



St. Andrew's Tidings

For the Week of July 17

The Gospel reading for this week reminds us of the need for balance between the active and contemplative aspects of our life in Christ. *Doing* without listening can become purposeless; *listening* without doing makes the words empty. Following Jesus' exchange with the lawyer concerning the question of *who is my neighbor* and the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus and his disciples continue on their way to a village. There Jesus is welcomed at the home of a woman named Martha.

While Martha was busy attending to the needs of her guests, her sister Mary "sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying." Exasperated, Martha complained to Jesus that Mary had left her to do all the work by herself. Jesus told Martha that she was "worried and distracted by many things," while only one thing was truly needed. In this, Mary had "chosen the better part," which would not be taken away from her.

This passage is unique to Luke, although the sisters Mary and Martha may be the same women mentioned in the gospel of John (11:1-30, 12:1-8). In its own way, this incident is as radical as the preceding parable of the Good Samaritan. Whereas the parable overturned cultural perceptions of neighbor, this story challenges traditional roles of women. Here Jesus acts in contradiction to accepted Jewish cultural norms by openly interacting with women who are not his relatives.

A major focus of the Gospel of Luke is to show Jesus as a prophet, and the actions of the two sisters taken together exemplify *the proper response to a prophet of the Lord*. Jesus' itinerant ministry depended on the support of those who offered hospitality. Martha had followed the example of other women in Galilee by providing safe lodging.

Mary, by sitting at his feet, acknowledged the authority of Jesus, receiving him as a prophet. Throughout Luke-Acts, sitting at the feet indicates

acknowledgment of authority. In this situation, *listening to the word* takes priority over all other concerns.

Hospitality was an important social obligation in the ancient Near East that included a number of practices which hosts and guests alike were to observe. Martha, in her attempt to provide Jesus with the best welcome possible, broke a primary rule of hospitality by neglecting to pay proper attention to her guest and thus missed his teaching. Martha's service on his behalf was not rejected by Jesus; but he wished primarily for his word to be heard.

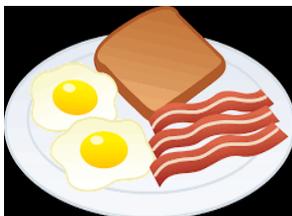
In contrast, Mary made herself fully present to the lord. Hospitality is more than attending to the physical needs of guests—it is treating each one as he or she would wish to be received.

Finally, this incident can also be understood as complementing the advice to the lawyer in the previous situation, who was told to “Go and do likewise.” Luke's Gospel repeatedly emphasizes that discipleship is characterized by *service* as well as by *listening to the word*—each response is dependent on the other. Mary's actions alongside those of the Good Samaritan affirm that discipleship has to do not only with love of neighbor but also with love of God—not only with active service but also with patient attention to God's word.

So, this week, as you listen and serve: may the Christ who knew Mary and Martha show you the way of balance.

Shalom!

Margaret+



SUMMER BREAKFAST !!

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS, REUNION GROUP, ETC. AND SIGN UP FOR SUMMER BREAKFAST WHICH GOES THROUGH AUGUST 28 !! Breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:30.



DINNER AND A MOVIE **Friday July 15, 2016**

The featured film is **Love and Mercy** (2014) IMDb rating 7.4; Starring Paul Dano, John Cusack, Elizabeth Banks and Paul Giamatti. Rating: PG-13. 121-minutes. In the 1960s, Beach Boys leader Brian Wilson struggles with mental challenges as he attempts to craft his avant-garde pop masterpiece. In the 1980s, he is a broken, confused man under the 24-hour watch of self-serving therapist. Touching story of resilience and believing in people. Includes popular and beautiful Beach Boys Music.

Dinner: Spaghetti [hosted by Crawdads Restaurant, Lynn Haven], red and white wine, ginger ale and chilled bottled water.

Trivia Contest at end with winner getting a prize. No admittance fee, but donations accepted and encouraged. One-hundred percent (100%) of all donations will go to Living Stones building fund.

St. Andrew's Foundation

St. Andrew's Foundation will hold its quarterly meeting after the service on July 17th, in the church library. The Foundation exists to encourage, receive and administer gifts to enable the church to develop its ministries, outreach and facilities beyond what is possible through operating funds. Distributions made by the Foundation are intended to be enhancements to what should be provided by the normal church operating budget. They are limited to new capital needs of the parish, to outreach ministries and grants and to provide seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects.

Please submit your requests to any Foundation Board member by July 11th along with details such as costs, sources and personnel required to help the Foundation evaluate, and if funded, implement your request. Requests can be emailed to Diane Tate at detate42@gmail.com or Tom Gladstone at tghomes@comcast.net.

(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, Vincent, Margaret & Bill, Dr. Benton, Lindsey, Bill & Janice, Christian, Sandi, Reagan, Sean, Roy, Lori, Larry, Katie, Rick, Jarrod, Alex, Dustin, Christian, Bill, Janice, Carol, Scott, Kim, Tim, Elizabeth, Brad, Jason & Beverly, Cadence, Becky, Luke, Melinda, Roy, Christian, Bobbie, Emile, Leroy, Peggy, Norma, Cynthia, Daniel, Pat C., Kathy, Elizabeth, Russell, Teresa, Lori, Doris, Michael

*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, James*

