



St. Andrew's Tidings

For the Week of April 3

Message from Margaret:

THE GREAT FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

Mary Magdalene delivered her message. *I have seen my Lord alive!* Recalling Matthew's account, the disciples needed to plan to return to Galilee to meet with Jesus. But as Mary's meeting is described in John, it is simply that *Jesus is ascending to his Father* who has become *their* Father. Now also, there are disciples who have seen that the tomb is empty. But still they aren't ready to act on the knowledge that Jesus has been raised—certainly not enough to set out for a meeting in Galilee. They would rather gather behind locked doors in fear that the temple security guards may break in. Thomas isn't even willing to be with them.

Then it happens.

Locked doors are no barrier to a Resurrection body. The disciples can't pretend that he isn't there.

Shalom!

We are now into the exciting Great Fifty Days of Easter. The Easter Season begins with the Great Easter Vigil and extends through the last service on the Day of Pentecost. The paschal candle is lighted at all services throughout the Great Vigil, and Every Sunday thereafter, and lasts through Pentecost. In fact the church celebrates the resurrection of Christ every Lord's Day. Therefore, Easter is a season (50 days) and not just one day.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith tells us that as the Lenten fast ends, we can either applaud or chastise ourselves on how well we did with whatever we took on or gave up. Many of us have been trained to give lent a lot of attention, engaging in the classic disciplines of prayer, fasting and self-denial. This is all turned around at Easter. With the resurrection, we enter into the season of *via positive*. And strangely, we tend to drop whatever sort of discipline we put together for Lent and simply live into Easter. Some tend to think that the power of the Easter message obviates the need for intention or discipline.

Easter is pure gift, but it takes some discipline to live into that gift. First we need to receive that gift, which requires more than restoring some alleluias into our lives, celebrating the return of baseball or basking in the blossoms of Spring. We are given fifty days—which, tellingly is longer than Lent—to allow the Easter gift to be absorbed into the depth of our souls. Absorbed deeply enough so we can get beyond merely proclaiming the words of Easter to be more transformed by the new life that Easter brings.

The holy habits provide the foundational discipline for us to fully receive the abundance of the Easter blessing. The holy habits of worship, prayer, study, and giving of self and treasure. Engaging the holy habits provides an Easter spiritual practice of via positive—a practice which requires its own discipline. We must proclaim a theology of abundance and embrace the interconnected relationships between all persons and creation. Let's enter the great Fifty Days with enthusiasm!!

Blessings and love,

Margaret+

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you, Gracias, Merci, to all of you who made this Easter weekend so glorious: our Music Team; the Brass and string Players; all of our Servers; our Office Staff; all who decorated, and provided for the wonderful Gala; Shirley and Bill Gobat who always take care of the flowers; our Nursery Staff; and our hard working Altar Guild; those who supported Music and Flowers; those who attended the Stations of the Cross and those who created those wonderful lunches following; Ray, and John; and if I have left anyone out, thank you! A particular word of thanks to Colleen Green for the gorgeous floral arrangement outside Byrne Hall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES THIS SUNDAY AT 9 A.M.

EASTER PRAYERS

My friend in seminary Suzannah Metz has written: *Jesus' Resurrection calls us out of the tomb also. It calls us to open our communities to all. It calls our communities to be holy—holy because we believe that in loving others we are sharing the indwelling love of God.* This ties in so well with the fact that our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry, and asked for a called for a season of prayer for regions of the Anglican Communion which are experiencing violence and civil strife. “In this season of resurrection, I call on everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters in areas where there is much burden and little hope,” he said. He addressed the situation in Brussels, noting, “the truth is even as we speak this Holy Week, we do so not only in the shadow of the cross but we do so in the shadow of those who have been kicked in Brussels, of those who have been wounded and maimed, of those who weep and mourn. And of a world mourning, and not too sure how to move forward.

Consequently, quoting Galatians 6:2- “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ”-he is calling for prayer throughout the holy season of Easter. Beginning on April 3, the Second Sunday of Easter and proceeding through Pentecost on May 15, the Episcopal Church is to pray for a particular province or region: * Burundi; * Central America; * Democratic Republic of the Congo; * Middle East; * Pakistan; *South Sudan. For more information you can contact Elizabeth Boe, the Officer for Global networking, eboe@eoiscopalchurch.org.

FYI: IF YOUR GROUP USES THE KITCHEN AND EATS IN BYRNE HALL, ESPECIALLY IN THE EVENING, PLEASE TAKE THE TRASH OUT AND PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE FOOD IN THE SINK. WE ARE HAVING A RODENT PROBLEM BECAUSE OF FOOD LEFT IN THE TRASH AND KITCHEN. ALSO PLEASE CHECK THE AIR CONDITIONER THERMOSTATS IN BYRNE HALL AND THE CHURCH AND NARTHEX IF YOU HAVE TURNED IT ON. MANY, MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS.

Supper at Grace

Due to a scheduling conflict, St. Andrew's will NOT be hosting Supper at Grace on April 21st. We are trading dates with another church and will take its turn in May and then return to the usual rotation and have our turn again on June 16th. Teri Floore will announce our May date as soon as it is available.

HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

222 North Bonita Ave., Panama City, FL 32401

850-747-4000

Join us for the Steak and Bake to benefit Wilmer Hall

April 17," 2015 Sunday at 5:00 pm "

Hot-off-the,..grill hand-cut steaks, baked potatoes, and fixin's that you'd expect. Come on out to benefit a great cause, enjoy a great meal, and spend some quality time with your family and friends.

Yes! Sign me up for great food and company!

Name: -----

Phone: -----

" Email:

Number in your party ___ _

Cost is only \$20 per person; checks payable to HNEC (note on your check "Wilmer Hall Steak and Bake").

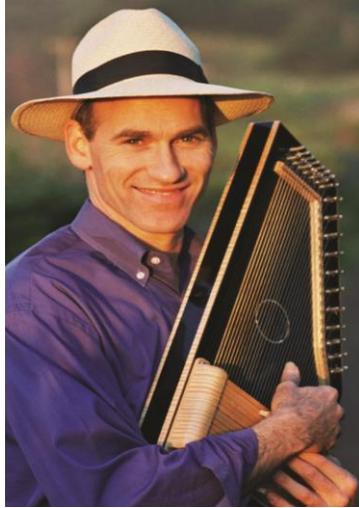
The deadline to sign-up is Sunday, April 10, 2016!!

For more information about this event, please email

Hercules Pettis at 15hllpetis@gmail.com.

WilmerHall is our Diocesan sponsored Chldrens Home located in MobileJ AL. Go to" " www.wilmerhall.org to find out more information!

Let's support Holy Nativity in this effort as we all love Wilmer Hall



Tuesday, April 5@ 6 PM Family Concert

Bay County Public Library 898 W 11th St ▪ Panama City, FL
(850) 522-2118
www.nwrls.com

Adam Miller is one of the premier autoharpists in the world, he is a renowned American folksinger and natural-born storyteller.

**Sponsored by Northwest Florida Music
Teachers Association**

PUBLIC HEALTH ENEMY NUMBER 1



While we may consider the mosquito an annoyance when we spend time outside, in many parts of the world the mosquito is a messenger of catastrophe carrying Malaria, Dengue fever, Chickungunya, or Zika. Outcomes of these diseases, especially for young children and older adults, range from death to long term disability.

International Malaria Day is April 25th. On Sunday, **April 24th** we will have a “Nets for Life” ingathering for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). For \$12 **YOU** can purchase a mosquito net which allows protects three people to sleep safely from mosquitoes. ERD distributes the nets and trains people to properly use them in areas threatened by mosquito borne diseases. Please help fight public health enemy number 1 by purchasing a net.



St. Mary's Guild

No, it's not April Fool! St. Mary's Guild meets April 12 at 10:00 am. We will meet at Vera Lansing's, 414 W. 26th St., Lynn Haven.

Our program will be our annual treat of story telling by Judy Cooley. If you are new or have never heard Judy, don't miss it!

Please bring paper goods (plates, napkins, cups, towels) and/or a foam chest for our project to supply the families of those who have passed away.

Hostesses are Barbara Sontag and Mary Wimpenny.

See you there!

Garden Visit

Ms. Been's class of 2nd graders from Oakland Terrace Elementary will visit the St. Andrew Oaks Garden of Hope on Tuesday, April 5 at 8:15. We need volunteers from St. Andrew's to come and interact with the students. If you can help, please join us!

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Mike, Warren, Mary, Ed, Irv, Jeanne, Wes, Bev, Lillian, Kathleen, Pam, Kirsten, Bill and Margaret, Dawn, Hong, John, Rudy, Baby Ava, Debra, Rick, David, Margaret Kirsten, Lindsey, Tina, Vincent, Phil, Kathleen, Pam, Logan, Dawn, Skylee, John, Barbara, Vincent, Vicky, Becky, Hong, Mary Lou, Dawn, Paul, Rachel, Erika, Jeremy, John, Vincent, Jeremy, Erika, Vicky, Becky, Hong, Mary Lou, Dawn, Paul, Rachel, Gail, Ronnie, Lavern, Luke, Barbara

(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, Jeffrey*