

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Wardens' Report 2006

Praise the Lord! The Lord has blessed St. Andrew's greatly in 2006! Thanks be to God! As a community of believers we have made progress in many areas -- both material and spiritual. During the year of our Lord 2006 there have been changes to our physical surroundings:

- A new sound system was installed.
- The trim on both church and parish hall was repainted at cost thanks to Al Colburn. The beautiful, bright red color of the doors chosen by Al Colburn looks absolutely fantastic. Also the lower part of the sanctuary was patched and painted, thanks to Al.
- The Rectory was refurbished and rented largely thanks to the power of love of our dear friend Victor Burton.
- A cross was installed on the cupola of the Parish Hall -- thanks for the inspiration Father Alan.
- The grounds have never looked better thanks to Sue Hildreth showing the interest and concern to follow up with the landscaping crew.
- The Membership Committee's work on the St. Andrew's website highlights the growing strength and love for our Christian community.
- New Access Ramp for the Parish Hall is approved, funded and will begin construction in the Spring.
- The "In A Manger presentation was so artfully and beautifully presented -- it was a testament to our Parish's faith.
- Our Sunday School is stable and growing.
- Our Parish Fair was a great success this year and we are all especially proud of the young people of this Parish who helped make it happen.
- Nancy Mayo and her cleaning service is back and she is so good that we never notice that things are not clean.

In terms of policy we have been fortunate enough to be able to improve the stewardship of our financial resources for St. Andrews continuing stability and growth. Thanks to the professional accounting skills and dedicated efforts of Sue Hildreth, we have a modern, streamlined and transparent system for accounting for Parish funds. A \$300,000 insurance bond has been approved to insure our investment Funds. As you will see from the Investment Report in the Annual Report we have done quite well thanks to Al Colburn's stewardship of these funds. The Vestry has also made one additional change to how we handle substantial bequests to St. Andrews. This new procedure has been applied to the Legacy gift of John Riley. We are keeping separate track of major expenditures from each legacy gift over \$25,000. We have decided to do this so that we can honor the memory of the person who helps sustain our Parish and because it reinforces us in our faith to remember "The Community of Saints" who have gone before us.

All the changes to our physical plant and financial procedures are important. However, I think that the greatest changes we have experienced are in the realm of our Christian faith. There can be no doubt that our worship improves month by month. The choir and

music under the direction of Michael Smith are such a positive expression of our faith. John Ferrillo's and Father Alan's bible study groups offer opportunities for development of Christian understanding and spiritual maturity. Father Alan's sermons educate us in the Word of God and inspire us. The many people who participate in the services: acolytes, chalice bearers, ushers, altar guild and those who 'feed the multitudes' at coffee hour.... I see the power of the spirit moving among us. I see a growing spirit among us to live our faith in Jesus Christ by forgiving and loving one another...by building each other up. To me this is the greatest gift and achievement of the past year of our Lord, 2006.

There are many influences in today's world that tear us down and separate us further and further from the Love of Jesus and the Power of the Holy Spirit. Let St. Andrews be both a place of refuge from these negative forces and a place where we can build each other up to counteract these negative influences..... a place where believers can find refuge and rejuvenation..... A place for us to experience the full joy of worshipping the Lord and loving each other.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell Harris
Senior Warden
January 18, 2007