



St. Andrew's Tidings

A Message from Ray

What is this Heavenly Bread?

The Reverend Raymond Wishart, Deacon

This week's Old Testament reading is from Exodus as the Israelites were wondering around the desert grumbling about being hungry and just generally not happy. So they asked God for food, he rained bread or "manna" from heaven for them. The word manna means "What is it?" in Hebrew, and that still is the question, "What is it?".

God told Moses he would rain down bread from heaven for the people. That evening quail came and covered the camp. The people killed the birds and ate their meat. The next morning, when the dew evaporated, a white substance covered the ground. The Bible describes manna as white like coriander seed and tasting like wafers made with honey.

When I was young my parents would drop me off at Sunday school in the base chapel where we lived. We never really went to church but I did attend Sunday school, actually remember more of that than I realized. I remember this lesson from those days, and the teacher actually brought in good ol' fashioned Nabisco Graham Crackers to represent manna. I'm not really sure at what point in my life I realized that the chosen people didn't really eat Graham Crackers for 40 years.

Moses instructed the people to gather an *omer*, or about two quarts' worth, for each person each day. When some of the people tried to save extra, it became wormy and spoiled. Manna appeared for six days in a row. On Fridays the people were to gather a double portion, because it did not appear on the next day, the Sabbath. And yet, the portion they saved for the Sabbath did not spoil.

Skeptics have tried to explain manna as a natural substance, such as a resin left behind by insects or a product of the tamarisk tree. However, the tamarisk substance appears only in June and July and does not spoil overnight according to my resources (Wikipedia of course).

God told Moses to save a jar of manna so future generations could see how the Lord provided for his people in the desert. Aaron filled a jar with an omer of manna and put it in the Ark of the Covenant, in front of the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

Exodus says the Jews ate manna every day for 40 years. Miraculously, when Joshua and the people came to the border of Canaan and ate the food of the Promised Land, manna stopped the next day and was never seen again.

In one form or another, bread is a recurring symbol of life in the Bible because it was the staple food of ancient times. Manna could be ground into flour and baked into bread; it was also called the bread of heaven.

More than 1,000 years later, Jesus Christ repeated the miracle of manna in the Feeding of the 5,000. The crowd following him was in the "wilderness" and he multiplied a few loaves of bread until everyone had eaten their fill.

Some bible scholars that are smarter than I am believe that Jesus' phrase, "Give us this day our daily bread" in the Lord's Prayer, is a reference to manna, meaning that we are to trust God to supply our physical needs one day at a time, as the Jews did in the desert.

Today we still celebrate in a Holy Eucharist, in which you take some form of bread, as Jesus commanded his followers to do at the Last Supper. Some Sunday if you receive Graham Crackers instead of our usual wafers then you will know why.

I think the part about this whole story that amazes me is that God always supplies what we need to nourish our spiritual and physical needs, and like the manna we always get just enough – not too much but always enough. Be sure to thank God for always knowing what we need and when we need it. Pretty amazing, isn't it?

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL : Deacon Ray Speaks about EFM

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. Each Sunday we will have an informational speaker who will talk about a relevant topic. Gather around the tables.

This week, The Rev. Deacon Ray Wishart will talk about Education for Ministry. This is a wonderful program for lay people originating from The School of Theology at Sewanee. It begins with Old Testament and ends with Christianity in the world today. We hope to start an EFM group so come and learn all about it.

Next week, Dr. Valerie Mincy from BASIC of NW Florida will be our speaker. She will speak about the work BASIC does with those living with AIDS.

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) So far we have six people going!

Don't forget your "Wine for Beckwith!"

Chairs and Columbarium

A letter concerning the purchase of a Columbarium Niche and chairs for the new space was mailed last week to each parishioner. If you did not receive yours please call the church. Some extra letters will be on the table with the cook books and crosses. The Niches are \$300 until September 30th. After that the prices goes to \$500, and then to \$1000 after we move in. This has to do with construction costs.

*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+.

The Church is looking good!!



Niches for the Columbarium



The Travertine is going up

Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, , Pete, Steve, Maria, Ethel, Joy, Jane, Kelly Colleen, Joni, Tim, Carol, Linda, Lui, Rhonda, Steven, Kathy, Jeremy, Rosemary, Dorothy, , Kiley, Maggie, Patricia, Anne, MaryLou, George, Walt, Debbie, Susan, Nurse Nancy, Dr. Kent, Mary Jane, Sammy, Rick, Jane, Joy, Ryan, Virginia, Diane, Glenda, Laura, Pam, Pat, Ashley, Reese, Hazen, Mary, Robin,

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, Jeremiah