



May the fiery and sweet strength of Thy love, I pray Thee, O my Lord, absorb my soul, and make all things under heaven as nothing unto me, that for the love of Thy love I may die, as Thou didst deign to die for love of mine. Amen.

... St. Francis of Assisi

Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor

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THE PRESS

OCTOBER, 2004

A call to Humility

Every year the celebration and commemoration of St. Francis falls on October 4th. In the Episcopal Church his day is often celebrated with a blessing of the Animals. Anyone that has been coming to St. Andrew's for the last few years has no doubt participated in just such a service. This year will be no different. This year we will once again gather in the Parish Hall at 9:30 am on October 3rd along with our four-legged, winged, and furry friends to honor this wonderful saint whose impact has been felt even today.

Yet there is so much more to St. Francis than a lovable man who so highly regarded God's creatures and creation. Some rather fantastic stories have sprung up around this wonderful man (some true, some not so true). Yet amidst all the apocryphal stories, what remains is testimony of Francis' love of the Lord and his shining example of humility. No doubt Francis was an extraordinary person. Perhaps that is partly the reason he has endeared himself to so many. Like all the saints, Francis' life was a sign that always pointed to something greater. In short, his life shows us what it means to imitate Jesus Christ, with heart, soul, mind, and body. His reverence and posture toward

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God and his fellow human beings are the attributes that show forth his humility in bold relief. The Order that sprang up around him were like-minded men who, being so impressed by Francis' life, chose to leave all they had to follow him. He called them Friars Minor. He desired that they should be below their fellows and seek the last and lowest places. Francis understood himself as a servant of God and a servant of God's creatures. He embraced total poverty and total devotion. He gave not only all his possessions but also himself in service to God and humanity. He understood the power of the Cross of Christ to be in humility and redemptive suffering on behalf of the world. This is what Francis imitated. He so longed to identify with Jesus Christ that on September 14th, Holy Cross Day, Francis received the mark's of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his own hand and feet and side.

Of all the saints, Francis is the most popular and admired, but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ. On Sunday October 3rd we will sing a hymn attributed to Francis. The last stanza captures much of what it means to live a Franciscan life.

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship in humbleness,

O praise him, Alleluia!

Praise God the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One:

O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+

Safe Church Training

Safe Church Training - Fall 2004

will be held on these dates at the following locations:

October 8, 2004 Friday Church of the Advent, Boston*

October 16, 2004 Saturday Christ Church, South Hamilton

October 30, 2004 Saturday Christ Church, Harwich Port

November 13, 2004 Saturday Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington

December 4, 2004 Saturday St. John's Church, Duxbury

*This Safe Church training will be geared to church employees although all are welcome.

Training begins at 8:30am and ends at 3:30pm. The fee is \$30.00 for the six hour training. Sessions are limited to 35 people. Registration must be received two weeks in advance of the training date. Participants are asked to bring a brown bag lunch.

It is required for all parish employees within a year of their hire. It is requested for all vestry and church school teachers. Any church volunteers are also encouraged to participate.

For additional information or questions, please contact Grace Elson at 617-879-6309 or email gelson@diomass.org. You can register online at www.diomass.org under 'Safe Church'.

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: November 2004

Deadline: October 20th

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: (978) 448-4053 (home) or (978) 772-5422 x 323 (work).

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

Readings for October

Sunday, October 3 – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Habakkuk 1: 1-6, 12-13; 2: 1-4

The prophet Habakkuk, writing at a time when powerful enemies threatened the very existence of Israel, also speaks of faith.

Second Lesson: II Timothy 1: 1-5

The second reading is again from the letters to Timothy. The writer, after reminding Timothy of his heritage of a faithful family, speaks of his own vocation.

The Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

Today's liturgy focuses on faith. In the Gospel reading the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. His response is to teach that faith is expressed by being God's obedient servants, and not doing so in expectation of a reward.

Sunday, October 10 – The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ruth 1: 8-19a

The ancient story of Ruth and Naomi is an account of a woman of Moab – the perennial enemies of the people of Israel – who not only accepts the God of Israel but also becomes the grandmother of King David, and thus one of Jesus' Gentile ancestors.

Second Lesson: II Timothy 2: 8-15

In the reading from II Timothy we have instructions to an early church leader concerning the message he is to proclaim and the character of his ministry.

The Gospel: Luke 17: 11-19

In today's Gospel, the willingness of the Samaritan leper – doubly excluded from conventional society – to recognize Christ, and Jesus' ministry to him, were used by Jesus as signs of God's favor to all people.

Sunday, October 17 – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 32: 3-8, 22-30

The first reading describes Jacob's tenacity in wrestling with the stranger in the dark. He is given a new name, Israel, which means "he who strives with God."

Second Lesson: II Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 5

In today's reading from the Second Letter to Timothy, this early church leader is called to persevere in teaching and preaching the faith he has been given both by his family and in his study of the scriptures.

The Gospel: Luke 18: 1-8a

Today's reading from Luke's Gospel is one of the parables of Jesus that shocks and surprises us. The example Jesus chooses is an unjust judge who grants his petitioner's plea only because she will not leave him alone until he does.

Sunday, October 24 – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 14: 7-10, 19-22

The reading from Jeremiah tells the story of a time during a drought which was regarded as a sign of divine disapproval of the sinfulness of the people. The prophet confesses the sin of the people and asks God to have mercy because of God's love and in spite of the people's sin.

Second Lesson: II Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

The second reading is Paul's final words to Timothy. Paul is in prison and is facing his imminent death, and is aware of his total dependence on God.

The Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

The theme of today's liturgy is determined by Jesus' parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The story recognizes the utter dependence on God's love – which is the true mark of those whose lives are justified by God.

Sunday, October 31 – The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 1: 10-20

In the first reading, God speaks through Isaiah to a people who keep all their liturgical and other religious observances but do not care for the other commands of the Law: the ministry of mercy and justice to the poor and helpless.

Second Lesson: II Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 11-12

We begin reading Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians today. This church had great faith but was troubled by speculations about when the Lord would return.

The Gospel: Luke 19: 1-10

Jesus continually shocked religious people by associating with known sinners. Today we have the familiar story of Zacchaeus, a tax collector whose job was to extort money from his fellow Jews, for the Roman occupiers. Zacchaeus's repentance in response to Jesus' acceptance of him silences the critics – for a time.

Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking

September 23, 2004

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, 22 SHIRLEY STREET, AYER

How I wish that all of St. Andrew's could have been there for the very touching and inspiring little ceremony last evening. Many people representing Ayer Town Officials and members of the various committees and friends were there to meet the new homeowner, Janice Cornier, and her children, Fernando and Jessica. The co-chairs of the Ayer Project, Amanda Norton and Heather Hanley, received checks from the Ayer Rotary and from two Ayer businesses to pay for the town sewer and water connections. (\$1500 and \$1400) Then Ayer Selectman, Paul Bresnahan, told them that these fees had been waived and tore up the voucher. The money could be used for other expenses.!

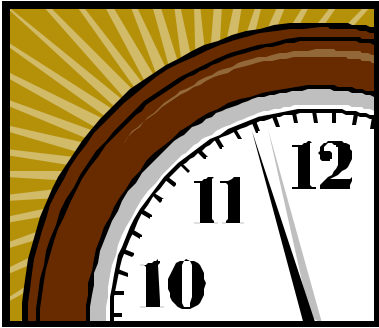
The new homeowner is so humble and grateful that it brought tears to my eyes, and she and her children are ready to put in their 300 "sweat equity hours" right away. In fact they started digging right then. It made me very happy that St. Andrew's is supporting this effort through our Outreach donation. But many more volunteers are now needed to move this project along. Several sub-committees exist, such as Family Partner, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Construction Workers, Public Relations and Fund Raising (particularly Corporate Donors). The last three committees specially need more members. Can you help? Or could you pay for one square foot of the house? It costs \$77,000 to build a Habitat House, or \$64.16 per square foot. (You would even get to put a personal message on the sub-floor of your square foot). If you can help in any way, call Amanda Norton at 772-7274.

One of the Bible readings during the ceremony was from James 2: 14-18. Read it and take a few minutes to drive past 22 Shirley Street in Ayer. And hopefully you will feel called to help make this dream a reality.

- Peggy Braat



Parish Calendar for 2004-2005



Falling Back:

Time Changes Saturday,
October 30th.
Remember to set your clocks
back one hour!

Nursery News

* Are you good with small children? The nursery is in need of volunteers. If you are interested in working with the youngest of St. Andrew's, please contact Sheryl Baker @ (978) 597-3413. Volunteers are needed during Sunday school and the 10:30 service. Volunteers are needed for any or all Sundays and times. A lively, active and interesting time is guaranteed to all volunteers!

* Tired of stepping over those old toys around your house? The nursery is looking for toddler toys. Toys should have toddler appeal, be safe and durable, and easy to clean. Plastic toys are ideal. If you have any toys you'd like to donate, please drop them off by October 9th in the parish hall at the designated table.

* A nursery clean up and clean out day is being planned. If you have a nursery-aged child and/or just feel like helping out with this project, please call Sheryl Baker at (978) 597-3413 for further details. Remember, the more hands, the easier the task. While everyone is very busy, any help, big or small, is wonderful. Our kids will benefit from all our efforts!

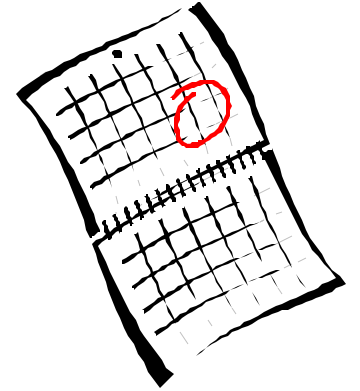


October

Sunday, October 3 – Blessing of the Animals (no Sunday School)
Monday, October 18 – Apple Pie Day

November

Friday, November 5 and Saturday, November 6 – Diocesan Convention
Sunday, November 7 – All Saints' Sunday / Baptism
Warden's coffee
Saturday, November 13 – Christmas Fair
Sunday, November 28 – Advent Wreath-making (no Sunday School)
Tuesday, November 30 – St. Andrew's Day with 5:30 p.m. service and Pot-luck



December

Sunday, December 5 – Advent Evensong service
Sunday, December 26 – no Sunday School

January

Sunday, January 23 – Bishop's visit (no Sunday School)
Sunday, January 30 – Annual meeting (no Sunday School)

February

Wednesday, February 9 – Ash Wednesday

March

Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 27 – Easter Sunday (no Sunday School)

May

Sunday, May 15 – Pentecost Sunday (no Sunday School)

June

Sunday, June 19 – last day of Sunday School



*Dear friends,
I can't tell you how honored I felt at the luncheon Sunday. I thank you for your wonderful gifts - the lovely locket with glowing Maxfield Parrish colors, the personalized hymnals, and the generous check part of which I plan to use for a Shaker Workshop music stand. And I thank you for your gifts of self - the delicious food, the music and poetry, and your words and hugs. I will never forget this tribute.*

*With love and gratitude,
Judy*

Judy Adams
Reference Dept.
Cary Library, Lexington

Fourth Thursday of the Month Means Evening Prayer

It has become a bit of a tradition by now, that on the fourth Thursday of the Month we will be having the service of Evening Prayer. On October 28th (The Feast of Sts. Simon & Jude) we will have Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM. This is a wonderful service that is contemplative and very peaceful. If you've not had the pleasure to experience Evening Prayer, please make plans to join in this fabulous service.

It's that time of year again -
Apple Pie Day
is coming up on

Monday, October 18th

Mark your calendars and come join the fun!

Bring your paring knife and/or rolling pin and apron and join us for a fun filled day of friendship and laughter. There are jobs for all - novice through experienced. If you've never made a pie come learn. If you're an old hand, come share your insights with us.

Our goal is to make 60 - 70 pies. Come for as short or as long as you can. A light lunch will be served. We'll be at

St. Andrew's Parish Hall

9:00AM - 2:00PM

If you cannot attend, but would like to help, we would appreciate cash donations for supplies. Look for the sign up sheets in the Peabody room. These pies are a great addition to any meal. They freeze well and cooking instructions will be in the October Xpress. Order early as pies are limited! We only make enough to keep the day FUN!!

If you have questions or requests call
Rhonda Cotton 978-456-8680,
Peggy Braat 978-456-8701, or
Barbara Kamb 978-486-4360.



Choir Notes

COME SING WITH US !!!!!!!

Greetings! I have a question for you. DO YOU LIKE TO SING?????

If you answered YES to that question, then now is the time to let your voice be heard. Your Choir has some very exciting plans and would love to have you join to help us fulfill our musical goals.

We are looking for all voices; Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and Basses. Please come and enjoy the Choir Experience. We are looking forward to have you sing with us.

Contact me: Hugh Smith Tones, Organist/Choirmaster
Email: mountainmanusa@netzero.net
Telephone: 978-433-0556

All Saints' Celebration

Most Episcopalians know that the first Sunday of November is All Saints' Sunday. It is the day when honor all those who have entered the larger life and have shown to us what it means to live a life of faith. What they may not know is that All Saints' day is actually on November 1st. In the Book of Common Prayer the rubric for this day states, "All Saints' Day may always be observed on the Sunday following November 1st, **in addition to its observance on the fixed date.** (emphasis mine)" So, this year on Monday November 1st St. Andrew's will do exactly what the BCP prescribes—we will have a celebration of All Saints' in addition to the Sunday After All Saints'. On All Saints' Day we will hold a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:30 PM. All are invited and welcome to join as we come together to praise God and remember those who have gone on before us. Please make plans to join us on this wonderful feast day!

A Special Message

From the Sr. Warden

We are entering the last quarter of the year 2004, and one of the things the vestry begins to consider for the coming year is the nomination of new members. This year, before the hectic holiday season approaches, I would like all parishioners to prayerfully reflect on their role at St. Andrew's, their goals for us as a parish, and their desire to help us meet those goals. One of the ways to get your voice heard loud and clear, is joining the vestry. Clerk and treasurer are one year terms. The other nine vestry positions are three year commitments, staggered three open positions each year. Below are the responsibilities of the position:

1. Be a regular attendee at worship
2. Be a financial giver
3. Pray daily
4. Attend monthly meetings, held each 2nd Wednesday at 7:30PM
5. Attend the overnight vestry retreat, to be held in February
6. Provide leadership and direction for the church:
 - ✘ Serve as liaison to a commission
 - ✘ Count offerings once every 5 weeks (following 10:30 service)
 - ✘ Attend special events and services
 - ✘ Attend Safe Church training session and if possible, attend the Alpha program

Speak to any vestry member about what they've done this past year. Attend a meeting. Pray about what invigorates you in this church, and how you can best serve God with your talents. If you're unsure or afraid you're not qualified but are interested, talk to me. The direction of St. Andrew's is in your hands. Choose to be involved and guide the parish in the new year.

Stewardship Commission update

* Way to go!

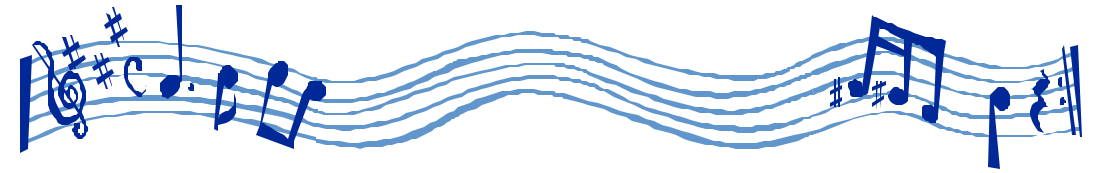
The extra week tithe campaign to benefit St. Andrew's outreach ministry has raised \$2,599 to date. Please remember, this special campaign continues through the end of 2004. Special envelopes were mailed to everyone in the summer. Please utilize these envelopes, or an enveloped marked "Outreach campaign" to continue to donate specifically to St. Andrew's ministries. Please remember these funds are solely designated for St. Andrew's ministries. Let's keep up the effort and support our outreach commitments.

* The Stewardship Commission is always looking for new members. We are a vibrant and innovative group committed to supporting the financial goals and responsibilities of our Church. If you feel called to this ministry or have fundraising ideas, please contact Sheryl Baker at 978-597-3413 to join us!

* The Stewardship campaign for 2005 is coming soon. This year's campaign is different than the last. Stay tuned for upcoming information very soon!

Children's Chapel Shepherds Needed

Last year St. Andrew's (under the guidance of Kris Wile) began offering Children's Chapel to our children age 3 to third grade. It has been a wonderful blessing to be able to nurture our children in a kid-friendly service and have the join their parents for the Eucharist in the church. Yet, for us to continue to care for our youngest members the Children's Chapel is in need of Shepherds. Shepherds lead the children in their worship in the Parish Hall from 10:30 until the Peace (around 11:15). This ministry is available to all adults and happens on a rotating basis. Last year we were able to have Shepherd teams who served one Sunday a month. If you are interested in helping with this wonderful and worthwhile ministry please contact the church office or Kris Wile (978) 857-1511.



Eight O'clock Survey Results

On September 12th at the eight o'clock service we distributed a music survey. As St. Andrew's enters into this interim period and begins to discern the role of Organist and Choir Master we thought it might be helpful to determine if we would like to continue having music at the eight o'clock service. The survey results were interesting and informative. The parishioners were given a choice, music or no music. If you checked "yes" for music then in what manner would you like it: Every Sunday, Once a Month, twice a month, once a quarter, on Holy Days and Feasts only. Then it was broken down even further: only hymns, hymns with prelude/postlude, communion hymns, service music. Here are the results:

Music: 18
Twice a month: 1
Every Sunday: 3
Once a Month: 11
Once a quarter : 1
Holy Days: 2

No Music: 13

After the results were tallied, we determined that we would continue offering music at the eight o'clock service on the first Sunday of the month. Thank you for your feedback and willingness to help making this determination.

October 2004

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00 AM HE I 10:30 AM HE II Blessing of the Animals during the education hour	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall		12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Outreach Commission		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all Ages 10:30 AM HE II	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall		12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all Ages 10:30 AM HE II	9:00 AM Apple Pie Day 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall		12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all Ages 10:30 AM HE II	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall		12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction	6:00 PM Evening Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		
31						
8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all Ages 10:30 AM HE II						

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