



And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."

... Minnie L. Haskins

Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Monday
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Tues - Fri

Web: <http://mysite.verizon.net/staayer>

E-Mail: staayer@verizon.net

Tel: 978-772-2615

Fax: 978-772-6512

THE PRESS

NOVEMBER, 2004

A Month of Sundays

A month of Sundays may be a bit of an exaggeration but not by much. This November our parish calendar is chocked full of celebrations. Indeed, November itself begins with a celebration, and ends with a celebration. This year, on November 1st we will celebrate the feast of All Saints' on the actual day of All Saints'. And then, on November 30th we commemorate our patron feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle. Between those two dates we will be called together as Christ's body to give worship and praise to God on many, many occasions.

It is fitting if you really think about it. Our Christian hope is founded on the belief and hope that we will join with all the saints who have gone before us to stand before the throne of God worshipping him for all eternity. The closest description we have of heaven comes from St. John's vision in Revelation. John testifies to the presence of a great multitude dressed in white who find all their being in worship of the Holy Trinity. This November may be just a foretaste of the life we hope to have before God in heaven. In addition to November 1st and 30th, we also have celebrations scheduled for,

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Ayer, MA
Permit No. 38

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
7 Faulkner Street
Ayer, Massachusetts 01432

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

The Sunday after All Saints', Christ the King Sunday (The last Sunday after Pentecost), Thanksgiving Day, Episcopal World Hunger Sunday, and New Year's Day in the Church Calendar (First Sunday of Advent). Scattered throughout the month are all sorts of saints who are remembered in the Church calendar: From Richard Hooker the great theologian of the Anglican Church, to Clement Bishop of Rome whose early writings shape the church still.

November is the month for us as a Christian Community to gather in holiness and worship and in so doing claim our identity as God's children. Worship and liturgy shape us and mold us more and more into the likeness of Christ. In fact it is in our worship when we lose ourselves in prayer, praise, and joy we find exactly who and whose we are. Like St. John's celestial vision, perhaps we can have a little taste of heaven here on earth as we walk through this month of Sundays.

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service to be held at St. Mary's

Each year, the Ayer Area Clergy plan and conduct an ecumenical Thanksgiving service. This year our service will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Ayer. On Sunday November 21st at 7:00 all the Ayer area churches are invited to join in this wonderful service as we give thanks to Almighty God for all of his goodness given to us.

Advent Quiet Day

All are invited to join in the annual Advent Quiet Day Monday November 22nd. Quiet Days are days set aside for the purposes of preparation prior to a great fast prior to a great feast. In the Church Calendar two such periods exist: Lent and Advent. Lent of course is the fast before the great feast of Easter. So too, Advent is the fast before the great feast of Christmas. Although in recent liturgical theology, Advent has shed much of its flavor of penitence and reclaimed much of its ancient essence of anticipation. Please make plans to join us on Monday November 22nd from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM for this holy time together. Please RSVP to the church office by November 19th.

Happy New Year!

I know you're thinking, "It's not January 1st; it's only November." Yet in the Church year our New Year's begins on the first Sunday of Advent. This year, New Year's Day is November 28th. On this Sunday we will have the annual **Advent Wreath Making in the Parish Hall between 9:30 and 10:15 AM**. There will be no Sunday School so that we can all gather will greens in hand and make our family Advent Wreaths. Additionally, it is also on this day that we change from Lectionary Year C to Year A. From Advent I until next year at this time we will be ushered through the year spending our time with Matthew's gospel. Please make plans to join in the fun and celebration of New Year's Day and the wonderful season of Advent.

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: December 2004

Deadline: November 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 November

Sunday, November 7 – The Twenty-third

Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Job 19: 23-27a

The Old Testament reading from Job is one of the clearest and earliest expressions of belief in resurrection, the central meaning of which is that we are alive to God, and that even when our body dies, we shall see God.

Second Lesson: II Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5

The second reading today is from Paul's second letter to the church in Thessalonica. This church had repeated difficulties due to some members' expectation that Jesus' return was due at any moment.

The Gospel: Luke 20: 27, (28-33), 34-38

Today's Gospel reading is a confrontation between Jesus and the Sadducees, a group within Judaism who did not believe in resurrection, as did Jesus' followers and the Pharisees.

Sunday, November 14 – The Twenty-fourth

Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Malachi 3:13 – 4:2a, 5-6

The first reading is the conclusion of the final Old Testament prophetic book. It foretells the coming judgment, when the kingdom will be established.

Second Lesson: II Thessalonians 3: 6-13

The reading from II Thessalonians tells the first-century Christians how they should live in the end-time. In particular, Paul has no patience with those who stop working or ministering in anticipation of the End.

The Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

As the Church Year draws to a close the liturgy turns our attention to the fact that the world is also moving toward its end.

The Gospel reading today comes from the last portion of Jesus' teaching according to Luke.

Sunday, November 21 – The Last Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 23: 1-6

The first reading, from Jeremiah, brings God's condemnation on the rulers of Judah, who are evil shepherds.

Second Lesson: Colossians 1: 11-20

In the second reading, addressed to the Colossians, Paul uses an early Christian hymn to express what is perhaps his most exalted statement of the cosmic meaning of the Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 23: 35-43

The Gospel reading presents Christ's kingship in its most dramatic moment, when he rules over the earth from his cross.

Sunday, November 28 – The First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 2: 1-5

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah foresees the kingdom as God's reign over a united and peaceful humanity.

Second Lesson: Romans 13: 8-14

The second reading from Romans exhorts us to live as though we were in the last days. We are to live as though the kingdom has come, shunning darkness and living in the light of God's presence.

The Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44

On this Advent Sunday the liturgy is centered on the second Advent of Christ, when he will return as judge and establish the kingdom of God.

Thanksgiving Day Service

As the pilgrims gathered for their first thanksgiving meal, their hearts were glad God's providential love shown in providing their daily bread. This is not to imply their lives were easy: far from it. They had come through hardship and danger, worked hard so that the land would produce, but in the end they realized it was God's activity among them for which they were thankful. For the last several years St. Andrew's has celebrated Thanksgiving Day with a service of Holy Eucharist. This year we will once again gather to give thanks for the bountiful harvest and for God's providential love shown in our lives. This year we will gather on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 AM. Nine O'clock in the morning is the perfect time to come to church on Thanksgiving Day. You can throw the turkey in the oven and be home in time before the first basting. Please make plans to join us for this wonderful service.



Loaves & Fishes Needs Your Help!

Loaves and Fishes exists as a mission of love and faith to serve people of Ayer, Devens, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley by providing food, emergency shelter, resource referral, and other temporary services, and by advocating for changes by its clients that will promote independence and self-reliance. Loaves and Fishes was started by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and The Federated Church of Ayer and has been in existence now for 20 years.

Loaves and Fishes urgently needs **volunteers** for Wednesday and Friday mornings during the Open Pantry shifts. **Volunteers** are also needed to make the weekly 'run' to the Worcester County Food Bank on Thursday mornings. As always, **donations of food and money** are needed!!

If you can help, please call 978 772-4627 or email tohelp@devenspantry.org

A Message From Your Outreach Commission

St. Andrew's has been a "tithing church" for many years. This has been a source of gratitude and pride for many parishioners. It has also been one of the reasons that newcomers and our Rector have been attracted to this parish.

Over the years we have supported a number of local, national and international projects, both financially and as volunteers:

1 We have for many years, donated to Loaves and Fishes, the local food pantry, both with money and time as workers and with a weekly collection of food.

2 We have sent a donation of money, and collected personal items for the residents of Our Father's House in Fitchburg, a home for recovering drug and alcohol addicts.

3. St. Andrew's has supported many Habitat for Humanity building projects in this area, both with money and with talent as workers. We are currently working with the Ayer Project

4. Each year we support a missionary abroad. For the past few years we have supported and prayed for Gail White from the South American Missionary Society (SAMS). She is in Spain, working with the many immigrants there from South America and Africa.

5. We also have supported the Crossroads Ministry in Worcester and now in Salisbury, MD. This is a ministry which reaches out to the destitute of those areas, introducing them to Christ's saving love.

6. St Andrew's has offered "Camperships" to help children with financial need, from this area, attend Christian summer camps.

7. St. Andrew's is helping Young Life establish a group in the Ayer High School, and also helps the Young Life group in the Nashoba/Bromfield High Schools.

8. Each year during the Christmas season we make available to parishioners the names of people, mostly children, for whom a Christmas gift or toy would be a special treat.

The Outreach Commission meets monthly to discuss which projects to recommend to the Vestry. We would be delighted to have you join us. We need your opinions and suggestions.

Please speak to any Outreach Commission member about your thoughts, or even better, please join us at our next meeting, November 4, 2004 at 7:30 in the Peabody Room

Lee Burton, Louise Rogers, Tucker Smith, Victoria Petracca, Peter Wharton, Rhonda Cotton, Peggy Braat

Parish Financial Update

Financial Summary as of September 2004

Income	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date
Plate Offerings	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 2,933.90
Pledge Offerings	\$ 108,749.97	\$ 102,598.62
Contributions	\$ 2,625.03	\$ 5,345.00
Rent, Rectory	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 5,712.28
Rent, Hall	\$ 2,625.03	\$ 1,420.00
Parish Activities	\$ 7,499.97	
Misc Income	\$ 749.97	
Outreach		<u>\$ 3,241.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 135,599.97	\$ 121,250.80
General Expenses	<u>\$ 161,904.78</u>	<u>\$ 141,772.69</u>
Net Total	\$ (26,304.81)	\$ (20,521.89)

\$32,000.00 has been transferred from the Investment account to cover General Expenses. \$5,000.00 was sent in October for the Diocesan Assessment. Another \$5,958.00 will need to be sent before December 31st to cover the total \$20,958.00 Assessment.

The Stewardship Campaign for Outreach has raised \$3,220.00 to date.

We have contributed \$8,550.00 through Outreach so far this year. The Ayer Habitat for Humanity House, Loaves and Fishes and Summer Camperships are just a few examples of the worthy causes St Andrew's has been able to help.

Hopefully with the continuing support of the Parish we will be able to lessen the deficit and end the year on a more positive note.

Cheryl Gump, Treasurer

Episcopal World Hunger Sunday is November 14th

In our world of excess it is hard to fathom that there are people on this planet who continue to face hunger on a daily basis. The Episcopal Relief and Development office is well aware of the growing problem of world hunger. In a sermon I preached back in September I quoted some statistics regarding hunger and injustice perpetrated against the poorest of the poor. I list them once again as we prepare for this opportunity to help those who struggle daily with hunger. "More than 800 million people in the world go hungry. In developing countries 6 million children die each year, mostly from hunger related causes. In the US alone, 12 million children live in households where people have to skip a meal, or eat less, just to make ends meet. One out of every ten thousand households are living with hunger, or the risk of it. Hunger does not exist because the world does not produce enough food. It exist because of unjust and corrupt systems continue to oppress and demoralize its victims". Episcopal World Hunger Sunday is just one day where our energy and focus can be on alleviating hunger here at home and abroad.

Diocesan Convention to be Held in Hyannis

On Friday and Saturday November 5th-6th The Diocese of Massachusetts will hold its annual convention. This year's theme is evangelism. Susan Leeming is the lay delegate from St. Andrew's. If you will remember, for some time we have been advertising in the Xpress an invitation for anyone who would like to join Susan and Fr. Baker please contact the church office. The hope of the diocese, as well as St. Andrew's, is for as many people who can attend, to do so. Evangelism is part and parcel of our baptismal covenant and one in which we are all called to engage.

In addition to evangelism the Diocese will elect delegates to the 2006 General Convention to be held in Columbus, Ohio. It will also vote on a resolution to continue support of AIDS relief in Africa, as well as a whole host of other worthwhile endeavors.

A Message From Your Verger

I first must thank Fr. Scott and the entire St. Andrew's community for the honor to serve you in this capacity. Victoria and I are blessed to have found St. Andrew's and to have encountered, over and over again, the warmth and welcome of this parish. I had no idea that our search for a church would turn into my own personal search for meaning within the body of Christ. This search has led me not only to private study but also to working with Fr. Scott in preparation to be received into the Episcopal church in January '05 and to my participation in the Episcopal Church's "Education for Ministry" (EFM) program.

I love the description of Anglicanism that uses the image of a three legged stool supported by Scripture, Tradition and Reason. The deeper I delve into God's word, the more I understand just how truly inspired the Book of Common Prayer is and how richly our Traditions play out in both the symbolism and true heritage of our liturgy. It is one of those clear demonstrations of our "Utmost for His Highest" and it is my honor to be part of that.

My first responsibility will be to work closely with the Acolytes for the 10:30, Holy Eucharist Rite II liturgy. As an acolyte, one is called to a special ministry of serving at Christ's table. I hope to encourage the acolytes in their chosen ministry through; a) an education in the signs and symbols of our faith; b) an understanding of their role in serving not only the priest but also the entire congregation in coming into worship; and c) working in some fun activities to celebrate their ministry.

I invite all acolytes (8 and 10:30-ers and anyone who is just plain interested) to come and learn this beautiful and important liturgy. If you are interested in the acolyte ministry but are not yet signed up as an acolyte, please contact the church or me directly. Acolytes and ushers, be on the lookout for a complete write-up of the liturgy in your mailbox soon and join me on **Thursday evening, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Peabody room for an hour or so of training and rehearsal.

Your servant in Christ,

John Petracca, Verger

November 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																																																																																																									
	1 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall 7:30 PM All Saints' Liturgy	2	3 12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction	4 10:00 AM Parish Life Commission 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Outreach Commission	5 Diocesan Convention	6 Diocesan Convention																																																																																																									
7 10:00 AM ONE SERVICE - Followed by Stewardship Luncheon	8 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall	9	10 12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction 7:30 PM Vestry Meeting	11 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12	13 St. Andrew's Christmas Fair																																																																																																									
14 8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all ages 10:30 AM HE II	15 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall	16	17 12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction	18 6:00 PM Evening Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20																																																																																																									
21 8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all ages 10:30 AM HE II	22 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall	23	24 12:30 PM Holy Eucharist and Unction	25 10:30 AM Thanksgiving Day service	26	27																																																																																																									
28 8:00 AM HE I 9:15 AM Christian Formation for all ages 10:30 AM HE II Advent Wreath Making	29 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Bible Study in the Parish Hall	30 7:30 PM St. Andrew's Day Liturgy	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">October</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">December</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </table>				October							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							December							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
October																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
					1	2																																																																																																									
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																																									
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																																									
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																									
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																									
31																																																																																																															
December																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
				1	2	3																																																																																																									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																									
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																									
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																									
25	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																									