



St. Andrew's Tidings

Sunday, June 30, 2013

Message from Margaret...

Being part of the church does not mean that we consider opening our doors only to people who look just like us. What it does mean is that we offer radical hospitality to the stranger, to anyone who is in need of protection, love, and care. It means to offer our table and Table of the Eucharist to those, in the words of Howard Thurman, "with their backs against the wall." (*Jesus and the*

Disinherited, p.11) Thurman defines these particular human beings as "...those who need profound succor and strength to enable them to live with dignity and creativity." (Ibid.) As Christians, we often go about "doing church" without *really* opening our eyes *or* our doors. We call ourselves being hospitable, but often we do not go out of our way to truly welcome the stranger in our midst. We are, in Thurman's words, "sterile and of little avail." Our hospitality, too often, is part of an economy of exchange among equals or superiors, when it should be part of the economy of response to the destitute and weak.

But like the Priest and the Levite in the parable, who were obviously "good" people, we often operate out of fear—we fear things—or people—we don't understand. "Fear," writes Thurman, "is one of the persistent hounds of hell that dog the poor, the dispossessed, the disinherited,-(sic) and even us...Our institutions...our churches are crowded with people who are hounded by day and harrowed by night because of some fear that lurks ready to spring into action as soon as one is alone—or as one's social defenses are temporarily removed."

But where we have to start is with the idea of how much God loves us—all of us. The love ethic, according to Thurman, is the central theme of Jesus' message. This love ethic is pointed out by Jesus as he reads the Shema in the Synagogue: "Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might, and your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:37-40) The Hebrew actually translates that last phrase as, "Who *is* as yourself," which actually adds more emphasis as we look at who is our neighbor. "Neighborliness is non-spatial, it is qualitative. A person (sic) must love their neighbor directly, clearly, permitting no barriers." Once an attack is made on the "enemy status" and the individual has emerged as he or she is, the underprivileged, those with their backs against the wall, must themselves be status free. It may be argued that their sense of freedom must come first... "Love is possible only between two freed spirits. What one discovers, in even a single experience in which barriers have been removed, is that it may become useful in an overall technique for loving one's enemy."

For Thurman, looking to Jesus as the ultimate example will provide the first step towards love as a "common sharing of mutual worth and value." Jesus' intimate companions were the dregs of society, the outcasts and prostitute types. Thurman argues that the natural place to begin

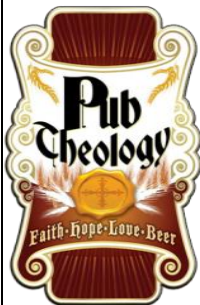
to share mutual worth and value is in the worship experience. “Once we discover they are real people, then the normal desire to make this discovery inclusive of all things, brings one to grips with the necessity for working out a technique of implementation. The worship service provides a place to get to know the individual, provided we develop the skills of the practice of radical hospitality which can be applied at the moment so it will make a difference, and we develop a space that is comfortable and accessible for each person. “Each person meets the other where they are,” says Thurman, and “treats them (sic) as if they were where they ought to be. Here we emerge into an area where love operates, revealing a universal characteristic unbounded by special or limited circumstances.” This attitude of love must be imbedded in a concrete experience, surrounded by forgiveness.

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!*

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!

We have 2 going! Let's have more!



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 TODAY

Check out the book table and find a good book for a cheap price!!

Please note that during the renovations to the office area, we can also be reached at 769-2110 as well as 763-7636.



Say Cheese!! It's time for a new and improved directory. Bonnie Tate will be taking photographs after the service outside of Byrne Hall today. Then stop by the table on the carpeted area to fill out your pertinent information.

Please keep the following in your prayers, Marcie, Kelli, Gloria Mae, Helen, Michelle, Joni, Sandra, Rosemary, Warren, Iva, Anne, Bev, Martha, Mickey

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