



St. Andrew's Tidings

Theologian Douglas John Hall, in his widely read book, *The Steward: A Biblical Symbol Come of Age*, has written: "Stewardship ...has become the term associated with little more than church management and finances..."

He says, "Instead, charitable giving should be the ultimate goal. Stewardship, itself, should be the summing up of a Christian life." Michael Durall continues that thought when he says that it is all about mission—accomplishing the work of God. "It should be a means by which parishioners strengthen their faith...In attempting to strengthen both faith and mission among members of a congregation, keep in mind a finding from *Financing American Religion*: Parishioners who give the least are motivated by maintaining the building and the congregation. More generous parishioners believe they are also helping people who are less fortunate, and strengthening their relationship to God." Durall goes on to suggest that the healthy congregation focuses on abundance rather than scarcity.

The exciting thing is the forward movement of our parish. This parish has increased giving from this time last year in the area of \$50,000 which is great news. This does not include Living Stones. Our attendance grew greatly from 2013 to 2014. And at this time (September 2015) our attendance has increased by a total of over 500—just from January to August 30th. There is a great deal of mission that goes on here because of these added benefits, but we can do more. Last week I invited you to "Dream big. What could our church do, what should our church do beyond our walls-- to really do what God is calling us to do in order to thank God for being so gracious and loving to us. God has given us our very life and breath!! How will we respond?" Some people did respond! Suggestions included the following:

"We could use the rectory as a jubilee center and have senior citizens activities, perhaps do something with council on aging.

We could do a real outdoor altar and use it for worship without walls, complete with flowers, lighting etc.

We could get a church van to pick up people for night time activities and to take people to Cursillo and conferences.

We could hire a full time sexton and possibly a yard service.

We could replace the church windows facing the Memorial garden and landscape the west side grounds between the church and our grumpy neighbors

We could repair and modernize the sprinkler system.

We could send staff to conferences.

We could have speakers on special topics for WOW.

DREAMING IS FUN!

The best Choir in town (not that it isn't great-we could hire people on some parts)

Grounds that are inviting and lovely

Servant ministry groups that reach all across the city

Senior Citizens ministries"

As you read this, add your own list. You have heard me say over and over, church is not about those of us already on the inside, it is about those who have not yet come through our doors. How will we respond to this? In what ways has the church called each of us to live more spiritual lives? How has our faith manifested itself in church and in the larger world? These are the issues that are integral to creating meaningful religious lives. Our faith commitment is part of the life of the church, woven into what God calls us to do, and how we respond. I hope you take great pride in what you have accomplished!

Many blessings! You are to me!

Namaste'

Margaret+

No breakfast this Sunday

COMING UP

Kick Off Sunday

September 13

Sign up for choir, lay ministry etc!

Come at 9 a.m. for Sunday School for All Ages

September 13

Adult Sunday School: “Prayer” (A four week study)

Led by Sally Brewer

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

*Including A Luau Featuring Heavy hors
d'oeuvres and Beverages*



Aloha! Many of us have dreamed of traveling to Hawaii and going to a fabulous luau with sumptuous food and drink with the sound of ukuleles playing our favorite songs. Now your chance is right here at St. Andrew's on **September 13 for KICK-OFF SUNDAY at 5:30pm.** We will be welcoming the St. Andrews Ukulele Orchestra for our September concert in Byrne Hall. So put on your best Hawaiian outfit and sign up to bring some luau style food. Laurie Ayers has lots of ideas for you about fun easy food that you can bring to help make the occasion festive. We have a sign up sheet in on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. This event will be BYOB.

BRING YOUR WINE FOR BAYLIGHTS!



Beckwith

St. Mary's Guild

It's September and the start up of opportunities to enjoy and participate in our church family. St. Mary's Guild is one of those opportunities and open to all our women.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at members homes, the church or a special spot in the community.

We enjoy prayer, programs and fellowship and we'd love to have you enjoy it with us on September 8, 2015 at 10:00 am in Byrne Hall. The program will be "Birding" with Teri Floore. Our hostesses will be Shirley Gobat, Ann Bruce, Judy Cooley and Mary Davenport.

Episcopal Church Women's Fall Retreat



The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast will be having their Episcopal Church Women's Fall Retreat at Camp Beckwith on October 2-4, 2015. The Very Reverend Kate Moorehead will be the Keynote Speaker. Please feel free to take a copy of the retreat schedule and breakout sessions from the tract rack in Byrne Hall.



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*

UU
presents

Saturday, Sept. 26, 6 to 8 p.m.
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1608 Baker Court, Panama City

The Amanda Matthews Jazz Sensation



Featuring

Amanda Matthews - piano & vocals
Chaz Butler - trumpet, keyboards & bass
Jason Bennett - saxophone

Tickets at the Door: \$25
Advance Sales
UUofBayCounty.com

A Fundraiser For

UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
Fellowship of Bay County

Please keep the following in your prayers : Iva, Bob, Harry, Bill, Brent, Blaine, 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, Jon, Beryl, Corey, Jimmy, Lindafaye, Richard, Patricia, Jeremy, Heather, Gail, Teresa

(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