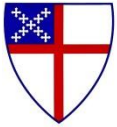


Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

Lines of Fishermen, Volume I, March 2019



We are a welcoming faith community of all ages in the service of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to witness God's presence and love.

Vicar's Message March 2019

Glory and Ashes

Two of my favorite points in the Christian church are The Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday; that is if it's even possible to have favorites – which would be like favoring one child over another! Today with surprise, I noticed their alignment, back to back, a study in theological contrast.

One point is a glimpse of Jesus' divine glory, a mountain peak experience, shrouded in the misty mountain veil; an opening revealing the mysterious, numinous, transcendence of God, life of Resurrection. Then we are thrust back down into the earthiness and finitude of our existence, where we touch the immanence of God; accompanying a very human Jesus as he begins his journey towards the cross.

I love these points in time because they reveal truth about who we are as beloved children of God and followers of Jesus. We too contain both the divine spark (flame?) made in the image of God while rooted firmly in the soil of mortality: struggle, joy and sorrow, need, jealousy, generosity, peace, angst, love and hate ... In short, we have potential to contribute

to the transfiguration of the world beginning with ourselves – *and* we can inflict damage and destruction upon ourselves and others – the opposite of God's lifespriing.

Recent 'issues' of full inclusion and acceptance of God's beloveds as God made us, has been fraught with barrier building, exclusion, intolerance, fear, disrespect; inflicting degradation and diminishment of integrity of the so-called other. I'm speaking generally of Church at large that turns a blind-eye towards irreparable harm done through sexual abuse, or of seeing it –then doing nothing. I'm talking specifically of judgments rendered by the Methodist Church against recognizing the valid call and full inclusion of LGBTQ brothers and sisters in Christ. And I'm disheartened by our own Anglican Communion that seeks to marginalize and practice radical "dis-hospitality" by refusing to offer invitations to a select minority of same-sex spouses for the upcoming Lambeth gathering in 2020.

When did we become so fearful that we're erecting barriers that Jesus sought to tear down?? When did Christians ever think that exploiting the vulnerable was something of which Jesus approves?

I've just finished teaching a five week course for adults being received into the Episcopal Church. And in my process of preparation each week, I became more and more inspired by the foundations of our tradition to balance unity amid diversity and to cultivate a middle way. Perhaps this means striving for that midway point that seeks reconciliation between our judgments and dazzling brilliance of potential. An attitude of tolerance isn't enough. We must declare full embodied love against division and that is how we'll beat the devil at their game. Love is soil of the earth's path upon which we will ascend to the light.

Faithfully,

Amma Susan



**Souper Bowl of
Caring**

February 3, 2011

Souper Bowl Mission Caring Statement:

Using the energy of the Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and in need.

Souper Bowl of Caring Vision Statement:

Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. What is the Souper Bowl of Caring? It is a national movement of young people working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In the weeks leading up to or on Super Bowl Sunday, young people take up a

collection(Many use a soup pot), asking for one dollar or one item of food for people in need. They give 100% of their donation directly to the local hunger-relief charity of their choice.

A Souper Bowl collection was taken at Saint Andrew's, Winthrop to aid the two food banks that we are affiliated with: the Mount Vernon Food Bank and the Winthrop Food Bank. \$175.94 was collected in our special "Soup Pot".

Election Convention

On February 9th, representatives, both lay and clergy, gathered in Bangor to elect the 10th Bishop of Maine. I had no idea about how the election was conducted nor how I would be affected by the proceeding. I was very glad that I had volunteered to participate ... I was moved by the solemnity of the election and gladdened by the atmosphere of good will and respect. The technology used to facilitate the Election was really impressive. Each representative had a remote with which to cast his/her vote. The results were tabulated digitally and displayed on a large screen within minutes. The clergy and the lay representatives voted separately and their votes were tallied separately. In order to be elected, a candidate needed to have 50% +1 of both sets of votes in the same electoral round. On the third round of voting, both the lay and clerical representatives cast more than the required per cent of votes to elect The Rev. Thomas James Brown of Winchester, MA.

Saturday, April 27th

SPRING TRAINING

In the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Gather – share – learn

This will be the fourth year that the diocese will be offering this free day of workshops for clergy and lay people to choose from. Twenty new workshops will be offered, with topics to include music, stewardship, art-based prayer practice, vestries, creation, care, social justice and discernment for everyone. The day will begin with fellowship, followed by three sessions of workshops with breaks for a bagged lunch, worship and an address from Bishop Steve.

I have attended Spring Training in past years and really learned a lot! Please consider attending.

Course titles and registration information will be forthcoming.

Where: South Parish Congregational Church, Augusta, ME

When: Saturday, April 27th

Coffee and conversation starting at 8:30 am

Workshops from 9:30 to 3:30 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church

Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church will celebrate becoming one church with a Festive Eucharist Federation service on March 30 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm at Emmanuel, 209 Eastern Avenue, Augusta. Bishops Lane and Hazlewood will officiate.

Calendar

3/10 - Daylight savings time

3/24 – Rev. Paul Tunkle

3/30 – Emmanuel's Festive Eucharist Celebration. 3:00 pm

3/31 – Morning Prayer



Contact Information

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