



*He said not Thou shalt not be
tempered, thou shalt not be
travailed, thou shalt not be
distressed; but He said, Thou
shalt not be overcome.*

... Juliana of Norwich

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THE PRESS

MAY, 2003

May Flowers

Most of us know the old adage, “April showers bring May flowers.” Perhaps we could look at this old adage in a whole new way. Perhaps “flowers” could be taken as a verb rather than a noun. As Webster’s defines it “to flower—means to bloom, to come to prime condition”. May flowers—it is the month of May that all of nature around us produces and comes into its prime condition as evidence by the vast array of color and hue. How fitting it is that all of the Sundays of May are included within Eastertide. On April 20th we came together to receive the abundance of God’s grace, which showered down on us in the resurrection of our Lord. Just as life-giving rain waters the earth bringing forth growth, so to do we spend this Eastertide growing in the knowledge and love of God shown to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. In St. Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth the same theme is echoed, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.” This growth is both corporate and individual. It is the realization that we are called to grow and that all the life-giving nutrients we need are provided by God. Indeed, it is God who gives the growth. This Eastertide we bloom and flower and come to

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prime condition. This growth is not limited to the month of May. Indeed as Eastertide rolls on we are ushered into the mystery and awe of what is Pentecost, the culmination of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, when God rained down His Holy Spirit.

This month is also a time when we have begun to look intentionally at how we are growing here at St. Andrew's. Our Ministry Development team has been holding parish forums to discuss our past, present, and future growth. The discussions are rooted in our ministry statement which begins by stating, "We seek to grow..." Seeking to grow is what we are all about. The Ministry Development team's aim is to ascertain and clarify how we are growing and how we can respond in faith to the growth God gives. Many opportunities are being provided by the Ministry Development team for everyone to participate and communicate her/his comments regarding this exciting time in our parish. Please make plans to attend at least one of these scheduled times so that we can all respond in faith to the growth that God gives among us.

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+



St. Andrew's Welcomes its Newly Baptized

On April 20th - Easter Sunday

Amanda Newland Lewis

Samuel James Folger - son of Robert and Katrina Folger

Owen Michael Salter - son of Jason and Faith Salter

Nursery Caregivers Needed

The church is needing two Nursery caregivers for the school year 2003-2004. The hours would be 9:15 am to 11:45 am to cover the second Sunday service.

The salary is \$30.00 for the morning. We are looking for reliable, responsible people who would care for infants and toddlers with love, patience and enthusiasm. Experience with babies and children a must. Caregivers need not be church members. Age and gender open. For more information contact Nancy Barringer at the church or at geonan@charter.

Mark Your Calendars

On Saturday May 31st Nick Morris-Kliment will be ordained to the presbyterate (priesthood) at 10:00 AM in St. Paul's Cathedral Boston. Many remember Nick and Jamie as parishioners of St. Andrew's. Currently, Nick is serving as Assistant Rector at St. Peter's in Weston. He will celebrate his first Holy Eucharist at both the 8 & 10 AM services on Sunday June 1st.

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: June 2003

Deadline: Tuesday, May 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!*

Newcomer's Dinner

Over the past twelve months we have had a lot of new people pass through our doors here at St. Andrew's. Our hope is to respond with warmth, caring, and hospitality to everyone who now calls St. Andrew's their parish home. The Parish Life Commission extends this hearty invitation: "All members of the parish are cordially invited to attend a Newcomers' Dinner at St. Andrew's Parish Hall on Saturday, May 31, 2003 at 6pm. The dinner will be an opportunity for both new and existing members of our parish family to meet and share a time of fellowship together. The main course of the dinner will be catered, so the courtesy of an RSVP to Ginny Vatcher at 978 448 8360 by May 17th, would be greatly appreciated."

Hey, all 6th – 12th GRADERS:
What are you doin' this summer?

Why not head to one of Young Life's 2 New York State resorts for the best week of your life?

6th, 7th, and 8th graders: August 7 – 11 at Young Life's Lake Champion. Cost: \$350.

9th – 12th graders: August 10 – 16 at Young Life's Lake Saranac.
Cost: \$495.

Scholarship money is available. Speak to Susan Leeming (978) 456-3397 for more information. Don't wait!

FOCUS Offers Summer Programs for Youth

by Jonathan Wistar

As in past years, FOCUS (the Fellowship Of Christians in Universities and Schools), a non-denominational program founded by (then) Rev. Peter Moore, the present seminary dean of Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, will offer various programs throughout the Summer in several geographies oriented towards either middle school or upper school youth. While Young Life focuses mostly on public schools, FOCUS is more geared toward students in independent schools. (Keep your eyes peeled for Young Life Summer offerings in this – or an upcoming – X-Press.) FOCUS summer programs are described below. You can visit their website at www.infocus.org or telephone (434) 245-6112 for more information. Note: program costs do **not** include cost of transportation to/from the location. Hard as it is to believe, some of these programs are **already** full (but wait-listing is possible). Financial aid is available (see the website or telephone). Plan your summer now!

June Week II: June 19-26, Grades 9-12, Cost \$415, Status: program open
Pure fun and a chance to explore the activities Martha's Vineyard has to offer. Enjoy afternoons of beach trips, sailing, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and summer relaxation. Talks and discussions center on the basis for Christian belief

Island Cruise: June 15 – 21, Grades 7-8, Cost \$655, Status: program full / waitlist
Five days aboard the 120-foot topsail schooner *Shenandoah*, on the waters of southern New England. Experience the power and beauty of a ship under sail, as well as unforgettable fun. (Note: The *Shenandoah* is neither owned nor operated by FOCUS; the program is run by FOCUS staff and volunteers.)

Middle School Adventure: June 27 – July 3, Grades 6-8, Cost \$575, Status: program full / waitlist
This introduction to FOCUS is held at the Study Center on Martha's Vineyard and features an all-program activity each day; a day of sailing on chartered boats, a Nantucket trip, a day of biking around the Vineyard, a beach day, and a games day are typical. Small group discussions and talks are built into the schedule.

Continued next page

FOCUS (continued)

Carolina Adventure: August 2-9, grades 9-12, Cost \$550, Status: program open

An adventure week featuring mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, and white water rafting in the mountains of North Carolina. Small group discussions and talks round out the program. The leadership team includes adults and college students with adventure skills and experience in working with students in demanding outdoor activities.

Carolina Adventure: August 10-17, Grades 6-8, Cost \$550, Status: program open

This adventure week for middle schoolers features mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, and white water rafting in the mountains of North Carolina. The leadership team includes adults and college students with adventure skills and experience in working with younger students in demanding outdoor activities.

August Week II: August 10-17, Grades 9-12, Cost \$415, Status: program open

Summer on the Vineyard doesn't get better than this. This week offers the best of FOCUS and Martha's Vineyard. Going to the beaches, sailing, tennis, basketball, volleyball: you name it, we've got it. The week emphasizes an introduction to Christianity and includes talks and discussions.

Middle School Week: August 18-25, Grades 7-9, Cost \$415, Status: program open

Be part of a high-energy program at the FOCUS Study Center on Martha's Vineyard. In the midst of special games, activities, talent shows, and fun is a chance to explore the Christian faith in a friendly and relaxed setting.



Come and See

Godly Play, the wonderful Montessori-based method of religious education, is being taught to our youngest parishioners. Would you like to see a lesson taught by the New England area Godly Play Coordinator? Rev. Cheryl Minor of Belmont will give a presentation of the curriculum followed by a discussion period.

An Update on Young Life in Ayer

Eric Stoltzfus, the Nashoba Valley Young Life Director, will attend the May 7 Outreach Commission meeting. He will give an update on Young Life coming to the high school students of Ayer. Eric will meet with the Commission members from about 7:00PM – 7:30PM. All are welcome to attend to hear more and get your questions answered regarding this exciting ministry focusing on bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to high school students.

Loaves and Fishes to Give Presentation

On Sunday, May 18th at 9:30 AM in the parish hall, Lisa Martel of Loaves and Fishes will be here with us to give a presentation about all the exciting things happening with Loaves and Fishes. If anyone has ever attended the 10:30 service and wondered who receives the food presented in the very large wicker basket—now is your chance to learn more about Loaves and Fishes. Loaves and Fishes began at St. Andrew's some twenty years ago and continues to be a legacy and testimony of this Parish's commitment to outreach. Lisa will be here to share with us the past (and present) ministry of Loaves and Fishes to the poor and marginalized of our area. Everyone is invited to come and learn more about Loaves and Fishes and how St. Andrew's can continue supporting and sustaining this very needed and valuable ministry in Ayer.

A request for information:

Mickey Cox had a copy of a poem written about the old pulpit in the Forge Village Mission Church. If anyone has a copy or knows where a copy can be found, please contact Bob Shaw at 978 692-7677 or bob.shaw@crbard.com. Bob would like to make a large copy for the lobby at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Westford so that they will always remember their roots to Forge Village and the St. Andrew's Mission church there. Thanks!!

Readings for May

Sunday, May 4 – The Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 4: 5-12

Our reading from Acts today is an account of the manifestation of Christ's presence in and through his followers.

Second Lesson: I John 1:1 – 2:2

Our reading from I John this Sunday speaks of the forgiveness of sins we have as a result of our life in Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 24: 36b – 48

Today's Gospel reading directs our attention to the Eucharist as the ongoing experience of the Resurrection.

Sunday, May 11 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 4: 23-37

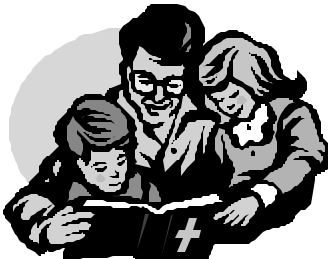
Today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles brings us another of Peter's sermons proclaiming the Resurrection.

Second Lesson: I John 3: 1-8

The reading today from I John tells us that we are God's children.

The Gospel: John 10: 11-16

This Sunday of Easter is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Each year we hear a part of Jesus' discourse on his relationship to us in the image of the Good Shepherd.



Sunday, May 18 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 8: 26-40

Like a vine growing new branches, the early church began almost immediately to spread beyond Jerusalem, bound together in Christ's love and led by the Spirit.

Second Lesson: I John 3: 14-24

Today's reading from I John carries on his theme of our share in God's self-giving love (in the original Greek, agape).

The Gospel: John 14: 15-21

On the final Sundays of Easter our attention is directed to the results in our lives of Jesus' dying and rising: the results of Baptism and the Eucharist.

Sunday, May 25 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 11: 19-30

In this Sunday's reading from Acts God's power to bring good out of bad is shown.

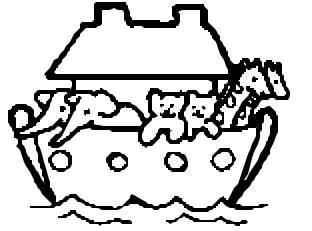
Second Lesson: I John 4: 7-21

The reading from I John speaks of the self-giving love of God, revealed in Jesus' Passover from death into life, as the primary characteristic of our lives in Christ.

The Gospel: John 15: 9-17

In the last weeks of Eastertide our liturgical readings explore the results of the dying and rising of Jesus.

KIDZ IN CHURCH



- 3-year old Reese, "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."
- A little boy was overheard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."
- A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."
- After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."
- I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer – for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen"
- A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."
- Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, and sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."
- A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'" Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"
- A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"
- A wife invited some people over to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

May 2003

St. Andrew's Church

Tel: (978) 772-2615

Office Hours: Monday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tu - Fri 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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