



St. Andrew's Tidings

Week of Nov. 6, 2016

We hear Paul speaking to the people in Ephesus in our second reading for Sunday saying: "I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you." And then we hear Jesus saying: "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." This love is not so much warm, affective emotive disposition, as one might have for friends or family. Rather it is an engraced posture of actively willing and working for the welfare of others, undeterred by hatred, cursing, or abuse. This love has given up the need to punish or retaliate, and it seeks no reward. To love in such a way is to share in God's very character, which is mercy.

Luke emphasizes that Jesus sees this love as having no basis in human *merit*. It differs radically from "natural" love in this regard. That is why Jesus asks appropriately, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?" Love for love is no great thing, even sinners do the same. Showing love to those from whom you receive love, or with whom you exchange mutual benefits, or who are likely to repay a loan, does not reflect kingdom values. On the contrary, the radical characteristic of kingdom citizens—that is, of saints—is to exhibit spontaneous unmotivated, non-calculating love toward enemies as much as toward friends or family. Those who do so will be "children of the Most High," and, being children of grace, will experience the divine reward.

As the celebration of faithfulness among God's people, All Saints' Day reminds us that we are called to be saints in the image and likeness of Jesus and that all those who have gone before us were likewise called to be saints. We have many special days to honor apostles and martyrs, but what our Gospel calls for is not the offering of enormous spiritual talent. It speaks simply about the poor, and the hungry, and those who suffer grief, and particularly about the persecuted. But it mentions nothing about the skills and gifts they may have. To those "little ones" is given the promise of ultimate joy merely on the condition *that they show love without asking what is in it for themselves*.

Thus All Saints' Day celebrates our *call*, not our *achievement*. I hope this is something we will remember as we move towards November 8th, Election Day. For you see, when the call is answered, the achievement, in a nascent but real sense, is guaranteed, as it is not a matter of what we do for God but what God does in and through us. We are called by God to treat one another as God would have us do in that love "without asking what is in it for themselves." The power and the glory of the kingdom is lavished upon those who, like children, turn and receive it, who like Jesus, lavish it upon the ungrateful and the selfish. In that sense, to quote St. Augustine, "We become that which we already are, the Body of Christ."

Peace and love,

Margaret+

Duncan Chapel to be Open for Prayer

November 8, Election Day

Our chapel will be open for both parish and community prayer on Election Day, November 8, to encourage prayers of unity for our country. Our location on Beach Drive gives us a unique opportunity to make this witness in our community and to offer to the thousands who pass everyday a place to pray and reflect on this day. Books of Common Prayer will be in the chapel but it will be a quiet time, no formal service. We need volunteers to be in the chapel or narthex to welcome those who come. If you will be out and about that day, ask a friend to join you for an hour to staff and pray in the chapel. There will be a sign- up sheet on Sunday.

FAITH COMMITMENT SUNDAY

OUR FAITH COMMITMENT GATHERING WILL BE NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13. PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS ON THAT DAY. THE VESTRY'S GOAL IS TO HAVE 100% PLEDGES. REMEMBER NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL WHEN IT IS GIVEN IN THANKSGIVING. TO BE ELECTED TO THE VESTRY OR FOUNDATION, ONE MUST BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING (HAVING PLEDGED AND A GIVER OF RECORD.)



ALL SAINTS' DAY

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS' WILL BE CELEBRATED THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH. ON THIS DAY, WE WILL REMEMBER ALL THOSE IN THIS PARISH FAMILY WHO HAVE DIED SINCE LAST ALL SAINTS' DAY. IF YOU HAVE A NAME TO BE READ ON THIS DAY. PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE OFFICE

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

St. Andrew's will hold its annual Alternative Gift Fair to benefit Episcopal Relief and Development Sundays **DECEMBER 4TH & DECEMBER 11TH** · Gifts include Animals and Agriculture, Basics for Life, Green Gifts, Health and Wellness and Economic Opportunities. Gift cards will be available at the Fair. This Christmas you can give gifts that transform a life and heal a hurting world.



**COMING UP IN NOVEMBER: HONORING OUR VETERANS ON
NOVEMBER 13TH.**

If you are a veteran of any military duty, please mark the date on your calendar!



SUPPER AT GRACE

Last Thursday evening we served 85 eat-in dinners, 43 take-dinners and 50 pack lunches to the guests who came for Supper at Grace. Thank you to everyone who helped: Gail Tambarino, Rose Dallas, Marilyn Hermansen, Ann Bruce, Margaret Seeberger, Mary Johnson, Nancy and Don Crane, Sally and Tom Brewer, Linne Morgan and Diane Tate.

Our next supper is December 15th. In past years we have asked for warm socks for men, women and children to distribute that night. This year beginning December 1st we will again begin to collecting new socks and stocking caps to distribute that evening.

Vestry and Convention Delegate Election: Sunday December 4th

We will soon be having our Annual Parish Meeting to elect new vestry members as well as delegates to Diocesan Convention on Sunday, December 4th.

Vestry:

*A nominee must be a confirmed communicant of St. Andrew's, 18 years of age or older;

*must demonstrate meaningful and sacrificial support of the church, making and fulfilling an annual pledge of support; to consider that St. Andrew's Vestry upholds the tithe as the standard of giving; to encourage the parish to consider proportionate giving; and work personally towards the tithe.

*To participate fully in the worship of the church

*To attend vestry meetings and retreats and to seek God's will for St. Andrew's and to enter into a posture of spirituality and prayer.

Delegates to Convention

Last year, in keeping with the Cathedral of the Diocese, rather than electing a new slate of three persons to serve in this capacity, and three alternates, the terms of service will be staggered among the delegates. One person will be elected each year to rotate onto our delegation for a three year term. This will allow for both continuity of experience and service within the delegation, while allowing more people to participate in this important ministry. We will be electing one new delegate and one new alternate.

*Don't forget Adult Sunday School at
9:00 am. Please join us*

**KUDOS TO OUR VESTRY FOR TAKING
A TURN IN CLEANING UP THE
KITCHEN ON SUNDAY AFTER
CHURCH!**

**THE LIST GOES THROUGH THE FIRST OF
DECEMBER. IT IS HOPED THAT EVERYONE
WILL FOLLOW SUIT. THANK YOU.**



NADINE SMITH

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PANAMA CITY, TO HOST WORLD AIDS DAY DEC. 1ST.

The annual celebration of world AIDS Day will be Thursday, December 1st, at 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Panama City, Florida. The speaker is Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida, who has been an advocate for peace and justice and equality around the country.

In 2013, Nadine was named one of the state's "Most Powerful and Influential Women" by the Florida Diversity Council. She was also given the League of Women Voter's Woman of Distinction Award earlier this year. She currently serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Florida Advisory Committee.

St. Andrew's is located at 1608 Baker Court, Panama City, Florida. For more information, call 850-763-7636.

St. Mary's Guild

Election Day is here! Nov. 8, 2016! What better day to have St. Mary's Guild meeting and make an Anglican Rosary. No matter who wins at the polls, we will need to use the Rosary for faith, peace and unity in our world. We will meet at Sally Brewer's, 120 Boca Lagoon Dr., PC Beach at 10:00 am, Tues. Nov. 8th. Please bring 33 beads for your rosary—28 of them all the same size and 5 of them either larger or smaller than the other 28 but a uniform size of 5. Hostesses will be Julie Cheshire, Laurie Ayers and Mary Wimpenny. See you there ladies of St. Andrews.

Below are directions to Sally's house after crossing Hathaway Bridge.

Use left 2 lanes to turn slightly left onto Front Beach Road.

Turn left onto Laurie Ave.

Turn left onto N. Lagoon Dr.

Turn left onto Boca Lagoon Drive

Look for 120 Boca Lagoon Drive

(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, Elizabeth, Ryan, Sierra, Christina, Josh, Sandy, Lisa, Ray, Henry, Laura, Kris, Chris, Lori, Andrea, Melinda, Joanna, Lauren, Amanda, Jim, Norman, Anita, Dean, Shirley, Elizabeth, Mary Lou, Dawn, Josh, Donna, John, Marcella, Hank, Lucy, Robert, Niki, Mike, Liam, Joanna, Amanda, Elizabeth, Josh, Mary Lou, Paul, Marcella, Debra, Dawn

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