



St. Andrew's Tidings

Blessed to be a Blessing

One of my favorite bishops, The Right Rev. Kate Waynick, Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, offers these words: Jesus reminds us that God's intentions toward humanity and creation are full of blessing and mercy from the very beginning. Humanity is made in the image of God, and given lasting companionship which is intended to mirror God's own communal nature. Creation is provided with stewards who are to represent to each other and all creation compassion and love in "the image of God."

We don't choose to be stewards any more than we choose to be born; stewardship is part of our identity. Our only choice is what kind of stewards we will be. A faithful steward knows that what is entrusted belongs to another, and must be used for the good of all. Our faithful stewardship is rooted in the awe and gratitude of God's stance toward us—a stance of blessing and abundance.

The life God has given us is overwhelmingly generous. We have the capacity to perceive beauty in the world; to relish colors, fragrances, sounds, the changing of seasons, the variety of life. It need not have been so, but it is. We have the ability to forge bonds of affection and love. It need not have been so—we could have been created to function on instinct, but we have been created for greater things—blessed things.

God also gives without strings. The charisms of leadership and invention, for example, have been used for great good or ruthless evil, and yet God has not removed these gifts from among us.

God gives sacrificially—and let's not limit our notion of God's sacrifice to the death of Jesus on the cross. What did it cost God to create us with freedom? What has been the cost of enduring human indifference and rejection over the ages, or the rejection and execution of the Incarnate One?

That God is determined to bless us seems abundantly clear; the biblical record is filled with accounts of God's pursuit, God's longing for us to live in the blessings of love. The Resurrection, after all, is God's response to humanity at its worst, and the message in the Resurrection is this, "There is nothing you can do—no cruel, evil thing—that will make me stop loving you." Blessed in indeed!

Such generosity always requires risk—but it is our call to take that risk, remembering that we are provided more than enough to accomplish our vocation of being blessings to each other in God’s image and name. When we open our hearts and arms and advocate for those who are powerless, we are sharing the Good News of God’s blessing for all. May it be so!

During this fall time, let us reflect upon these thoughts:

What does it mean to you to serve as a Steward in God’s image?

How do you value your own blessedness and the blessedness of others?

What risks are you willing to take to live into your call to be a blessing to others?

Many blessings! You are a blessing to me!

Namaste'

Margaret+



Coming Up:

*A Taize' Service in Celebration of All Saint's
Day*

Sunday, November 4, at 4 p.m.



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Kick Off Sunday This Sunday!!

September 13

Sign up for choir, lay ministry etc!

The library will be open, so please come in and look around.

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

Godly Play for Youth and children

Led by Lucy Dozar

*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!**



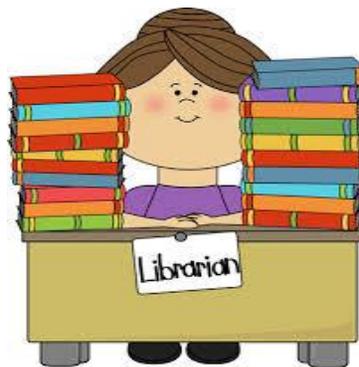
Beckwith

***Part of the Second Sunday
Discretionary Fund Proceeds
Will Go for the Bishop's Barbecue
at Beckwith
Please Be Generous***

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.



THE LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN AFTER CHURCH THIS SUNDAY FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BROWSE.



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*

Many thanks to Iva Walter for the gift of the Yamaha Piano, which at present is in the parish hall.



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



Church Directory for Newcomers

Copies of the St. Andrew's Church Directory have been placed on the credenza next to the entrance to the new Narthex. If you are a newcomer, please help yourself. We also have extra copies for those of you who might have lost your copy or need an extra. If you do need a replacement or additional copy, please stop by the front office and pick one up.

Please keep the following in your prayers : Iva, Bob, Harry, Bill, Chris, Shawn S., John, Sallie, Charles, Wendy, David, Marilyn, Sandra, Vincent, Leslie, Mary, Bobbie, Betty and Jim, Hong, 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, Virginia, Patrick, Lisa, Adam, Rick, Krystal, Jona, Lynn, Mr. & Mrs. Collins, Peggy, Bill, Anne, Toni, Bob, Mike, 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:
Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan, Jeremiah, Richard,
Patricia***