



## *St. Andrew's Tidings*

Sunday, June 2, 2013

### ***Message from Margaret...***

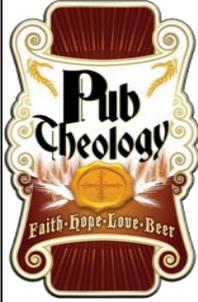
In this week's first lesson from the First Book of Kings, Solomon is standing before the altar of the Lord and he is overwhelmed with the wonder and goodness and greatness of God. He says: "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart." This is what I am finding out in this very place—in this parish—and among friends--as we walk the days of our lives together—as we live, and move and have our being with one another. As we struggle with illnesses, with family distresses, with our aging in place, with even death, in our love and care for one another we find, in a very real way, that there is no other God like our loving God. It is important that we keep track of our stories and the events of our lives, because they are so important. My story is important, not because it is my story, but because if I tell it, there is a chance you might recognize that in many ways it is your story as well. It is through our stories and our experiences that God makes God's self known to each of us most powerfully—the same kind of power and awe that Solomon experienced. And I have learned that it is through our experiences that our ministries come.

The God of biblical faith, says Frederick Buechner, is the God who started history going in the first place. God is a God of moment by moment, day by day, and continues to act in history—not only the history that is reported on NBC/CBS/ABC, but my history, and your history—which, for most of us, will never be reported in the news or on TV, but nonetheless, are mighty acts of history. God is mightily present in our private events. Events happen to us in their own way, and sometimes as randomly as rain, but we must remember that God does not make them happen, especially the bad events, but God is certainly present in the midst of them, offering us a possibility of new life.

God gives us memories in order to go back in time and cherish the people we love who are no longer with us, and also to go back in time and if we didn't get it right the first time, we can have another go at it in the here and now. We can't undo our old mistakes or what happened as a result of them any more than we can erase old wounds and hurts that we have both suffered or caused, but "through the power that memory gives us of thinking, feeling, and imagining our way back through time, we can, at long last, let go of the past in the sense that we can remove its power to hurt us and other people.

The sad things that happen will always remain a part of who we are just as the glad and gracious things, and we can make peace with them as a source of wisdom and strength for the journey that still lies ahead. Memories make it possible for us both to bless the past, even those things we feel cursed by, and this is what forgiveness is all about—the interplay of God's forgiveness and our forgiveness of each other. So I think we can stand at the altar as did Solomon, and be so thankful that there is no God in heaven or on earth like our loving and forgiving God, and to be thankful that our memories are a sacred function that renders distinction between past and present and future, and to enable us to, at some level, inhabit that same eternity, which it is said, our awesome God inhabits.

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



*Bring a  
Bible-no  
experience  
necessary!*

### *Summer Breakfast*



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

*Summer Breakfast begins this week at 8:30. Please sign up for a Sunday. All groups, Foyer Groups, Reunion Groups, etc. are welcome.*

***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!***

# ULTREYA! ULTREYA!

COME AND ENJOY AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP, PRAYER  
AND MUSIC

SATURDAY, JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup>

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

205 HOLLY LANE

DOTHAN, AL 36303

5PM HOLY EUCHARIST

POTLUCK DINNER, FELLOWSHIP AND SONG

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

Drinks will be provided; bring a dish to share! Musicians, bring your instruments!

Questions? Contact Karen Jackson, 334.793.4472 or [dbj48@aol.com](mailto:dbj48@aol.com)

De **Colores!!!**

*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, Linda, Bubba, Linda, Maddox, Kaden*

*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*