



## *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

### *Tidings*

#### *Week of June 11, 2017*

I was cleaning out some boxes the other day in preparation of the office Molly will use, and I found this article from 2007 by Tom Ehrich, a wonderful writer and priest. I thought it so appropriate for this Sunday when we will baptize Mason Vance Griswold. It is also appropriate for the situation in which we find ourselves in the country and in the world today.

“DAVIDSON, N.C.- I asked the six families preparing to baptize their children: What was their best experience as children growing up in churches? “Community.” Nearly all said. They cited church friends, feeling safe and loved, being allowed to help, not needing to compete, belonging without having to earn their way in.

When their families moved from town to town, they knew church as a welcoming place.

Now, as young parents, what did they want for their children in church?

“Community,” they said, where their children can be known by name and made to feel welcome. Even though they live in separate towns in this suburban corridor north of Charlotte, they want their children to have a church family in addition to the neighborhood play groups, sports programs and schools that will fill their lives.

To that end, we baptized their children on Easter morning, in full view of a packed house, with no apologies for crying and squirming. I carried babies down the aisle to give grown-ups a good look at them, because it is their duty to maintain the open doors and open fellowship that are necessary for welcoming.

To this day, I carry with me the memories of growing up at Trinity Episcopal Church in Indianapolis. I remember the names of every Sunday school teacher, the faces of those who loved me even at my most obnoxious stages, and the church friends whom I saw only on Sundays and yet were essential to my self-awareness.

I don't remember sermons or lessons. I never developed an interest in doctrines or church politics. But I remember the sensation—physical, emotional, spiritual—of walking into the doors at Trinity and feeling at home. It even has a unique smell in my memory bank.

Later, of course, I had to find other places to know god, and the god I came to know had to become larger than what I sensed as a child at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Meridian. But there the die was cast. Of the many churches I have tried, joined and led, none has felt authentic unless it approximated the warmth, safety and love that I knew as a child.

Some faith communities get this, and some don't. You can always tell the difference.

The ones that get it make room for children, wear name tags, greet strangers, embrace diversity, and always have time for the person who is suffering. The ones that don't get it want children out of the way, encourage anonymity, freeze out the odd, rarely have time for human needs, and demand that people take sides in their endless squabbles.

Christianity's health isn't about doctrine, liturgical style, location, architecture, or anything that can be bought or intellectualized. From childhood through adulthood, church is about community, places to feel safe and loved, so that we can dare to grow up, dare to make our way in the world, dare to disagree with the powers-that-be, and dare to face death.

If Christians could stop arguing about things Jesus didn't mention or value, and if we could turn down our institutional ambitions and pride, we would see that our singular contribution to these difficult times is community. Not just niceness and smiles, but radically open and transformative community.

Jesus said, "Be one," not "be right." He said "Love one another," not "Judge one another."

Our anonymous and fragmented world is desperate for authentic community. That need starts in childhood, and I don't think we ever outgrow it."

May the outrageous welcome of the Father

Accept us who we are;

May the incarnation of the Word

Touch and hold us close. Amen.

*Blessings and love, Margaret+*

Summer Concert Series

Sunday, June 25, 4 p.m. : Calliope Pettis, Voice  
and Andy Lagrimas, Piano

Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>: Concert on the Lawn

Featuring Amanda Matthews and Friends

Beginning at 6 p.m.



Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>: Ensemble of Excellence

“An International Tour”

Two Flutes, ‘Cello, and Viola

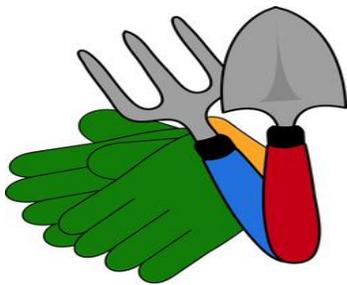
Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>: An Evening of Jazz

Musicians: Amanda Matthews, Leeza Beholz Jett,  
Steve Gilmore

**SUMMER BREAKFAST BEGINS THIS WEEK**

**JUNE 11 and will be prepared this week  
by Tom Sontag, Tom Brewer and Donna  
Hairston!**

**WE NEED GROUPS TO SIGN UP FOR  
FUTURE DATES! The Sign-up list is on the  
bulletin board.**



**PARISH WORK DAY-THIS  
SATURDAY JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>. WE NEED ALL HANDS  
ON DECK. SOME WILL WORK OUTSIDE, SOME  
WILL WORK ON THE RECTORY AND SOME,  
INSIDE BYRNE HALL/KITCHEN! BRING YOUR  
SHEARS, RAKES, CLIPPERS ETC. DO-NUTS AND  
COFFEE AT 9 A.M!**

## DIRECTORIES

*We have new St. Andrew's Directories available. Please pick up one from the greeter as you enter the Narthex. One per family please.*

### *From the Front Door to the Kitchen*

*FRONT DOOR: EXPLORE/ATTENDANCE Foyer: LEARN/PARTICIPATING  
FAMILY ROOM: GROW/COMMITMENT KITCHEN: SERVE/EMPOWERMENT  
Consequently, we are adding two new greeters – one listed as  
The Front Door (In front of Byrne Hall; and The Kitchen- In  
front of the new Narthex.) You are simply greeters, showing in  
particular new comers where the entrances are, the nursery, the  
restrooms etc. Thank you for serving!*



### **SUPPER AT GRACE THURSDAY JUNE 15**

Join us at 9:00 AM in Byrne Hall to pack lunches and do prep  
work for dinner

AND/OR

Grace Church on the beach anytime between 3:00PM and 5:00  
PM to set up, cook, serve and clean up

Diane Tate or Mary Johnson

**Episcopal, ELCA presiding bishops issue joint statement calling for prayer, fasting for hunger awareness**

[Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs press release] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) have issued a joint statement calling for prayer, fasting and advocacy.

The statement, *For Such a Time as This: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy*, calls for fasting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month through December 2018, at which time the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress will conclude.

The 21st of each month is targeted because by that time each month, 90% of SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits have been used, thereby causing the last week of the month as the hungry week in America.

The fast will launch with a group of national and local leaders doing a three-day fast together May 21-23. These leaders include Presiding Bishop Curry, Presiding Bishop Eaton, and leadership throughout the Episcopal Church.



**Lucille Moore Backpack Ministry**

Last month our *Presiding Bishop Michael Curry* issued a statement, *For Such a Time as This: A Call to Prayer, Fasting, and Advocacy*, calling for fasting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month through December 2018, at which time the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress will conclude. The 21st of each month is targeted because by that time each month, 90% of SNAP (formerly food stamp) benefits have been used, thereby causing the last week of the month as the hungry week in America. Lucille Moore is a Title 1 School which serves low income at risk students. In addition to the prayer, fasting and advocacy our Presiding Bishop has called for, we can support these students through the backpack program which sends food home with students over the weekend when school breakfasts and lunches are unavailable. This program will continue through the summer months. When you are shopping for your family, please consider purchasing food items for the backpack program. There are lists on the table in Byrne Hall to take home to give you suggestions and reminders.

## Saint Andrews "Project Resource" Theme/Slogan Contest

The Saint Andrews Vestry is conducting a "Theme/Slogan" contest for our upcoming Project Resource Event. It is open to all St Andrews participants and friends.

Your Theme/Slogan may be submitted to the church office beginning Monday May 29<sup>th</sup> until Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. The winner will be announced Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Prizes – Winner: Gift Card from "Enzo's"  
Runner-Up: Gift card to "Two Sisters"

Thoughts for your consideration in developing your Theme/Slogan:

What is Saint Andrews noted for in our community?  
What are the various images that complement our ministries?

Theme/Slogan should be simple and to the point.

You may write your Theme/Slogan on the back of this card with name and phone number...

Good Luck and God Bless.....The Saint Andrews' Vestry

*Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Warren, Ed, Nell, Colleen, Helen, Louise, John, Nell, Josh, Debra, Elizabeth, John, Nell, Mary, Tim, Octavia, William, Dwayne, Oscar, Barbara, Doris, Liam Irene, Richard, Hannah, Jim, Norma, Mary Lou, Sylvia, Octavia, Lonnie, Maxwell, Wanda, Hank, Elizabeth, Rick, Mason, Jeremy, Clair, Donna Smith & family, Katherine, Joanna, Linda, Mary, Willa, Shirley, Glenda, Margaret, Norma, Del, Elizabeth, Debra, Josh*

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