



St. Andrew's Tidings

After we did our Visioning several years ago, the Vestry, among others, studied a book called *Kicking Habits* by Thomas G. Bandy. At the end of the day, we, as a vestry, incorporated many of the tenants of this book. This is why we began to pray that God would reveal God's will for St. Andrew's, and that we would work toward being a "thriving" church. We also learned that 1. "Youth are not the future of the church, that transformed adults are the future of the church. 2. That debt freedom leads to church decline; 3. That finance and administration leaders talk about mission; 4. That small groups are the corner-stone of education." In the thriving church, lay leaders do the ministry, while in the declining church the laity are trained to raise money and manage an institution. In the thriving church, the laity are devoted to welcoming people, while in the declining church, the laity are devoted to keeping people. In other words, the primary goal for a thriving church is to do mission. What has to happen is there is a change in the system.

The mission agenda of the church is set by the Spirit, calling out the special gifts of ordinary people. "Where committees may not be able to move an inch, motivated adults can move mountains." The thriving church is not trying to protect and enhance a heritage of "the way we used to do it," it is trying to imitate the church experience of the first century: risking, trusting, proclaiming, sharing, exploring, and advocating the Way of Christ in a morally turbulent and spiritually hungry world. Survival is not its concern. "There will always be gaps and there will always be risks."

No matter the size of the church, the thriving church system has outreach ministries undertaken without limit. "The practical and spiritual needs of the public are more important than that of the individual church. Evangelism is at the heart of all ministries. The vision of the thriving church is not that its people will be "inside the church," but they will be perpetually beyond the church walking with the risen Lord. "Moreover, the thriving church is unafraid to be in debt in order to do mission."

"The thriving church never says 1. 'We never did it this way before; 2. We can't afford it; 3. We need you to serve on a committee; 3. We don't think your

calling is legitimate; 4. We need to see long reports and approve each step.” The thriving church grows because growth is never its primary purpose.

Systemic change is far more stressful than programmatic change. In systemic change, fundamental patterns of behavior which previously undergirded all activities are changing. In the thriving church, there is no longer a sense of bureaucratic decision making. “The old division of labor in which the clergy do ministry and the laity do management is transformed.” The “system” is all about changing.” It is about all doing ministry. The thriving church equips people for profound interaction with the public and in conversation with those beyond our doors. Three features of the new system are: 1. Decentralized control – and multiplying mission units. 2. Streamlined administration. The day-to-day maintenance, financial management, and administration is left to those hired to do that. Parish meetings are not for reporting and accountability, but for celebrating and visioning. 3. Unity through experience. The church is diverse, so unity is of “the heart” and not “of the mind.” The thriving church requires widespread and energetic participation in the *spirituality* of the church life, not the *governance* of church life. Our key question is: *What is it about our experience of Jesus Christ that this community cannot live without?* The thriving church system is not concerned with keeping people but with welcoming people.

As we move into the fall season, beginning Sunday School, small groups etc. and as we initiate our faith giving time- I hope we will inculcate these ideas into the fabric of our very being, because they work! Our faith commitment theme is “Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life.” On Kick Off Sunday there will be some trailers for you to watch with thought provoking ideas.

There are several exciting avenues for you to take advantage of: Deacon Wishart and Lucy Dozar are leading Education for Ministry. This is a four year program, written by scholars and professors. When finishing, it is the equivalent of one semester of seminary! It is an excellent study of Old Testament, New Testament and contemporary society through The University of the South, Sewanee. As soon as it is cool enough, we will continue Worship Without Walls. The impetus for this year is truly getting outside of our walls and reaching those beyond our walls. These are just a few of the exciting things we have coming up.

Namaste'

Margaret+



Message from Kathy and Bishop Duncan

Thought that you would appreciate this picture. We hung the bishops today! This area is on the second level of our stairway, with a small shelf for the altar candles, too. The bishops have arrived in Austin and we thank you again for them and all that you & St. Andrew's have done for us. We will await your arrival to see them in person. Hope that you are well and have had, at least, a small summer break. With our prayers and love, Bishop and Kathy

Some of you may remember six years ago when the Bishop visited and we had dinner at Gene Sapp's house this was offered to the Duncan's for his office. Now that they have moved to Austin, they are remembering their time with us at St. Andrew's. May God richly bless them on their new adventure.

COMING UP

Kick Off Sunday

September 13

Sign up for choir, lay ministry etc! And end the day with the

*Ukulele Orchestra of St. Andrew's in
Concert*

*Including A Luau Featuring Heavy hors
d'oeuvres and Beverages (Time to be announced)*



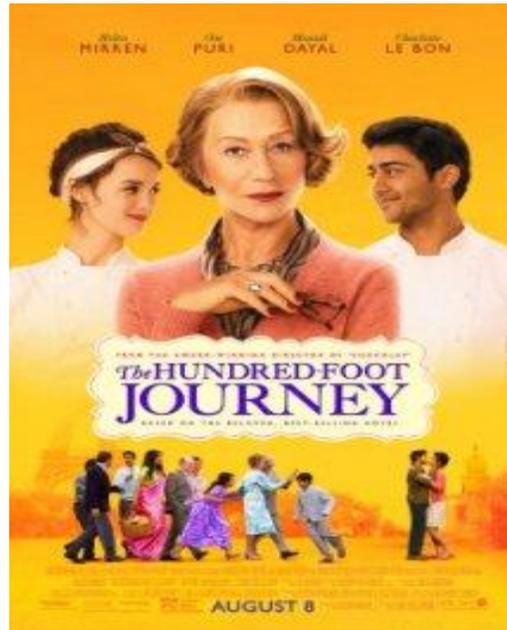
Bay Lights

September 25-26

Sunday School for All Ages September 13

Adult Sunday School: "Prayer" (A four week study)

Led by Sally Brewer



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.

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**DON'T FORGET YOUR WINE FOR
BAYLIGHTS!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

Begins September 13

“Prayer”

Led by Sally Brewer



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*



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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.

Treats and Garden Work Day!

Don't miss out on Teri Floore's cinnamon rolls and fruit to be provided to those who participate in a garden work day to be held Saturday, August 29, from 8:30-10:30. Bring your shovels, rakes, pitchforks, wagons or wheel barrows and help us spread wood chips in the St. Andrew Oaks Garden of Hope. We need some strong volunteers!





Please join us for breakfast this Sunday beginning at 8:30 am. \$3.00 for one person, \$5.00 per couple, and \$7.00 per family.

FAITH GIVING/FAITH PLANNING

The following is one in a series of articles as we move toward the fall kick-off season, and our Faith Giving time.

Closing the Planning Gap

By David Farrand, part of the Vestry Papers issue on [Healthy Practices](#) (January 2011)

As we begin a new year, perhaps you are trying to decide, once again, what resolutions might bring you health and peace. One goal might be to close the planning gap. Or, put another way, this may be the year to finally address end of life issues for you and your family.

I would like to call your attention to page 445 of the [Book of Common Prayer](#) and to what some have called the Planned Giving Rubric that concludes the section "Thanksgiving for a Child:"

"The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

I believe that this is a call to intentionality; it is not necessarily a fund-raising plea. Surely, wonderful gifts to the church or other not-for-profit organizations can flow from this emphasis. But first, there must be a plan. My work in planned giving is rooted in my personal experience with planning and the lack of planning about the end of life. I want to share part of my story with you.

About sixteen years ago, just as we arrived at our vacation destination, our summer was shattered by the phone call bringing the news that my brother, Jack, had died suddenly of an apparent heart attack at age 56. He was single and lived in Connecticut where he was a member of an Episcopal Church. It became my "job" to notify family members and pull together a funeral service.

The clergy of Jack's church were enormously helpful as we planned the scripture readings, psalms, and hymns to be included in the service. But, I found it particularly distressing to be in the position of planning my brother's funeral without a clue as to what he would actually want. Like too many people in their mid-fifties, none of us had made funeral plans. At one point in the chaos, I turned to my wife and said, "If you want to know what sort of funeral I would like, here it is!" The realization that it was more my funeral than Jack's still bothers me. Everyone seemed to think it was a lovely service. I certainly did.

It turned out that my brother did not have a will. Nobody in our family was surprised that he, the creative, freelance writer, had not spent a moment on estate planning, let alone funeral planning. I ended up as the administrator of his intestate estate, dealing with on-going royalty checks, tax payments, etc., etc. It took several months to settle all of his affairs.... and life went on.

One year later, my 90-year-old Aunt Louisa died of a massive stroke. She lived in a retirement community in North Carolina and was a member of an Episcopal Church there. She had a will naming me as the executor and I was given clear instructions. For example, somewhere on every item of value in her apartment was a "*post-it*" directing that item to one of her many nephews, nieces, or godchildren. Some even had names crossed out in favor of new designees.

But first came the funeral. The rector of her church told me that, over the years, he had enjoyed many conversations with my aunt, including a discussion of her funeral wishes. Even the version of the scripture was specified. For example, he had been asked to read the King James Version of the Gospel of John (14:2), "In my father's house are many mansions." This was neither a "dwelling places" nor "rooms" kind of lady; mansions were much more appropriate. This distinction became part of the homily.

Certainly there is a different kind of grief that attends the death of a vigorous 56 year old as opposed to the death of a frail 90 year old who has lived a rich, full life. But for me, who had a special place in both "impact zones," the latter was much, much easier - because I knew what to do.

For the past decade I have consulted with congregations and groups in the area of planned giving. When talking about end of life issues, I often refer people to the Episcopal Church Foundation's booklet *Planning for the End of Life*. This resource contains information about medical directives, funeral service planning and a guide to preparing to write your will.

There does not need to be a planning gap at the time of your death to add to your family's grief and stress. It is a profound gift to your family to leave them with a clear understanding of your wishes.

David Farrand is a member of Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, NJ. Following his career as a fixed income specialist on Wall Street, David continues to share his expertise in planned giving through his work with Calvary Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Newark, St. Philip's Academy in Newark, and the Episcopal Church Foundation.

St. Andrew's has end of life planning forms in the office. Lately, we have had the privilege of receiving funds from those who have remembered St. Andrew's in their wills. It is certainly a fitting way of remembrance, both on the part of the donor, and on the part of the church, as that person's life and presence lives on through their gifts.

Please keep the following in your prayers : Norma, Lisa, Elaine, Madison, John, Beth, Carol, Virginia, Iva, Frank, Cynthia, Bob, Harry, Bill, Brent, Blaine, Bret, Phillip, 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, Anna, Jimmy, Hong, Rita, Shawn, Eric, Anna, The Steiner family, Janice, Corey, Kelly, Anne, Diane, Sue, Luke

(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