



## *St. Andrew's Tidings*

*Message from Margaret:*

### *A HOLY WALK TO EASTER*

The Sunday before Easter—Palm Sunday—introduces Holy Week to us. The distinctive ceremonies of the day are the blessing of the palms and the procession representing the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem a week before the Resurrection. The Procession begins with pomp and pageantry, and shouts of Hosannas! As the Passion Narrative unfolds with great dignity, the service ends on a somber note as Jesus begins his final journey to the Cross.

As we move through Passover, we encounter Maundy Thursday, or the day of the Last Supper. Maundy is the traditional English name derived from the first antiphon of the ceremony of the 'washing of the feet,' *mandatum novum*,--"The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, "Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done. Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you. I give you a new commandment; Love one another as I have loved you." It is a special celebration in commemoration of the Lord's Institution of the Eucharist on that day. After the altar is laid bare, the consecrated bread and wine are taken to a place of repose, to be used at the service on Good Friday.

Friday brings the day of the Crucifixion. It is a time to walk the path of Jesus on the way to Golgotha. On this particular day we will make that journey, carrying a large cross, from The Place, down Beach Drive to the church. Once inside the nave, the solemn collects will be read and the Eucharist will be from the Reserved Sacrament.

Holy Saturday or the Easter Vigil is the principal celebration of Easter. It was originally celebrated from sun-down throughout the night until Easter Sunday. This incredible service begins with the "First Fire of Easter," because on

Ash Wednesday we cease the Alleluias, and on Maundy Thursday the fire is put out (the candles and the sanctuary light are extinguished), and the bells are silent. As the Fire is lit, we chant: "The light of Christ," because Jesus is the Light of the World. We enter the darkened tomb of a church and light our own candles from the Paschal Candle. The *Exultet* is chanted by the priest, and stories are read, leading us from the creation to the Resurrection.

From the earliest of days, this night culminated the year long preparation for baptism. Therefore, on this night we celebrate baptism, and renew our baptismal vows. It is at this point the bells are awakened, the lights lit, the Alleluias return, and the people are asperged with the waters of Baptism. The early church then filled the larder, fine wines were drunk, and pastries and delicacies were brought out after a season of empty pantries. The light dawns and the season of Easter begins. Easter lasts or fifty days, called the Great Fifty Days of Easter, which comes to a close with Pentecost as the Holy Spirit is poured out over the Church.

This is the path Jesus took to resurrection. If we want to walk the path with him, we need to begin with attending Maundy Thursday, then Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. It is impossible, theologically, to get to Easter straight from Lent. So plan to make that Holy walk, beginning with Thursday and moving to Sunday. I promise you will not be disappointed.

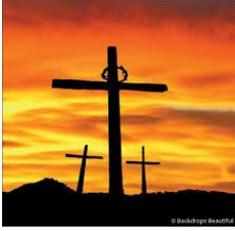
*Blessing & love,  
Margaret+*

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
FRIDAY, MARCH 27  
11 A.M.  
AT THE LABYRINTH  
FOLLOWED BY SOUP AND BREAD**



**BE A CARE BEAR FOR EASTER**

***WE WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER EASTER BASKETS TO TAKE TO OUR HOME-BOUND PARISH FRIENDS. THIS SUNDAY, PALM SUNDAY, BRING EASTER CARDS, SMALL ITEMS SUCH AS LOTIONS, FUN EASTER ITEMS ETC. TO PLACE IN THE BASKETS. WE WILL DELIVER THE BASKETS GOOD FRIDAY FOLLOWING THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DELIVER A BASKET, LET THE OFFICE KNOW, OR EMAIL MARGARET+.***



## *Holy Week and Easter Services*

### *Maundy Thursday Service*

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

*Good Friday Procession With Cross: 11 a.m.-*

*The Service begins at Noon in the Church*

*Meet in front of The Place on Harrison Ave. There is plenty of parking in the back. We will proceed down the sidewalk to 6<sup>th</sup> (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. If you cannot walk from the Buccaneer, meet us at the church at noon when the service begins.*

*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 are Inserts in the bulletin to sign up to give flowers and lilies, and underwrite the brass for Easter.*

### ***The Great Vigil of Easter***

***“The Light of Christ has come into the world..”***

The Great Vigil of Easter is the first service of Easter Day. In the early church, it was the climax of a year long preparation for baptism, and thus became one of the most important feast days of the Church. Today, it is the first Eucharist of Easter, and a premiere time for baptisms. At this service we not only remember our history as Christians, but it is a time to be reminded of our own baptism, and the gifts given to us to be used in the spread of the Gospel.

The service begins with the first fire of Easter from which the Paschal Candle is lighted, our history is read, the Alleluias return, the altar is re-set, the flowers appear with a flurry of activity, and it is a time of great rejoicing and celebration. The Paschal Candle, then, continues to burn for the full Fifty Days of Easter. The Rev. Bruce W. B. Jenneker reminds us that the bright, “persistent flame is a radiant reminder that a light is breaking into our lives. Although there is darkness all around us, and even though our pain is real and our frustrations sharp, in spite of loss and even in the midst of death, Light is breaking in.”

This is what Easter means. It means that God’s love pierces the darkness of our lives and enables us to forgive, to be healed, and to renew our vows. Our Generous God loves us so much that we are freed from all dark limitations, the mean, selfish, petty things we do and worry about. Through the light of Christ we are freed to step into the brightness of that light and take our special place as a part of God’s creation.

To believe in Easter is to believe in the Light that is breaking in, and to celebrate the possibilities of faith and a new time where the warm breeze shatters the damp, darkness of winter. “Christ’s victory over the grave and sin and death

breaks upon a lighted path through the darkness. With the light of Christ before, behind, within, and around us, we can walk boldly in the midst of life, for the Light of life is with us.” Therefore, I invite you to a “wonderful getting up time”, The Great Vigil of Easter, March 23, at 6:00 p.m. Bring bells to ring at the singing of “Jesus Christ is Risen Today!” The service will be followed by a joyous celebration reception. It is the premier service of the Episcopal Church, and one you will not want to miss! Hope to see you ALL there!

## THE EASTER VIGIL



This is the most sacred of all services of the Church and is the premiere service of Easter. On this night we will gather in the yard for the First Fire of Easter, and follow the Paschal Candle into the church. At this service we will renew our baptismal vows, and at the appointed moment, bells will be rung, the altar dressed, the flowers will appear, and Alleluias will be heard. You are invited to **bring a bell to ring** at the great moment of the Resurrection.

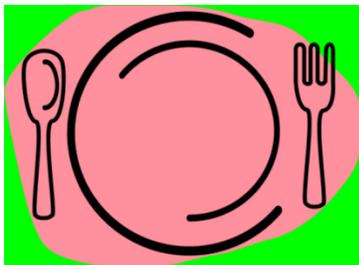
*Needed: Some volunteers to make pastries and hot cross buns, or bring finger sandwiches for the Easter Vigil. Call the office, or sign up.*

*HOLY BAPTISM: The Easter Vigil is the first and main service for Easter. It is the original night for baptism. If you have not been baptized and would like to take advantage of this service, contact Margaret+*

*Make a Friend-Be a Friend-Bring a Friend to Jesus! This Easter bring a friend to the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Let's strive to have a **full** church. If you have missed someone who has not been to church lately, call them and ask them if you can pick them up for church. When **you** are not in church, the banquet table is not complete, the family of God is not complete. Visitors are more likely to return to a church that feels full rather than to one that has a **sparse** congregation. Let's make it our "Mandatum" this Easter to have a full church on Saturday night and Sunday morning!! Think what a joy it will be for us and for God to have a full church celebrate Christ's resurrection! I challenge you to do this.*

## **SUPPER @ GRACE**

April 16<sup>th</sup> is St. Andrew's turn to host Supper at Grace at Grace Episcopal Church on the beach. It's the "three F's" (food, fun and fellowship) so join us as we prepare and serve a hot meal to the hungry. We will begin at 9:00 AM making sandwiches and packing lunches in Byrne Hall. At 2:30 PM we meet at Grace Church to prepare the evening meal. We are done with clean up by 7:30. Your help is welcomed for whatever time you can share. The sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall- check to see how you can help. Funds provided by St. Andrew's Foundation.



# GROCERY CART MINISTRY

During April we will be collecting *cereal* for the food pantry at the St. Andrew Baptist Benevolence Center. All food goes to families in our community. When you are shopping for your family please purchase some *cereal* to help those in need.



**An Interesting Bit of Trivia:** While preparing the Parochial Report, we discovered that the attendance increase for 2014 over 2013, was 1,057! This included being in Byrne Hall during the construction. The increase continues for 2015 over 2014 as well. This is great news.

## 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. If you have empty bottles please leave them in the Grocery Cart baskets under the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Questions??- ask Margaret Seeberger.



*Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Ira, , 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, Beth, Carol, Sean*

*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*