



St. Andrew's Tidings

This week we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The actual feast day is Thursday, August 6, but it is usually transferred to the following Sunday. One of my favorite Anglican priests who hails from Canada, Herbert O'Driscoll, has written some lovely thoughts about the Transfiguration. (*A Certain Life*, 1980) He says: Every community, however healthy and loving in its relationships, there are degrees of intimacy. Nobody can like or feel close to everyone else with total impartiality. In the small community of disciples to which Christians look back, it was no different. If we accept the full humanity of Jesus, then we accept the fact that he felt degrees of closeness in his relationships.

There are a number of occasions when three disciples seem to have formed a kind of inner circle. These were Peter, James, and John. At a certain stage in the community's life, when they may have been together for about eighteen months, Jesus moved toward an incident in his life which has become for Christians one of the most beautiful and mysterious points of focus. We do not know exactly where these few days were spent. These four companions may have headed north-east to the slopes of Mount Hermon, topped with its year-round snowy peak. Or perhaps they took the short, steep climb up nearby Mount Tabor, which rises a few miles from Nazareth and dominates the whole of Galilee. But in whatever direction they went, Jesus took the particular three who meant so much to him.

We can't really follow them up those slopes. We have been told what happened in the words of tradition passed on by the early Christian communities. But even by that time the story had acquired symbolic meaning, as do past incidents in our own lives. And what of us who presume in our fragile and groping way to be his disciples? What moments of transfiguration can we claim or expect or pray for? In what direction lie our spiritual horizons, and how are they to be reached? In what direction is our Mount Tabor? Do we not have to consider also that not all disciples are taken up the mountains of transfiguration?

To this last there is no answer. I suspect that most of us glimpse the spiritual heights not because we have climbed them, but because the beauty and sanctity of another's life we have glimpsed a peak high beyond the lower slopes where we do

most of our own journeying. Andrew was Peter's brother, yet he never himself saw that blinding light, never trembled before the thunder, never looked into familiar eyes and saw a terrible, unfamiliar majesty shining out of them. Most of us are Andrew rather than Peter. Yet Andrew remained faithful, remained part of the community, and went on to be one of the giants around which the faith evolved and spread and deepened. Why? Because of what he sensed radiating from his brother, who after that experience was the same and yet was different. His brother was, in some hard to define way, changed—a kind of lesser transfiguration.

We discover our mountains of transfiguration in much the same way. Sometimes we find them, if they are granted to us, in a blinding moment of conversion, in a moment of realizing the presence and reality of God, in a moment of realizing the truth and call of Christ, in a moment of sacramental meeting, where the bread in our hands and the wine on our lips suddenly acquires a flavor and a vintage which takes us out of time and out of our human limitation and intoxicates us with God. All these moments are known and described many times in Christian history and spirituality.

Yet there are moments given to those who are invited or who stumble on the way to the mountain. But what is the way? Where is the gate in the wall of everyday experience which opens onto the mountains of God? It's significant that in all the great stories of the world where heroes and heroines search for the path to the secret places of God's entrance in disguised. It will be a certain cave hidden by a rock. In C. S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* it will be the door of an old wardrobe in an attic room.

The path leading to the mountain of our transfiguration begins in the unsuspected and the ordinary—the relationship which we feel has become humdrum, the task which we resent, the courage and faith which blinds us and fills us with awe and makes us realize that we both stand in a greater presence. These are the secret and unexpected openings that lead to the path which we eventually stand on the mountain of life's transfiguration.

Namaste'

Margaret+



Pennies From Heaven!

The Time Has Arrived! We will announce the winners of the Pennies From Heaven Guesses This Sunday!!

COMING UP

Kick Off Sunday

September 13

Bay Lights

September 25-26

Sunday School for All Ages

September 13

The Holy Eucharist
with the
Rite of Ordination



Messiah Lutheran Church
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
America

invites you to process and your congregation
to attend the ordination of

Joan Elizabeth Holden

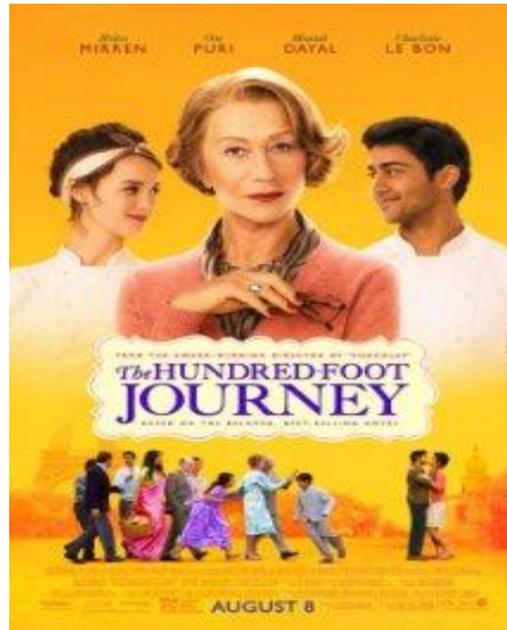
and

Jeffrey Craig Johnson

Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 7 PM

Bishop Robert Schaefer,
Florida Bahamas Synod, Presiding

Color of the Day is Red



St. Andrews Movie Lovers Movie Night

Friday, August 21, 2015, 6 p.m.

Byrne Hall

Dinner: Pizza, red and white wine, ginger ale and chilled bottled water.

Trivia Contest at end with winner getting bottle of champagne.

Movie shown on big screen (48-inch) color TV

No admittance fee, but donations accepted and encouraged. One-hundred percent (100%) of all donations will go to Living Stones building fund.



Beckwith

*Bay Lights is Coming Up!
September 25-26*

*We are collecting wine for the weekend again,
so bring your wine and leave it in Byrne Hall.*

*St. Andrew's is in charge of the Bishop's
Barbecue. We will be taking donations (tax
deductable) for the barbecue which we will
purchase; but we will also need side dishes such
as baked beans, slaw, chips, and soda.*

*We will also be collecting items for the silent
auction. If you have a vacation place, a condo, a
boat for a boat trip that would be auctioned,
please talk with Kathy Lopez or Camilla
Jimmerson*

NO BREAKFAST **THIS WEEK AT 8:30!**



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FUN! FUN! FUN! CARD PARTY

The Gulf Coast Women's Club is now holding a monthly Card Party on the fourth Monday of every month in Byrne Hall. They serve lunch and play all kinds of games—bridge, shanghai, hand and foot, Mexican dominoes, etc.—from 10 until 2. The cost is \$15 which covers the cost of lunch and is a fundraiser for their service groups. They would love to have anyone from St. Andrew's join them! Contact Teri Floore (763-2439) for reservations especially bridge players so they have full tables) so they know how many to plan on feeding.

Supper at Grace

Thursday, August 20th is St. Andrew's turn to host Supper at Grace at Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach. Preparation begins at 10:00 a.m. for approximately two hours in Byrne Hall to prepare 50 sack lunches to be given to guests at Grace. At 2:00 p.m. we gather at Grace to prepare the evening meal which is served from 6-7. If you can cook, greet, serve, or clean up, we need your help. If you are unable to attend but would like to be a part of this ministry, we need plastic sandwich bags and one gallon zip lock bags. Contact Teri Floore (763-2439) for more info.



Please sign up to cook for Summer Breakfast. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. Dates that are available are August 16.

Please keep the following in your prayers ;, Elijah, Dan, Anne, Tracy, Page, Norma, Lisa, Elaine, Madison, John, Beth, Carol, Virginia, Iva, Frank, Cynthia, Bob, Harry, Bill, Brent, Blaine, Bret, Phillip, Jeremy & Heather, Kirsten, Titus, Charley, Joni, Jon, Abel, Chris, Shawn S., John, Sallie, Charles, Wendy, David, Marilyn, Sandra, Vincent, Leslie, Mary, Bobbie, Betty and Jim, Hong, Shawn, Bobby, Kirsten, Hazen, Snookie, Anna, Jimmy

(Names are left on the prayer list for 3 weeks, unless specified for a longer time)

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, Richard, Patricia