



St. Andrew's Tidings

John 3:16

The Reverend Raymond Wishart, Deacon

Chapter 3, verse 16 of the Gospel of John is one of the most widely quoted verses from the Christian Bible, and frequently referred to as the most famous Bible verse ever. It has also been called the "Gospel in a nutshell", because it is considered a summary of the central theme of traditional Christianity.

- From King James- *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- From the NRS- *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*
- From The Message- *This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.*

No matter the translation this verse is still important, part of the New Testament narrative in the third chapter of John in the discussion at Jerusalem between Jesus and Nicodemus, who is called a "ruler of the Jews". After speaking of the necessity of a man being born again before he could "see the kingdom of God", Jesus spoke also of "heavenly things" and of salvation and the condemnation of those that do not believe in Jesus.

This single verse has probably appeared in popular media more than any other verse. The phrase "John 3:16" is very short and can be written inconspicuously in out-of-the-way locations. In our country, the In-N-Out Burger chain prints it on the inside of the bottom rim of their paper cups, clothing chain Forever 21 and Heritage print it on the bottom of their shopping bags, and Tornado Fuel Saver prints it on the box.

The Heisman-winning football player Tim Tebow printed this reference (among other Bible verses) on his eye black, notably during the 2009 BCS championship. Exactly three years later on January 8, 2012, was the game that would become known as "The 3:16 game", where Tebow threw for 316 yards in a playoff upset against the Pittsburgh Steelers; a game in which measurements of 3, 16 and 31.6 were also noted.

Various real and fictional characters have parodied the phrase by substituting their own name for "John", or pretending that the verse says something else. A prominent example is Stone Cold Steve Austin whose rise to fame was marked by his catchphrase "Austin 3:16".

Several people, such as the Rainbow Man, display the reference in large letters at sporting events, seeking the attention of fellow fans, the staff controlling the venue's giant video screens and, if the game is televised, the television audience. I personally remember seeing Rainbow Man many times sitting in the end zone with his signs in the past, which also made me curious why I don't see him at games today. Some quick research on Wikipedia helped me find out what happened to him-

“Rollen Frederick Stewart (born February 23, 1944), also known as Rainbow Man, is a man who was a fixture in American sports culture best known for wearing a rainbow-colored afro-style wig holding up signs reading "John 3:16" at stadium sporting events around the United States and overseas in the 1970s and 1980s.

Stewart became a born-again Christian, and was determined to "get the message out" via television. His first major appearance was at the 1977 NBA Finals; by the time of the 1979 MLB All-Star Game, broadcasters actively tried to avoid showing him. He appeared behind NFL goal posts, near Olympic medal stands, and even at the Augusta National Golf Club. At the 1982 Indianapolis 500, he was behind the pits of race winner Gordon Johncock. Stewart would strategically position himself for key shots of plays or athletes.

In the late 1980s, he began a string of stink bomb attacks. Targets included Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral, the Orange County Register, the Trinity Broadcasting Network, and a Christian bookstore. The stated intent of an attempted attack later

at the American Music Awards was to show the public that "God thinks this stinks."

Stewart was arrested in 1992 after a standoff in a California hotel during which he entered a vacant room with two men he was attempting to kidnap and surprised a maid who then locked herself in the bathroom. Reportedly, Stewart believed that the Rapture was due to arrive in six days.

Stewart is currently serving three consecutive life sentences in prison on kidnapping charges, having rejected a plea deal of 12 years in order to spread his message in open court. After being sentenced, he began a religious tirade and had to be restrained by bailiffs. He became eligible for parole in 2002, but was denied as recently as March 2010; his next parole review will be in 2017. After this conviction, he was found guilty of four stink bomb attacks.”

Guess we won't be seeing him in the end zone any time soon? I will also admit that he reminds me of a sign in front of a local church a few years ago- *“God is looking for spiritual fruits, not religious nuts!”*

Be a spiritual fruit,

Ray

***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.***

MORNING PRAYER AND HEALING : 9 a.m.

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.

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!

WOW-Monthly Wednesday Night Program- April 22

6 p.m. Covered Dish

*7 p.m. Bay County Christian Youth Choir
In Concert*

A free-will offering will be received to help our own Sayer Morgan to make the tour with the choir. They will be traveling to places such as New Jersey, Massachusetts, and North Carolina.

Come support Sayer and hear this wonderful choir!



Holy Week and Easter Services

Seder Meal and Maundy Thursday Service

Seder Meal: 6 p.m. Sharp Please Make a Reservation (Call the Church or Sign up)

Service of Foot-washing: 7 p.m. with music

Good Friday Procession With Cross: 11 a.m.

Meet in front of The Place on Harrison Ave. There is plenty of parking in the back. We will proceed down the sidewalk to 6th (Beach/98) and on to the church. It is 1.2 mi. It is only .2 more than Oaks By The Bay Park. If you cannot walk that far, meet us at the Buccaneer.

Holy Saturday: First Fire of Easter and First Eucharist of Easter: 6 p.m.

*Brass, Hand Bells, and Choir
Followed by a Gala Reception*

Easter Sunday: 10 a.m.: Festal Holy Eucharist With Brass, Hand Bells, and Choir



Easter Flowers and Music

There will be Inserts in the bulletin to sign up to give flowers and lilies, and underwrite the brass for Easter.

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.



ST. ANDREWS MOVIE LOVERS MOVIE NIGHT

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015, ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH WILL HOST THE ST. ANDREWS MOVIE LOVERS MOVIE NIGHT. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEN: FRIDAY, **MARCH 20, 2015**. START TIME: 6 PM.

WHERE: BYRNE (PARRISH) HALL, ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1608 BAKER COURT, PC 32401 [PARKING IN THE BACK]

MOVIE: **THE YOUNG VICTORIA** (2009) IMDB RATING 7.3; STARRING EMILY BLUNT, RUPERT FRIEND, PAUL BETTANY, AND MIRANDA RICHARDSON. RATING: PG. 105-MINUTES. THIS FILM TELLS THE STORY OF A YOUNG PRINCESS VICTORIA (HANOVER) BEFORE THE DEATH OF HER UNCLE, KING WILLIAM IV.

DINNER: MEXICAN FOOD (VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE), RED AND WHITE WINE, GINGER ALE AND CHILLED BOTTLED WATER.

TRIVIA CONTEST AT END WITH WINNER GETTING BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE (OR TWO BOTTLES OF WINE).

OTHER: NO ADMITTANCE FEE, BUT DONATIONS ACCEPTED AND ENCOURAGED. ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) OF ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO LIVING STONES BUILDING FUND.

QUESTIONS: CONTACT DR. DAN FINLEY AT DFINLEY@GULFCOAST.EDU

From Bishop Duncan:

Beloved in Christ,

One of the many blessings of ministry in this Diocese is the presence of so many active and retired members of our Armed Forces in our midst. We continue to offer thanksgivings for their untold contributions to our peace and safety.

It is with great grief and the heaviest of hearts, therefore, that I urge your prayers for the seven Marines and four crew members involved in the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter disaster off Navarre Beach yesterday. Training out of Eglin, the Marines were from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and the National Guard unit was based in Hammond, Louisiana. Regardless of where they each called home, we call them all Americans.

As of this writing, no survivors have been found.

Pray that survivors might yet be rescued. Pray for the deceased. Pray for their families, compatriots, and friends. Pray for our country.

Give thanks for these who, along with so many others, have made the ultimate sacrifice.

PAX,
Bishop

Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, , Rosemary,, Walt, Susan, Mary, Anna, Diane, 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, Faye, Shawn and John

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