

ANDREW GRAM

News for and about members of St. Andrew's Church/Somerset Parish
Princess Anne, Maryland

Volume 3, Issue 27, June 04, 2008

Blandina and Her Companions

This past Monday (June 2) was the Feast of Blandina and Her Companions. The feast day was formerly known as the Feast of the Martyrs of Lyon, but that was changed at the last General Convention in light of a new understanding of the role that Blandina played as one of the Christians martyred in Lyon by the Roman Empire in 177 A.D. We are rediscovering the heroic witness many early Christian women have played in the life of the church, and highlighting Blandina's witness for Christ is one way for the Church to help tell this story.

The Historiographer of the Episcopal Church, the Rev. J. Robert Wright, has noted that Blandina was the key figure in the 177 Roman persecution at Lyons and that Eusebius, the first major church historian, saw her as a woman in the early church who was seen as an image of Christ.

"Blandina was hung on a post and exposed as food for the wild beasts let loose in the arena. She looked as if she was hanging in the form of a cross, and through her ardent prayers she stimulated great enthusiasm in those undergoing their ordeal, who in their agony saw with their outward eyes in the person of their sister the One who was crucified for them, that He might convince those who believe in Him that any one who has suffered for the glory of Christ has fellowship for ever with the living God."

This reference by Eusebius of how the early Christians saw in Blandina's martyrdom the image of Christ points to an understanding by the early Christians that the image of Christ can be seen in women as well as men, and helps support an argument for the ordination of women that women as well as men symbolize the image of Christ



A View From THE Pew

Parishioner David Warren asked to comment on this past Sunday's sermon. His reaction is below.

St. Andrew's own Father David was at his best this Sunday past 1 June from the pulpit. If you missed it or need second chapter refresher the main points that sparkled and stuck with me were--- summer is upon us and in lieu of relaxing and/or backsliding try a daily reading, attend a different service switch early to late, or the noon healing service, perhaps a different location, a service while on holiday or even just a quiet prayerful time on your own.

To carry out Jesus teaching we must know his teachings and refresh them, summer may be the introspective time. If you need a break, just change pace, find a new perspective, let summer be the prime time using prayer, perhaps a daily devotional book.

When your spiritual summer becomes complacency be on guard, switch gears, avoid veering off the path, remember your faith

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*The mission of St. Andrew's Church, Somerset Parish
is to grow in faith and share our love in God with the world around us,
through acts of worship, study, fellowship and service.*

Background information now available for Covenant Meeting

The Diocesan St. Andrew's Draft Covenant Task Force has developed some background materials to help explain the latest draft of the Anglican Communion Covenant that will be discussed at the Lambeth Conference in July. That's the conference which occurs once every ten years where bishops from throughout the Anglican Communion are invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to come together in England. The materials have been developed for the southern convocation discussion meeting on June 11 at 7:00pm at St. Alban's in Salisbury. They include information on the four Instruments of Communion (Archbishop of Canterbury, Lambeth Conference, Anglican Consultative Council, and the Primates Meeting), a discussion of what a covenant is and is not, a paper on what the current covenant draft says about our Anglican identity, and a glossary of terms. Even if you can't attend the meeting, the materials are very helpful in understanding this issue of using a covenant document to define the Anglican Communion. All materials may be found at <http://dioceseofeaston.org/Covenant%20Conversation08.html>. Additional copies will be available Sunday on the table at the back of the church.

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should be grounded like a house on the rock foundation, and repeat the words "Have a Holy Summer" as presented to us. Have Fun-Relax, Rest Up and Grow in the Love and Service of Jesus Christ. That's what I got from the sermon.

-Respectively submitted D. Warren

UPCOMING EVENTS

**06/05 EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING, 5:15 P.M.,
PARISH HALL**

**06/09 SOUTHERN CONVOCATION MEETING ON
ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, 7:00 P.M.,
ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, SALISBURY**

**06/11 WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING, 10:00 A.M.,
PARISH HALL**

**06/11 FEAST OF ST. BARNABAS,
HEALING SERVICE WITH EUCHARIST, 12:00 NOON,
CHAPEL**

06/11 A.A. MEETING, 7:00 P.M., PARISH HALL

**06/11 ANGLICAN COMMUNION COVENANT DISCUSSION,
7:00 P.M., ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH, SALISBURY**

**06/13 A.A. AND AL-ANON MEETINGS,
8:00 P.M., PARISH HALL**

06/16 VESTRY MEETING, 7:00 P.M., PARISH HALL



Pat Costello - June 10

Ministers for this week's service are:

LECTORS

Ginny Green and Tish Lentz

INTERCESSIONS

Carroll Lentz

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Deb Parker

ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Stade and Kathy Beauchamp

USHERS

Carroll Lentz and John Nicholson

COFFEE HOUR

Nancy Stade and Josette & Cole Taylor

To add or change your address to receive the AndrewGram,
contact the Parish Office at (410) 651-2882 or SomersetParish@gmail.com.

www.SaintAndrewSomersetParish.org