



St. Andrew's Tidings

Holy Week, the week in review!

The Reverend Raymond Wishart, Deacon

Holy Week every year is a wonderful blessed and special time in the life of a church. This year being the first year in the remodeled and rededicated worship space made it even more special. It can also be a rather hectic week between Palm Sunday, Pub Theology, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and finally Easter Sunday. That's not counting all the preparations and practice for everyone from clergy to the choir to altar guild and to the others drafted to help as readers or other support. To paraphrase an old quote "It takes a village to do Holy Week!" I hope that everyone involved had some time to remember to worship along the way.

The new format of the passion play this year on Palm Sunday was wonderful, the procession down Beach Drive seemed more meaningful this year on Good Friday, and of course the pageantry and splendor of Easter morning was the best yet. At the same time the two services that stood out to me personally were Maundy Thursday and the Easter Vigil.

I always enjoy the calm solemnity of the Maundy Thursday service with the foot washing; if you haven't ever attended you really should mark your calendar for next year (March 24, 2016). On Thursday afternoon this year I found that a good friend of ours had passed away under very tragic circumstances, and it was on my mind Thursday night as I read the Gospel of Jesus Christ preparing his disciples for his own tragic death at the hands of others. I needed that service, I needed to hear that Gospel, and I needed to serve others by washing their feet. Thank you for those that participated and those that helped, it always is a blessed event!

The lighting of the First Fire of Easter and the First Eucharist of Easter on Holy Saturday is always a wonderful service, but this year in our newly remodeled worship space was especially moving to me. As we lit the fire in the memorial

garden we were still in daylight, late afternoon but still daylight. The light of world was still with us as we moved into the dark sanctuary with only the light of that new Paschal candle (that is taller than I am). The clergy lead everyone in the Baptismal Covenant, concluding at the new Baptismal font, and at this point the sunlight had faded outside, for a few moments it was all dark in the world.

Then the great acclamation and Alleluias return, just as we turn on every light we have in the church. Now the light of the world is not streaming in our new window, the light is now streaming out into the world from our worships space. Everything is new, everything is reversed from the solemnity of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Christ is risen and we celebrate. Even the worship space is reversed from what it was always before, and not only is the physical light showing into the world but for the first time the light of world is shining off of each of us into the world as we face the window. Jesus Christ told us that WE are the light of the world, and now through the new window the congregation is showing the world our own lights. It was the wonderful experience for me, and I hope each of you felt the same way.

Easter Sunday evening I was exhausted physically and emotionally, as were many others I'm sure. Holy Week is busy and can be a real roller coaster of emotions, this year seemed more exhausting than usual. Everyone else seemed to be busy with other things to do but I decided to take out my kayak, I needed some personal time to worship. I launched from downtown Panama City, just a few miles from our view of the church over St. Andrews Bay. After following some dolphins, watching sea birds, waving at people happily fishing from the marina, and greeting other boaters I made my way along the shore nearing sunset until I could see St. Andrews Episcopal and the light from our window in the fading sunlight. It was windy and rather cloudy but I could still see the orange glow of the sun as it set, I could also see the glow of our church in the darkness, and it was my own personal Sabbath Time. Jesus Christ has risen!

I hope each of you after a busy week had some time in your lives for a personal holy Sabbath. Let the great fifty days of Easter begin, He is risen indeed!



Bay County Christian Children's Choir Concert

Please join us on Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 pm. There will be a covered dish at 6:00 followed by the concert in the church.

The Bay County Christian Youth Choir, Inc., an independent interdenominational youth choir, was established in 2009 under the conviction that the future of congregational participation in the music of the church lies in the training and nurturing of its youth and children. The choir has the goals of teaching choir members (i) to speak and sing in public, (ii) the experience of performing locally and on choir tours, (iii) how to work together to achieve goals that can only be achieved collectively, (iv) the discipline of making a long-term commitment and the rewards of hard work, (v) how to "get along" with fellow choir members and (vi) skills that enable the choir members to be what God has called us all to be: worshipers of Him.

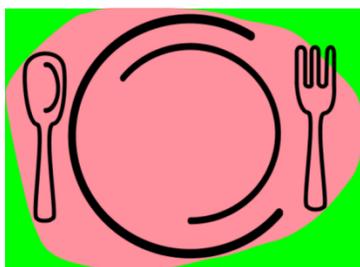
The choir performs a Fall or Christmas concert, sings three or four times throughout the year at area churches and also sings at three or four community events. Each year the choir takes a Spring tour.

The choir sings a mixture of classical choral literature, traditional hymn arrangements, spirituals as well as contemporary praise and worship songs, and each choir member will have a speaking part during the tour program. Each tour program is thematic, with the songs and speaking parts tied together by this theme. There are short Bible devotions throughout the year during choir rehearsal, and on tour the choir will view teaching videos on the bus and participate in Bible studies throughout the tour.

THANK YOU to all who made the Holy Week services truly memorable: the servers, the lectors, the choir, those who rang hand bells, the staff and volunteers, the altar guild, those who arranged the Gala, those who brought food, those who cleaned up, those who walked, those who delivered Easter Baskets, and those who attended. Blessings and love, Margaret+

SUPPER @ GRACE

April 16th 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.



St. Mary's Guild

When: April 14, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Where: Vera Lansing, 414 W. 26th Street.

Program: Our own celebrated storyteller, Judy Cooley

St. Andrew ladies, a fun time awaits you! Come one, come all!

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, Beth, Carol, Anna, Virginia, Iva

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