



St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, June 23, 2013

Message from Margaret...

Our gospel story for this Sunday is one of the most eerie and awesome of all the healing miracles. It raises issues that are very complicated. Here, in a breath-taking way is a literal collision between heaven and hell-between the depths of mental illness and the incredible power and mercy and grace of God that was focused in Jesus Christ. Here is a man who believes he is filled with demons-with unclean spirits-and it was his own perception. Everyone else shuns this man, but Jesus does not send him away. Why? Jesus believes to the depths of his being that there is only one God-and nothing could separate him from the love of God. And because of this Jesus was able to do for this man what all the king's horses and all the king's men could not do for Humpty Dumpty. Jesus was able to put back the scattered pieces of person-hood, and enabled him to be whole again.

Hospital chaplain Myron Madden gives an unusual glimpse into this miracle. He suggests that because it takes place in the tomb, that this man is suffering from unresolved grief-that he has brought someone who matters to him to their final resting place. But he had not been able, literally, to get out of the cemetery. His grief had absolutely exploded his person-hood. I think we often need to remind ourselves that grief is a lethal and spiritually perilous experience, for the simple reason that in grief, we don't get our way. Something cuts right across the desires of our heart. When grief happens, it is always a Gethsemane experience of sorts. We go in praying for one thing, as Jesus did in that garden, and we come out with the exact opposite. And to the degree that having our own way is the only prerequisite for happiness, grief can be an utterly shattering experience.

But here Jesus does something for this man. He somehow helped him to see the difference between the gift of God, and the God who gives. In other words, it is so easy under the pressure of grief, to feel like the thing you have lost is the only thing that gives meaning to life. And therefore, when you have lost it, you feel like there is no future. Nothing else could possibly be meaningful-because what is most meaningful has been taken away. That is confusing a gift of God, with the God who gives. However, God has many gifts to give us. If we absolutize any one of God's gifts, that is the sin of idolatry. We begin to think of that one thing as if it were everything.

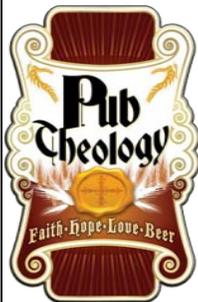
But the truth is, God is everything, and God has other things in God's gracious hand to give. The one who gave us the "good old days" can be trusted to give us the "good new days" if we are willing and flexible enough to receive it and believe it.

In the darkest of places, Jesus is there with compassion. He literally descends into hell, for there is nothing he doesn't want to redeem. There is no darkness to dark for the light of Christ...no sickness to great for the Balm of Gilead. Seeing how compassionate Jesus was with this man's demons...gives me some hope for how Jesus might deal with mine. Thanks be to God. *Blessings and love, Margaret+*

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

A MONTH AGO THE PLUMBING IN THE OFFICE OVERFLOWED DUE TO ROOTS IN THE SEWER SYSTEM, WHICH THE CITY HAS NOW REPAIRED. (IT WAS A CITY PROBLEM-NOT A CHURCH PROBLEM) HOWEVER, OUR PROBLEM IS THAT DUE TO THE OVERFLOW, THE OFFICE CARPET AND WALLS, AND CABINETS NOW HAVE EFFLUENT IN THEM AND MUST BE REPAIRED. OUR CHURCH INSURANCE IS TAKING CARE OF THIS, AND THE CITY WILL PAY THE DEDUCTABLE. THE OFFICE WILL BE RELOCATED ACROSS THE STREET IN BYRNE HALL IN THE NURSERY FOR A NUMBER OF WEEKS. PLEASE KNOW THAT THIS HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR RENOVATION OF THE WORSHIP SPACE. THIS IS STRICTLY AN INSURANCE PROBLEM. ALL THE COPYING ETC. WILL BE DONE IN THE NURSERY IN BYRNE HALL. THE PHONE WILL BE RE-ROUTED TO BYRNE HALL SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO INTERRUPTION IN SERVICE. PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH OUR PROGRESS! THANKS!

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



*Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!*

The Book Club

Meets Thursday, June 27th at the home of Teri Floore

2701 W 27th St 763-2439 Bring a sandwich; salad provided. Book: The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight, by Jennifer E Smith

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

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!

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

While the clean- up is going on in the office, the library will be temporarily closed. Our librarian, Ruth Ann MacFarland will use this time to go through books that might be out of date etc. She will have a book sale next week in Byrne Hall and for as long as you are interested in perusing the table.



Say Cheese!! It's time for a new and improved directory. Photographs will be taken after the service outside of Byrne Hall on June 30.

Please keep the following in your prayers; 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, Joni, Sandra, Rosemary, Jeannie, RuthAnn, Warren, Iva Anne, Bev

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