



St. Andrew's Tidings

For the Week of May 15

Message from Margaret:

Wind and Fire-The Holy Spirit

Theologian José Comblin reminds us that words alone about Christ aren't enough to convince our contemporaries to come to Christ; they must see what we believe in our lives, the experience of the Spirit in us. It might not be tongues of fire, but it must be something seen.

Happy Birthday to the Church! It's up to us to see that it has many, many more. —Susanna Metz.

Pentecost observances are more than a celebration of the past. It is not merely an end to Easter or a chance to launch summer programming. It is not an opportunity for stoking nostalgia about the church's supposed glory days. No. Pentecost is an invitation to dream. For when a community of faith quits dreaming dreams, it has little to offer either its members or the wider world. Like any good dream, these dreams involve adopting a new perspective on what is possible, and arousing our creativity to free us from conventional expectations. They help us see that maybe what we thought was outlandish actually lies within reach. Maybe I can find freedom from what binds me. Maybe there can be justice. Maybe I can make a difference. Maybe a person's value isn't determined by their income. Maybe the future of our society or our planet is not yet determined. Maybe God is here with me, even if my current struggles never go away.

Often in dealing with these sorts of things, many turn to contemplation, to a deeper sense of spirituality. Barbara Crafton suggests that something happens to many people, though once they start down the path of contemplation, no matter how self-absorbed a motive that may have caused them to begin: they begin to sense the existence of a dimension of life they had not known existed before. It is reached by a path that begins within them, but they know it to be other than just themselves. It is not readily described to another person. It is uniquely experienced by each of us, but it is much more than "my true self" or my "essence."

It is a hint of God.

It is rare for a human being ever to get more than a hint. You don't get them every day. But a hint is more than enough—we are talking about something powerful enough to cause and contain the universe, yet gentle enough to turn the human soul inside out without killing it. Humankind cannot bear very much reality, T. S. Elliott said, and it is so. You can't order the spiritual life the way you order pizza; it is too potent a thing to be treated casually. But the repeated discipline of waiting upon God puts the soul in the way of these hints of God. In that, it is a little like exercise; do it regularly and you become more efficient at it. Much like the labyrinth walk that occurred last Saturday. (See photo elsewhere in the Tidings).

We begin to experience the Spirit by beginning to seek it. You have to show up to be in a relationship. And since the spiritual life is a relationship and not a solo, the same is true of it. Deepening spiritual awareness is both something that happens to me and something I do; it is never just one or the other.

How do I know it's God and not just me," people ask. That is not a simple question, since God causes and contains us. But you are the one having the experience.

The voice of God in the human soul is usually pretty quiet. It's not quite as dramatic as it was on the day of Pentecost--but sometimes maybe it is. It is as if someone has been in the room with you for a while, but you only just now turned and realized they are there. In the turning of something over and over in the mind, the intent listening to the self, the quiet—a certainty grows that this turning and listening is a sacred thing, a conversation. A sense of unity of thought and feeling, of the soul rested and engaged, accompanied, within its bodily home. Less and less agitated thought about the welter of problems with which you began. More and more fulsome quiet within you. That's the voice of God

Come Holy Spirit, renew the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Blessings and love,

Margaret

World Labyrinth Day



“Walk as one at 1” was a big success. Thanks to all of you who joined people around the world walking the labyrinth!

Congratulations to our own Deacon Ray Wishart. The DTV Production Studio at Mosley High School was dedicated in Ray’s honor: “The Father of Dolphin Television.” Ray is retiring from Mosley after 40 years of teaching.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION



**MAKE A FRIEND, BE A FRIEND,
BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY
MAY 15TH
FOLLOWED BY A POT-LUCK LUNCH
SOCIAL MEDIA SUNDAY**

Wear red on this day!!

When was the last time you invited a friend to church? Last Sunday, one of our members brought 5 visitors! WOW! On May 15, Pentecost Sunday, you are asked to bring a friend to church that day. Or, invite someone who is NOT your friend! And this is the Sunday you have been waiting for! Bring your phones for Social Media Day! Yes, you read that right. Bring your phones (sound off!) and make photos, videos, etc. before, during, and after church to post on social media!

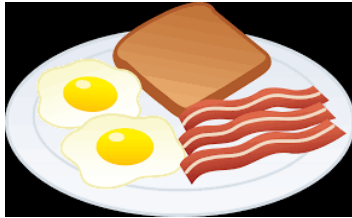


Your Vestry at Work!

The Salvation Army Domestic Violence Program is presenting:

A Celebration Unmasking the Truth About Domestic Violence.

Your vestry will be attending this event and will be sitting together at the St. Andrew's table which will be decorated by Laura Reeves Grissett. The event is intended to raise awareness about domestic violence in our community. Anyone wishing to help support this event may drop a check or cash in the party bag provided on the dessert table at the pot-luck lunch on Sunday.



SUMMER BREAKFAST !!

**GRAB YOUR FRIENDS, REUNION GROUP, ETC.
AND SIGN UP FOR SUMMER BREAKFAST WHICH
BEGINS ON JUNE 5TH !!**

Supper at Grace

We traded with another church in April so we have to take their turn in May. So we WILL be hosting Supper at Grace the third Thursday of May AND June. That's May 19th and June 16th. We need many hands to make it light work. Hands in the morning to make sandwiches and pack lunches. Hands in the afternoon to cook and set up. Hands in the early evening to serve and clean up. We've done this so many times the process is almost automatic now, but it needs people to accomplish it! Please consider being one of those people. Contact Teri Floore and/or Diane Tate for more details and sign up on the list on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. It's a very rewarding opportunity of serving Jesus' children!

Pick up the latest edition of "Forward Day by Day" in Byrne Hall. Large print is \$1.50 and the small ones are \$1.00. There is a collection box above the rack.



**SEND YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD TO BECKWITH
FOR SUMMER CAMP
SEE MARGARET FOR MORE INFORMATION
LET'S HAVE SOMEONE FROM ST. ANDREW'S TO
ATTEND!**

KNEELING HASSOCKS

If you would like to use a kneeler, they are stacked near the Labyrinth to the right when you come in the door. We would like to finish out the kneeling hassocks and have one for every chair. They are \$95.75.

(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, Mary, Ed, Debra, David, Rachel, Jeremy, John, Erika, Vicky, Becky, Hong, Gail, Ronnie, Barbara, Jenn, Cliff, Patricia, Jeffrey, Jane, Ken, Gale, Nell, Sandra, Vincent, Faye, Rick, Dawn, Elizabeth, William, Adam, Melinda, Archie, Russ, Lindsey, Hank, Helen, Kathleen, Pam, Lou, Ava, Bobbie, Mason, Paul, Bobby, Dee, Rudy, Fred, Debra, Barbara, Cathy, Bobby Lee, Chris, Dylan, Kathy, Cynthia, Susan, Charley, Elizabeth, Dawn, Mary Lou, Barbara, Rick

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

Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard, Ivan