



St. Andrew's Tidings

A Message from Margaret

We in the church are on an amazing journey. Like Moses, whom we will be hearing a lot about in the coming weeks, along with Abraham and Jacob and many other biblical ancestors who followed the Spirit's leading to a new place of promise and hope, each of us is traveling a path God has set before us. Like any journey, there are twists and turns, high roads, and low places that we must navigate to reach our destination. Most people want a clear understanding where they are going and refer to maps or GPS to find how to get to the destination. We want the quickest way and the most direct path.

Congregational life is no different. When you join a faith community, your journey takes another turn. You are no longer traveling alone. Your life will begin to change as you travel with others, even if you assumed your life would keep on the same pathway when you climbed on board. Most of us join churches that seem to have a clear direction, only to discover that the roads we travel by faith are rarely smooth. Every congregation faces times in their lives together when a shift takes them down a different road and the church finds itself in an unfamiliar place. But going back is not an option. This twist in the journey calls the congregation out of its ordinary routine. It enters an in-between time, a space in which things may no longer feel familiar and comfortable. Naturally, this makes us anxious.

But we need not fear. Rather than being anxious, be expectant with grace. This in-between time can be a sacred space for discovering new life-giving possibilities for the congregation. When we listen to God's call to Abraham (Genesis 12ff), we may be surprised to discover how much is involved in responding to God's call—even before the journey begins. First of all there is the need to listen to God. This is no easy task for God's people today. Trust may not seem all that important when the congregation is coasting along, doing what feels familiar and comfortable. Not until the road shifts, do we begin to wonder about which direction is right. Not until we tire of driving on the same familiar roundabout, do we think of asking for directions. Shifts and twists and turns cause us to make new choices.

When things are rocking along as usual, it's easy to forget that we are not just another group of people who happen to get together on Sundays. We are people called by God—and God has a purpose for us. Author Eugene Peterson writes: “The assumption of spirituality is that always God is doing something before I know it. So the task is...to become aware of what God is doing so that I can respond and participate in it.”

Think about the profound spiritual opportunity that transition offers. Biblical stories remind us that the people of God are a people on a journey, often living through in-between times. When they failed to create sacred time and space, our biblical ancestors found it difficult to focus on God's leading, God's providing and God's calling them to a specific purpose in that specific moment. Just as God calls each believer into a life of love and witness, so too does God call each congregation. That all might express itself a certain way for years; but eventually the circumstances that give rise to a particular church will change. This community of faith may find itself wondering how to get back to the “good ole days.” But God's invitation to congregations facing these in-between times is more challenging-yet also more faith-filled. God invites us to imagine how our past might influence God's call today and for the future.

The business of our lives as both individuals and as communities of faith pushes us outward, rarely giving us room to stop and listen. In-between times invite us to create a sacred space where we can discover and rediscover God's call. As we begin to envision divinely inspired possibilities, we as the church will begin to realize the blessings of leaning into in-between times. I love you all.

Namaste',

Margaret+

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL : Hear Dr. Valerie Mincey from BASIC

Dr. Valerie Mincey from BASIC of NW Florida will be our speaker at Sunday School this week. An often sought out speaker, Dr. Mincey will tell us about the work BASIC of North West Florida is doing here in Panama City with regard to AIDS prevention.

Sunday School for October: Forgiveness

Several weeks ago you heard me say: “Forgiveness is something God had to invent for the drama to continue. There could have been no meaningful future for the world had this particular reality been called into being.” This sermon on the topic of forgiveness created a lot of conversation, and because of this, I will be doing a 5 week class on forgiveness beginning October 5. It will consist of a short DVD presentation to get the conversation started.

Bay Lights is Coming Soon!: November 1st. Plan now to attend!! Buy your raffle ticket from the Jimmersons for a chance at \$5,000! 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 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. The Chairs are \$240 each. If you would like to purchase a chair, please see Anne Staley following the service.



THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 &
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Bring your pets to be blessed Saturday October 4th at 10 a.m. The blessing will take place in the Pet Garden. If you are unable to attend on Saturday, you are invited to bring your pets to church on Sunday for a blessing. All pets must be on leashes, in cages, bowls, etc.

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



Office Volunteers

We are in need of office volunteers. If you can spare a few hours, morning or afternoon, please speak to Kathy Lopez. You can also call her at 785-9604

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.

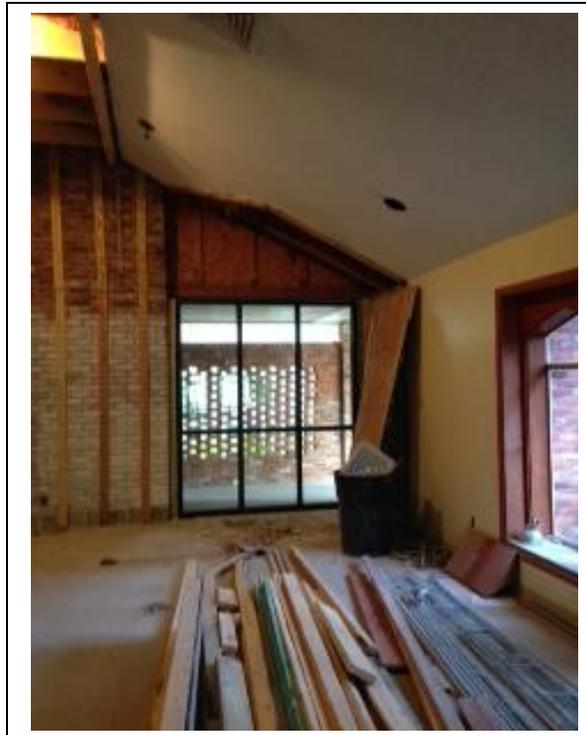
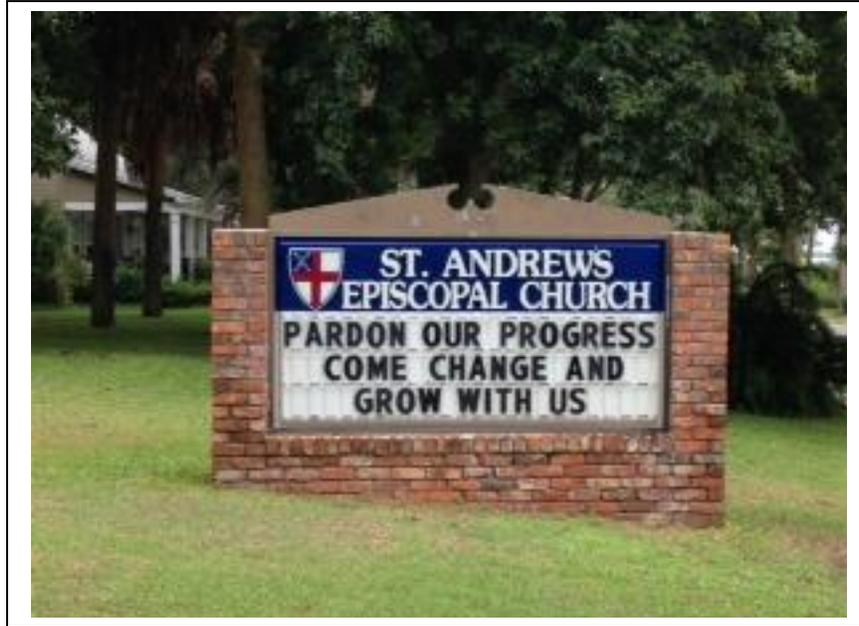
Women of the Bible: Our Spiritual Foremothers Come Alive!

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!!



Window from inside the Chapel

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