



## *St. Andrew's Tidings*

### *Message from Margaret*

Jesus' farewell discourse to his disciples on the night before he died includes the last of the "I am" statements in John's Gospel. Here Jesus proclaims:

"I am the true vine...". For the Easter community, the image of Jesus as the "true vine" conveyed a sense of uniqueness—that Jesus, indeed, was the Anointed One of God. Jesus is the One in whom Israel, and the whole world, finds the abundant life. It also marked the unique character of their community, and defined how this community was to live and move and have its being in and around the reality of Christ.

First, the image of the true vine and the branches expressed the importance of intimacy and mutual indwelling between the believer and the Risen Lord. The community derives its life from the Risen One, just as the branches find their source of life in the central vine. The fruitfulness of each branch depends upon an unclogged connection with its "umbilical cord" of nourishment—the primary vine.

Next the metaphor suggests the corporate nature of the Christian community. There are no "individual" branches. There's no "going it alone." Where does one branch start and the other one leave off?? They run together. They interweave and intertwine and encircle one another until they are nearly indistinguishable. None is "freestanding." None is "distinctive" (in the modern sense of needing to have one's own identity)—but all live together drawing from the same source: the vine of Christ Jesus.

In other words, there is no place in the Christian community for "hierarchies," whether they be in gifts or talents or good looks or personalities or ecclesiastical clout. "Distinctiveness" as a Christian comes only from being attached to Christ, nothing else. No one has precedence or privilege. Unlike worldlings, we Christians don't have to fret, or scurry around trying to be "somebody." It's perfectly fine to be a branch of the Vine! The idea is not just to *hang on*, but to bear fruit, to flower into Jesus-love wherever we are. This is the common standard that pertains to all branches of the Vine—lay or ordained, female or male, gay or straight, old or young.

By this, the world will know that we belong to Jesus if we have love for one another. Only the organic unity of Jesus-in-the-believer, and the-believer-in-Jesus makes such fruit-bearing possible. We love because God first loved us.

*Blessings and love,  
Margaret+*

**Events Coming Up**  
***St Andrew's Spring Concert Series***

*May 10<sup>th</sup> 4 p.m.: PAT C performing on Sunday*

*The Stacey /Holliday /Trio : CANCELLED*

*May 17, 4 p.m.: Concert Featuring David Pohler and Calliope Pettis  
Light Broadway to Classical*

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*Fourth of July Celebration on the Front Lawn; Music, Food, Fun  
and fireworks.*

*St. Andrew's Spring  
Concert Season  
May 10th 4:00 p.m.  
Mother's Day Concert With  
Pat C*



Pat C is the featured vocalist at Triple JJJ Restaurant at the beach on Thursday evenings. She sings everything from the Beatles to John Denver to Patsy Cline! It is truly easy listening! She recently sang for us during the reception when the Bishop was here. Get your favorite mother and bring her to this exciting Concert. Let's have a big crowd.



## **May 17, 2015 Bon Voyage Benefit Concert Featuring David Pohler and Calliope Pettis**

**This music program will be held as part of the St Andrew's Episcopal Church's Spring Concert Season. The concert will be held in the worship space at 4:00 p.m. David Pohler and Calliope Pettis will be performing songs and arias from such composers as Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein, II, Roger Quilter, Antonio Lotti, John Dowland, Giulio Caccini, Henry Purcell and Stephen Foster.**

**Proceeds from the concert will benefit the artists as they raise capital for the 2015 European tour with the University of Montevallo's Concert Choir. The Concert Choir has been invited to perform in many of the great cathedrals and churches of the Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary.**

**Please consider making a donation to assist these two young people share their music and absorb the music of others around the world.**

## *Region VI Party for Bishop and Kathy Duncan*

As most of you know, we are divided into regions in the diocese. Our region consists of those parishes on this side of the diocese: Panama City, Panama City Beach, Apalachicola, and Port St. Joe. We will be having a party to say “good-bye” to Bishop and Mrs. Duncan on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Holy Nativity. Bishop Duncan will confirm and baptize at 6 p.m., and this will be followed by a hamburger/hot dog cook out at 7:30 p.m.. There will be a band and lots of fun. You are to BYO, but the food and sides will be furnished. Let’s have a great crowd from St. Andrew’s to attend. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board as we need to let Holy Nativity know how many so they can prepare enough hamburgers. All the clergy from our region will participate in the service. If you want to be baptized or confirmed, please speak to Margaret+.

***THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE*** met this past Tuesday in Byrne Hall for their regular meeting. A fabulous lunch was prepared by Bell Casler, Kathy Lopez, Mary and Art Wimpenny. This group includes the Bishop, the Diocesan Administrator, clergy and laity from around the diocese. They were “blown away” by the changes to our space. Comments ranged from how comfortable the chairs are, to how incredible the sound is (bishop did not use a mic), to wonderful compliments about the beauty of the font. The hit of the day was the labyrinth and handicap accessibility, as our president lives in a wheel chair. At the Eucharist the bishop blessed and dedicated our new font. It was a very special time in the life of the diocese and St. Andrew’s. Many thanks to Belle, Kathy, and the Wimpennys!

# SUPPER @ GRACE

Thank you to everyone who served at Supper @ Grace blessing those in need: Gail Tambarino, Shirley Gobat, Jeannie Cirks, Jona Swift, Tom Brewer, Mary Johnson, Tania Watts, Diane Tate and Teri Floore. We prepared approximately 100 meals (both eat in and takeout) and 50 sack lunches. This ministry's only requirement is a willingness to serve. The evening had a special twist. We were short of volunteers and several of our guests showed their gratitude by helping clean up the Grace Parish hall. Our next turn to provide the meal is Thursday, June 18th- save the date and join us! Funds for Supper @ Grace are provided by the St. Andrew Foundation.

## GROCERY CART MINISTRY

Our May Grocery Cart item is **CANNED MEAT OR FISH**. All food collected is donated to the St. Andrew Baptist Benevolence Mission for distribution within our local community. Please help our needy neighbors enjoy a nutritious meal by purchasing some **CANNED MEAT OR FISH** for the Grocery Cart.



## **Garden of Hope**

Wed., April 22, was the blessing and initial planting of fruits, vegetables, and flowers in the St. Andrew Oaks Garden of Hope. Ms. Been's second grade class from Oakland Terrace Elementary School walked from the school and arrived at the church's vacant lot at 1:00 p.m. The students proudly wore their gardening aprons and were ready to get to work! They listened as a litany of prayers was offered by The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard and members of St. Andrew's. Then the students, assisted by the volunteers, eagerly began getting their hands dirty and planting the seedlings in the raised beds. When all was planted, the students enjoyed some refreshing cold water and were asked to sit on blankets and write about the experience in their plant journals. This is an exciting new ministry and the students and teacher are very appreciative.

Many thanks are extended to all who participated on Wed. and to all who have contributed to this ministry. Special thanks to Pablo Coronel and The Home Depot on 23<sup>rd</sup> St. for their generous support. If you would like to become involved, please contact Laurie Ayers.

## **PRESCRIPTION PILL BOTTLES**

**St. Andrew Baptist Church provides a medical ministry for people in the community who need medical aid but are unable to pay for it. It is staffed by volunteer health professionals and funded by the church and some community agencies. One of its needs is empty prescription pill bottles with labels removed. If you have empty bottles please leave them in the Grocery Cart baskets under the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Questions??- ask Margaret Seeberger.**

*Please keep the following in your prayers : Warren, Ruth Ann, Iva, , Rosemary., Walt, Susan, Mary, Diane, 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, Elaine, Madison, Bob, Toni, Jimmy, Faye, Shawn and John, Beth, Carol, Virginia, Iva, Frank*

*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*