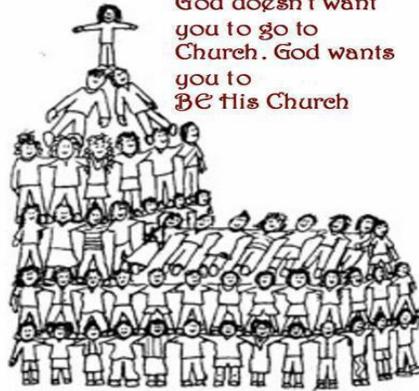




St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, May 5th, 2013

Message from Margaret...



Today is the kick-off for our worship space renovation. This wonderful logo that our Building Commission has chosen for the kick-off not only signifies us as “living stones for a living sanctuary,” but it is the essence of what Pentecost is all about. In pouring out the Spirit on the Church, Jesus asks us to keep on keeping on-to do the work he has called us to do-to BE the Church!. It is the Spirit which gives us the power to do that. Renovation may be difficult for some, but I believe we are called to do this. Not only do we have a mandate to make sure this place is completely accessible for those living with handicaps, whether it be hearing, vision, or physical, but I believe this is part of loving our neighbor who is as ourselves. As we renovate, we enter the 21st century to be able to reach out to those beyond our doors of a younger generation, while celebrating those aging in place. We also save ourselves from possible disaster as we replace wiring that has been deemed in the dangerous zone. But these are just physical things.

The challenge of Pentecost is to let the Spirit blow away and burn away the fear that blocks us from speaking to and hearing those beyond our doors—as we share the mighty acts of God. The challenge of Pentecost, and for all of us-is to listen for that mighty wind—for what the Spirit wants for us...now...and for the future...and act upon that...not looking at how it used to be...or how some other priest or church does it...but for that special gift for this place. In reading the first lesson from Acts, we find that the Spirit was poured out on the common people—the Parthians, the Meads, the Elamites, and they were filled with God’s Spirit to do one thing—spread the good news of Jesus. And this is what you are called to do today as ministers of the Church. God has imbued you with gifts at your baptism to strengthen you to do that. That is central to our identity as Christians.

And that identity is what today is all about. During the season of Pentecost, Jesus’ call to mission rings in our ears: “You will be my witnesses...” There is no need for us to wait as the disciples had to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. For the Spirit did come on the day of Pentecost and has never left the Church. The Spirit continues to breathe life into the Church as it joyfully witnesses to the mighty acts of God. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church—truly a time to celebrate.

We celebrate the trust that we hold-the spirit that we share-the attitude of partnership. We celebrate that love lives among us, and that God's Spirit pervades our being, our community. I see God's face within the lives of each of you. I hear God's voice in the vision of men and women who call us to a better way, a higher hope. Happy birthday, my friends, happy birthday!!

Blessings and love,

Margaret+

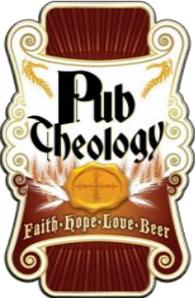


LIVING STONES FOR A LIVING SANCTUARY

The Kick-Off for our new worship space renovation is today. We have with us our architects who will be speaking just before the offertory. They have brought a number of visual examples for you to see. Following the service they will be in Byrne Hall to answer question and to speak with you. Frank Lopez from our Building Commission will also speak. 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." You will see our new banner and the display which brings our slogan to life. There is a bulletin insert which contains the prayer which we will use every Sunday. Take this home and pray it every day.

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

<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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***EVENSONG TO CELEBRATE
PENTECOST, TONIGHT, AT 5:30
P.M.***

St. Andrew's Choir, along with the choir from Messiah Lutheran Church will present a service of Evensong, celebrating the Feast of Pentecost at 5:30 p.m. TONIGHT. 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, Bobby, Mattie, Colleen, Joy, Ellen, Mary, Gary, Alicia, Mary, Tom, Dot

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