



St. Andrew's Tidings

A Message from Margaret

Peter's question to Jesus in our gospel lesson this week reveals his frustration: "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often shall I forgive?" Peter wanted to "do what was right" and follow the law, but he also wanted to know at what point he could just let it go and let his brother or sister have it. Jesus replies, "Not just seven times, but seventy times seven." Jesus' reply was not just a mathematical formula whereby after 490 times (or seventy-seven times as in the NRSV) that we can really give it to all those sullen and resentful people around us (Armentrout, 2008). It seems Jesus is warning us about keeping accounts when we ourselves have been forgiven by God so many times.

The parable of the unforgiving servant gives us a new perspective. None of us can repay God for our blessings, but we can show our gratitude by the way we treat others. The number seven represents completeness or perfection in the scriptures. So seventy times seven represents total forgiveness. When we accept the fact that we ourselves need patience and forgiveness from others we are much more likely to be patient and forgive others.

Kari Jo Verhulst has written in *Sojourners*: Human beings have an amazing capacity for self-preservation. Our protective instinct helps us to detect danger and warns us about people or situations that cause harm. This ability can over-function when trust has been betrayed or disappointed, making it terribly hard to trust again. This survival instinct is part of what makes it so difficult to forgive. Christians have a habit of tossing the notion of forgiveness around as if it were easy and cheap, undervaluing its costliness. This awareness makes Jesus' command to forgive "not seven times, but seventy times seven" overwhelming in its demand.

When betrayal, rejection, or violation cuts us to the bone, forgiveness often becomes something we desperately hope for and yet cannot find, no matter how ardently we pray for and sincerely desire it. It becomes clear that the pain and anger will run its own course regardless of what we will, and while we are waiting for release it is dangerously easy to become angrier with the anger.

This is when I most need to entrust my struggle to forgive to those who love and pray for me. I need them to take hold of my longing to forgive and to assure me that it will come, and that they will assume my prayers until I can take them up for myself. When it comes to this point, I need companions who will stand outside of my anger and pain, neither telling me to “give it up to God” (a piece of advice that only makes us feel worse) nor affirming my anger (which only increases it). Rather, they become my memory for a while, mediating for me God’s promise that the gift of forgiveness will come, however slowly.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu reminds us that “In forgiving, people are not being asked to forget. On the contrary, it is important to remember, so that we should not let such atrocities happen again. Forgiveness does not mean condoning what has been done. It means asking what happened seriously...drawing out the sting in the memory that threatens our entire existence.”

Blessings and love,

Margaret+

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL Begins this week

Because of our building situation, this fall we will have an informational Sunday School at 9 a.m. in Byrne Hall with coffee and sweet rolls. It begins this week, and our speaker will be Calvin Chester who will speak on Edible Landscapes. Each Sunday we will have an informational speaker who will talk about a relevant topic. Gather around the tables.

Building Update

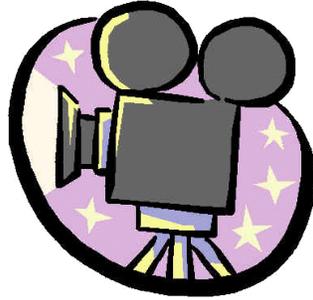
You will soon receive a letter in two parts from the Building and Oversight Committees, one about the Columbarium, and one about the cathedral chairs. Please “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest!”

Bay Lights is Coming Soon!

We are sponsors for Bay Lights at Beckwith this year. St. Andrew's was the choice to have a "Kick off" as we heard Eleanor Reeves, the Interim Executive Director of Beckwith describe the fun we will be having at Beckwith Nov. 1 & 2. Make your plans to be present for all the fun, the band, the Cursillo Ultrea, etc. The events have been planned so you may attend and not have to spend the night, however, if you wish to spend the night, make your reservations early! (See information within the Tidings)

Don't forget your "Wine for Beckwith!"

THIS IS RECTOR'S DESCARATIONARY FUND SUNDAY



St. Andrews Movie Lovers Movie Night

On Friday, September 19th, St. Andrews Episcopal Church will host the St. Andrews Movie Lovers Movie Night. Details are as follows:

Who: Dr. Dan Finley will coordinate; you can contact him by email at dfinley@gulfcoast.edu When: Friday, September 19th. Start time: 6 PM.

Where: Byrne (Parrish) Hall, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1608 Baker Court, PC 32401 [Parking in the Back]

What: Dinner and a Movie: In honor of Robin Williams and his recent passing:

Movie: "The Fisher King" (1991) IMDb rating 7.6; Starring Robin Williams, Jeff Bridges, Mercedes Ruehl, Amanda Plummer. Rating: R for language and violence. After hearing a popular DJ rail against yuppies, a madman carries out a massacre in Babbitt's, a popular New York bar. Dejected and remorseful, the DJ begins an unlikely friendship with Parry, a former professor who lost his bearings and became homeless after seeing his wife's violent death in the bar shooting. The DJ seeks redemption by helping Parry in his quest to recover an item that he believes is the Holy Grail and to win the heart of the woman he loves. The movie is loosely tied to the Arthurian legend of the Fisher King.

Dinner: Meatball submarine sandwiches, red and white wine, ginger ale and chilled bottled water. Trivia Contest at end with winner getting bottle of champagne. Also please note: **We now have a big screen (48-inch) color TV!**

Other: No admittance fee, but donations accepted and encouraged. One-hundred percent (100%) of all donations will go to Living Stones building fund.

Future: The concept is to find interesting and watchable movies for the movie lovers at St. Andrews and from the community. Current thinking is to rotate between little-seen good-to-great movies, foreign movies and classic movies. Will take requests.

For additional information, contact Dr. Dan at email address above.

COMING UP: CURSILLO WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 25-28TH.

APPLICATIONS ARE ON THE
TRACT RACK IN BYRNE HALL

*Don't Forget your
Pennies from Heaven
For
Living Stones*

The Central Gulf Coast Diocese Retreat on Women's Ministries



Rahab, one of Jesus' scandalous ancestors, helped the people of Israel enter the promised land.

Women of the Bible: Our Spiritual Foremothers Come Alive!

October 3rd-5th, 2014

At Beckwith Camp and Retreat Center

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for further information or call the church office+.

Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, , 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, Debbie, Susan, Nurse Nancy, Dr. Kent, Mary Jane, Sammy, Rick, Jane, Joy, Ryan, Virginia, Diane, Glenda, Jay, Laura, Pam, Pat, Ashley, Reese

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