & Advance Registration:  
Alisha Townsend Hall, 850-785-3040, Cell 850-417-0660  
Sharon Burnett, Cell 850-281-5818  
Volunteer and Community Relations Managers

[choosecovenant.org](http://choosecovenant.org)  
1.855.CARE.365



## *Order of St. Luke*

If you feel called to pray for others in our church who are in crisis situations please join our chain.

Call Linne Morgan at 784 0824 to be added.

### **Children's Sunday School**

A new children's Sunday School has begun at 9 am in the Atrium (the room in the southwest corner of the church). We will be using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for our curriculum. This is a wonderful hands-on program to help children learn to love Jesus and their church.

## **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 workshops.**

# IT'S COMING: “PROJECT RESOURCE” .....STAY TUNED!!



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.



Volunteers needed!

Second grade students from Oakland Terrace Elementary will come to the Garden of Hope on Thursday, March 16, from 10:15-11:15. We need helpers from St. Andrews to come and interact with the students and help them plant a spring garden. Bring your gloves and trowels and meet us at the garden at the corner of Fairland Ave. and 10<sup>th</sup> St. Let's go beyond our doors and help these students learn about God's beautiful creation. Questions? - Call Laurie Ayers at 265-5978.

# *Mardi Gras Fun*



*(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, Warren, Ed, Nell, Sandra, Margaret & Bill, Dr. Benton, Meagan, Ally, Rita, Cynthia, Brian, Ray, Carol, Charlie, Jesse, John, Shawn, Judy, Kate, Mat, Mike, Shirley, Juana, Cindy, Mandy, Dawn, Rick, Mary Lou, Donna, Robbie, Vickie, Anne, Mandi, Pat, Bob, Colleen, Courtney, Charlie, Glenn, Michael, Suzy, Sandra, Elizabeth, Josh, Maggie, Debra, Theresa, Dana, Patricia & Gene, Elizabeth*

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad:*

*David, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard, James*