



St. Andrew's Tidings

A Message from Deacon Ray:

Trick or Treat or Prayers?

By The Reverend Raymond Wishart

Deep in the “bible belt” if we mention Halloween we likely to be hit with all sorts of reasons why we should not even speak of it, and likely will be cursed just for bringing it up. Many churches will offer “Fall Festivals” for their youth just to keep them from observing Halloween. In recent years the secular world has certainly seized the occasion to make it into a huge commercial marketing event between the tons of sugar-laden goodies to be sold for distribution to America’s already-overweight youth, and the variety of non-imaginative costumes for people of all ages to wear. The reality is that Halloween has deep Christian roots that date back more than 800 years.

Halloween or Hallowe'en; a contraction of "All Hallows' Evening"), also known as Allhalloween, All Hallows' Eve, or All Saints' Eve, is a yearly celebration observed in a number of countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It initiates the triduum of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed believers. Within Allhallowtide, the traditional focus of All Hallows' Eve revolves around the theme of using "humor and ridicule to confront the power of death."

Today's Halloween customs are thought to have been influenced by folk customs and beliefs from the Celtic-speaking countries, some of which have pagan roots, and others which may be rooted in Celtic Christianity. Jack Santino, a folklorist, writes that "the sacred and the religious are a fundamental context for understanding Halloween in Northern Ireland, but there was throughout Ireland an uneasy truce existing between customs and beliefs associated with Christianity and those associated with religions that were Irish before Christianity arrived".

Today's Halloween customs are also thought to have been influenced by Christian dogma and practices derived from it. Halloween falls on the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (also known as All Saints' or Hallowmas) on 1 November and All Souls' Day on 2 November, thus giving the holiday on 31 October the full name of All Hallows' Eve. Since the time of the primitive Church, major feasts in the Christian Church (such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost) had vigils which began the night before, as did the feast of All Hallows'. These three days are collectively referred to as Allhallowtide and are a time for honoring the saints and praying for the recently departed souls who have yet to reach Heaven.

By the end of the 12th century Allhallowtide had become holy days of obligation across Europe and involved such traditions as ringing church bells for the souls in purgatory. In addition, it was customary for criers dressed in black to parade the streets, ringing a bell of mournful sound and calling on all good Christians to remember the poor souls. "Souling", the custom of baking and sharing soul cakes for all christened souls, has been suggested as the origin of trick-or-treating. The custom dates back at least as far as the 15th century and was found in parts of England, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Italy. Groups of poor people, often children, would go door-to-door during Allhallowtide, collecting soul cakes, in exchange for praying for the dead, especially the souls of the givers' friends and relatives.

So when all those little neighborhood kids in garish costumes come knocking on your door offer them a soul cake so that they may pray for the souls of your friends and relatives. Maybe, just maybe, it will put a little more Christianity back in the world . . . or at least word will get around among the candy mongers that there is no need to stop at your house, which will give you some peace and quiet to have time for you to pray for the souls of lost loved ones.

OFFICE PHONE



When calling the office, the phone will ring five times if there is no one at the front desk. It then recycles to the other phones. Please be patient, as someone may be at one of the other 4 phones. If the message comes on, then and only then, does it mean that no one is there.

Chairs

The Chairs are \$240 each. If you would like to purchase a chair in honor of or in memory of someone, please see Anne Staley following the service.

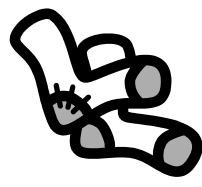
GROCERY CART MINISTRY

During November we are collecting canned vegetables, *especially green beans and corn*. All donations will be taken to the food pantry at St. Andrew Baptist Church for distribution in our community. When you are shopping for your family, please remember to pick up canned vegetables for our needy neighbors.





SOCK IT TO 'EM



As we approach winter one of the challenges many people face, especially the homeless, is keeping their feet warm and dry. St. Andrew's serves Supper at Grace on **December 18th** and we would like to give each of our guests a pair of **NEW CREW** socks. Our goal is to collect 100 pairs of men's socks, 25 pairs of women's socks, and 25 pairs of children's socks. If you can help with this ministry by purchasing socks, pick up a "foot" from the display in Byrne Hall. Keep the foot as a reminder first to purchase socks and then to pray for the welfare those who will wear the socks. Please return all socks by **November 30th**.

St. Mary's Guild

When: Nov. 11, 2014, 10:00 am

Where: Byrne Hall

Program: Just 1 month before Christmas and Valerie will join us to make a scarf or scarves to help us with our Christmas lists. All ladies welcome and please bring a friend if you'd like!

Office Volunteers

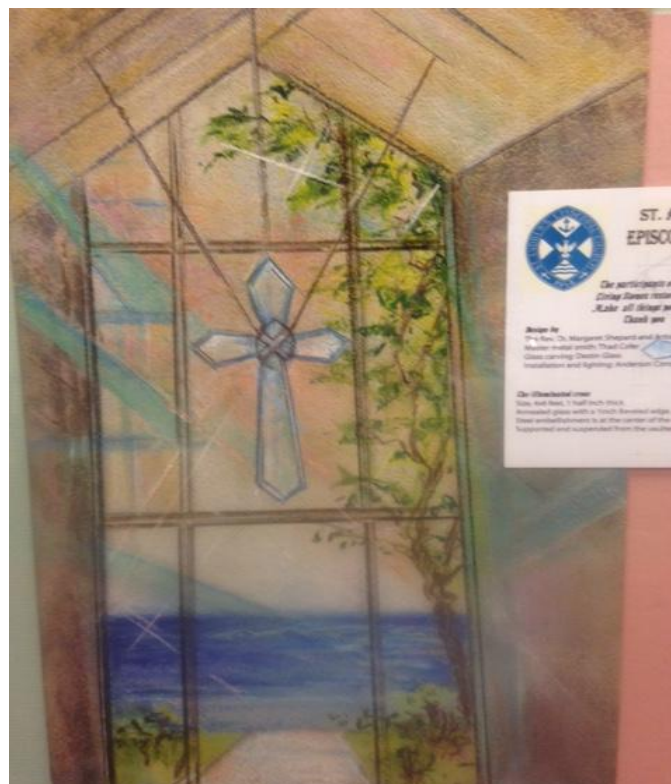
We are in need of office volunteers. If you can spare a few hours, morning or afternoon, please speak to Kathy Lopez. You can also call her at 785-9604.

Columbarium

Our construction is moving along and it will not be too much longer before completion. If you would like to take advantage of the lower price of \$500 per niche in the Columbarium, please call the office, or send in the Columbarium form. If you do not have one, extras are on the round table in Byrne Hall. Upon Completion, the cost will be \$1,000 per niche.

NEW HANGING CROSS

ARTIST, COLLEEN GREEN, IN CONCERT WITH METAL ARTIST, THAD COFER, HAS DESIGNED A NEW HANGING CROSS TO BE SUSPENDED IN FRONT OF THE NEW CRYSTAL WINDOW. THE CROSS CONTAINS THE ST. ANDREW'S SHIELD IN THE CENTER, AND SURROUNDED BY OLIVE BRANCHES TO BE IN CONCERT WITH THE NEW BAPTISMAL FONT. PLEASE SEE THE BEAUTIFUL FRAMED RENDITIONS ON THE TABLE IN BYRNE HALL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HONOR SOMEONE, OR WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THIS CROSS IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE, THE COST IS \$4,000. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE, OR SPEAK WITH MARGARET+



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



Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, , Jeremy, Rosemary, Kiley, Maggie, Patricia, Anne, MaryLou, George, Walt, Susan, Mary Jane, Sammy, Rick, Jane, Joy, Ryan, Virginia, Laura, Pam, Ashley, Hazen, Mary, Anna, Diane, Sara, Debbie, Glenda, Sarah, Robin, Tammy, Alex, Betty, Jim, Mikey, Larry, Gary, Jonathan, Pat, Marty, Rita, Eric, Stephanie, Elijah, Dorothy

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