



St. Andrew's Tidings

Message from Ray:

Should Christians be concerned about the environment?

The Reverend Raymond Wishart

In light of the blessing of the pets last week as part of our observance of St. Francis of Assisi I have been thinking about our relationship of humans and animals as an environmental issue. Many people have been turned off to environmental issues by extremists. Environmentalists often seem to have more concern for whales, snail darters, and owls than they do for people.

Some of them try to make us feel guilty for being alive and using air.

Christians actually have special insight into this controversy. We know that the present world is temporary. The elements will someday melt with fervent heat (2 Peter 3:10, 12). Although this gives Christians perspective, it is certainly not a license to abuse the earth or to be arrogant toward it. Scripture gives us two specific commands in this regard:

The first command, sometimes called the cultural mandate, is found in Genesis 1:28. "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it." The first part of the command is being fulfilled, with a current world population of more than five billion people. The subduing of the earth involves rulership. We have been placed in charge of the earth as stewards. The earth does not belong to us; it is the Lord's, including everything in it (Ps. 24:1). We are to care for and manage what has been given to us, and we are responsible for the results.

A second biblical command appears in Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." This was Adam's job description, and it is also a general model for us today. Hebrews 2:8 states that God has put all things under our feet; we are still in charge. To work and care for the garden, or "dress and keep" it, meaning to make it orderly, productive, and beautiful. The clear conclusion is that we should indeed be concerned about the deterioration of the environment. Christians really do have the proper foundation for understanding people's true responsibility to care for the earth.

Consider some of the common objections to environmental concern that I found in an online discussion:

"People are more important than things." This is probably true. There is no profit in gaining the whole world and losing one's own soul (Mark 8:36). Presenting the gospel must have priority. If we love the Lord, however, we will not turn our backs on his artwork and gifts in the creation. The creation gives powerful testimony to God's glory; caring for his works is our responsibility. The environment is important because people are important. Their health and well-being depend on it.

"Why should we be concerned with a temporary, dying world?" In spite of sin, the creation remains a rich testimony to God's goodness. Stewardship of this silent witness is an act of worship. Our bodies are also temporary, but we care for them. Our minds will someday be made perfect, yet we spend our lives studying and exercising them. The same arguments apply to caring for the present, temporary earth.

"Environmentalism is just a form of the social gospel, or even worse, it is New Age pantheism." True environmental care is respect for God's handiwork, not a return to idolatry. Stewardship is the recognition of humanity's high created position, not a pantheistic ruling out of our responsibility before God.

"We are told in Genesis 1:28 to subdue the earth." Our dominion should not be harsh; this verse is not a proof text to condone littering! To subdue means to cherish and bring out the full potential of the creation, not trash it.

Here at St. Andrews we have made some significant strides towards being a "green" church through the efforts of Jeff Cole and others. We have become more energy conscious, have instituted a recycling program for our trash, host events in the environment like "Paddle & Pray", but there is much more we can be doing. Our church is surrounded by beautiful natural environment from our heritage oaks to the pristine St. Andrews Bay, we need to make efforts to appreciate and preserve that.

Another effort we will be making is to change our coffee vendor to a local company that practices fair trade and eco-friendly farming, Amavida Coffee and Tea from Santa Rosa Beach. "Amavida" joins the Spanish words "amar" (to love) and "vida" (life). The name "Amavida" was adopted by their company after extensive soul searching to define who they are and what beliefs and values are most important to them. Their philosophy really is in line with our church and me personally, plus their coffee is REALLY good.

Their Fair Trade Coffees are sourced from the finest coffee farms across the world. These coffees are friendly to the farmers who produce them because they are guaranteed to receive a fair price for their product. In exchange for a fair price, these farmers practice high quality, eco-friendly farming that helps protect our environment and ensure exceptional products. We should have new equipment installed soon, but in the meantime you can visit their local store, Chez Amavida, in downtown St. Andrews.

Environmental issues are a major concern of our day. Christians should do their part to help the earth glorify God. After all, we know the Creator. Of course, we must also spread the gospel message, telling others about the Creator of heaven and earth.

Peace+, and take time to enjoy the coffee,

Raymond

Paddle & Pray

WHEN: October 11th, 2013, 5:00PM to 7:30PM

WHO: Everyone & especially waterborne worshippers!!

FISH FRY

EVERYONE BRING LAWN CHAIRS & POTLUCK SIDES

WHAT: Kayaks, canoes or your own 'paddle driven vessel'. Low rental kayaks and canoes are available, sign-up on the sheet.

\$15 RENTAL OF KAYAK OR CANOE

\$5 FOR THOSE NOT PADDLING TO COVER THE FISH FRY

SIGN UP ON BULLETIN BOARD IN BYRNE HALL

WHERE: Carl Gray Park, at the foot of the Hathaway Bridge, on the Bay, behind Gulf Coast State College

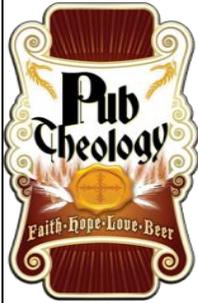
EVENTS:

5:00PM gathering, safety briefing & paddle checks

5:15PM Blessing of the Flotilla

6:00PM (Or there about) Holy Eucharist at the Beach
@Sunset

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



*Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!*

*BAY LIGHTS AT BECKWITH IS COMING NOVEMBER 1-3
ST. ANDREW'S IS A SPONSOR. LET'S HAVE A BIG
GROUP TO ATTEND!! This is an incredible weekend to
spend as a diocese, eating, drinking, and having fun, as
well as a time to worship together. There will be
activities for all ages, booths with food, a fish fry, a
barbecue etc. If you would like to help with our donation
to the silent auction, please contact the office. Last year
we had an incredible basket.*

St. Mary's Guild

When: Oct 8, 2012 10:00 a.m.

Where: Teri Floore's home, 2401 West 27th St.

Program: Container Gardens

Hostesses: Ann Bruce, Judy Cooley, Vera Lansing

**This should be fun as well as informative. Come join us
ladies!**

Book Club Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 22nd 11:30 *Sea Glass* by Anita Shreve; Elaine Ellsworth will lead the discussion at Anne Bruce's home 632 Coquina Dr., Lynn Haven
BRING YOUR LUNCH!!

Tuesday, Nov. 19th 11:30 *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth; Nancy Young will lead the discussion at Barbara Sontag's home 604 Baywood Dr., Lynn Haven
BRING YOUR LUNCH!!

CHAIRS



IN THE CHAPEL IS A CATHEDRAL CHAIR WITH ARMS. THIS IS DESIGNED FOR THOSE NEEDING HELP TO STAND. PLEASE GO OVER IN THE CHAPEL AND TRY IT OUT. THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER CHAIR BEHIND IT. THERE IS A HASSOCK UNDERNEATH THE ARM CHAIR. PLEASE TRY THE HASSOCK FOR KNEELING.



It is not too late to submit recipes for the St. Andrew's Centennial Cookbook. At present, we have 127 recipes. Our goal is 150. If you have submitted **less than 5** recipes, please consider submitting a few more. The sooner we get the recipes in, the sooner we can get our cookbook published. Recipe forms are in Byrne Hall.

Did You Know?

(Continued...) In 1955 St. Andrew's began to plan for a new church structure. Many different architectural designs were submitted and a modified A-frame design was adopted. The old church was moved across Baker Court where the offices and educational facilities are located, and was used as a chapel and preschool educational area from 1958 to 1972. In 1972 the old church building was sold to the Greek Orthodox Congregation on Baldwin Road for \$1.00. The old church building remains as part of the Greek Orthodox Church today. From 1955 to 1962, St. Andrew's continued to expand and grow under the leadership of the Rev. George Bedell and construction of the new modified A-frame church was completed.

SUPPER AT GRACE

It's that time again! St. Andrew's supports Supper at Grace on the third Thursday every other month. Thursday, October 17th, we will cook and serve anyone who comes to dinner at Grace Episcopal Church on Back Beach Rd. We have a good core group of faithful volunteers who work, but more helping hands are always welcome. If you can't come to the beach, would you consider making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches? In addition to dining in and takeout meals, we prepare 50 sack lunches for people to take home. The sandwiches can be brought to Byrne Hall Wednesday night or Thursday morning. If you would like to take on this part of the ministry-either once or for several months, please contact Teri Floore (763-2429). Or if you can give a couple of hours cooking, serving or cleaning on Thursday, please sign up on bulletin board in Byrne Hall. The recipients are so grateful and seeing them keeps us mindful "There but for the grace of God go I."

Now that we have several accounts at Cadence Bank (construction/general/discretionary), the bank has requested that individual checks be written for each account. For example, if you are writing a check for the general fund and discretionary, you will need to write individual checks. We want to make sure you get credit for each check written. Thank you for your help.

Please keep the following in your prayers Bev, Martha, Mickey, Emma, Kenzie, Jonathan, Jessica, Lisa, Tina, Con, Niddy, Lora, Nancy, Sandra, Maggie, Kevin, Libby, Russ, Andy, Polly, Frank, Sarah, Jay, Joy, Jane, Colleen, Robbi, Sandra, Lowell, Maggie, Anna, Bob, Faye, Helen, Nancy, Maxine, John, Paul, Kylie, Marilyn, Michael, Maria, Mary, Charlotte, Sue, Evan, Ann, Keith, Jay, Colleen, Joy, Jane, Dee Dee, Donna, John, Maggie, Anna, Frank, Bubba, Robert, Katie, Aubree, Sue, Colleen, Betty, Jimmy, Bubba, Mary Ruth, Lettie, Leslie, Sandra

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, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan