



Joy is not gush: joy is not jolliness. Joy is simply perfect acquiescence in God's will, because the soul delights itself in God himself... rejoice in the will of God, and in nothing else. Bow down your heads and your hearts before God, and let the will, the blessed will of God, be done.

... Amy Carmichael

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THE PRESS

FEBRUARY, 2003



In case you haven't noticed this logo posted around St. Andrew's this is the new mission statement of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Our bishops have reminded us that as the body of Christ in the world, the church is to be about the business of God's mission of spreading the Gospel of Christ to all persons. Our proclamation of the Gospel very well may begin with a simple invitation to a friend or relative to join us in our worship, service, and fellowship at God's house.

Throughout this season after the Epiphany the church is ushered into the inviting nature of God in Christ. The invitation comes as a call for all people to enter into a deeper relationship with God. Beginning with the second Sunday after the Epiphany and Christ's invitation to Philip to "Follow me", we are reminded of God's invitation to each one of us, and that, we are called to extend the same invitation to all those whom we meet. During our Adult Formation Class on Sundays we will begin to understand on a deeper level how we can extend to others the words of our Lord, "Follow me". Follow me to church and meet The Risen Lord known to us in the hearing of the Word and the blessed Sacrament of His holy body and blood. Also during our Adult Formation Class we will set the tone of how these four words shape our lives as Episcopalians living in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Our goal is to set

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the backdrop for the next year focusing on: invitation during this season after the Epiphany, Formation during the season of Lent, Sending during Eastertide, and Serving during the season after the Feast of Pentecost. By laying the foundation of our Diocesan Mission we can enter more fully into what it means to life into our own call and invitation of our Lord.

Across the United States the Episcopal Church is claiming its mission roots. Our Diocese holds before each of its parishes and indeed, before us all, an opportunity to join with our sisters and brothers across this great nation of reclaiming the Great Commission given by our Lord.

We begin with invitation: I *invite YOU*, to join us each Sunday from now until Advent I 2003 as we grow deeper into the knowledge and love of God and into The Great Commission held before each Christian to, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+

Easter Baptisms!

Easter is April 20th this year! If you or anyone you know is interested in being baptized at the Easter Vigil please contact the parish office or see Fr. Scott for information.

Readings for February

Sunday, February 2 – The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple: Candlemas

First Lesson: Malachi 3: 1-4

The first reading, from Malachi, reflects the hope of the prophets for the coming of the Messiah and the inauguration of God's reign over all the earth.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 2: 14-18

The second reading is from Hebrews. The writer explains that Jesus' work as Savior is made possible because he is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine.

The Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40

Today the church celebrates our Lord's presentation to God on the fortieth day after his birth in obedience to the Jewish law.

Sunday, February 9 – The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Lesson: II Kings 4: 8-37

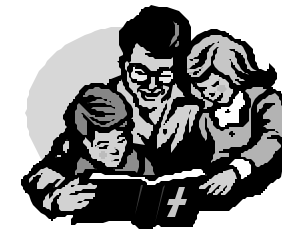
The first reading is one of the great healing stories of the Old Testament.

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 9: 16-23

In the second reading, Paul is responding to another problem in the Corinthian church.

The Gospel: Mark 1: 29-39

Today's Gospel continues Mark's account of the first events in Jesus' ministry.



Sunday, February 16 – The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Lesson: II Kings 5: 1-15

In the first reading, an outsider with leprosy, the commander of the army of the kingdom of Aram, enemies to the people of Israel, is healed.

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 9: 24-27

The second reading continues Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth. Spiritual discipline is likened to the training of an athlete.

The Gospel: Mark 1: 40-45

The Gospel reading is an account of a healing, this time of a leper.

Sunday, February 23 – The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 43: 18-25

In the first reading, God states that it is not our actions which bring about forgiveness; it is God alone who forgives, regardless of how much we try to offer ourselves and what we have to God.

Second Lesson: II Corinthians 1: 18-22

A second theme of today's Gospel is also reflected in the reading from II Corinthians.

The Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12

Today's Gospel gives us another manifestation of Jesus' role as Son of God, and a way we manifest him today. The important message in the story is more than the healing of the paralyzed man; it is the announcement that Jesus exercises the divine authority to forgive sins.

St. Andrew's Hosts "In a Manger"

Susan Leeming

An Exhibition of Nativities from Around the World

On Saturday, December 14, St. Andrew's Parish Hall was transformed into a showcase for over over 100 Nativity scenes. As small as an ornament for a tree, and as large as foot-high china figures, each display was unique. Some were crafted by professionals, with fine detailing and precise execution. Others were rough; carved, molded, or painted by loving but untrained hands. Wood, fabric, wax, straw, plastic, resin, clay, china, glass, metal, stone, corn husk, paper – all were the stuff of inspiration for the creators' visions of the 2000-year-old scene. The Polish manger scene made from brightly colored candy wrappers was a favorite of many children.

The organizers of the event, parishioners Carolyn Smith and Dick Dabrowski, gave careful thought to the placement of each display. They worried a bit about breakage, and little hands reaching to grasp the corn husk camel or the wooly lamb, but everyone, even the youngest, was respectful of the displays. There was no touching, just looking, perhaps because the subject called up a measure of reverence in the viewer.

Entering the Parish Hall, eyes were drawn immediately to a large, spare, barn-like structure set on the stage. It was designed and constructed by parishioner Al Gregory and took many hours to engineer, as Al's charge from Carolyn was to make a structure able to be taken apart and reused. Al then spent many more hours building and painting the "stable." Ned Barringer (Joseph) and Lizzy Malone (Mary) took their places, and Mary Ferrillo (the Angel Gabriel) climbed a ladder behind the stable and hung out realistically and beautifully over it. The Christ Child had to be a baby doll this year.

Open to the public, and free of charge, a steady flow of visitors wandered among the tables, stopping to admire this scene and, "Oh, look at *that* one!" The event drew parishioners and others to St. Andrew's for a quiet, enriching respite, an unusual and uplifting way to spend time connecting with the *real* reason for Christmas. By popular acclamation, it should become an annual affair.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Jason and Faith Salter on the birth of their first child, Owen Salter, on Wednesday January 15th. Mother and child are home and doing well.

Organ Rededication and Recital to Beheld March 2nd!!

A year ago we were just beginning to raise the funds to renovate our pipe organ, and now we eagerly anticipate the final result to be presented on Sunday, March 2, 2003! The renovated organ, augmented by a 2' Principal stop and a II Rank Mixture, will be rededicated with appropriate fanfare at the 10:30 am service. At 4:00 pm that same day, an organ recital will be offered to us by Craig Smith. Craig is a member of St. Andrew's Parish and has been the Director of Music at the Groton School for many years. We're delighted that he will be helping us to celebrate in this special way. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

St. Andrew's Church

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 2nd,
following the ONE service at 9AM

Following the service we will gather in the parish hall to discuss where we have been and where we are going as a parish. Please do not miss this exciting opportunity to be involved in the life and ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

St. Andrew's Welcomes 2 New Members into the Household of God

On January 12th and January 26th St. Andrew's celebrated the sacrament of baptism of William Schilp and Abigail Clemence into Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. William is the son of Bill and Amy Schilp. Abigail is the daughter of Randy and Pamela Clemence.

Calling all Worship Commission Members

On February 4th at 10:00 the Worship Commission of St. Andrew's will meet to discuss the upcoming liturgical seasons of Lent and Easter. We have a lot to tackle at the next meeting including recruitment for all aspects of our liturgical life, scheduling and planning for the upcoming Lenten season, and review of acquisition of vestments & arrays for Lenten and Eastertide. Please mark your calendars and join us in the Parish Hall for our next meeting.

Childcare Providers Needed for Wednesday Night Lenten Series

Our Wednesday Night Lenten Series is quickly approaching. So that we can make childcare available to families with young children we need volunteers to give of time and talent to provide childcare and be available for in the nursery. There are five Wednesday nights slotted for our Lenten series from 6:30-8:00 PM. If you or anyone you know would be willing to help during our Wednesday night Lenten Series please contact the Parish Office.

2003 Estimate of Giving or Pledge Envelopes

Envelopes are available for all, and we encourage you to use them! They assure that your contributions are accurately credited, and are a huge timesaver for the parish volunteers who handle the collection each week. Parishioners who received envelopes in the past will have labeled boxes, so if you have not collected yours from the back of the church yet, please do so! If you prefer to have them mailed to you, please call the church office and we will make sure yours go into the mail.

December Vestry Meeting Highlights

Present: Rev. Scott Baker, Anne Cahill, Al Colburn, Claudette Hunt, Lorraine Leonard, Jack Mercier, Louise Rogers, Ginny Vatcher, Jonathan Wistar

- ✘ There was some discussion as to why we're having two separate Baptisms in one month. Scott feels that since the couples schedules didn't allow them to attend the same Baptismal date, he would arrange to perform them at their convenience.
- ✘ Forty-five people attended last Sunday's 8 a.m. Service. We need more space to accommodate people at both coffee hours.
- ✘ Treasurer's Report: Plate offerings and Pledges are down. The deficit is still hovering around \$40,000.00.
- ✘ Organ Restoration Update: Al reported that more ranks are added each week. It'll probably be another six weeks before it's completed.
- ✘ Facilities Update: The light illuminating the large front window is welcoming. It turns on at 5:30 and off at midnight.
- ✘ We discussed the possibility of repairing the walkway to the Peabody Room at the same time as the Bell Tower's walkway repair. Depends on cost. Jack will get quotes for next meeting.
- ✘ Ned Leeming did a beautiful job refurbishing the original Baptismal font.
- ✘ Pony Express Update: We received 84 Estimates of Giving totaling \$136,000.00. Our Goal is for \$160,000.00 which we may reach after contacting parishioners who were unavailable at the time of the Pony Express run.
- ✘ Vestry Elections: Have 3 candidates for 4 spaces right now. Vestry members will speak to others they feel would be helpful serving on the Vestry.
- ✘ Jason Salter will become the Treasurer. Lili's finding it difficult as her job requires her to travel to NY State often.
- ✘ Vestry Retreat: Feb. 21 & 22 at Grotonwood, Groton, MA. \$81.00 pp Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast and lunch

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: March 2003

Deadline: Thursday, February 20

Send submissions to: acahill@hybricon.com

Or, drop off your submissions at the Church Office during office hours or in the Peabody Room on Sundays.

Questions? Please call me at:

H: (978) 448-4053

W: (978) 772-5422 x 323

*Be sure to include your name and telephone number on **all** submissions!*

Acolyte Training

On February 9th we will hold a training for all acolytes following the 10:30 AM service. The training should last approximately one hour. Lunch will be provided.

Lenten Quiet Day

On Saturday March 1st St. Andrew's will offer a Lenten Quiet day from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM. This day is set aside for reflection and preparation for the forty days of prayer, fasting, Bible study, and good works we are all called to do as we make our way to Golgotha and the empty tomb of Resurrection Day.

Lenten Quiet Day Schedule:

9:00 – Morning Prayer in the Church
9:30–Coffee and Doughnuts in Parish Hall
9:45 – 10:30–1st meditation
10:30-11:00–Lectio Divina and silence
11:00-11:45–2nd meditation
12:00–Noonday Prayer in the Church
12:30–Lunch
1:15–2:00–3rd meditation
2:00-2:30–Contemplative Prayer
2:45–Depart

Candlemas

On Sunday February 2nd is Candlemas or The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. It is the fortieth day after Christmas and is the last of the Christmas cycle of feasts. Although rarely falling on a Sunday, it is the feast when the church celebrates Christ as “The light to enlighten the nations.” We will all gather in the Parish Hall prior to the 9:00 AM service each holding our own candle, and process from the parish hall into the church. Please join us for this grand occasion.

St. Andrew's Has New Communion Set

Susan Leeming

Those who received the Eucharist on Sunday, December 22, were the first to use our new communion set. The set was made to commemorate the recent bequest to St. Andrew's from a former parishioner, Mrs. Mildred N. Pillman.

The set consists of four pieces: two chalices, a bread box, and a paten. They have been designed and made out of sterling silver by Mr. Steve Smithers of Ashfield, Mass. The inscriptions on the two chalices were hand-engraved by Mr. Cedric Bannister of Turners Falls, Mass. The inscription on one chalice reads “To the glory of God in thanksgiving for the life of Mildred N. Pillman 1903 – 2000,” and on the second, “Given from the bequest of Mildred N. Pillman Advent 2002.”

Mildred Neat Pillman was a hairdresser, with a shop on the second floor of the bank building across the tracks from the church. She called her shop “Neat Beauty Shop,” using her maiden name. She was known by several of our longtime members, who frequented her establishment. Her first husband was Nicholas Murray, a Roman Catholic. Following his death, she married Harold Pillman, a devout Baptist who attended the Federated Church, and who is a cousin of our Mildred Allen. Mrs. Pillman was a faithful Episcopalian who loved St. Andrew's and attended the 8 a.m. service (which was the 7:30 a.m. service in “the older days.”)

Jean Cummings remembers Mildred Pillman as a tall redhead, very nice but with a redhead's disposition – outspoken! Mildred and Harold, who were childless, retired to Florida several years ago. Not long after they moved, Harold passed away, and gradually Mildred became blind, but she would come back to Ayer every summer (she kept a home on Highland Avenue) and would come to St. Andrew's until she could no longer make the trip north. She died in Florida on December 27, 2000, at age 97.

A few words about Steve Smithers:

For the last 25 years, Steve has been researching and refining the art of silversmithing, as practiced by the master silversmiths of the Colonial period. Through the process of performing restorations on fine early metal objects, Steve has gained an intuitive sense of the original working methods, which has influenced the design, construction, and craftsmanship of his own pieces. Each piece Steve makes is handmade, using the traditional tools and techniques of classic metalsmithing. A gentle, quiet man with high artistic and ethical standards, Steve spends his days in a small, cluttered workshop set on a rise of land behind his house in Ashfield. He is married with children (his son Chris is his apprentice) and grandchildren. Our communion set is only the second he has designed and made; the first was for Trinity Parish (Episcopal) in Lenox, Mass. Steve says the making of our communion set gave him great pleasure and satisfaction.

February 2003

St. Andrew's Church

Tel: (978) 772-2615
 Office Hours: M - Th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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