



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Tidings

Week of December 24, 2017

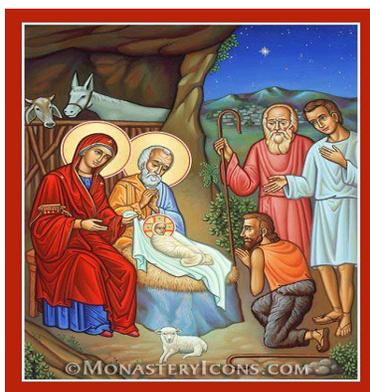
Message from Molly

The most familiar story of Jesus doesn't begin with Jesus, at least not in Luke's Gospel that we'll hear on Sunday. It begins with his mother. And then, before it gets to Jesus, we hear Jesus' coming declared by an old woman, Elizabeth, whom God had blessed. And even once Jesus is born, the first humans outside his family to hear the news are in the lowliest and often-despised profession of shepherding.

Luke wants to emphasize that God has used the meekest of human beings to accomplish his divine will. Luke wants us to reflect on Mary's response to God. And maybe Mary was chosen for this role because she was already in the habit of saying "Let it be to me according to your purpose, God" in her everyday life.

What does it mean for you that God does not bypass human participation – but rather engages it -- in bringing about his divine will?

Faithfully in Christ,
Mother Molly



Dear Friends at St. Andrew's,

The Birth is upon us. The Child comes. Doubt and fear and even preparation are transformed into joy at his presence—for us, and for those who welcome him on his day. This is gift, and revelation, and new life. The Infinite comes to earth, as a helpless infant lying in a manger. The heavenly message is for us and all people. There is born a Savior, the Messiah, everyone's Lord. We will find him, not in a manger, but at an altar where his own promise conveys his presence through the common things of the world he has blessed. On this Day of Days, heaven is rejoicing: *Glory to God in the Highest.*

At this time of gift-giving, I rejoice and give thanks for the gift God has given me in all of you. I thank you for your presence, your laughter and your warmth. And for all of that, I give thanks all year long. May God bless you and your family at this wondrous time, when God cared enough to give us the very best.

God bless you and keep you as you make the voyage into the new year.

Blessings and love for Christmas.

Margaret+



CHRISTMAS EVE

Because Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year, the Vestry has recommended that the 10 a.m. service be Morning Prayer with Christmas carols and the Service of Festal Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve be Sunday evening at 5 p.m.

Oaks By the Bay Christmas Decorations

Robbie Ferenbach and Ellen Maplesden, who are cousins of our Jim Barnett, are responsible for putting up and taking down the Christmas decorations in Oaks By the Bay Park. They pretty much have to do this with few helpers. It is my hope that we can be good neighbors and help them on January 6th from 9:30 until noon to take down the decorations. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Let's try to have a good crew to help! Thanks in advance.

The Completion of the Columbarium



A **columbarium** is a place for the respectful and dignified storage of cremated remains or “cremains” of our loved ones. The term comes from the Latin *columba* (dove) and originally referred to compartmentalized housing for doves. Historically, Roman columbaria were built underground. Today’s columbariums can be either free standing units, or part of a mausoleum or part of another building. Some manufacturers produce columbariums that are built entirely off-site and brought to the premises by a large truck. Many modern crematories and funeral homes have columbariums. In some cases, columbariums are built into church structures. In recent decades cremation with the internment of ashes in a columbarium rather than burial in public cemeteries has become increasingly common. In fact, the use of cremation has enabled the church to reclaim the century old tradition of the burial of loved ones on church property.

The final part of our Columbarium will be put in place in the next few weeks. Each niche is \$1500. This is a lovely alternative to other ways of burial, and not as expensive. There are 8 spaces left in this final section. If you would be interested in purchasing a space, please contact the office.

Project Resource/Stewardship Campaign for 2018

Now is the time to pledge your support to Saint Andrews for 2018 if you haven't done so already. If you did not get a pledge card, please contact the church office and we will send one to you. We use your pledge to help plan our ministries for the coming year and, while making a monetary contribution is very important, we cannot emphasize enough the offering of your time and talents to bring life to those ministries. We ask that you please pray and discern what God is asking you to do. If you have any questions, please contact your Senior Warden, Tom Brewer.

Advent in the Atrium

This month in the Atrium we have been learning all about Advent, the season of waiting and watching. We have heard the Prophecy of Light (Isaiah 9:2), the Prophecy of the Mother (Isaiah 7:14) and we will hear the Prophecy of Names (Isaiah 9:6) this week. We have also meditated on the Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26-38) and the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-49). We have sung songs and said our prayers around our Advent Wreath.

As we move into the Christmas season, we will learn about the Birth of Jesus and the Adoration of the Shepherds (Luke 2:1-20), the Adoration of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12) and we will finish up with the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:22-33, 36-39).

There will be no Children's Sunday School on December 24. We **will** meet on December 31. Thank you to all of St Andrew's for your support. Like a mustard seed, we have grown from two to now seven children. Thanks be to God!



SUPPER AT GRACE THURSDAY December 21

Join us at 9:00 AM in Byrne Hall to make pack lunches and do prep work for dinner

AND/OR

Grace Church on the beach anytime between 3:30PM and 6:00 PM to set up, cook, serve and clean up

If you have warm sweaters or coats you would like to donate, we will make them available to our guests. Please bring them to Byrne Hall on Sunday December 10 or December 17. We will be serving a special Christmas supper and hope you can help us make this a wonderful event. New volunteers ALWAYS welcome.

For more information, contact Teri Floore or Diane Tate.

NEW KUREG!

We now have a new Kureg coffee maker which sits on the counter of the service line. This keeps us from having to make a whole pot for just one or two people. So if you are here for an event and you want just one or two cups, please use the Kureg. Thanks!

Servers for Morning Prayer, Christmas Eve 10 a.m.

Greeters: Donna Hairston, Fran Tate

Crucifer: Tom Sontag

Torches: Michael Hardin, Belle Casler

Lectors: Andrea Harper, Terri Floore

Usher: Mike Kennedy



Laundry Love + December 28

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. + The Wash Depot at 800 W. 11th Street

THANK YOU to the group of you who are in town on December 28 and can help our Laundry Love ministry get started! please email Mother Molly at mollypaynehardin@icloud.com so that she can contact you with additional information, as needed. Please plan to wear shorts or pants with pockets so that you can keep lots of quarters on hand. We set-up in the 15-20 minutes before 5:00 p.m. so if you can come a bit earlier, that's helpful. Molly and her husband Michael will bring the quarters, dryer sheets, and laundry detergent.



Have you been to Cursillo?

Come help us prepare for the January Pilgrims!

Saturday January 6, 2017 from 10:00 – 11:30

Enjoy Snacks & Drinks While We Work

Mother Molly will be one of the priests on staff for the Cursillo that begins January 25. Those who have been to Cursillo are invited to gather and help! All the materials that you need will be provided. Come and help paint placemats and make other special decorations for the weekend. Email Mother Molly at mollypaynehardin@icloud.com to get on the list for Cursillo-related announcements. De Colores!

Theology Uncorked will not meet on December 25 or January 1. We resume on Monday evening, January 8, at 5:30 p.m. on Alice's on Bayview (which overlooks the St. Andrew's Marina at the corner of 10th and Bayview). Come and enjoy this social time with fellow parishioners as we share our faith and questions with each other! Questions to Mother Molly at mollypaynehardin@icloud.com or 850.777.9572



Forty Minutes on Faith

Our Adult Lectionary Study

Discuss our spiritual response to Scripture using the history and context of Jesus' words as our starting point. Each week's forty minutes includes teaching and group discussion.

December 31 Who is this "light of all people" *John 1:1-18*
whom we know as Jesus?

[There will be Morning Prayer on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 10:30 a.m.](#)

Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Warren, Betty, El, Richard, Audrey, Thomas, Mike, Frank, Paul, Rick, Hank, Helen, Marcella, Donna, RuthAnn, Anne, Mary, William, Donald, Dean, David, Gene, Kelly, Nina, Connie, Jeremy, Tommy, Kelsey, Skye, Shari, Tim, Carol, Debra, Elizabeth, Louise, Sandy, Shari, Tim, Kelsey, Skye, Jeremy, Nina, Connie, Kathy, Tommy, Greg, Kim, Hunter, Holli, Cynthia, Mary Lou, Elizabeth, Debra, Allison, Donna, Jennifer, Alvin, Brittany, Steven, Wesley, Susan, Amy, Kyleigh, Denese, Tolar, Shari, Tim, Kelsey, Michael, Jade, Tommy, Elizabeth, Gail, Sandy, Marcella, Henry, Mary

We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad: David, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard, James, Jeffrey Brewer, 455TH Air Expeditionary Wing, Robert H. Banks