



## *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

*Tidings*

*Week of December 3, 2017*



### **Help Create Our St. Andrew's Advent & Christmas Reflections**

When you think about preparing your heart and home for Jesus this season, what thoughts and prayers do you reflect on? Do you have an Advent or Christmas reflection that's been particularly meaningful to you over the years? If you have a response to any of these questions – or another prayer or response for Advent or Christmas-- we hope you'll submit a reflection or even a short quote or prayer for the St. Andrew's Advent Reflections of 2017. You can submit them at any time through December 29<sup>th</sup> and Mother Molly will integrate them into the weekly set of reflections. These are some prompts to get you started or feel free to submit a beloved reflection written by a person that you admire.

- Advent is a time of preparation and, sometimes, of waiting. Is there a particular way that you are preparing for Jesus this December and what does that preparation mean to you?

- Is there a part of life at St. Andrew's – either in the present or the past -- that especially reminds you of Advent or Christmas?
- When you worship and pray at St. Andrew's or at home, what is your prayer for your family, your community, or the world?

Each week's Advent/Christmas reflections will be sent by e-mail on Sunday evening up through Sunday, December 31 which is the beginning of the last week of Christmas.



## 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. If you would like to give poinsettias in memory or honor of someone the cost is \$15 each**

**WORLD AIDS DAY  
ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST  
5:30 P.M.**



**SPEAKER:**

**The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Hamlin, D.Min.  
University of Alabama at Birmingham – 1917 Clinic**



The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Hamlin serves as Chaplain/Education Specialist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham's 1917 Clinic, an HIV outpatient clinic treating more than 3,400 patients. He also serves as pastor of Birmingham's 131-year old Tabernacle Baptist Church. He served as Facilitator for Project Corporate Leadership, a leadership program designed for middle managers of businesses and corporations sponsored by the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, for six years. From 1990 to September 2000, Dr. Hamlin served as Senior Pastor of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church of Birmingham.

At UAB's 1917 Clinic, Dr. Hamlin is a part of a team responsible for prevention education, HIV testing in the Clinic and community; a weekly spiritual support group; being available for patients and staff; and developing ongoing relationships with faith-based institutions and leaders to encourage HIV preventive education and testing. He is the Grievance Officer for the Clinic. He is often asked to make presentations on HIV, religion and culture, discrimination and stigma, and issues around diversity to community groups.

**St. Andrew's is located at 1608 Baker Court Panama City, Florida. For more information call 850-763-7636**

## Socks Collection



**Each year when we serve the December Supper at Grace, we give our guests a wrapped package containing new socks. This year we are hoping to collect 100 new pairs of men's socks, 50 new pairs of women's socks and 50 new pairs of children's socks. If you can help, please bring new socks before December 14<sup>th</sup> and You can place them in the baskets under the bulletin board in Byrne Hall.**

## *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*

*Children's Sunday School, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, meets at 9 am every Sunday in the education building. We meet on the same schedule as Adult Christian Formation. During the summer, we offer Children's Chapel during the worship service. We would love to have your children, grandchildren, and friend's and neighbor's children join us. We would also love to show off our new atrium. Feel free to drop by anytime.*



## **Baptism and the Bishop**

Christian life begins with baptism, a ritual immersion in water “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This always takes us back to the New Testament- “at the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” The sign of repentance was baptism, and large crowds of people gathered on the banks of the Jordan to hear a strange man called John say that another baptizer was coming who would baptize in a different way. “I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Of course he was talking about Jesus. Jesus came to associate his baptism with his death. In fact, it signified his whole mission, which came to its culmination in his death, resurrection, and ascension. Similarly, our baptism signifies our union by faith with the mission and work of Jesus.

Our baptism involves dying to a self-centered understanding of reality and being reborn to a life of self-giving grounded in Christ. Baptism is no insurance policy for salvation, but rather a commitment to a life-style radically different from that of the world. In the new life we are “dead to sin.” The baptism-death of Christians carries the promise of new life. “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his...If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him” (Rom. 6:5,8). Faith in god is the basis of this new life in the spirit, and baptism is the sign of our participation in it.

Baptism is the radical sign of a new framework for human life, a life sustained by the power of the Spirit which is Christ’s. For this reason, baptism has been traditionally understood as the door to all other sacramental activity, Eucharist, marriage, the anointing of the sick, penance and ordination. All these other acts are the living out of the basic reality which baptism is. When we are baptized, children or adults. We are eligible for all the benefits of belonging to the kingdom of God, with all the gifts of the spirit-love, joy, peace, forgiveness.

When the bishop makes his or her annual visit to a parish in their diocese, it is their duty to baptize, confirm and receive those prepared into the church. Those baptized are expected to present themselves in order to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism. If someone has been confirmed in the Roman Catholic Church or the Lutheran Church, the Episcopal Church recognizes their confirmation because they were confirmed by a bishop. Consequently they are received into the Episcopal Church.

Sunday will be a happy day in the life of this parish as Bishop Kendrick baptizes four children and receives two adults. *MSS+*

## ***JOY TO THE WORLD***



***The time has come ...for the ladies of St. Mary's to sing Christmas carols at Barbara Sontag's house, 604 Baywood Drive, Lynn Haven, with Barbara at the piano and Valerie on the guitar!! Hostesses will be Mary Davenport, Teri Floore, Vera Lansing and Sally Brewer. Please bring a gift for a gentleman and a lady for the nursing homes to spread Christmas blessings! See you at Barbara's on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.***

## T-Shirts

More of the larger size “God through Our Window” t-shirts are now available. Please contact Tom Brewer after the service if you would like to purchase one, or several.

## KP

Several of you signed up on Kick-Off Sunday for kitchen duty. This means you put away the coffee pots and other items in the locked pantry after coffee hour. Thank you so very much for taking on this duty. Anyone else who would not mind doing this is welcomed to sign up. See Fran. Thank you!!

*The office has the 2018 Ordo Kalendars available. They are \$4.00 each. Please call the office, 763-7636, if you would like to purchase one. We have a limited supply.*



January 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Epiphany	2 St. Basil's Day	3 St. Agnes' Day	4 St. Genevieve's Day	5 St. Ignace's Day	6 St. Rose's Day	7 St. Basil's Day
8 St. Basil's Day	9 St. Basil's Day	10 St. Basil's Day	11 St. Basil's Day	12 St. Basil's Day	13 St. Basil's Day	14 St. Basil's Day
15 St. Basil's Day	16 St. Basil's Day	17 St. Basil's Day	18 St. Basil's Day	19 St. Basil's Day	20 St. Basil's Day	21 St. Basil's Day
22 St. Basil's Day	23 St. Basil's Day	24 St. Basil's Day	25 St. Basil's Day	26 St. Basil's Day	27 St. Basil's Day	28 St. Basil's Day
29 St. Basil's Day	30 St. Basil's Day	31 St. Basil's Day				



## 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.

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| November 19 | Parable of the Valuable Coins  | <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i> |
| November 26 | "...just as you cared for one of the least of these, you cared for me"   | <i>Matthew 25:31-46</i> |
| December 3  | Our topic will be the Bishop's Choice! Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick visits us on Sunday, December 3 – he will baptize that day and so he often teaches on our baptismal vows or on tenets of our faith. |                         |
| December 10 | Prepare the way of the Lord  | <i>Mark 1:1-8</i>       |
| December 17 | A voice of one crying out in the wilderness  | <i>John 1:6-8,19-28</i> |
| December 31 | Who is this "light of all people" whom we know as Jesus?   | <i>John 1:1-18</i>      |

*Please keep the following in your prayers: Bob, Virginia, Warren, Betty, El, Richard, Audrey, Thomas, Mike, Frank, Paul, Rick, Hank, Helen, Marcella, Donna, Paige, Marqua, Barbara, Kim, Peter, Nelda, Constance, Rosemary, Annie, Gregory, RuthAnn, Doris, Charlene, Chuck, Landon, Jeremy, Tommy, Charlene, Kyle, Judy, 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*

*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, 455<sup>TH</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing*