



St. Andrew's Tidings

A Message from Nancy Young:

I speak to you today as your Senior Warden... and, no.....that doesn't mean that I'm the oldest member of the vestry. It does, however, mean that they couldn't very well say no when I asked to speak to you this morning about our Living Stones Capital Campaign.

I became a member of St. Andrew's in 1985 when I moved back to Panama City as a single mother of two teenagers. I knew when I visited....from the joyful worship and the welcoming spirit of the congregation that this was a church I wanted to be a part of. Almost immediately I was absorbed into a weekly extended family group and asked to co-teach an adult Sunday school class.

Through the years memories have been built here, and when I look at this building, what I see is shaped by those experiences. I no longer see the building as it is. I do not see the building as a visitor to our church would see it.

I see my father walking with great effort, proudly but slowly, supported by two canes, as he escorts my daughter Debbie down the aisle on her wedding day. And the church is beautiful. I see Jacob, my first grandchild, held by John Wave at the baptismal font as he is "marked forever as Christ's own". And the church is beautiful.

During the last few years, the vestry, however, has had to look more critically and objectively at the need for repairs and renovations in the sanctuary and surrounding areas.....roof leaks, air conditioning problems, stairs to the choir loft that don't meet fire codes, leaks around the colored plastic windows at the southwest end of the sanctuary....windows that I thought for over twenty years were stained glass! And, of course, those bottom pinching pews that have been glued and restrained before but once again are coming apart

Perhaps because I am getting older myself, I have also become much more conscious of the struggles of those in our church family who are mobility challenged or hearing impaired.....the traffic jam of walkers and wheelchairs in the chapel side aisle of the sanctuary because there is no where to put them, the inability of some to slide down a long pew to let others in, problems with the sound system that mean some can not clearly hear the sermon or the announcements, members not being able to sing with the choir because they can't climb stairs.

We are a welcoming congregation that would love to have new members and yet, we have a church building, that not only presents many barriers to the handicapped, but also, unless you are already a member here, you may not be able to find your way into the sanctuary.

In 1923 in southern Poland, a Quaker nurse died. In that area, the only cemetery was Catholic. Because she was Quaker, according to church law, she could not be buried there. Finally, after much discussion, church officials decided to bury her just outside the cemetery fence. During the night after her burial, several of the town's poor who had benefited from her healing ministry came and moved the fence. That's what Christians are always doing, moving fences to include people.

We need to move the fence.

We need to make our church accessible and welcoming to all. 1 John 3:1 says, "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of a God and that is what we are!" God doesn't just love, He lavishes us with love. We need to not just thank Him but to extend that relentless love to others. God loves without limits and so must we.

Your vestry has talked and prayed and studied about these concerns and voted to take action. We have selected as our guiding scripture for this campaign the verses from 1 Peter 2:4-5

4 Come to Him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight and

5 like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We have asked you as a congregation to pray this scripture with us over the last four months....that our church might be a living spiritual house that seeks to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

We have also asked you for your pledges to accomplish this vision. Many of you have responded. Some may still have questions as to whether this is the best way to accomplish that goal. I will be glad to talk with anyone who has questions. I am asking you to trust the vision of your vestry.

What we do with our money is a sign of who we are and what we love. Generosity is a spiritual practice that reflects an attitude of heart and mind, an attitude of thanksgiving for God's lavish love and a desire to love as He loves.

The chaplain of my Cursillo weekend, Bishop Shipes,
If you can't bring yourself to give to the church, go down to the bay and throw some money in every so often to show that it doesn't have a hold on you.

What is a living stone? It's a rock that is alive...like hot, flowing lava.
A rock on fire.....on fire to bring others into the circle of God's lavish love, a rock on fire with the Holy Spirit.
Be a rock on fire!

Nancy Young

Senior Warden

November 24, 2013

Christmas Services, 2013

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Festal Holy Eucharist

With Brass

Christmas and Easter are the two most special times for evangelism, and we seek to minister to all who would worship with us.

If you wish to give flowers on the Sundays during Advent, we will be using white Poinsettias, which you may take home following the service. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

December Centennial Challenge

Our December Centennial Challenge is to collectively, as a parish family, accomplish 100 “good works” from Dec.1 – Dec. 22. The acts may vary. Some examples include, **but are not limited to:**

Volunteer work at a hospital

Meals on wheels

Visiting someone in a nursing home/hospital/shut-ins

Helping at church - in the office, cleaning, altar guild, providing food, etc.

Meals at Grace

Providing a ride to a shut-in or to doctor appointments

Taking communion to a shut-in

Calling and talking with those who are ill or shut-in

Babysitting so parents can shop or make preparations for Christmas

Participating in events of local organizations to help others

Raking a neighbor’s yard

Inviting someone in need to dinner

Christmas angel to a child in need

Ideas for younger members of our church family:

Helping mom with chores around the house

Picking up after yourself

Completing homework without being prompted

Helping a friend at school

Participating in events of local organizations to help others such as canned food drives, walks, collections.

Each week parishioners are asked to provide a brief note about the work(s) completed on a holly-shaped note located on the card table by the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. When 100 “good works” have been completed, the holly-shaped notes will be displayed as a wreath in Byrne Hall.

St. Mary's Guild

Where: Byrne Hall

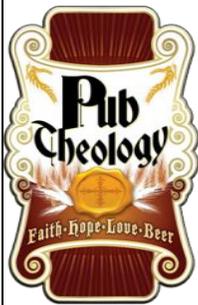
When: Dec. 10, 2013 10:00 am

Program: Bonnie, Tate on the Visual Arts Center

Hostesses: Nell Barnett, Margaret Lee, Mary Wimpenny

Come join us ladies for our last meeting in 2013 and hear our own Bonnie Tate. Also, please bring a gift for either a man or a woman to be given to a local nursing home.

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



*Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!*

LIVING STONES

Where Are We Now? III

Our most recent “Where Are We Now” report concluded with the thought that when we look back on our renovations and renewal project that we all have a part in this restoration, that all have committed to its success. We are most grateful that we have had a total of fifty-three signed commitments from the members of our St. Andrew’s church family. We are strongest and most capable when we come together as one and move forward together. Making and keeping a commitment is a serious matter. As people of faith we should certainly enter into any commitment with thoughtful prayer. We are most thankful to those who have already taken that step and are working to turn their commitments into reality. How wonderful it would be to know that we have all chosen to participate at whatever level we are lead. Our participation is what is most important, being present to complete the circle. If you have not yet made your commitment, a member of our Capital Fund campaign would like to contact you in order to encourage you to take that step and help complete the circle. *Frank Lopez*

OSK is requesting soap, shower gels, shampoo, conditioners, powder, tissues and any other items that parishioners would like to donate for our homebound for Christmas visits. Please leave any items in Byrne Hall. Thank you.

Please keep the following in your prayers : 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, Katie, Aubree, Sue, Colleen, Betty, Jimmy, Bubba, Mary Ruth, Lettie, Leslie, Sandra, Marilyn, Faye, Mary, Alexis, John, Evan, Cindy, LaVern, Daniel, Doug, Eli, Kyle, Bob, Sean, Tim, Libby, Marilyn, Sue, Michael, Kyle, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Colleen, Ryan, Joy, Jane, Anna, Maggie, Michela, Doris

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, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan