

*Learned men and great scholars have devoted great effort and prolonged study to the Holy Scriptures... employing the gifts which God gives to every person who has the use of reason. This knowledge is good... but it does not bring with it any spiritual experience of God, for these graces are granted only to those who have a great love for Him.*

*... Walter Hilton, The Scale of Perfection*

# THE PRESS

SEPTEMBER, 2003

## Rally Day & Parish Fair

According to Webster's dictionary the definition for Rally is as follows: rally (ral-i) – to reassemble; to collect and restore order; to recover; assembly. After our much needed rest and relaxation of the summer months it is now time to “rally” together for the beginning of the Christian School year. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, we will kick off our Christian School year with quite a bang. The Parish Life Commission is planning to decorate the parish hall in a carnival motif complete with balloons and popcorn. We will also have an augmented coffee hour with special treats and goodies to munch while we peruse the “booths” of all the commissions and Sunday schools. Speaking of commissions and Sunday School—Representatives of all our various commissions will be out in force recruiting and reassembling members for the myriad of opportunities to become involved in St. Andrew's life and ministry. This is the time to join in the life and ministry of St. Andrew's. If you would like to become involved in teaching Sunday school this is the time to sign up. If you would like to help with acolytes, stewardship, buildings and grounds, be a lector, a chalice bearer, or on the Altar Guild, or any of the exciting things going on at the Parish, Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> is the day for you! One's level of

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*The X-Press is the monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

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involvement can vary from baking bread, and being involved in our oblation bearer ministry (those who bring forward the bread and wine on Sunday) to total immersion through the ministries of the Altar Guild and Vestry. September 7<sup>th</sup>, promises to be a mighty big day indeed! On this day adults and children alike will gather together to register for Sunday School class. Particular excitement is centered around our youngest age children and our teens. **Godly Play** (which was begun last year) will be up and running in full force this year. Thanks to the energy of its teachers and contributions from parishioners, **Godly Play** is well equipped to provide our youngest with deep and lasting Christian Formation. This year a new addition to our Sunday school curriculum is the much-awaited **Journey to Adulthood** for our teenagers. These two programs are by far and away two of the best Christian Formation tools available to our children today.

We also have a new Adult Sunday School teacher, Susan Grinstead.

Susan and I will be teaching our Adult Christian Formation offering in the parish hall. A variety of subjects will be covered. To kick the Adult Sunday School off, we will be spending the first four weeks discussing the issues raised by The Episcopal Church's most recent 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

It promises to be a very exciting year at St. Andrew's. Please make plans to attend our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rally Day and Parish Fair, Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> 9:15-10:15. See you then!!

Your servant in Christ,

**Scott+**

## Vestry Meeting Highlights - July 9, 2003

✖Facilities Update: The tentative **parish workday** is Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday.

✖LRPT Update: Manny Lindo reviewed the Status Report for us. Some members questioned uses for renovated rectory; space for Treasurer to work in, meeting spaces for commissions, parishioners? Suggested completion time for entire renovations – ten years. Ball park figure, for rectory renovation is \$250,000 - \$300,000. When completed, parish hall could bring in needed income. Vestry Liaisons are Mary Medeiros and Louise Rogers.

✖Investments Update- Jack handed out the attached current status of our investments accounts, written up by Al Colburn. The treasurer noted that he felt it was inappropriate for the parish reserves to be so heavily invested in stocks and bonds due to the LRPT shortening the time horizon of investment.

✖Scott commented on how much he misses Jonathan who was involved in so much of St. A's ministries. He nominated **Lorraine Leonard** to fill Jonathan's remaining six months as **Jr. Warden**. All approved.

### ***Editor's Note:***

*Next Issue: October 2003*

*Deadline: **Saturday, September 20th***

*Send submissions to: [acahill@hybricon.com](mailto: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!*

### St. Andrew's Goes Hi-Tech

Just recently St. Andrew's entered into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the installation of new high-speed Internet capability of DSL. With this new technology we have also updated our web address and our parish e-mail. Not only are these changes helpful in getting information faster and more reliably, the net costs will actually be less than with our dial-up service and multiple phone lines.

Our new web address is : <http://mysite.verizon.net/staayer> and our new e-mail address are: [staayer@verizon.net](mailto:staayer@verizon.net) or [jobbak@verizon.net](mailto:jobbak@verizon.net). Thanks to Alan and David Rogers and the work of the communications commission, the church office is better equipped for the future.

### Following the Granite Brick Road

The new walkways leading into the church have been completed! All entryways into the church are now safe and readily accessible. What's more, they have been installed in such a way as to make snow removal easier in the winter months. Thanks to the hard work and leadership of our vestry, St. Andrew's has walkways that will be functional, long lasting, and beautify the exterior of our parish. Jim Moison, the contractor, did an excellent job. With the completion of the entryway on the Forest St. side of the church, we are now able to provide full and unimpeded access into the house of God. If you park on the Forest Steet side of the church, there is no need to traverse around the building - now simply come through those doors and into the church!

## Safe Church Training

The following is the next scheduled *Safe Church Training*.

**Christ Church, Needham**  
(Charles River Deanery)  
1132 Highland Avenue  
Needham, MA 02492



**On**

**Saturday, September 13, 2003**  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Fee: \$20 per person**  
(Make checks payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts)

**Please bring a brown bag lunch**

This training is required for all parish employees within a year of date-of-hire. Church volunteers are also encouraged to take the course. If you or someone in your parish needs to meet these requirements, please register or obtain information by e-mailing [gelson@diomass.org](mailto:gelson@diomass.org) or call Grace Elson at 617-879-6309.

### Fall Worship Schedule to Begin

Please note, on September 7<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's will move from its summer worship schedule of 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM back to its normal schedule of 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist— Rite I, followed by Christian Formation for all ages 9:30–10:15, and 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Rite II with choir.

## ***Readings for September***

### **Sunday, September 7 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Isaiah 35: 4-7a

The Old Testament reading is chosen because, in it, Isaiah foresees the coming of the Messiah as characterized by healing and new life.

Second Lesson: James 1: 17-27

Today we begin four weeks in which we read the Epistle of James. This brief letter, ascribed to Jesus' brother, is strikingly similar in tone and content to the Sermon on the Mount.

The Gospel: Mark 7: 31-37

The Gospel reading today is Jesus' healing of a man who was deaf and mute. This healing, like the others in the Gospel, is for Mark a sign that Jesus is the Son of God.

### **Sunday, September 14 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Isaiah 50: 4-9

The Old Testament reading from Isaiah is the third of the poems called the "Servant Songs." In them, the prophet foresees the servant of God, who is suffering persecution and death for his faithfulness to God, a death which would be redemptive for all people.

Second Lesson: James 2: 1-5, 8-10, 14-18

The second lesson is again drawn from the small Letter of James, an intensely practical discourse on Christian living. In today's reading, James exhorts us to treat all persons equally, not making distinctions, and to see to it that our actions express our faith.

The Gospel: Mark 8: 27-38

The Gospel reading is Peter's acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah, which was followed by Jesus' first prediction of his crucifixion and resurrection.

### **Sunday, September 21 – The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Wisdom 1: 16 – 2:1, (6-11), 12-22

The first reading is from the Wisdom of

Solomon, one of the books in the Apocrypha. Its description of those who are unfaithful to God, turning on God's servant with persecution, has been seen as an Old Testament prefiguring of Jesus' suffering and death.

Second Lesson: James 3: 16 – 4:6

Again we read from the Epistle of James.

After describing the characteristics of those who are at peace with God, the author states that strife, jealousy, and estrangement are the products of allying ourselves with the world rather than with God.

The Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37

In today's Gospel reading Jesus again predicts his death and resurrection. The disciples fail to understand, and they dispute among themselves which of them is the most important. Jesus tells them that the highest status in his kingdom is reserved for those who serve.

### **Sunday, September 28 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29

In the first reading, Moses complains to God about the burden of being the sole leader of the Israelites. God has Moses call together seventy of the leaders and gives them a share of the Spirit.

Second Lesson: James 4: 7-12, (13 – 5:6)

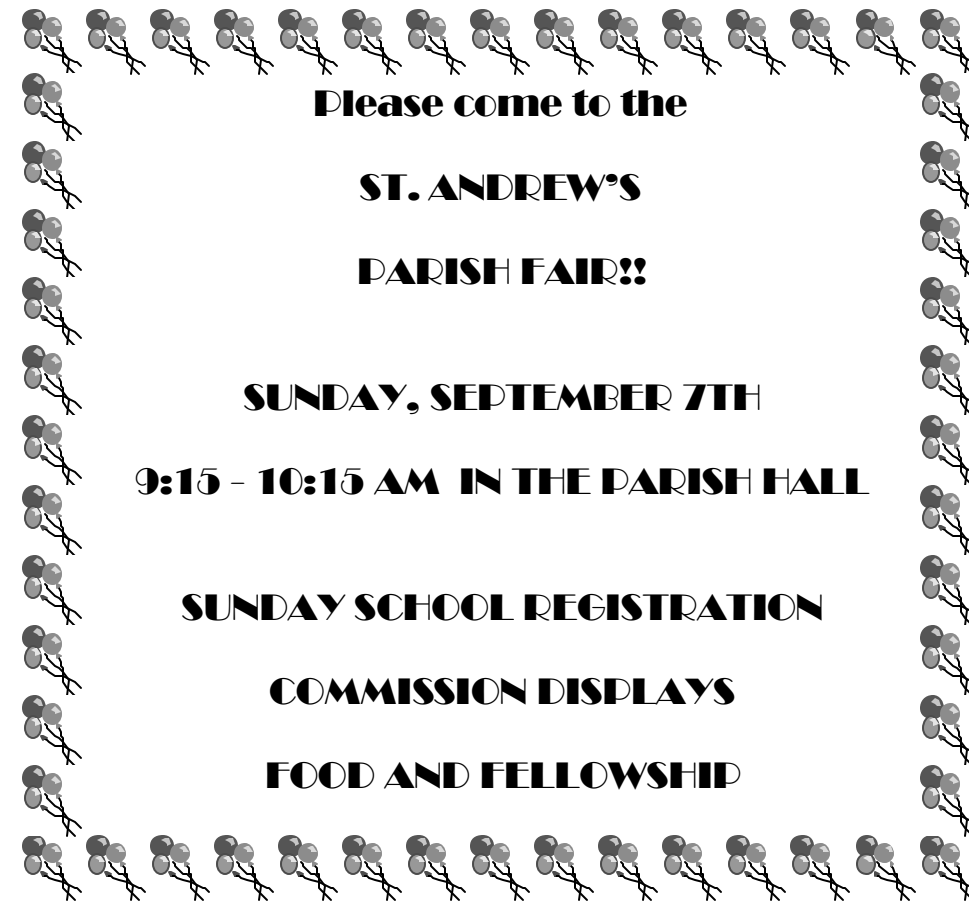
We continue to read from the Letter of James for our second lesson. James is particularly concerned that people of faith embody that faith in their relationships with others.

The Gospel: Mark 9: 38-43, 35, 47-48

In today's Gospel reading, the disciples complain about someone (who was not a part of their group) casting out demons in Jesus' name. Jesus' response is that the man should not be stopped, for "whoever is not against us is for us."

## **A Great Big Thank You**

Sheryl and I would like to give a great big thank you for all the love and kindness poured out after the birth of our son, Ian. The copious amounts of food along with the abundant love, support, and care St. Andrew's gave has been humbling and grace-filled. A particular thank you goes to our Pastoral Care Commission who helped to organize and plan meals and visits. Thanks again for everything.



# Sunday School Fall "Wish List"

- ✘ Dustbusters, at least two, preferably four.
- ✘ Shelving or bookcases with deep shelves, white or could be painted white.
- ✘ Small, round table to be used for mini-altar. Liturgical color tablecloths for it.
- ✘ Large rug or rugs, preferably green. Rug pads.
- ✘ Plant pots – pink, purple, white, green, yellow, orange, medium size, lightweight.

If you are cleaning out this fall or are at a yard sale, please remember our list. New items also gratefully accepted!

## ALSO WANTED: PERSONNEL

- 1) Christmas Pageant Director. Would involve rehearsing Sundays after late service from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Some musical or dramatic experience helpful but not necessary. Enthusiasm and patience are.
- 2) Teaching Assistants, called Doorkeepers, for the two Godly Play classrooms. Alternate Sunday schedule.

Contact Nancy Barringer for information about all of the above.



*Understanding is the reward of faith.  
Therefore seek not to understand that you may  
believe, but believe that you may understand.  
... St. Augustine*

# St. Andrew's Apple Pie Day

Can you imagine it's time to think about making apple pies again with all this heat and humidity? But before we know it October and its cool days will be here.

Pencil in this year's date: Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM to 2PM at the Parish Hall. For those new to St. Andrew's, this is an event for all ages and sexes, knowledgeable about pie baking or novice with interest to learn. We make 60 - 70 pies and have FUN in the process. There are jobs for everyone. We need apple washers, peelers, slicers, pastry makers and pie assemblers. Stay as long or as short a time as you can. If so inclined bring your paring knife, peeler and rolling pin to try out various tasks. A light lunch will be served.

If you cannot attend but would like to help in some way, donations for supplies or freezer space would be appreciated. Pies are pre-ordered and paid for in advance. There will be sheets in the Peabody room in early October for ordering pies and working the day of.

Call Rhonda Cotton (978.456.8680), Barbara Kamb (978.486.4360) or Peggy Bratt (978.456.8701) with questions or suggestions.

# Pastoral Care Wants YOU!

The Pastoral Care Commission would like to hear from you!

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Parish Fair between services, our commission will have a survey available on the table. We would like each person or family to fill one out. It is a simple check list.

We would like to know if you are available to help and if so, when or how. It addresses topics of making meals, delivering them, transporting parishioners, visiting/ socializing, emergency child care, and pastoral receptions. We would also like to know if there is a need we could address for you. Please plan to stop by our table and let us know what you want.

## Bishops to Convene Meeting Regarding 74th General Convention

On Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, the Bishops of Massachusetts will convene a special gathering of clergy and laity of the diocese to discuss the actions taken at the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention held in Minneapolis. The Bishops have invited any and all who are saddened and troubled by the Episcopal Church’s decisions regarding Bishop Coadjutor Elect Gene Robinson and the permission granted to local diocese to allow for the blessing of same sex unions. The meeting will be held 6-8 pm at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. As it is stated on the diocesan website, “We want to listen to the concerns of those most hurting and explore with them ways we can remain at the “table of God’s grace” to do the mission of God. We believe that in conversation, listening, and patient waiting on God we will find our way to reconciliation and hope. We don’t know what the weeks and months ahead will bring in the wider church and Anglican Communion, but we can begin a process here at home that is open, loving, and respectful of difference. Our rich and diverse diocese is able to offer leadership by example to those in the wider church who are in despair and uncertainty. Evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, Liberals, Conservatives, Progressives, Moderates, Broad Church and Low Church folk, etc. can indeed serve Christ together if we are willing to listen to one another and God.

This meeting is not a debate or a defense of why we voted the way we did. Our Deputies will be present to listen as well. We want to hear your questions, concerns, and thoughts about how we might live into the promises and hope of God’s calling to each and every one of us in the Episcopal Church. The church will be diminished by the loss of anyone who decides to leave. We hope people most troubled will therefore join us on Sept. 14th.”  
**Please note: RSVP to Charlene Higbe, 617-482-5800 ext. 407**

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*It is absolutely unimportant in the eyes of God how many people follow the "Anglican tradition" of belief and practice. It is of the greatest importance how many people there are who have come to know and love our Lord because of what we Anglicans have said and done.*

*... Stephen F. Bayne, Jr.*

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## Adult Christian Formation Calendar

As we begin this new Christian formation cycle, the adult Sunday school will be covering two very interesting topics. This Advent semester (a.k.a. September to December), we will spend the first session on the controversial actions taken at our 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention. In particular we will discuss human sexuality and the Bible, and how the Episcopal Church is grappling with sexuality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This issue has been at the forefront of our denomination’s consciousness. Regardless of where you stand, conservative or liberal, or somewhere in between, all are invited and encouraged to come and participate in the discussions. The second session of the Advent semester will be spent exploring Spiritual Gifts and the church. We will discuss types of community, take a Spiritual Gifts inventory, and discover the many avenues we as individual Christians can use our God given Spiritual gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Adult Christian Formation:

### **Sexuality and the Episcopal Church**

September 14—Introduction to Human Sexuality  
September 21—What the Bible has to say about sex  
September 28—Actions taken by General Convention  
October 12—Responses and reactions to General Convention  
October 19—Wrap up or Guest Speaker

### **Discovering your Spiritual Gifts**

October 26—Community and you  
November 9—Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament  
November 16—Spiritual Inventory  
November 23 – Spiritual Inventory Continued  
November 30— No Sunday School: Advent Wreath Making  
December 7 -- Don’t hide your light under a bushel—exercising your Spiritual gifts for the Church  
December 14—Employing your spiritual gifts  
December 21—Spiritual Gifts and stewardship

## Ministry Development Team nears Completion of Report

You may remember way back in May the Ministry Development Team lead various meetings of the parish to determine where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. The collusion of those thoughts and comments has come together and will be ready to submit to the vestry and parish this month. It was a fruitful venture. The team gained valuable insight into the life and ministry of the parish with an eye toward the future growth at St. Andrew's. The Ministry Development Team has committed to having this final report in parishioner's mailboxes by the end of September. We pray you will find the report as enlightening as we have and that it will help us all to be better informed as we grow in faith and community.

## Long Range Planning Team Update

The Long Range Planning Team (hereafter LRPT) has sent to the vestry the fruits of its labor and are awaiting feedback from the vestry on where we go from here. Under the very capable leadership of Manny Lindo the team has worked diligently exploring the best use of our facilities. Within the month of September the LRPT hopes to come before the parish to give a final update on where St. Andrew's is going regarding the care if its facilities. The summer has been well spent exploring various avenues of construction, reconstruction, grants and finances to position ourselves for our current needs as well as what we believe we will need in the future. The LRPT has devised a three phase ten year project in which all three buildings will be attended to with deliberate care. The first phase will address increase in parking, enlarged fellowship space, modernized and centralized administration space, and a nursery located adjacent to the church proper. The second phase proposes addressing the parish hall with compliance to the Massachusetts building codes and handicap accessibility codes, beautification of the space, and unifying the St. Andrew's Parish campus. The third phase will address the church proper with special attention to restoration of the interior as well as modernizing the building with new wiring, air conditioning, and sound system. These are bold plans indeed. However, the LRPT has come to realize that far too many years have elapsed without attending to our facilities. In order for St. Andrew's to be good stewards of the treasures we have been entrusted with by former generations, we realize we must act now to care for our facilities. Please continue to pray for guidance and discernment as we move forward into the future of caring for our church buildings.

## Outreach Commission Update

The purpose of the Outreach Commission is to make recommendations to the Vestry as to which persons and /or organizations St. Andrew's tithe should support. Our focus is in finding Christian organizations, but the ultimate recipient need not be Christian as we are all God's children. The preference will be to support activities that focus on long term solutions.

The current budget proposals include:

LOAVES AND FISHES, a local organization serving the people of our communities by providing food, emergency shelter, resource referrals, and other temporary services, and by advocating for changes that promote independence and self-reliance.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS, whose mission is to build adequate, affordable housing for the needy in our area.

OUR FATHER'S HOUSE, a non-sectarian agency providing emergency shelter and related services for homeless persons, including men, women, and children; and transitional shelter for men and women in recovery from drugs/ alcohol.

YOUNG LIFE, a program which proclaims the Gospel of Jesus to high school youth in our area.

SOUTH AMERICAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY (SAMS), an Episcopal society supporting missionaries in Central and South America and Spain. We are currently supporting the Waddells in Bolivia and Gail White in Spain.

SUMMER CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM OF ST. ANDREW'S, which provides financial support for children and youth to attend Christian summer camps. This year we gave fifteen scholarships of \$100 each.

THE BARBARA HARRIS CAMP, our diocesan camp and conference center in New Hampshire.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH – our rector's seminary

The Outreach Commission meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Peabody Room. If you are interested in joining us, we would welcome your involvement. Six members comprise the Commission currently, but we'd like to have a couple more. Please call or speak to any of us.

Jack Mercier, Millie Mercier, Kris Wile, Peter Wharton, Lee Burton, and Peggy Braat

September 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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