



St. Andrew's Tidings

Message from Margaret+.....

Why Do We Come to Church??

W. H. Auden once said: "We are all here on earth to help others. What on earth the others are here for I don't know." "Others" are here to transform us into a loving community of faith so that we can do the work of love and justice in the world. And what is "the community" but the body—the body of Christ. And unless we are here, here in this place together on Sunday morning, the body is not complete. Every time we welcome a new person to share ministry with us it is as if we get new energy, new brain cells, new memory bank with information that we did not have before. It is a wonderful image.

Many of you in this parish are involved in some form of servant ministry, whether within St. Andrew's or in the wider community. You visit the sick, feed the hungry, and make an effort for those who are marginalized to have a better life. You do many tasks to make our liturgy beautiful and meaningful. And as Ann Jaqua comments about her own parish, in the midst of all this work for love and justice, we run into each other, we disagree, we have conflicts, we rub each other the wrong way. But when we work together long enough, when we don't flee the conflicts, when we tell the truth, we begin to learn about the frustrations, the needs, the sadness, and joy of each other's lives. We are able to forgive, and be forgiven. Little by little, the transforming work of love goes on and we see glimpses of the holy in the midst of everyday experience. This is shared ministry. It is also priestly work. And if you remember from the catechism in the prayer book, the question is asked: "Who are the ministers of the church?" And the answer is "The *laity*, bishops, priests, and deacons."

One of my favorite theologians, Bill Countryman, writes in "Living on the Border of the Holy" about the priesthood of all the people: "By "priest" I mean any person who lives in the dangerous, exhilarating, life-giving borderlands of human existence, where the everyday experience of life opens up to reveal glimpses of the HOLY—and not only lives there but comes to the aid of others who are living there..."

Each of you, each of us, brings a unique experience of God to this community, and in the process of sharing our work, our lives, our experiences of God, and our own prophetic voice, we begin to live into our priesthood. It is a priesthood that has no formal discernment process or seminary education, no ordination or collar or title. The discernment we have is a matter of listening to each other, calling out each other's gifts, from letting the gospel work in us Sunday after Sunday. And what we share is our life's experiences, the education we have gained from the many fields we have worked. And our ordination is our baptism, our vestments, the clothes that suits whatever work we do in the world. And the seminary is the church-our church where we gather Sunday after Sunday. And what makes it the community is that you are here. If one person is missing, the community is not complete. If you are not at the Table, the Table is not complete.

It is slow work. It takes a lot of time. It means that we have to spend more time listening to each other, and more time listening to God. We have to take time out of the frenzy to care for each other and for ourselves, taking time to reflect about what we are doing and how we are doing it. It is a radical idea in this culture to take time for prayer, listening, and reflection. So during this up-coming time of Advent, let us reflect on why we come to church, that we are an integral part of this community, and the community is not complete if we are not there to be a part *of* that community. I pray that each of you will be here as we listen again to that story leading up to the birth of the One who is the reason we are in church in the first place.

He said: "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you." This is not merely a rule to be obeyed, but a description of the richest way we might live. It is a description of what it means to be truly human, and a revelation of who we are created to be. *Blessings and love, Margaret+*

Please mail in your pledge cards or drop them in the offering plate. Thank you!

Centering Prayer
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
In the Chapel



Parish Meeting
Sunday, November 29th
Following the Service
To Elect Vestry & Convention Delegates
(Date had to be changed due to the diocese needing the names.)



Calling All Panama City Episcopalians!

Bill Buskell, owner of Pineapple Willies and The Wicked Wheel on Middle Beach Road, who is a good Episcopalian, will give St. Andrew's 15% of the total tab from now until February 16 if you bring a church bulletin and eat on Sunday at the Wicked Wheel. What a Deal! Let's see how much we can earn.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Parish Meeting: Sunday, November 29

World AIDS Day: Tuesday, December 1, 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's

Bishop's Visit: Sunday, December 6, 10 a.m.

Evensong for Advent: Sunday, December 13, 4:30 p.m.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL VISIT

Bishop Russell Kendrick will make his annual visit with us on Sunday, December 6, 2015, at the 10 a.m. service. At this time he will baptize, confirm and receive. Anyone who has made a mature confession of faith as a member of another denomination, but has not been received into the Episcopal Church, may do so at this time. If you have not been confirmed into the Episcopal Church, there will be confirmation classes, so please let Margaret know if you are interested. Also, if you have a child or grandchild to be baptized, this is an excellent time to do this. Please call the office.

If you have a committee report to be submitted at the Parish Meeting, please turn it in to the office by Nov. 25. Thanks.

GROCERY CART MINISTRY

When the groceries collected by our parish were delivered to the food pantry at St. Andrew Baptist, the coordinator of the program said it was completely out of cereal- that the two boxes we gave were all that was available. When you are doing your grocery shopping this week please pick up some cereal and place it in the basket under the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Thank you for blessing others.





Last Sunday St. Andrew's went shopping to support Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Gifts purchased included: goats, a cow, chickens, pigs, a donkey, a cart, a plow, seeds, and trees for reforestation. Items bought to improve health include clean water, mosquito nets, vitamins, medicine packs, clinic visits, training of healthcare workers, care for moms and newborns, and education for orphans affected by AIDS.

An ERD donor will match all gifts received by December 31st. Our merchandise total so far is \$3364.00. This amount will be matched. If you did not have an opportunity to participate last week see the display in Byrne Hall to choose a gift. At the time of your purchase you will receive a gift card to announce your gift to a friend or family member. Please make check payable to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church with ERD on the memo line. Sunday, November 15 will be the final Sunday for the Alternative Gift Market.

Thank you to all who shopped and supported ERD in its mission- "Healing a hurting World".

Election to Vestry and Delegates to Convention 2016 on November 29th.

Diocesan Convention: This is a new day in our Diocese. In concordance with our Cathedral, this year, rather than electing a new slate of 6 persons, (3 delegates and 3 alternates) to Diocesan Convention, the terms will be staggered among the delegates. After this year, 1 (one) person will be elected each year to rotate on to our delegation for a 4 year term. This will allow for both continuity of experience and service within the delegates, while allowing more people to participate in this important ministry. Requirements: to be a confirmed communicant of St. Andrew's, 18 years of age or older, to demonstrate sacrificial financial support of the church including making and fulfilling an annual pledge of support, and to understand that St. Andrew's vestry upholds the tithe as the standard of giving and to encourage the parish to consider proportionate giving and to work personally towards the tithe.

Vestry Election: In concordance with our Cathedral, and in conjunction with the vote from our vestry, there will be a nominating committee to nominate candidates for 4 places on the vestry. Please offer names to the vestry members

Requirements for Candidates:

- 1. To be a confirmed communicant of St. Andrew's, 18 years of age or older, to demonstrate sacrificial financial support of the church including making and fulfilling an annual pledge of support, and to understand that St. Andrew's vestry upholds the tithe as the standard of giving and to encourage the parish to consider proportionate giving and to work personally towards the tithe.**
- 2. Committed to faithful attendance in worship.**
- 3. To a faithful attendance of Vestry meetings, which permits only 3 absences.**
- 4. Committed to attending a majority of parish functions.**
- 5. Committed to welcoming newcomers.**
- 6. Committed for daily prayer for the parish and the rector.**
- 7. Committed to upholding the Canons of the Diocese, the National Church, and the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.**

2016 Master Calendar



We are putting the master calendar for 2016 together. If you are the leader of a church group or a community group that uses church facilities please write out:

1. The name of your group
2. Meeting dates and times
3. Location of meetings

Scheduling your meetings on the master calendar assures there will be space available for you and allows us to use our facilities to the greatest advantage. Space priority will be given to church groups. Do not assume that the office knows your group's information. Information can be emailed to the office (master calendar on the subject line) or written and left at the office by November 9th.

If you are planning an event, party, etc. in connection with the church, it is a good idea to check with the office and the Rector. We have a master calendar for events.



St. Andrews Movie Lovers Movie Night

Dinner and a Movie: Without a Trace

On Friday, November 20, 2015, St. Andrews Episcopal Church will host the St. Andrews Movie Lovers Movie Night 6 PM.

Byrne Hall, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1608 Baker Court, PC 32401 [Parking in the Back]

Movie: Without a Trace (1983) IMDb rating 7.0; Starring Kate Nelligan and Judd Hirsch. Rating: PG. 120-minutes. Kate Nelligan is a distraught mother of a young child who has been abducted in New York City. Judd Hirsch plays the relentless police detective who looks for the missing son. A story about never giving up that will tug on the heart.

Dinner: Spaghetti with and without meat, red and white wine, ginger ale and chilled bottled water.

Trivia Contest at end with winner getting bottle of champagne.

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

Workers Needed by A & A Roofing

This company is looking for hard working individuals that need employment. Anyone interested should call Lilia at 271-4199.

Please remember to add the names of people you wish the parish to pray for to the Prayers of the People located on the lectern in the Narthex.

WORLD AIDS DAY

ONCE AGAIN, St. Andrew's, in conjunction with BASIC, will hold World AIDS Day on Tuesday, December 1, at 5:30 p.m. The service will begin out on the lawn with the Mayor's proclamation, and continue over to the bay for the reading of the names of those who have died of AIDS since last World AIDS Day. The program and reception will then be held in Byrne Hall.

World AIDS Day is held on 1 December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day and the first one was held in 1988.



Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Patrick, Lisa, Adam, Lynn, Betty, Jimmy, Judy, Frank, Michelle, Angel, Janet, Linne, Lou Jean, Mary, Hazen, Lillian, Shawn, Debbie, Sharon, Pam, Lori, Roslyn, John, Jackie, Ryan, Andrea, Alexis, Pam, Mike, Dick, Loren, Mary Jane , Warren

(Names are left on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified for a longer time)

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad:
Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard,
Patricia*