



St. Andrew's Tidings

Message from Margaret+

The Gospel for Sunday offers us several different images of the kingdom of God, each offering a different insight into the meaning of God's reign. But the bottom line for all of us is that God's kingdom is already in and among us. We often ask, what in the world is the Kingdom like? And Jesus responds: "...it's kinda like this, and it's kinda like that." Arthur Koestler, the renowned artist, once said that the artist is someone on a tightrope between the practical world and the world of imagination. Jesus, as the "artist" of the Kingdom, displays this tension in his teaching. He always speaks of the Kingdom in terms of images or figures; the Kingdom of heaven *is like*...he never says that the Kingdom *is* this or that.

Jesus used images from the "practical world" to excite the imagination of his listeners about the realm of the Spirit. The parables represented for the people "sword bridges" over which they could pass from the world of the practical to the world of the imagination. So what do we make of the images Jesus speaks of in our reading.

The Mustard Seed and the Yeast: Whereas "growth" for us moderns happens as a result of more elbow grease, using sound management techniques, better marketing, the Kingdom grows as a mystery. What begins as a reality no bigger than a coffee bean metamorphoses into a bird-hosting bush—by anything but human means. It happens through the work of the Holy Spirit—and the Spirit produces more bounty than we ever imagined. Yet this growth is hidden to the human eye—like the working of yeast to leaven flour. The only restrictions on Kingdom growth may be our willingness to expose our mustard-seed faith to the sunlight of the spirit, and to put the "yeast of God" in the "flour" life presents us.

The Treasure and the Merchant: The Kingdom is of extraordinary value—hidden, waiting to be discovered. Once the Kingdom is discovered in all of its exquisite value, it becomes a no-brainer. You give up everything else in order to acquire it. How smart do you have to be to sell all you have to buy the winning lottery ticket from its unsuspecting owner? In the "treasure" image, the Kingdom

is *found* by us. In the “merchant” parable, the Kingdom is in *search* of us. We are found by the Kingdom, the merchant seeking pearls. Thus we see the Kingdom dynamic working both ways. We find the treasure of the Kingdom, but the Kingdom treasure also finds us.

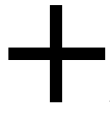
The Net: Theologian, C. H. Dodd, in *The Parables of the Kingdom*, contends that the “moral” of this parable is not part of the original saying—that is the bad fish get tossed out of the net at the end of the age, while the “good fish” stay in it. Dodd feels that the parable, in its original form, is told in response to Jesus’ friendship with “tax collectors and sinners.” In reality, Jesus had little success with interesting the “good fish” of society in the Kingdom message. Like the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son, the theme of the net parable is *radical inclusiveness*—the Kingdom gathers in notorious sinners, as well the notorious, all of us, no matter who we are. Everyone is invited to the Kingdom Feast, just as they are taken up in the Kingdom Net. There aren’t two nets. As Paul says, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God—who is above all and through all and in all.

Namaste’,

Margaret+

Pennies from Heaven For Living Stones

Ladies, you know how exasperating it is to have all your change fall to the bottom of your purse; and men, you know how heavy your pockets can become with all that silver. Do we have a deal for you! There is a large bucket for “pocket change” at the back of the worship space for you to dump your change! When the bucket gets filled up, we will have a contest for everyone to guess how much change is in the bucket. The person who comes closest to the amount will win a prize.



If you know someone who used to go to St. Andrew's and might like one of the crosses, please sign the list, leaving their address.

SEATING

Please take advantage of all the front row seats if you are hard of hearing, have a walker or cane. It is so easy to get to Communion from there! You never know when there might a prize under your seat!



Living Water Baptismal Font

Columbarium

Included in our architectural plans, are plans for a columbarium in the narthex. This is over and above the basic price of the renovation. However, structural plans can be made to insert an indoor columbarium if there is enough interested. We have received a price from Armento , a company that does some of the finest work in this area of handiwork . The basic price is \$300. Tax would probably be on top of that. They come in a 4 niche setting. So to get one, we would need at least 4 people interested. There will be a table on Sunday with information and pictures if you are interested in reading about it. Then we will put out a list to see how many people are really interested. To build it, would need to have the money ahead of time. Feel free to browse the information.

A number of you have expressed interest. There is a sign-up sheet on the display table in the carpeted area of Byrne Hall.



**TIME FOR
BREAKFAST—BREAKFAST BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M. \$3
PER PERSON OR \$6 PER FAMILY. WE NEED
YOUR GROUP TO SIGN UP FOR AUGUST!**

Contact Information

We are compiling a list of members who do not have family locally. We would like the name/names and phone numbers or other contact information so that we can contact them in case of an emergency. This would be for all members not just older ones. The book with the information will be kept in the church office. Please email your contact information to Hannah Davis at daviskh@aol.com or phone her at 769-4274.



ST. ANDREWS MOVIE LOVERS MOVIE NIGHT

Stay tuned for info on the next movie night!



**St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church
Cursillo**



Would you please include the following announcement in your newsletters or other member communications. Thanks very much for your consideration.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, prayer, and music.

Saturday August 23, 2014 - 12 Noon

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Pensacola.

3200 N 12th Ave, Pensacola FL 32503

[Map](#) | [Website](#)

Program

- 12 Noon - Worship with Eucharist and witness talk
- Music of joy and celebration
- Potluck lunch
- 20 minutes at tables sharing closets moment to Christ, Piety, Study, etc.
- Close with music and dismissal prayer

Please bring a dish to share. Drinks will be provided.

Contact:

Bill Miller [850-934-5208](tel:850-934-5208) wtimiller@gmail.com



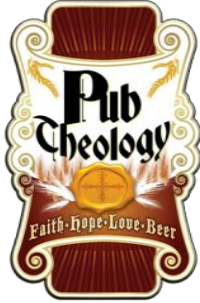
Progress!

Guess which room this is?



We're getting there!!

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



*Bring a
Bible-
no experience
necessary!*

Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, Janet, Glen, Robert, Ginny, Pete, Steve, Maria, Ethel, Joy, Jane, Kelly, Ryan, Colleen, Pete, Joni, Tim, Carol, Linda, Lui, Rhonda, Steven, Kathy, Jeremy, Rosemary, Dorothy, Kiley, Maggie, Patricia, Jeremy, Anne, MaryLou, George, Walt

We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; Jeff, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan