



St. Andrew's Tidings

The Gospel this week about the cleansing of the temple sets us up to draw some dividing lines: There was the greed of the ruling class temple authorities—versus Jesus' own spirit of compassion for the least and last. According to H.K. Oemig, the crass commercialism of brassy hawkers in a flourishing economic institution, i.e. the temple, that dominated the city's life of trade—versus Jesus' admonitions to his followers to live in trust like the birds of the air and the lilies of the field.

The secular sparkle of a brisk trade set up by curtain makers, barbers, incense sellers, goldsmiths, and trench diggers, to name a few enterprises—as set against Jesus' single-minded, called-out spiritual vocation: to do the will of his father on earth, no matter what the cost to his own life.

The secular and the sacred; the spiritual and the material. What are we to do with our temptation to reduce this incident to black and white? As moderns reading of Jesus entering the temple and discovering its commercialism, we sometimes assume that *he was surprised*. But is this an imposition of our social duality, with its “sacred” versus “secular,” a distinction that Jewish culture in Jesus' time did not make? The fact is, this commerce in the temple was the norm of the day, not some new license being taken that suddenly incensed Jesus' sensibilities. When I read this story, I always think of Coventry Cathedral in Coventry, England, which was set up in much the same way. There were booths for commercial activity, as well as for religious devotion. (Only, Jesus' temple did not have Lady Godiva!)

Was it because those who sold doves—a staple commodity relied on by the poor for the purification of women and the cleansing of lepers, among other ceremonial rites for cleansing—were still a financial burden on those the culture marginalized? Was it because these concrete mechanisms, instituted and controlled by a rapacious political-economic system heedless of the pain it was causing the “poor” and the “unclean” needed to be overturned as would any apparatus that oppressed God's people?

“Yes” is the answer to these questions.

Jesus did not intend simply to shake the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce to its core. Nor did he make any attempt to take possession of the temple hierarchy, revising and revamping it according to a new economic and religious paradigm. Neither did he show the slightest interest in securing a position at the City College of Jerusalem teaching Business Ethics 101 to raise the establishment's value. Surely after this "cleansing," the marketplace returned to its former "business as usual" within a few days. But something deeper was definitely going on.

The cleansing was a prophetic sign. Professor and Bible scholar, Gerhard von rad has said that the prophets expressed not only the *word* of the lord, but also the *emotions* of God—and Jesus was no exception. Her made it clear that he had come to cast fire upon the earth (Luke 12:49)—a fire that burned up any perversion of the truth. Although the temple hierarchy made this exploiting of the pilgrimage trade appear to be "meet and right," it was, in actuality, apostasy. While selling is not wrong in itself—here it was a subordination of the things of heaven to the things of earth, all in the guise of religion. It was a "cover" under which the "will of God" was used as a front for abusing God's most vulnerable children.

The temple had become a place of crass commerce rather than a house of prayer. The malignancy of greed had metastasized throughout its system. Jesus was visually demonstrating the superiority of the kingdom of god his Father. What he had brought to God's people would soon be evident: a revolution of the human heart, a conversion from the core of a person's innermost being, through a repentance that would leaven the whole of society.

So what was required was a place dedicated to God—until the Christian community could recognize this new "temple" of his body, and of its extension into us, the mystical Body of Christ, the Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 20,27

11 A.M.

AT THE LABYRINTH

FOLLOWED BY SOUP AND BREAD

*Please sign up if you would be willing to make soup
and bring bread.*

**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN SUNDAY-THIS
SUNDAY! Bring your pennies and change!
LET'S FINISH FILLING THE JUG. YOU WILL
HAVE A CHANCE TO GUESS HOW MUCH IS IN
THE JUG, AND A PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN FOR
THE PERSON CLOSEST TO THE AMOUNT!**

*Sunday is Rector's Discretionary! Be Generous
Please.*

Central Gulf Coast diocese elects James Russell Kendrick as bishop

The Rev. James Russell Kendrick, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama, was elected as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast on Feb. 21, pending the required consents from a majority of bishops with jurisdiction and standing committees of The Episcopal Church.

Kendrick, 54, was elected during the diocese's 44th annual convention held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Mobile, Alabama. He was elected on the third ballot out of a field of three nominees. He received 97 votes of 163 cast in the lay order and 32 of 53 cast in the clergy order. An election on that ballot required 82 in the lay order and 27 in the clergy order.



Kendrick has served as rector of St. Stephen's since 2007. In 1984, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in architecture and marketing from Auburn University in Alabama; and in 1995, he received a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. Russell is married to Robin. They have two children, Aaron and Hannah.

"I am keenly aware of and deeply humbled by the trust and hope that this election carries. Robin and I look forward to returning to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and serving our Lord with the people that once formed us and sent us forth into the larger church. I take this election to be a call for collaboration, cooperation and creativity as we seek to be apostles for Jesus in God's world," said Kendrick following the election.

Under the canons (III.11.4) of The Episcopal Church, a majority of bishops exercising jurisdiction and diocesan standing committees must consent to Kendrick's ordination as bishop within 120 days of receiving notice of the election.

The other nominees were: The Very Rev. Edward Francis O'Connor, dean, Cathedral Parish of St. Andrew, Jackson, Mississippi; and The Rev. Doctor William Charles Treadwell III, rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco, Texas.

Pending the required consents, the bishop-elect will be ordained and consecrated on July 25. The bishop-elect will succeed the Rt. Rev. Philip Menzie Duncan II, who is the third bishop of the diocese.

Your delegation, Nancy Young, Kathy Lopez, and Art Wimpenny, along with alternates, Anne Staley, Frank Lopes, Belle Casler and Mary Wimpenny served a two year commitment because last year was the first part of a two year "moving to election." It was necessary for those who went this year to know what had taken place the year before. Anne Staley serves on the "I Dream A Dioces," which moved us along. This group worked long and hard at a job that was very tiring, and somewhat stressful. They are to be commended for their good work.

KEEPING A HOLY LENT

Two disciplines for keeping a Holy Lent are offered on Tuesday. Morning Prayer and Healing is offered at 9 a.m. The Labyrinth is open from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. for your meditation.

PRESCRIPTION PILL BOTTLES

St. Andrew Baptist Church provides a medical ministry for people in the community who need medical aid but are unable to pay for it. It is staffed by volunteer health professionals and funded by the church and some community agencies. One of its needs is *empty* prescription pill bottles with labels removed. They can use these bottles when dispensing medicine at the clinic. If you have empty bottles you would like to contribute, please remove the labels leave them in the Grocery Cart baskets under the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Questions??- ask Margaret Seeberger.



GROCERY CART MINISTRY

During March we will be collecting **CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES** to support the St. Andrew Baptist Food Pantry. While we specify a food item every month, whenever you see a Buy One Get One bargain, please feel free to substitute with that item. All nutritious food is needed to supply the many families who come for help. Thank you for blessing others.



Please turn off your cell phones during the worship service. If they are on, it causes interference with the new microphones. It causes a back feed and ringing sound. Thanks!

MORNING PRAYER AND HEALING

A service of Morning Prayer, which will include a healing service, will be held on Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. in the chapel.

LABYRINTH TO BE OPEN ON TUESDAYS

The spiritual practice of walking the labyrinth will be available on Tuesdays following Morning Prayer.

St. Mary's Guild

*February has flown by and March has "marched" in.
Time for us to gather again.*

When: Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 am

Where: Gene Sapp's, 1409 Deer Ave.

*Program: Melinda Hall will speak on our Girl Scout
Program*

Hostesses: Camilla Jimmerson, Teri Floore

St. Andrew's ladies please join us!!

*DON'T
Forget your
Pennies from Heaven
For Living Stones*



Keep those pennies coming. There will be a prize for the person that can guess the amount of money in the bucket.

Sunday Servers

If you are interested in being a lay reader, an usher, a greeter, or a torch bearer on Sunday, please sign the list on the bulletin board.

PLEDGE CARDS

PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS ALONG WITH LIVING STONES PLEDGES IF YOU HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY DONE SO.

You may also send them to the office to the attention of Fran.

Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Ira, , Rosemary,, Walt, Susan, Mary, Anna, Diane, Sara, Debbie, Sarah, Robin, Tammy, Alex, Betty, Jim, Mikey, Larry, Gary, Jonathan, Pat, Marty, Rita, Eric, Stephanie, Elijah, Dorothy, Dan, David, Don and Family, Kristy, Austin, Sandra, Anne, Tracy, Page, Norma, Lisa, Elaine, Madison, Bob, Toni, Jimmy, Bobby

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