



St. Andrew's Tidings

Message from Margaret:

As we move towards the Epiphany, the things that come to mind are a brilliant star, camels with rich trappings and kings offering gifts. Scripture never really says how many kings...sages...magi...there were; nor are they given names. However, what we do know is that Christ was found by the wise men, and the God and Messiah of the Jews was revealed to all the peoples of the world. God incarnate came into the lives of all humankind. And the wise men found him by seeking.

Wise men and women today do still seek him...the wise still seek truth...love...God. But rather than following a star, today's seekers follow glimpses of light...pinpoints of light in much of what is darkness. John's gospel reminds us that "The light shines on in the dark, and the dark has not mastered the light." Christ is the light, Christ the incarnate God comes for all people...Christ whom the Magi found. Yes, wise men and women still seek, and still find, and are found by the Light in a darkened world. And Christ is found, now as then, in the most surprising places.

One of the things the gospel tells us is that God is found in the every-day...in the ordinary places. The wise men found the baby in a cave...lying in the food trough where the cows and the goats and sheep ate. This pinpoint of light exposed glory in the ordinary. Often we seek God in the spectacular and dramatic...missing the ordinary because we are not looking there. Christ speaks, not in the extra-ordinary, but within the uniqueness of each one of us.

God speaks to me every day in this place, and in and through you--in your kind faces, in your touch, and in your actions. I so appreciate your gift and gifts of yourselves...your talents, your presence, your love. St. Andrew's is a bit of heaven on earth.

Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, in her book, "A Tree Full of Angels" reminds us that it is exactly in our frailty that God "...chose to be enthroned during God's sojourn on earth. It is an incredible compliment to us that God loved us enough to get inside our skin; loved us enough to help us see our dignity and value." We are like stars. Our light is a reflection of a greater light. We are beautiful to behold when we let God shine on us, in us, and through us.

So my friends, at this Epiphany time, keep on shining...keep on shining.
You will help to light up a darkened world. *Blessings and love for the
New Year, Margaret+*



Thirty-fifth

Men's Conference
and Retreat

March 4, 5, & 6, 2016

The AlsoLife:
Life Beyond the Life We Know

Presented by

Reverend Barbara Crafton

Priest, Author and Spiritual Director



*Would you like a Norfolk Island Pine?
Now is your chance! You can purchase one
of the trees in the worship space or narthex
for only \$15. Please make your check out to
the church and put "tree" on the check.*

Coming Up:

*Pre-convention meeting of delegates to
convention from area churches in our Region
will be on Jan. 31, 2016. Diocesan
Convention is February 18-20 at St. Paul's
Daphne.*

Centering Prayer Resumes
Tuesday January 19th

at 10 a.m.

In the Chapel



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.





We earned \$26 last month!!

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.

St. Mary's Guild

A new year! A new opportunity to join the St. Andrew's ladies, for fellowship, devotion and programs.

When: January 12, 2016 at 10:00 am

Where: Mary Wimpenny's, 112 Harmon Ave.

Program: Ken Graves, Supervising Attny. , Florida Guardian ad Litem Program, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Hostesses: Judy Cooley, Barbara Sontag, Nell Barnett

*The Living Stones Fund
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

Has received a gift in honor of

From

*Welcoming every to celebrate the wholeness of God's creation in our
language, worship prayer and music.*

*This is your opportunity to give
a lasting gift to Living Stones.
You can celebrate a special
occasion or remember a special
person.*

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Patrick, Lisa, Adam, Mary, Hazen, Lillian, Shawn, Debbie, Sharon, Pam, Lori, Roslyn, John, Jackie, Ryan, Andrea, Alexis, Pam, Mike, Warren, Mary, Kellie, Lindsey, Doris, Marvin, Robin, David, Margaret, Tripp, Mike Michele, Richard, Jeremy, Dozier, Josh, Bonnie, Fran, Nancy, Bobby, Deb, Anne, Dawn, Shawn, Hong, Camille, Jan, Jeremy, Kim, Vito

(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*