

## **St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Wardens' Report for 2008**

St. Andrew's in Ayer experienced yet another year of strength and growth in 2008. Again, we were blessed by a very high level of participation by our parishioners, both long-time members and newcomers. Let's review what we have accomplished together during the past 12 months:

- Welcomed the newly-founded Bethel Free Evangelical Church, a Korean-speaking congregation, which now shares both our worship and administrative space.
- A thought-provoking Lenten Program, with outside speakers and discussion groups.
- Published two new color brochures to welcome new families to St. Andrew's.
- Organized a successful Rummage Sale to benefit outreach funding.
- Hosted the annual diocesan Parish Historians Society Annual Meeting.
- Conducted a successful search for our new Minister of Music, Kyle Bertulli.
- Participated in Common Cathedral in Boston, together with our tri-parish colleagues.
- Our first annual Vacation Bible School—"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands".
- Replaced the asphalt roof and insulated the attic & walls of our former Rectory.
- Set up our own lemonade stand to benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.
- First-time participation in three important local community events—the 4th of July Celebration in Ayer, Grotonfest in Groton, and the Flea Market in Harvard.
- A concert at the Groton School Chapel to benefit our outreach programs.
- Sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Ayer Town Hall.
- Again this year, our biggest-ever Apple Pie Day, with all pies sold out in advance.
- An enlarged and successful Holiday Fair, expanded into the Parish Hall basement.
- A well organized and active Foyers Group program.
- Appointed a Search Committee for a new rector.
- Our seventh annual "In A Manger" exhibit, with over 250 Nativities on display, followed by our third annual Community Carol Sing.
- Involved the parish in the "Appreciative Inquiry" process, as part of the Rector search.
- A successful stewardship campaign that put us in the black again in 2008.

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 for his leadership, Michael Smith, 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.

In many ways, this has been a year of transition at St. Andrew's. We give special thanks to Nancy Barringer, head of our Sunday School, and to Yvette Nasworthy, her successor; to Peggy Braat, coordinator of Apple Pie Day, and to Leslie Harrower, for agreeing to carry on the tradition; to Barbara Kamb, chair of the Holiday Fair Committee, and to Carolyn Smith, this year's chair; to Michael Smith, our Minister of Music, and to Kyle Bertulli, who took over in September; and to Audrey Western, who with the Parish Life Commission has sustained us for many years, and to Erica Scattergood, her new co-chair. Finally, we thank Jeanne Cassin and Yvette Nasworthy, who both complete today their full three-year term as Vestry members.

And we thank all of you for your support.

In our Wardens' Report for 2007, we stated that we believed that 2008 would need to be a year of discernment for the parish. Although he had already retired after over 40 years of service as an Episcopal rector, Fr. Alan MacKillop agreed to come to St. Andrew's as Priest-in-Residence in October 2005 to provide liturgical and pastoral care for our congregation. At the Vestry meeting in June, Fr. Alan announced that he and his wife Erica had decided that they would be willing to commit up to two additional years of service at St. Andrew's. Following this announcement, knowing that a search for a rector can be a lengthy process, at its meeting in September, the Vestry unanimously appointed a Search Committee. The Search Committee, under the leadership of Faith Salter and Bill Veno, has contributed a separate report on their activities to this year's annual meeting.

In 2009, as the Search Committee continues its efforts, the Wardens and Vestry will be working together with Fr. Alan to strengthen St. Andrew's membership growth, stewardship commitment, and shared life together as a faith community. We hope to continue to serve as a beacon for young families by providing a strong Sunday School and youth ministry. We plan to increase our active involvement and visibility in the surrounding communities, especially Ayer and Devens, through greater outreach, civic participation, and the sharing of our resources. We will continue to ensure that our facilities are welcoming, safe, and accessible to all. And not least important, we want to maintain a balanced budget, with as large an outreach contribution as we possibly can afford.

Without a doubt, 2009 will be an exciting and challenging year at St. Andrew's. Building on our many successes of the past three years 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 these difficult times.

We look forward to working together with you,

Richard Dabrowski  
Linda Kaferle  
Wardens