



St. Andrew's Tidings

Week of Nov. 13, 2016

Dear Faithful Friends,

This Sunday is Faith Commitment Sunday. It is a time when we commit to the parish of St. Andrew's in any way we can—Time, Talents, and Treasure. Our God has given us one another as a parish family, and has given us the privilege of worshipping together in this marvelous space. Giving back to God a portion, no matter how small or large, of what God has given us is indeed a gift.

Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. As Henri Nouwen reminds us, gratitude in its deepest sense means to live life as a gift to be received gratefully. And gratitude, as the Gospel reminds us, embraces all of life: the good and the bad, the joyful and the painful, the holy and the not so holy. That is why Jesus calls us to be grateful for every moment that we have lived, and to claim our unique journey as God's own. The cross is the main symbol of our faith, and it invites us to find hope where we see pain and to reaffirm the resurrection where we see death. The call to be grateful is a call to trust that every moment of our lives can be claimed as the way of the cross that leads to new life.

And so, on this Faith Commitment Sunday, you are invited to bring your cards and put them in the special plates as they are passed, and rejoice that we can show our love for God in this way.

A Prayer for Faith Commitment

We adore the glory and the truth that is yours, O God.

Everything within us utters your praise.

Our being is formed for this purpose and no other.

All our works and loves find meaning in you.

We know that all we have is from you. Our life and breath is gift.

We hold up our smallness to your greatness, our fear to your love

And our tiny act of giving to your great generosity. We lift up our very selves to you that you would raise up among us, generous benefactors. All this we pray through the holy name of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Christmas at St. Andrew's



Since Christmas falls on Sunday, your vestry has voted that there will be one service on that week-end, Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. Prior to that, there will be a gala Christmas reception in Byrne Hall before the service. We want to make sure that all who would like to attend will be able to, so we are renting a van to pick up those who might not like to drive. If you want to take advantage of the van, begin now to make reservations by calling the church at 763-7636.



**THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, WE WILL HONOR OUR
VETERANS**

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

**We are still a bit short on the Ray's Windows on
the World. If you would like to contribute, please
see Fran.**

Election Prayer Vigil

**Thank you to the parishioners who staffed our prayer vigil in the
chapel on Election Day: Belle Casler, Laurie Ayres, Barbara Sontag,
Dick and Margaret Seeberger, Mary Johnson, David Dean, Nancy
Young, Beverly Temple, John Wave, Kathy Lopez, JD Webster, Diane
Tate, Art and Mary Wimpenny, Duane and Cheryl Stanley, and Tom
and Sally Brewer. Our *Book of Common Prayer* beginning on page 820
has Prayers for National Life which we can continue to pray as for
unity and guidance.**

ST. ANDREW'S FOUNDATION

St. Andrew's Foundation held its quarterly meeting Sunday, November 6th. Monies made available from the interest earned on perpetual gifts from our congregation to the Foundation made possible approval of the following requests for foundation grants.

1. \$2,000 for the Diocese of Eastern Carolina for Hurricane Matthew relief Request from Vestry
2. \$600 to BASIC for World AIDS Day speaker plane ticket and rental car Request from Vestry
3. \$500 for Margaret Shepard and Ann Staley to attend Evangelism Conference in Dallas, Texas Request from Vestry
4. \$2,000 to Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Construction Mission to the Dominican Republic Request from the Mission Team
5. \$2,000 to Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic Request from Mission Team
6. \$5,000 to Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Medical Mission to the Dominican Republic to dig a well and install a well pump Request from Mission Team

The requests for grants from both Diocesan teams going to the Dominican Republic are posted on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Please take a moment to read them and understand the amazing work being done. The teams will come to St. Andrew's after the mission trips to share their experiences and to help us understand how we can participate in this ministry. There is approximately another \$2,700 needed to complete the water project. The Foundation is exploring the possibility of a making diocesan-wide challenge to encourage other parishes to help meet this shortfall.

The next Foundation meeting is January 29, 2017. If you have any questions about Foundation grants, please contact one of the directors: Diane Tate, Tom Gladstone, Tom Sontag, Margaret Seeberger, Sally Brewer, JD Webster and Mary Johnson.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Celebration of Life meeting and potluck. We enjoyed hosting it and look forward to providing assistance to those who wish to make a planned gift to the Foundation.

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.



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

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.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE ON THE RACK IN BYRNE HALL.



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.

(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, , John, Marcella, Hank, Lucy, Robert, Niki, Mike, Liam, Joanna, Amanda, Elizabeth, Josh, Mary Lou, Paul, Marcella, Debra, Dawn, George, Rich, Paul, Donna, Robbie, John, Bob, Patricia, Jeremy, Gene, Kathy

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