



## St. Andrew's Tidings

### *Message from Margaret*

The story in our gospel lesson this week is about a blind man whom Jesus causes to see; and it is basically about the spiritual blindness of those who are offended by this sign of Jesus. The story begins with some people wanting to know if the man's blindness is caused by sin—either that of his parents or because the man sinned. And we notice how Jesus answers this question. Jesus always held to the first part of the syllogism—that sin leads to suffering. However he does not accept that suffering is there because of the individual sin. Jesus says it is not because this man sinned, or because of some sin by the parents, but this situation is there so that the glory of God might be manifested. Jesus tells us not to speculate endlessly why this happened, but to ask ourselves, “What can be done so that the glory of the creator can fulfill itself?”

So Jesus calls the man to himself, picks up some dirt, spits on it and makes a little mud cake and puts it on the man's eyes, and tells him to go and wash it off in the pool of Siloam—which is one of the few places of fresh water within the walls of Jerusalem. The man, trusting in Jesus, does what he asks, and his sight is restored. And then the eyes that had been freshly opened, looked upon one of the ugliest controversies in the New Testament. There are all sorts of arguments as to how this could have happened. The Pharisees get into the act because Jesus does this on the Sabbath, and this breaks one of their laws. But Jesus is able to use even this. He calls the man and says, “Do you believe in the Son of God—the Son of Man.?” And the man honestly asks, “Who is that?” And Jesus responds, “The man who talks with you is he.” And with that, the man believes. He sees the source of his healing and has the grace to say “thank you” as he says, “I believe,” and falls down and worships him.

We who have our eyesight live in a world full of light. Light comes to us in countless forms and colors. So much light surrounds us that we miss more of it than we see, and what we do see is so familiar that we ignore it. We are, in effect, blind to most of the light in our lives. The situation is not so different when the light in question is not visual light but *the light that is Christ*. The beginning of the

Gospel of John tells us that “what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.”

We are often blind to the light that is Christ, just as the religious leaders in the story. We erect screens before ourselves, letting light filter through only those openings that we determine and control. But God’s Spirit cannot be contained by us. God wants to overcome our stubborn blindness. Jesus sent the man born blind to wash in the waters of Siloam. The man returned healed of his blindness. In this Lenten season we prepare to go, or return, to the waters of baptism. In these waters our own blindness again will be washed away. Then we, too, will be able to see Christ’s light and confess with the man, “Lord, I believe.” We will walk as children of the light.

Blessings and love,  
*Margaret+*

### *The Easter Vigil-A Time for Baptism*

*If you would like to be baptized, or if you have children or grandchildren to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, please call the office or speak to Margaret+*

***LENTEN QUIET DAY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 3  
10 A.M.***

***LENTEN MESSAGE-Dr. Shepard  
Time for Meditation  
Ending with A Eucharist for Healing and  
Wholeness***

*My Dear St. Andrew's Friends,*

*Thank you so very much for all your loving support and care during my husband, David's, recent illness and death on Feb. 27 of this year.*

*Your calls, tender words of consolation, beautiful flowers and many kindnesses were so very appreciated. Thank you, too, for the lovely memorials sent in David's name.*

*The delicious food brought in for our family was such a great help, and so greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.*

*I will be moving on to join some of my other family, and will be relocated in Jacksonville, FL in a few months. I will greatly miss our church and its members. I have wonderful memories.*

*Now our family knows David is safely in the everlasting arms of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ. It is such a consolation for us.*

*Again, thank you all so very much for every kindness.*

*God bless you all always, and my love to each of you. In Jesus precious name.*

*Holly Leavitt*

## Memorial Donations

Thank you to the following people who have made recent donations to the memorial fund:

Wyn & Laurie Ayers

Bob & Toni Banks

Anna Beckham

John Benton Sr.

Anne Bruce

Belle Casler

Irv & Jeanne Cirks

Mike & Lynn d'Albertis

David & Glenda Dean

Robert & Lucy Dozer

Tom & Teri Floore

Bill & Shirley Gobat

Marilyn Hermansen

Mary Johnson

Bill & Margaret Lee

Rosemary Long

Frank & Kathy Lopez

Vincent & Sandra Pisani

Snookie Raines

Jeanette Riley

Dick & Margaret Seeberger

Tom & Barbara Sontag

Anne Staley

Diane Tate

Bo & Beverly Temple

Art & Mary Wimpenny

Nancy Young

Iva Walter

Joyce & Forrest Gast

Elizabeth Keith

Gene Sapp

Brian & Jill Smith

Duane & Cheryl Stanley



**Lent at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Panama City**

**Stations of the Cross Every Friday at Noon Followed by Soup and Salad**

**Lenten Quiet Day Thursday, April 3, 10 a.m.**

**If you need a ride, rides will be available**

**Call the church at 763-7636**



We still have centennial cookbooks for sale! Where else can you get a useful \$10 gift? Why not buy several and keep them on hand for those last minute occasions when you need a gift? Plus, the cookbooks reflect the wonderful heritage of our church. Remember, each adult member (male and female) is asked to buy at least two cookbooks to help raise money for the Living Stones campaign. By purchasing cookbooks, each of us takes an active role toward reaching the goals of making our church more accessible and of enhancing a sense of community at St. Andrew's. Visit the table in Byrne Hall and purchase yours today!

***Puppeteers Needed!***

We are getting ready to start practicing for an Easter puppet show. If you are interested in being a puppeteer, please contact Laurie Ayers at 265-5978.





# **BASIC NWFL, INC.**

*Panama City, Florida 32401*

## **Donations Needed**

**Body washes/soap (male/female)**

**Women personal hygiene items**

**Basic household cleaning supplies**

**Laundry detergent**

**Bleach**

**Toilet tissue**

**Paper towels**

**Air freshener**

**Deodorant (male & female)**

**Shampoo & conditioner**

**Toothpaste/toothbrushes/Mouthwash**

**Razors (male & female)**

**Lotion & powder**

**Hand soap**

**Dish detergent**

**Towels & wash cloths**

**Socks, gloves, hats (appending cold weather)**

**Blankets**

**Basket will be in Byrne Hall for collections**



## *Easter Flowers*

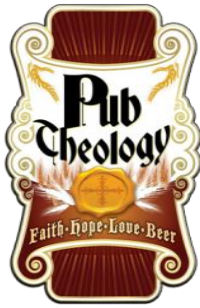
*We will soon be taking orders for Easter lilies so if you would like to give Easter lilies or the Gift of Music for Easter, please fill out the form that will be in the bulletin this coming Sunday and put it in the offering plate along with your check designated "Easter Lilies" or "Music." (Our brass players are college students and your gift is very helpful to them) .*

**CURSILLO "WELCOME BACK"**

**SUNDAY NIGHT 5 P.M.**

**COVERED DISH**

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



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

***Please keep the following in your prayers : Anna, Michela, Doris, Helen, James, Maggie, Pat, Judy, David, Jerry, Amy, Julie, Frances, Henry, Lena, J.W., Harold, Wendy, Sandy, Charley, Danette, Pam, Eric, Robert, John, Toni, Sandie, Barbara, Deborah, Stephanie, Steve, Jane, Joy, Colleen, Ryan, Joni, Linda, Jeremy, Lauren, Rebecca, Margaret, Dick, Pam, Eric, Robert, John, Bill, Linda, Patricia, Marsha, Stephanie, Betty, Louanna, Louis, Ann, Maggie, Anne, Jerry, Jeremy, Patricia, Joe, David, Michele, Evan, Lauren, Wyn, Laurie, Bob, Sean, Jeanne***

***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***