



St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, May 5th, 2013

Message from Margaret...

The higher goal of spiritual living is not to amass a wealth of information, but to face sacred moments.

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*

Remember: if you want to make progress on the path and ascend to the places you have longed for, the important thing is not to think much but to love much, and so to do whatever best awakens you to love.

Teresa of Avila, *The Interior Castle*

Our gospel for the Seventh Sunday of Easter begins: “Jesus prayed for his disciples...” What a gift it is to know someone is praying for you, and what a gift it is to pray for those you love—and for those you don’t necessarily love, but care for. And the kicker is, that when we pray for someone and make the love of God known to that one, something wonderful happens. Jesus tells us: ...the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.” Our prayers unite us in a very special way.

We can think of prayer as an open gate which permits movement-in, and out, and through the gate. Through this gate we are inspired to pass through physical, mental and spiritual gates while venturing through our lives, all the while discovering that Jesus has already opened this gate for us, through prayer. Our job is to be open to what passes through the gate when we pray. St. Brindan reminds us that if “we become Christ’s emissary through prayer, we will stumble upon riches and wonder upon wonder, and every one of them true.” We need to discover that Jesus has opened for us the gate of glory.

Every now and again our ‘eyes are opened’ through prayer and we see beyond the narrowness of our day to day vision. This happened to Jacob when he awoke out of a deep sleep and said “Beth-el— Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it...this is none other than the gate of heaven.” Jacob had not been looking for this experience, it just happened. I believe that experiences are offered to us at one time or another in our lives. But we have to be open to receive them. Such things happen sometime when we go through a crisis. Often we become more aware when we face the unfamiliar.

Prayer is not an escape from such situations but an entering deeper into the reality of what is going on around us. Prayer should help us extend ourselves and our lives. It will not rescue us from the situation, but it should help us to see it more clearly, and to recognize that we are not alone in it. This gate will open to us in quite an unexpected way and show us a world we never dreamed was there, and yet it was with us all the time. It is within the concept of prayer that we do become aware of the love of God and the love of one another—and we must make it known...”so that the love with which you have loved may be in them, and I in them.”

This love and forgiveness is something that we cannot keep to ourselves. The best way to receive God’s gifts is to seek to give them away. If we pour love out, God pours it in; if we give peace, God gives peace to us. We reach out in love to others through intercession, knowing that God loves and cares for them. All of this is acted out in the great drama of the Eucharist, where we show that we dwell in God, and God in us. And if we are not present for that Eucharist, we go wanting. The Table is not

complete when we are not present at the Table. It is at the table where the gate becomes unlatched. "May Christ the Gateway and the Door

Give us life for evermore. Amen.

Blessings and love,

WOW THIS WEDNESDAY-May 15
NO COVERED DISH

BAY COUNTY CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR
IN CONCERT

RECEPTION IN BYRNE HALL FOLLOWING THE CONCERT
7 P.M.

***Let's have a great crowd! Invite your friends. If you need a ride,
please call the church office!***

Our own Sayer Morgan is a member of this choir

Nave, Sanctuary, and Chapel Reconstruction

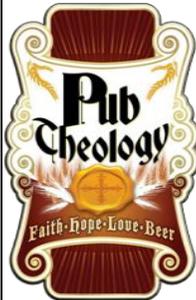
Wednesday, May 8th, a very good representative group of the parish gathered to hear Carter Quina, one of our architects, give an overview of the various aspects of the church renovation. Areas that were covered were: Capital Campaign and Financial Issues; Liturgy (clergy and servers); Music, Performance and Special Events; Pedestrian walk-ways, Accessibility; Aesthetics; Chapel area use; Altar Guild/Sacristy. Carter brought some wonderful photos, as well as a 3 dimensional example of the foot-print of the church and exterior. Everyone made wonderful comments and suggestions that were written down and will be implemented by the time Carter and Danny Grundhoeffler return at Pentecost when we have the kick-off for the project.

LIVING STONES FOR A LIVING SANCTUARY

The Kick-Off for our new worship space renovation will be May 19, Pentecost, at the 10 a.m. service. The vestry has chosen 1 Peter 2: 4-5 as the scripture to undergird this event: "Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." From this comes the theme for our renovation kickoff: "Living Stones for a Living Sanctuary." Stay tuned to how this theme will be used as we begin our renovation. Please begin to pray each day this prayer written by Nancy Young for our project :

Heavenly Father, Gracious Lord, open our hearts that we may draw near to Christ, the chief cornerstone of our faith. Transform us so that, like Him, we may become living stones built into a living sanctuary. Form us, Lord, into a holy priesthood, a living spiritual house, that through the sacrifice of our lives and talents, we may show to others your goodness in calling us out of darkness into your marvelous light. Amen

***Pub
Theology
Tomorrow
Night
6 p.m.
"The Place"
on Harrison***



***Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!***

EVENSONG TO CELEBRATE PENTECOST

St. Andrew's Choir, along with the choir from Messiah Lutheran Church will present a service of Evensong, celebrating the Feast of Pentecost. You will remember the very beautiful service last year, using the chants from our Anglican service of evensong, as well as anthems for the season. You will not want to miss this ancient, and very beautiful service. A reception will follow in Byrne Hall.

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, Donna, Dirk, Cody, Tiffany, Sara, Hamden County Correctional, Northampton, MA., Joseph, Joe, Bill, David

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