



St. Andrew's Tidings

Week of Oct. 23, 2016

Message from Margaret

Jesus had something to say to the people who thought they had it made in their relation to god. They had reason to think so, and perhaps it might not have been bad if only they hadn't made up in their minds that they were better than everybody else. After all, they were Pharisees, a very good status to hold. They were educated. They were able to understand the complexities of the ancestral law. It had only been promulgated by God and applied on a case by case basis by priests and scribes.

Moreover, Pharisees were solvent. They hadn't been tempted to cut corners for lack of funds to pay the tithes that were expected, and they were able to keep up their houses to be a credit to their neighborhoods. So they were eminently respectable. People admired the standards of behavior they maintained. Yes, they were good people, and they even practiced self-denial and said their prayers and gave appropriate alms in an obvious or even ostentatious way. They were the best people, and they knew it. So Jesus told them a story.

Two men went up to the temple to pray. It wasn't an enclosed place like our church buildings. There was a tiny building that only the priests entered to present an offering of incense; and once a year only the High Priest entered the inner shrine on the day of Atonement.

The altar stood in the open air, so there was plenty of ventilation as the fat was smoking on it. The altar was surrounded by a large courtyard, and that was where men stood when they went to pray. So the one man walked with assurance to a place near the altar where he could offer his prayer. It was his right; he was a Pharisee. The other man didn't have any assurance. He didn't feel fit to go beyond the parapet that surrounded the courtyard, and he wasn't sure he should be there at all. He had contracted to collect taxes for the occupying Roman administration, and that made him a "wise guy," as minor criminals are sometimes called.

So each man prayed as it seemed appropriate to him. "God, I am thankful that I'm not a robber or fraudulent, I don't cheat on my wife, I'm not even a 'wise

guy.’ I keep the fasts and I pay tithes on everything that comes to me, including what the seller was supposed to tithe, just in case he hadn’t. The “wise guy” could think of only one thing to say: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” So Jesus ends the story.

It was the second man whom God counted right and as offering an acceptable prayer-because everybody who claims to be high class is going to be brought low, and whoever knows that he is undeserving will be given status. The humble and the proud will find that their place had been switched. Thus we can say, this parable is an expanded form of Jesus’ teaching: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Blessings & Love, Margaret +

*New Sunday School Topic Led by Frank Lopez:
Evolving Universe/Evolving Faith 9:00 a.m*

PRAYERS

***THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO PARTICIPATED
IN WRITING PRAYERS ON SUNDAY. THESE
PRAYERS WILL BE KNOWN ONLY BY GOD AND
YOU. THEY WILL BE LEFT AT THE ALTAR ONE
MORE SUNDAY THEN BURNED SO THAT THEY
RISE TO GOD LIKE INCENSE.***

*The LeBaron Trio and Guitarist Alan Goldspiel
in Concert October 23 4 p.m.
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Panama City,
Florida*



Formed in 2010, The LeBaron Trio has performed extensively across the United States at colleges and universities and on artist series as well as international festivals such as the International Association of Women in Music and the International Clarinetfest. Their repertoires spans a wide range of styles and are advocates for new music. The LeBaron Trio consists of members of the music faculty at the University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL. The members are Melanie Williams, soprano, Lori Ardovino, clarinet, and Laurie Middaugh, piano.

ALAN GOLDSPIEL has performed world premieres at New York's Carnegie and CAMI Halls and has been featured on NPR radio stations from coast to coast. He is the recipient of the Alabama State Council on the Arts 2016-2017 Artist Fellowship Award for artistic excellence as well as professional commitment and maturity – awarded to outstanding individual artists from Alabama who create important works of art and make valuable contributions to the entire state. . Dr. Goldspiel received the 2014 Alabama Music Teachers Association Composition Commission and he was a 2013 recipient of the Escape to Create Residency in Seaside, Florida.

ST. Andrew's is located at 1608 Baker Court, Panama City, Florida

For more information, call 850-763-7636

CELEBRATION OF LIFE POTLUCK

Sunday, October 30th, we will have a parish potluck following the service sponsored by the St. Andrew's Foundation. There will be a brief program about planning the final celebration of your life and the opportunities for making a bequeath to St. Andrew's as part of your plan. There will be information sheets available, but no solicitations. We encourage you to pray for guidance and to speak with your family and/or lawyer before making your plans. Please join us for fellowship, food and information.



It's that time of year again - time to plant a fall garden! Students from Oakland Terrace Elementary and their teacher will be at the St. Andrew Oaks Garden of Hope Thursday, Oct. 27 at 8:30-9:30 a.m. to plant a fall garden. Grab your trowel and meet us at the church's vacant lot at the corner of 10th Street and Fairland Ave. We need people from St. Andrew's to interact with the students and help them plant vegetables. Please rsvp to Laurie Ayers at ayers.lmc@gmail.com (or 265-5978) if you plan to help.

The Day School is having a book sale to be able to purchase Mandarin and Spanish text books for the students. The sale will be in room 7. Come and buy Christmas presents for your children and grandchildren! Please note that the correct date for the Book Fair is Oct. 20 & 21.

Come to the **Usborne Books & More Book Fair!**

Thursday, October 13th 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Friday, October 14th 8:30 - 9:30 AM; 11:00 - 12:00 PM

An **Usborne Books & More Book Fair** is coming to our co-op!

Preview the display of non-commercial titles for all ages, infant through teen. Select from award-winning non-fiction, fiction, activity and language books, and more!

Browse the full catalog & place your order online at <https://L4941.myubam.com>,

Or order in-person at the book fair!

Our classrooms will receive up to 50% of the sales in FREE books!

*For your convenience, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted. *no cash*



USBORNE
BOOKS & MORE

Usborne Books & More...Open a world of possibilities.
Over 1,500 titles to choose from!

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.

Laurie Ayers and Dan Finley do Poverty Exercise

Laurie Ayers was Helen Harper, her baby was named Harvey Harper and Dan Finley played the role of Harry Hanlow. Yes, that is a lot of Hs for one family. These are the roles that we played in “The Poverty Challenge,” sponsored by Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida, the Florida Department of Children and Families and the Lead Coalition. The poverty simulation experience occurred on October 12, 2016.

The exercise was done to emphasize that 16.5% of all Florida residents live in poverty. Twenty-four-percent of Florida children live in poverty. The exercise gave participants a simulation of what it is like to be poor for a month in Florida. The exercise was segmented into four 15-minute intervals with each interval simulating one week of time.

The Harper-Hanlow family began with the problem of having to find housing since they had just been evicted from the trailer park in which they lived. In our first week experience, our baby Harvey was sick, so Harry stayed home to keep the baby while Helen looked for new housing for us. Every time we went anywhere we had to use bus tickets – which we soon learned were a precious commodity. Helen made progress on new housing, but when Harry went to work at the cafeteria where he worked, he learned that he was fired for missing work because of his sick baby. Harry went to Social Services where he was given a referral to a Job Training site, which he learned was temporarily closed. All this time, the family was going hungry because they had no money nor food stamps to buy food at the Super Center. They only had three assets, a sofa, a chair and a camera – each worth \$100. Pressed for money, Harry took the camera to Big Dave’s Pawn shop and was told he could get \$25 for it. Harry decided that that was too little and left, but then reconsidered returning for the \$25 only to find that the pawn shop was closed.

In the meantime, Helen signed up for a job interview, but missed the interview a few days later due to caring for baby Harvey while Harry was working. When she returned to the job placement agency the next week, she was told that she’d have to go to the bottom of the list. Discouraged, but still trying, Helen proceeded to the Child Care agency where she gathered information and filled out paperwork to apply for child care in the event she did soon manage to procure a job. Finally, Helen received a

notice that she owed \$198 for utilities. Helen was faced with the decision to pay her utilities bill or buy groceries.

At the conclusion, we discussed our experience and what we learned. What we learned is that there are many frustrations for the poor. The poor compete with each other for limited resources. There is a lot of time wasted standing in line, only to have it come your turn and find that your request has been rejected or that for some reason you are not eligible. The poor don't use banks they use paycheck cashing services that take 10% of too-small paychecks. Moreover, the poor are always looking over their shoulder to avoid being arrested for some trivial offense. Fortunately, the Harper-Hanlows were never arrested but they were battered by a falling-domino pattern of bad news. What we learned is that (1) resources to help the poor are underfunded, (2) they are geographically scattered so that the poor have difficulty getting there, and (3) there is little to no coordination between social services so that the poor are bounced like ping pong balls between agencies and getting scanty relief. Jesus told us to be kind to the poor and share our blessings with them. What we left with is the feeling that there must be a better way to do what Jesus instructs us to do.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A ST.

ANDREW'S MOVIE NIGHT THIS MONTH.

(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, Jeremy, Elizabeth, Dawn, Ryan & Luz, Lisa, Elizabeth, Ryan, Sierra, Debra, 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

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