



## St. Andrew's Tidings

### *A Message from Margaret,*

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” (Jn.1:6) As in Advent 2, the gospel this week again focuses on the figure of John the Baptist. The Fourth Evangelist always refers to him simply as John, without the identifying title of Baptist used by the Synoptic writers. There are no details here of John’s personal background or appearance. He is the prophetic voice—a living presence of scriptural promise.

John’s call was to be a witness to “testify to the light.” It is made clear that John was not the light, but his task was to *enable others to see the light* – i.e., to witness to Jesus, the “true light.” John as witness claims nothing further for himself and carries out that role in what follows. Thus when priests and Levites were sent from Jerusalem to question him about his identity, John confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” As they continued to press him, John further insisted that he was not Elijah or the prophet. It was a commonly held belief that the return of Elijah or another prophet would signal the beginning of the Messianic era.

When the Pharisees asked John why he baptized if he was not the Messiah, Elijah, or the prophet, John replied that he baptized with water, but there was one whom *they did not know* who was far greater. Indeed, John was not worthy to perform the duty of the lowest slave—to untie his sandal.

This emphasis on Jesus as the one the world did not know is a recurring theme in John’s gospel. Throughout his ministry Jesus was misunderstood by many, including his intimate followers. John clearly understood his own role as the messenger who prepared the way for the Lord—*Jesus was the focal point not John*. John had truly listened to God, knew what his own task was, and acted in humble obedience to follow that call.

This, then, is our task during this Advent—to truly listen to God in order to discern what our task might be—to hear what God is calling us to do—to be. Advent is also the ideal time, as we wait, longing in faith for the joy of the Incarnation to remind ourselves that Christians are never natural born. They are virgin born—born, if at all, through the *Spirit and fire*.

Lane Denison reminds us that an “Advent sound of gentle stillness, a silent and holy moment can prepare us once again for due respect and kindness toward all of life—and toward ourselves, for we are God’s beloved. The church can, the church must have a hand in this. We must turn from our crippling narcissism to the practice of reverence.” Only then can we begin to bear fruits worthy of repentance.

*Blessings and love,*

*Margaret+*



**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: OUR CHOIR WILL  
OFFER A CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE THIS  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> AT 3:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>,  
4:00 P.M.**

**ORDO CALENDARS ARE HERE. THE COST  
IS \$3.75.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9 A.M. WALKING THROUGH THE BIBLE**



## *Christmas Flowers and Music*

*Because of our lack of space, the Christmas flowers will be limited. We will have poinsettias, and we will decorate the font, the paschal candle, the Advent wreath, as well as having flowers at the altar. We invite you to donate towards this in memory or in honor of a loved one. You also may give the "Gift of Music" and underwrite the musicians for Christmas Eve.*

*\_\_\_ I would like to give flowers at Christmas*

*\_\_\_ I would like to give the Gift of Music*

*\_\_\_ In memory \_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_*

*Name:*

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WILL BE SENT OUT JUST AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. INCLUDED IN THEM WILL BE A PLEDGE CARD FOR 2015. WE URGE YOU TO FILL ONE OUT SO WE MAY MAKE A STAB AT WHAT SORT OF INCOME WE WILL HAVE FOR THE YEAR. WE HAVE TO SUBMIT A % TO THE DIOCESE SO THEY WILL KNOW WHAT WE WILL BE SENDING AS OUR PLEDGE TO THE DIOCESE. IF WE DO NOT KNOW APPROXIMATELY WHAT OUR PLEDGE FACTOR IS, THEN WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL THE DIOCESE. ALSO INCLUDED WILL BE A LIVING STONES PLEDGE SHEET IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT YET MADE A PLEDGE TO THE BUILDING FUND. *Belle and Fran.***

### **CHAIRS**

**The Chairs are \$240 each. We now have 80 chairs that have been purchased. If you would like to purchase a chair in honor of or in memory of someone, please see Anne Staley following the service. The chairs will arrive next Wednesday**

### **VESTRY NOMINATION**

**Election of Vestry Members will take place at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 4, following the 10 a.m. service.**

**The qualifications for nomination to serve as member of the Vestry are as follows:**

1. Be a confirmed communicant-at least 16 years of age-and known to the treasurer as having pledged to the Parish.
2. Be active and committed in participation in worship and the work of the Parish.
3. Be willing and able to regularly and consistently attend vestry meetings.
4. Be an example and leader for others in the Parish in terms of personal Christian faith and life.

**Forms are in the rack in Byrne Hall**

**Sunday is Rector's Discretionary. Please remember this and be generous.**

## Come Jam With Us!

Part of the Supper at Grace Ministry is preparing 50 sack lunches for guests to take out. We are going to prepare the lunches on Thursday morning, December 18 at 10:00 in Byrne Hall. Sack lunches contain a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, chips, cookies and a drink. All of the fixings are provided-all we need a some willing hands to come "jam" with us for about an hour to prepare and pack the lunches. If you would like to join this ministry to help feed the needy, please contact Diane Tate (769-0941).



# Supper at Grace

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, St. Andrew's will be providing supper at Grace Episcopal Church on the beach. This is an opportunity to greet and serve those who need a meal and encouragement. We are expecting about 100 people and need help cooking, serving, and cleaning up. We will also be distributing the socks we have collected to our guests. Please look at the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall and see if there are any tasks you can help with to make this event a special night for those who come for supper.

We often ask "What can one person do?"- Can you do this? Questions?

Diane Tate (769-0941)

# Thank you!

Wednesday morning we wrapped almost 200 pairs of socks to give to the guests who come for Supper at Grace on Thursday, December 18! Many will be blessed by your generosity in both purchasing the socks and in sharing your time and talents to wrap them. Thank you also to those who brought gift wrapping. All wrappings not used was taken to Family Services for its clients. We will start serving supper and passing out the socks at 6 PM on December 18 that Grace Episcopal Church on the beach- please join us if you can.



## *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.*

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



## Year-end Giving

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church has had an outstanding year, our accomplishments are due to the financial support of our church family and friends. We are grateful for the support so many of you have given through your time, talents and gifts. As you consider year-end giving, please remember St. Andrews. All donations are tax deductible and can be given in cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc. Each of you is so important to all of us and make us whole as we come together as one to give praise to our Lord.**

*Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, , Jeremy, Rosemary, Kiley, Maggie, Patricia, Anne, MaryLou, George, Walt, Susan, Mary, Anna, Diane, Sara, Debbie, Sarah, Robin, Tammy, Alex, Betty, Jim, Mikey, Larry, Gary, Jonathan, Pat, Marty, Rita, Eric, Stephanie, Elijah, Dorothy, Dan, David, Don and Family, Kristy, Austin, Sandra, Anne, Tracy, Page, Norma, Lisa*

*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*