

## St. Andrew's Tidings



### *A Message from Margaret,*

The celebrated historian Sister Wendy Beckett, in her book, *Nativity*, has written lovely accompanying text fitted to paintings on biblical themes from late antiquity to the late fifteenth century. Of the Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth, commenting on a page from *The Blessed Virgin Mary's Book of Hours*, attributed to Jacobus Coen (15<sup>th</sup> century), she writes: "Mary did not ask for any sign from the angel: she believed with pure faith. But she was given what she had not requested, and the sign was one that paralleled her own miracle, but at a distance.

"Her cousin Elizabeth had grown old without a child, thought then to be a sign of God's displeasure, and an abiding grief for the deprived couple. But Elizabeth is already six months pregnant, the angel tells Mary (although, tactfully, he chooses not to tell her that her cousin's husband, Zechariah, has been unable to believe his own angelic message, and has been struck dumb for a time in consequence)."

We are told that Mary arose with haste and set out to visit her cousin. Luke tells us that they met in Zechariah's house, but the artist, Coen, prefers to show them embracing in a fertile field. The landscape suggests an unsafe world; the surrounding hills look like frozen rockets, sharp and hostile-not unlike the mountains that, according to John the Baptizer, which would be made low (Isabel Anders). But the spot where the two women meet, Sister Wendy continues, they seem to call into being by their presence-the trees and the grasses. But the artist cannot portray the moment the babies encounter each other; we only know about it through Elizabeth's ecstatic report of the leap she feels within.

What a picture we have here, far removed from the worldly centers of power and prestige. Two pregnant women, of greatly differing age-one old, the other a teenager-and two very different circumstances. And words of wisdom pour from

their lips, resounding in their world—and tumbling all the way to our day and our seeking hearts:

*The Mighty One has done great things for me,  
And holy is his name.*

It is on this Sunday-Mary Sunday- along with holy Mary, in the presence of blessed Elizabeth, that we, too, lift our hearts and souls to magnify the Lord.

*Blessings and love,*

*Margaret+*



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

**Festal Holy Eucharist With Brass Ensemble**

**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-Make a Great Christmas Gift!!**

**The Chairs are \$240 each. We now have 85 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.**

## **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**

**SAVE THE DATE !**

**THE BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF THE NEW  
WORSHIP SPACE**

**FEBRUARY 1, 2014**

**3:00 P.M.**

**THE RIGHT REV. PHILIP M. DUNCAN**

**BISHOP OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST, PRESIDING**

*Columbarium*

*As you can see, the construction is just about finished. If you would like to take advantage of the lower price of \$500 per niche in the Columbarium, you need to do at this time. Once we gain occupancy, the cost will be \$1,000 per niche. 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*