



## *St. Andrew's Tidings*

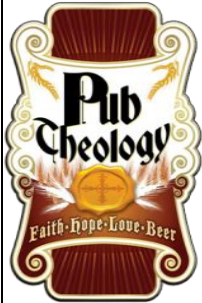
Sunday, June 16, 2013

### *Message from Margaret...*

The places where we are genuinely met and heard have great importance to us. Being in them may remind us of our strength and our value in many ways that many other places we may pass through do not. This is one of the reasons the Church is important in our lives. Those who come through our doors come to be transformed, met, and heard. In our gospel story for this week, Jesus accomplishes this for this “woman of the night” who invades a dinner party given by Simon following the Sabbath. The party began with the usual jovialness as everyone sat around having wine and cheese. But before the main course could be served this woman comes in looking for Jesus, bearing a bottle of perfumed ointment. There was much conjecture going on in their minds as to where she got it-and how! But when she saw Jesus she was so overcome that she began to cry. Why do you think that happened? It is because Jesus was present to her. In that space she felt genuinely met and heard. And because she was, she stands behind Jesus with the alabaster jar and begins to weep, and then to kiss and anoint his feet. This outer action mirrors a deep and inner truth. Jesus offers acceptance and love that everyone longs for. Her tears were, as Luther called them, “heart waters” ; they were the distillation of her gratitude, for Jesus forgives—with no strings attached.

And this is where the Church is important. We must become places where people are genuinely met and heard. Our space must be a place where people who are hard of hearing can hear the word; where those who feel left out are in the midst of an intimate space so that all feel included. This is why our space will be changed into a more intimate space; this is why we will get a more updated sound system, and organ speakers; this is why we are updating the accent pieces and focusing on the way our religious art speaks to all who come in. Mother Teresa opens our eyes to the need when she says that the shut-in, the unwanted, the unloved, the alcoholics, the dying, the destitute, the lonely, the outcasts, the untouchables—all who have lost hope in faith and life —who have forgotten how to

smile—who have lost the sensibility of the warm hand-touch of love and friendship—they look to us—the Church for comfort. If we turn our back on them we turn it on Christ...And the way we respond to them-is the way Jesus responded to the woman-by being present-by hearing. Our space helps us to do that. The places we are seen and heard are holy places. They remind us of our value as human beings. They give us the strength to go on. Eventually they may even help us to transform our pain into wisdom. *Blessings and love, Margaret+*

<p><i>Pub Theology Tomorrow Night 6 p.m. "The Place" on Harrison</i></p>		<p><i>Bring a Bible-no experience necessary!</i></p>
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### Supper @ Grace

Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, is St. Andrew's turn to host Supper @Grace at Grace Episcopal Church at the beach. This ministry offers a free supper plus a sack lunch to anyone who comes to the church parish hall. We have families, married couples and singles that are blessed with both food and fellowship. These weekly meals are provided by various churches throughout Bay County and St. Andrew's takes six turns per year. We need cooks, sandwich makers, servers, and dishwashers; your time commitment will be about two hours. There is a sign up sheet on the board in Byrne Hall and if you have additional questions, please call Teri Floore at 763-2439.

## ***CURSILLO!***

***THE NEXT CURSILLO (#151) IS SEPTEMBER 12-15. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO, APPLICATIONS ARE IN BYRNE HALL ON THE RACK. IT IS FREE! AND A CHANCE OF A LIFE TIME!***



## **FOYER GROUPS**

The word “foyer” is from the French, meaning “hearth, fireside, lobby.” In short, a place to meet. St. Andrew’s is in its third year of offering a truly successful program, “Foyer Groups.” So what is a Foyer group? It is a group of 8-10 people- 10 being the maximum, an intentional cross-section of old and new members, who meet monthly for socializing and a meal. Each group determines it’s own format: where to meet , when to meet, and what meal will be shared.

It is time to sign up for new Foyer Groups. The groups as they have been this year will change. This gives us a chance to get to know a new group of people. All who want to be in a Foyer Group again, please sign up on the bulletin board. All the names will be put in a hat, and drawn out at random. Then you will meet together as a group to chose a convener, and decide how you want to proceed. The groups this year have been so successful. Even if you were not in a group before you are invited to sign up. This is a wonderful way to get to know folks in the church. Please sign up!

*Happy father’s Day to All Fathers*



**Say Cheese!! It's time for a new and improved directory. Photographs will be taken beginning June 16 after the service outside of Byrne Hall. If you miss this date, follow ups will be taken on June 30.**

*Please keep the following in your prayers; Lee, Toni, Jane, Elaine, Bobbi, Bobbie, Janet, David, JD, Rita, Lee Ann, Jean, Ruth Ann, Sandra, Nancy, Ann, Janet, Mike, Judy, Janet, Nancy, Jean, Britany, Mary, Sandra, Andy, Polly, Judy, Jonathan, Jessica, Emma, MacKenzie, Tina, Lisa, Lora, Connie, Middy, Kathy, Holly, Vincent, Sandra, Bev, Ann, Cody, Tiffany, Sara, Joseph, Joe, Bill, David, Bobby, Mattie, Colleen, Joy, Ellen, Gary, Alicia, Mary, Tom, Dot, Linda, Bubba, Kaden, Donna, Mr. Bell, Marcie, Kelli, Gloria Mae, Helen, Michelle*

*We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; Jeff, Bowe, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Mike, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan*