



June 2022

Sundays

9:30 a.m. **HE Rt. I & Rt. II**

During the summer months, June 5-Sept. 4, we move to one service. We will go back to our winter schedule on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Wednesdays

10:30a.m. **Healing Service**

Coming Up

June 7	Finance Meeting	6:00p.m.
June 15	Vestry Meeting	6:15p.m.
June 16	Meals on Wheels	10:00a.m.

Making Room for Jesus

By The Rev. George H. Greer



"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'"

Matthew 9: 9-13

Thomas Jefferson, while serving as vice president, once visited Baltimore. He had no entourage. Jefferson was a noted tinkerer, gardener, and all-around handyman. The day Jefferson arrived in Baltimore; he was filthy. Jefferson sought a room at the best hotel in town. The proprietor, a Mr. Boyden, did not recognize the tall, lanky stranger with the reddish hair, so he turned him away. Jefferson decided not to pull rank and simply walked off.

Later, when he learned the identity of the rejected visitor, Boyden sent some of his staff to find Jefferson and assure him that "he could have as many rooms as he wanted."

Jefferson, sent the employees back with these words: "tell Mr. Boyden that I value his good intentions highly, but if he has no room for a dirty farmer, he shall have none for the vice president."

Obviously, had Jefferson been just a dirty farmer, Boyden would not have thought twice about this rejection. The gospel shows Jesus aligning himself solidly with just the kind of people that Boyden would have kept out of his hotel. Jesus not only associates with these undesirables, he calls one of them, Matthew, to be a disciple.

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Making Room for Jesus

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The gospels make it clear that Jesus was not using the poor the way some modern-day celebrities do, as background for photo shoots. No, Jesus said, whatever you do to them, you are doing to me.

How sad, then, if we end up sputtering the words of that character from Godspell who responds to the parable of the sheep and goats, "Gee whiz! If I knew it was you, Lord, I would have given the drink of water."

Will we respond to the stranger with a word of rejection or welcome? Do we have room for Jesus? Amen

Taco Sunday

May 1, 2022



Supper at Emmaus

Caravaggio

Without question, Caravaggio is one of my favorite artists. Below is his painting titled: "Supper at Emmaus." It was painted in 1601 and currently hangs in the National Gallery in London. I had the pleasure of seeing this beautiful painting several years while there on a family trip.

The Gospel according to St. Luke (24:13-32) tells of the meeting of two disciples with the resurrected Christ. As they drew near to Emmaus, the stranger who was accompanying the two disciples made as if to leave them. They begged him to join them for supper. These two disciples did not recognize Jesus. They only begged him to stay because they were so caught up by his conversation. It is only during the meal that his companions recognize him in the way he blesses and breaks the bread. Upon breaking the bread, the vision of Christ vanishes. According to St. Mark (16:12) he is said to have appeared to them in an other form which is why Caravaggio did not paint Jesus with a beard or at the age of his crucifixion.



Caravaggio is well known for his use of light. Here he seems to capture the moment of recognition. The very climax of the story, when seeing becomes recognizing.

Breaking the bread and blessing it: that is the Eucharist. It is how the Eucharist is celebrated to this day, and always will be. For us too Jesus reveals himself in the breaking of the bread though as we expect it, we are not astonished as are these two disciples. Perhaps it might be better if we did feel astonishment, because the Eucharistic sacrifice is the most overwhelming of sacred gifts.



Sacred Order of Holy Folders



Adams flooring installing our new floor in the vestibule.



Friday, April 30 Evening with the Lambs

EYC met at Robyn and John Huffman's to visit the sheep and their frolicking lambs, on Friday, April 30. Debby entertained and talked about the sheep and lambs with Megan Renck, a friend, Kenzie Whistler, Debby, Abby Whistler and Lauren Renck.

I Know You

I read a really good joke the other day and wanted to share it.

The whole town had gathered in the courthouse for the trial. The prosecuting attorney called his first witness, an elderly woman, to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy. And, frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a rising bog shot, but you haven't the brains to realize you will never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?"

She replied, "Yes, of course I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. I used to baby-sit him. And he, too, has been a real disappointment to me. He's lazy, bigoted, and has a drinking problem. The man can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the shoddiest in the entire state. Yes, I know him."

At this point, the judge gaveled the courtroom to silence and called both counselors to the bench.

In a quiet voice, he said rather curtly, "If either of you ask her if she knows me, I'll hold you both in contempt of court."

Many of us go to great lengths to hide the truth about ourselves. We live behind all kinds of facades in order to hide who we really are. Be buy into the philosophy that image is everything.

More often that not, we do this because we are afraid of rejection. We worry about people liking us if they knew about our past, our failures, our problems. So we work hard to look successful and happy.

Of course, people who love us the most are those who know us the best. Most of our parents are a good example of this. We may hide a lot from them, but they know us pretty well. They've been there when we messed up, again and again. Yet, they continue to love and support us.

God knows more about us than even our parents, our spouses, or best friends. In fact, God knows more about us than we know about ourselves. Yet, He loves us and wants to be in a relationship with us.

Does God ignore our past? No, I don't believe He does but I do believe He can forgive our past misdeeds. Unlike most of us, when God forgives, He also forgets. That doesn't mean he doesn't know what we've done; it just means that He no longer holds what we've done against us. Our sins are removed from us as far as the east is from the west. (Ps. 103:12) Amen.

Saints Alive Martyrs of Lyons June 2

In the second century, after a brief respite, Christians in many parts of the Roman empire were once again subjected to persecution. At Lyons and Vienne, in Gaul, there were missionary centers which had drawn many Christians from Asia and Greece. They were living a devout life under the guidance of Pothinus, elderly Bishop of Lyons, when persecution began in 177.

At first, the Christians were socially excluded from Roman homes, the public baths, and the market place; insults, stones, and blows were rained on them by pagan mobs, and Christian homes were vandalized. Soon after, the imperial officials forced Christians to come to the market place for harsh questioning, followed by imprisonment.

Some slaves from Christian households were tortured to extract public accusations that Christians practiced cannibalism, incest, and other perversions. These false accusations roused the mob to such a pitch of wrath that any leniency toward the imprisoned Christians was impossible. Even friendly pagans now turned against them.

The fury of the mob fell most heavily on Sanctus, a deacon; Attalus; Maturus, a recent convert; and Blandina, a slave. According to Eusebius, Blandina was so filled with power to withstand torments that her torturers gave up. "I am a Christian," she said, "and nothing vile is done among us." Sanctus was tormented with red-hot irons. The aged Pothinus, badly beaten, died soon after. Finally, the governor decided to set aside several days for a public spectacle in the amphitheater.

On the final day of the spectacle, writes Eusebius, "Blandina, last of all, like a noble mother who had encouraged her children and sent them ahead victorious to the King, hastened to join them." Beaten, torn, burned with irons, she was wrapped in a net and tossed about by a wild bull. The spectators were amazed at her endurance.

Eusebius concludes: "They offered up to the Father a single wreath, but it was woven of diverse colors and flowers of all kinds. It was fitting that the noble athletes should endure a varied conflict, and win a great victory, that they might be entitled in the end to receive the crown supreme of life everlasting."

Let us Pray: Grant, O Lord, that we who keep the feast of the holy martyrs Blandina and her companions may be rooted and grounded in love of you, and may endure the sufferings of this life for the glory that shall be revealed in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



St. Blandina



"The Bible clearly says that faithfulness and persecution often go hand and hand."

The Rev. Billy Graham



David and Catherine Combs celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary with their family on Sunday, May 1.



Kiyonna Ferrell and Wanda Godwin refilling the food pantry shelves.

Did you know? Our parish family provides 290 meals each weekend for the children at Winstead Elementary. That's 1160 meals every month. Thank you!



Kindergarten graduating class of 2022



Preschool graduating class of 2022





Why is it essential to Go to Church?

Slowly but surely, things are beginning to open, and life is starting to feel somewhat normal. For the past several months, the church has been in the process of opening its doors for in-person worship.

I get it; the church never closed. The church is the people, not the building. However, due to COVID, the doors to the church were closed. The opportunity to gather for worship in person was closed. A lot has happened over the past couple of years.

Why is it vital for us to get back in the habit of regular and faithful church attendance? Why should those connected to St. Andrew's make a new commitment to attend as regularly as possible? Here are but a few reasons for our returning to worship.

1. **The Bible tells us that we should gather for worship.** The author of Hebrews writes: "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25 The Bible never suggests that gathering for worship is an optional activity. Gathering for worship is a commitment.
2. **The Bible emphasizes the importance of the local church.** Except for the Gospels, the New Testament is about the local church or directed to the local church. For example, St. Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians this way, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:" Ephesians 1:1 Throughout the New Testament, different local congregations met together and worshipped together. It's what believers do and have been doing from the beginning.
3. **In community, we encourage each other.** By nature, I am an introvert. I cherish my quiet time. The problem with quiet time every Sunday is that our level of commitment often drops. It's difficult to feel included or a part of a movement when you're away. The simple act of gathering is an act of encouragement.
4. **When we gather, you encourage me.** Encouraging one another, includes me. I don't know of a single minister that doesn't need encouragement from their congregation. We all have had to change the way we've lived life the past several years. That's true for me as well. In our tradition, the congregation is actively involved during worship, and when that involvement drops, questions and doubts begin to rise.
5. **We grow spiritually when we commit to faithful attendance.** We grow in our life with Christ when we have a committed prayer life. We grow when we are committed to reading Scripture daily. We grow when we share our faith regularly. We grow when we serve Christ together.



St. Ignatius states that it takes a person 28 days to create a new holy habit. We have the incredible opportunity this summer to do just that! See you on Sunday!



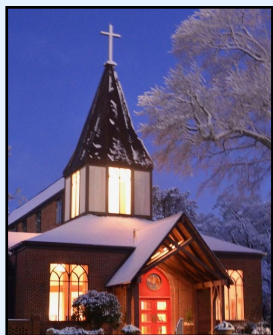


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Our Parish Family



Let Light Perpetual Shine

Gail Wright

July 25, 1935—January 2, 2022

Children are a gift from God

Baptism Celebration of

Harrison Whitmer

Sunday, June 12, 2022

Ice Cream Social

June 19th after 9:30am service



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Returns June 13—17th

At First Presbyterian Church

Children 3 years to
completed 5th grade



UCM Collection

Paper towels
Napkins

Large cans of vegetables
45 gallon trash bags/ 13 gallon
tall kitchen trash bags

Drop off in the Commons by
Sunday, June 19th.

Life Line Screening
Saturday, June 11
At St. Andrew's



To register for your appointment and to
receive the special discount call
1-800-324-1851 or go to
<https://discover.lifelinescreening.com/hsc2/?>