



St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Message from Margaret...

One of my favorite poets is T. S. Elliott. In his poem "Four Quartets," he tries to capture the specialness of places he has found to be sacred, places where he has most particularly experienced the Incarnation of God. One of the four is called "Little Gidding." For me it is the most memorable because Little Gidding is not only a place, but also a religious community --a church--actually dating back to the 17th century. Elliott speaks of his experience in the church as , "You are here to kneel where prayer has been valid." His image calls to mind our own corporate experience that we might not have formed into words. His words bring to our minds memories of places where we have experienced God, places that have invited and compelled us into robust conversations with God. It is not to say that the place actually made our prayers efficacious, but the place inspires us, helps to shape our beliefs, and assures us of our relationship with God, thus enabling that relationship to grow.

Now, such places do not come into being by accident. They are created by our intentional actions that focus and concentrate our devotion to God in specific ways and specific locations. These actions spring forth from our individual and collective hopes and desires, and they are made visible through architectural forms and spaces crafted with sincerity, creativity, and cooperation.

The questions that must be asked, and the questions WE asked of our renovation are:

- *How do our buildings convey a vision of God's kingdom on earth?
- *How are our places of worship reflecting our beliefs?-such as-we believe in the worth of all people. Therefore, our space must be a space where people can negotiate with walkers, wheel chairs, and canes; that people must be able to see and hear. We believe that all are welcome at the Banquet Table.
- *In what visible, tangible forms are we proclaiming a faith in a *living* God. This is the consideration given to perhaps a living water font located near entrance, proclaiming our belief in a living, moving God; and a crystalline window looking out on the water of baptism, the water of new birth.

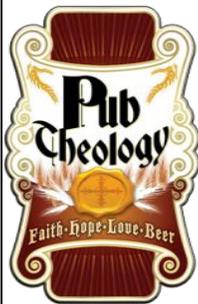
*How are our church buildings helping this church bring the gospel into a New Century. Younger people will not be drawn to a “50’s, out of date building, wiring, sound system among other things, but will be drawn to a more intimate and updated facility.

The Church must take responsibility for creating meaningful places of worship, places that inspire, that invite and encourage prayer with God. The words of Elliott provide a beginning, but it is our job to find our way and to express it to others. The world hungers to experience the Divine, people hunger to be transformed. and our places of worship can help people find that experience—if we devote ourselves to creating places that convey our longings for God, then truly they will be places for valid prayer. Interestingly Sue Webb’s cousin recently attended a conference and she notes that she received encouragement from God from the following from 1 Cronicles:2: ***“Now, my son, the Lord be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the Lord your God, as he has spoken concerning you.”***

This passage is about David giving his son Solomon the charge to build the temple for God. The story itself is remarkable, but taking it further, we too are “charged” to build the church as referenced in 1 Corinthians 14:12 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. We are *living stones*, building up the church in *positive* ways.

Let us all read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest! Amen.
Blessings and love,

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



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

DID YOU KNOW ?

-This past Confirmation and Reception class was the largest in 6 years?

-That in 2011 our total attendance was 5,552, in 2012 it was 7, 323, and the way attendance is going this year we can extrapolate attendance to be somewhere between 8-9,000!

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 choose 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!



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, Ber, Ann, Cody, Tiffany, Sara, Joseph, Joe, Bill, David, Bobby, Mattie, Colleen, Joy, Ellen, Gary, Alicia, Mary, Tom, Dot, Linda, Bubba, Maddox, Kaden, Donna, kMr. "Bell, Marcie, Kelli

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