

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Wardens' Report for 2009

St. Andrew's in Ayer experienced yet another year of strength and growth in 2009. Again, we were blessed by a very high level of participation by our parishioners, both long-time members and newcomers. And most important of all, after a search process that lasted over a year, we called the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock to be St. Andrew's eighth rector. Some of our more important accomplishments during the past 12 months were:

- Our Third Annual Epiphany Pageant, starring the children in our Sunday School.
- A Lenten Program based on Bishop Shaw's new book, "Conversations with Scripture".
- A well organized and active spring Foyers Group program.
- A new tri-fold Parish Profile brochure to tell St. Andrew's story to rector candidates.
- Participated in the first annual New Neighbor Fair at the Ayer Town Hall.
- Our first Family Game Night with games for the whole family.
- Held a giant Tag Sale to benefit St. Andrew's outreach projects.
- Sent a team to the Ayer Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society.
- Second annual participation in two important local community events—the 4th of July Celebration in Ayer and the Flea Market in Harvard. (Grotonfest was rained out.)
- Started a new St. Andrew's group on Facebook.com.
- Replaced the roof and repainted the former Rectory.
- Relocated the Sunday School from the Rectory to the basement of the Parish Hall.
- Again this year, our biggest-ever Apple Pie Day.
- Celebrated Fr. Alan MacKillop's ministry at St. Andrew's with a special luncheon.
- Created the Rev. Alan B. MacKillop Music Fund to support our music program.
- Purchased and installed a new commercial-grade dishwasher in the Parish Hall.
- Another extremely successful Holiday Fair, well-attended and profitable.
- Our eighth annual "In a Manger" exhibit, with over 250 Nativities on display, followed by our fourth annual Community Carol Sing.
- Welcomed a newly reformatted and reinvigorated "X-Press", our monthly newsletter.
- Hosted for the second year the Bethel Free Evangelical Church, a Korean-speaking congregation that shares both worship and administrative space with us.

None of what we have accomplished here at St. Andrew's would have been possible without the commitment of literally thousands of hours of time and talent by all of us working together. Special thanks are due to Fr. Alan MacKillop and the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock for their leadership, Kyle Bertulli and Judy Adams for their work with our music program, Lynn Ferrillo for her patience with all of us, to our Vestry members, our commission chairs and members, our newsletter staff, our convention and deanery delegates, to our Sunday School teachers, our choir, our ushers and coffee hour hosts, our acolytes, chalice bearers, lectors and counters, and to the Altar Guild for the incredibly high standard of their work, through all the seasons of our Church Year.

We thank particularly the Search Committee, under the leadership of Faith Salter and Bill Venno. Their thoughtful discernment has brought the Rev. Joyce Scherer-Hoock to St. Andrew's—a decision that will bless our lives together as a faith community for years to come. At this time, the Wardens would like to present Joyce with a small token in remembrance of a most important day in her life and in the life of St. Andrew's, as well—January 9, 2010.

In a small departure from the usual form, as Senior Warden I would like to say a word about a member of the St. Andrew's community whose willingness to take on the toughest tasks, whose organizational skills, energy, and persistence, and whose commitment to St. Andrew's in general and the Vestry in particular have been absolutely incredible over the past three years. I am referring to Linda Kaferle, who has served as Clerk of the Vestry, Junior Warden, Vestry Liaison to the Facilities Commission, and ex-officio member of the Search Committee. The evidence of her leadership in the parish can be seen everywhere—the new asphalt roof and the up-to-date paint job on the Rectory, the new dishwasher in the Parish Hall, the timely mailings of our parish newsletter, "The X-Press", the accurate minutes of Vestry meetings, and in many less visible ways—our accurate parochial reports sent to the diocese, the written Vestry agendas that keep our meetings on time, many of the details in this year's budget, her behind-the-scenes support of the Search Committee, and not least of all, her unrelenting efforts to keep the Senior Warden focused on task and on schedule. For 2010, she has agreed to serve on the Audit Committee to review the parish books for the past two years. Thank you Linda for all you have done and are continuing to do for St. Andrew's.

Finally, we thank Sue Hildreth, who has continued to serve as St. Andrew's Treasurer during her tough battle with cancer and is stepping down today; Louise Rogers and Marianne Welton, who both complete today their term as Vestry members; and Nicola Barlow, who finishes today her term as one of our delegates to the Concord River Deanery. We thank Louise Rogers for her four years' work as our Parish Historian. In 2008, during Louise's time as Parish Historian, St. Andrew's hosted the diocese-wide Parish Historians Society Annual Meeting.

And we thank all of you for your support.

In our Wardens' Report for 2008, we stated that 2009 would be a year transition for St. Andrew's. Although he had already retired after over 40 years of service as an Episcopal rector, Fr. Alan MacKillop came to St. Andrew's as Priest-in-Residence in October 2005 to provide liturgical and pastoral care for our congregation. Fr. Alan served us faithfully until his last day—All Saints' Day, November 1, 2009—and we know that we speak for every member of the parish when we say that we are grateful for the opportunity to have known and worked with him. We wish him all happiness and contentment in his retirement.

Without a doubt, 2010 will be an exciting and challenging year at St. Andrew's under the leadership of our new rector. In a harbinger of things to come, Joyce reminded us of St. Paul's words in her first pastoral letter to the people of St. Andrew's—"put on Love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." Building on our many successes of the past and involving even more parish members than we have up to this point, let us seek to grow in faith as individuals, to nurture others in our St. Andrew's community, and to reach out to all people, especially those in need during this period of economic recovery.

We look forward to working together with you,

Richard Dabrowski
Linda Kaferle