



St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, April 28th, 2013

Message from Margaret...

Our gospel for this week declares: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This charge to us, and to the church is momentous. The credibility of the gospel is contingent upon our sacrificial love for one another. If "outsiders" do not see in the Christian community love of another kind, there is no reason for them to attend to the message that God loved the world so much that God sent God's son to rescue it. This kind of love is countercultural. It calls us to love with abandon, those like us, and those not quite so like us.

As people who love, we must be prepared to live with our own imperfections. We know that we will inevitably fall short and that, in great ways and small, we will join the company of the well intentioned who offer their love, then shrink from the cost of love. I know this is hard for me. I often worry that if people really "knew" me, would they love me?

But God's love creates and forms this world of ours. And this love is so incredibly large and wondrous and immense that our hearts can only bear the slightest glimpses. Out of this "boundless splendor, God loves each one of us into existence." We need to remember that each of us is unique and precious, and that God loves us more personally and respectfully that we can ever imagine or believe. This gives us a dignity that no person, power, or circumstance can ever snatch away from us. God loves us, even in our pajamas.

I sometime-lots of times- forget this. And I get scared. Because love hurts. It requires sacrifice, and it often feels very risky and frightening. But to choose love, according to Jerry May, is to risk that we are fundamentally good in God's eyes, and to risk that God is present, active and good in all situations. When we take the

risk, we are empowered, and our love can merge with God's love, and we can relax in to trusting, and loving action with God and with one another.

*This being human is a guest house
Every morning is a new arrival,
a joy, a depression, a meanness,
As an unexpected visitor.*

*Meet them at the door laughing
and welcome them in,
Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.*

Rumi

Namaste'

Nave, Sanctuary, and Chapel Reconstruction

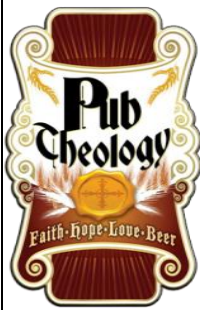
The vestry has voted to sign the contract with Quina-Grundhoefer Architects and to move forward in full force with reconstruction of our nave, sanctuary, and chapel areas. Before the grand "Kick-off," which will happen on Pentecost, May 19th, we will gather at a WOW! On May 8th, and divide in to "Focus Groups" and everyone will have a chance to say what is important to you in a particular space or area. There will be focus groups on Capital Campaign and Financial Issues; Liturgy (clergy and servers); Music, Performance and Special Events; Pedestrian walk-ways, Accessibility; Aesthetics; Chapel area use; Advertisement; Altar Guild/Sacristy etc. If you are interested in serving on a particular group, please tell one of the Building Commission members.

LIVING STONES FOR A LIVING SANCTUARY

In 1 Peter 2: 4-5 we read, "Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." From this comes the theme for our renovation kickoff: "Living Stones for a Living Sanctuary." Stay tuned to how this theme will be used as we begin our renovation. Please begin to pray each day this prayer written by Nancy Young for our project :

Heavenly Father, Gracious Lord, open our hearts that we may draw near to Christ, the chief cornerstone of our faith. Transform us so that, like Him, we may become living stones built into a living sanctuary. Form us, Lord, into a holy priesthood, a living spiritual house, that though the sacrifice of our lives and talents, we may show to others your goodness in calling us out of darkness into your marvelous light. Amen

***Pub
Theology
Tomorrow
Night
6 p.m.
"The Place"
on Harrison***



***Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!***

COMING UP!! WOW!

MAY 15-BAY COUNTY CHRISTIAN CHOIR

Please keep the following in your prayers; Lee, June, Brenda, Scott, , Savanna, Terry, Connie, Jonathan, Lisa, , Sarah, Wendy, Keith, Hannah, Jazlea, Ann, Bruce, Judy, Mia, Middy, Emma, Irene, Maureen, Joey, Annette, Jay, Doris, Gail, Mary, Barbara, Travis, David, Dee, Bobbie, Cheryl, Alan, Pat, Maggie, Joan, Chris, Mike, Debbie, Hilary, Ava, Nan, Charlie, Fax, Toni, Jane, Elaine, Bobbi, Bobbie, Janet, David, JD, Rita, Lee Ann, Jean, Ruth Ann, Sandra, Nancy, Ann, Janet, Mike, Judy, Janet, Nancy, Jean, Britany, Mary, Sandra, Andy, Polly, Judy, Jonathan, Jessica, Emma, MacKenzie, Tina, Lisa, Lora, Connie, Middy, Kathy, Holly, Vincent, Sandra, Bev, Ann, Donna, Dirk, Cody, Jane, Tiffany, Sara, Hamden County Correctional, Northampton, MA.

We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; Jeff, Bowe, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Mike, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan