



*I do not believe anyone ever yet humbly,
genuinely, thoroughly gave himself to
Christ without some other finding Christ
through him.*

... Phillips Brooks

Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor
Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Monday
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Tues - Fri

Web: <http://users.rcn.com/staayer>
E-Mail: staayer@rcn.com
Tel: 978-772-2615
Fax: 978-772-6512

THE PRESS

MARCH, 2004

Making our Way Home

On the fourth Sunday in Lent, as we gather in the church we will hear once again the touching account of a son returning home. Jesus said,

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

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

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

The story of the Prodigal Son in St. Luke's gospel is the story of Lent. Ash Wednesday was the moment when we realized we have been living in a barren and desolate land. Ash Wednesday was the moment we came to our senses, and began making the long journey home. We realize that we have wandered and strayed far from home and long to be reunited with our birthplace. We long to know love and comfort and healing. We long to be in our Father's house once again. Home is the place where we know fully who and whose we are. Our Lenten journey starts with our "coming to ourselves," with the realization that we have wasted and squandered the gifts, the inheritance given to us. We can rest assured that our Father will be running to meet us at the property's edge. He will come running with arms outstretched eager to not only receive us but to restore us to all that we once were and more. Our Lenten journey is our heart's desire to hear, "Welcome home."

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+

Memorials and Milestones

Memorials

Those who have entered the larger life in the nearer presence of God:

Arthur Bliss (friend of Sarah and Jim Hamill)

Peggy Liable (Mother of Karen Newcombe)

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Milestones

Thanksgiving for the baptism of Ian James Baker, son of The Rev'd & Mrs. Scott & Sheryl Baker.

Thanksgiving for the baptism of Kate Ann Norrish, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Heather Norrish.

Warden's Coffee Hour - March 28th

Reflecting on the dialogue we started last year at the cottage meetings, I would like to continue this forum of discussion on a regular basis. Every other month I will offer a Wardens coffee hour after the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall. The meeting will begin with a comment on a recent positive church experience from each person, an update from me on what's been happening from my perspective, and an in depth look at a particular commission or two as a focus for the general discussion topic. I expect it to run no longer than an hour but I will officially end it by no later than 1:30. The bulletin will list the commission on for that specific day. Please plan to attend, for a portion or the entire time, so you can voice your opinions and let me know which topics are of most interest to you. I look forward to hearing from each of you. -Rhonda

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

On April 4th (Palm Sunday) the Christmas Fair Committee will hold a bake sale in the Peabody Room after services. Stop and purchase some cookies etc in time for the Easter holiday. Better yet, please contribute some of your own baked goodies, thereby helping to create a nice, big selection for everybody.

- Lynn Ferrillo

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: April 2004

Deadline: Saturday, March 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:

H: (978) 448-4053

W: (978) 772-5422 x 323

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

Readings for March

Sunday, March 7 – The Second Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

Today the liturgy gives us the account of the covenant between God and the first person of faith: Abraham. There are two parts to this covenant - God's promise and Abraham's faith.

Second Lesson: Philippians 3: 17 – 4: 1

The second reading today is concerned with contrasting those who do not live within the covenant and those who do.

The Gospel: Luke 13: 31-35

The Gospel reading today reveals the depth of Christ's commitment to and love for his people.

Sunday, March 14 – The Third Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Exodus 3: 1-15

Today we hear Moses' call to be God's instrument in liberating the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 10: 1-13

The second reading today sees the exodus/Passover event of Israel as a foreshadowing of the life of the church: the crossing of the sea prefigures Baptism, and the manna in the wilderness prefigures the eucharistic feast.

The Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

The Gospel reading has as its theme a warning against taking for granted the grace we have received.

Sunday, March 21 – The Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Joshua 5: 9-12

In the Old Testament reading, we hear about the first Passover celebrated by the Israelites in the promised land.

Second Lesson: II Corinthians 5: 17-21

In this passage Paul celebrates God's reconciling work in Christ which now makes its appeal to others through his disciples.

The Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32

In today's Gospel reading of the story of the prodigal son, the culmination of forgiveness is a banquet and feast.

Sunday, March 28 – The Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Isaiah 43: 16-21

The two greatest events in Israel's salvation history were the exodus/Passover in the time of Moses and Israel's return from exile in Babylon to the land of promise in the sixth century. Today we hear from Isaiah a reflection on that return which transforms it into the sign that still to come in God's plan is an even greater act of salvation – something entirely new.

Second Lesson: Philippians 3: 8-14

In the reading from Philippians, Paul testifies that his life is lived in Christ. For Paul and for us this is not simply a metaphor.

The Gospel: Luke 20: 9-19

Today's Gospel reading is a parable which Jesus uses to describe the situation building between him and religious authorities which will lead to his death.

Make Your Lenten Discipline Matter: Episcopal Relief and Development Mission Effort

Some years ago during the month of March, I was conversing with a friend about what I had denied myself in observance of the Lenten Fast. And being very prideful of my self-denial I said in a haughty voice, "This year I'm fasting on Fridays and..." To which she interrupted and said, "gave the money you otherwise would have spent on food to the poor?" "Actually," I said, "... and added additional prayers to my day. But thanks for making me feel a bit more guilty of my selfishness." Many of us say that we are going to "give up" something for Lent—meat, chocolate, alcohol, caffeine, etc, but how many take the money otherwise spent on these things and funneled it back into something helpful? This year St. Andrew's is offering an opportunity to do just that. The Episcopal Relief and Development Mission Effort is designed to focus our attention on others less fortunate than ourselves. We have ordered from the National Church, 30 alms boxes, Lenten booklets, and other aids to help us focus our attention toward the wider world in which we live. This Lent please consider contributing your gifts to go to The Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.

A Great Big Thank You!

Much appreciation and laud to Mary Medeiros, Louise Rogers, and Sue Hildreth who saw and need and responded. In case you haven't seen the "new" St. Andrew's Kitchen in the Parish Hall, check it out!! These three wonderful people saw that our kitchen was, shall we say... lackluster. They decided a new floor and a fresh look to the cabinets was warranted. Quicker than the blink of an eye, presto, phone calls were made, the checkbooks were out, pens at the ready, and the floor was done. On behalf of all who use our Parish Hall kitchen, both parishioner and non-parishioner alike, thank you very much!!!

SPECIAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WITH A FOCUS ON EVANGELISM THROUGH MUSIC

AT THE GEORGE SHERMAN UNION ON THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

From: "Saint James Epistle", Saint James Church, Greenfield, MA

Submitted by Jim Western

Georgia's Prayer

*Dear Lord, I wonder, as I get older and
have more things go wrong with
my body and mind, what lies ahead? I
accept the fact I have to lay down
this life before I can begin another, but
I'm still a little bit scared. I like
it here. I love my family and friends. I
like the daily surprises. I even
like complaining. I want to live! Whether
I continue on in this life for a
while longer or whether I begin a new life
sooner than I'd bargained for,
I guess it makes little difference, especially
when I realize that as one
life ends, another one will begin; and as
my friends here cry "There she
goes," another batch that I haven't seen in
a while will be shouting "Here
she comes." Dear Lord, I place myself in
your loving arms. Please ease
my doubts, deepen my trust, calm my
fears, touch my aches and pains,
hang onto me, and restore my sight. There
is a God. There is more out
there than meets the eye. There is a
tomorrow, and I'm certain I'll be in it. Amen*

Lenten Weekly Schedule

As we journey this forty days toward the cross, St. Andrew's offers a variety of weekly Lenten opportunities to help us all observe a Holy Lent. Please mark your own personal Calendar and make plans to join us for any and all of the variety of offerings.

Mondays—The Study of the Gospel of Matthew—**9:30 AM** in the Parish Hall

Tuesdays—Morning Prayer in the Church **9:30 AM**

Wednesdays—Evening Prayer at **5:30 PM**, followed by a simple Soup and bread Supper and our Lenten Program studying "The Outline of the Faith: The Catechism"

Thursdays—Evening Prayer **5:30 PM** (Followed by our Confirmation Class)

Fridays—March 5th, March 19th, April 2nd, April 9th – Private Confessions heard in the Church **3-5 PM**.

Confirmation, Reaffirmation, and Renewal Classes to Commence

Following the Concord River Deanery Confirmation Retreat at St. Andrew's in Framingham, we will be holding Confirmation Classes for all those desiring to be confirmed, received or renew their baptismal vows. The classes are open to any and all who would like to celebrate any of the three means of joining the Episcopal Church. The Confirmation, reception and renewal will also take place at St. Andrew's in Framingham on Saturday May 1st at 10:30 AM. The classes will be held on Thursday evenings beginning at 5:30 PM with Evening Prayer and ending at 7:30 PM and will begin on Thursday March 4th. If you are interested in being confirmed, received, or renewing your baptismal vows please join us on Thursday evenings beginning March 4th. To register for the class please contact the Church office.

Lenten Evensong & Pot-Luck Supper with a Mission

To be held March 21st at 5:30 PM
African Team Ministries' Handcrafts for Sale

Every year 'round about this time we begin making preparations for our Lenten Evensong and Pot-luck supper. The choir begins to practice a little harder, old recipes for the Pot-luck are pulled from the recipe box, all in preparation for the Lenten Evensong. This year we're adding a whole new dimension to the event. This year everyone is invited to come on March 21st at 5:30 PM and sing and support a mission effort sponsored by the St. Andrew's Choir and our Outreach Commission. In concordance with the mission focus of our parish this year, our St. Andrew's Choir leads us not only in music but also in attending to those in the world who are suffering with HIV/AIDS and poverty. In partnership with the Outreach Commission, the choir and Outreach will provide opportunity for us to come together, sing God's praises, eat delicious food and help with those who are suffering in Africa. During the Evensong, our offering will go to alleviate the ills suffered by so many in Africa. During the Pot-Luck Supper, the Outreach Commission will be manning tables displaying the beautiful variety of African handicrafts sent to us by African Team Ministries. African Team Ministries is an Episcopal Missionary effort designed to raise awareness and funds for the plights of the third world in Africa. To learn more about African Team Ministries please visit the web address www.africanteamministries.org. Everyone is invited to join in this worshipful, and worthwhile occasion. We hope to see you all at St. Andrew's March 21st at 5:30 PM.

Worship Commission Meeting

The Worship Commission will have a meeting on Tuesday March 9th at 10:00 AM following the Morning Prayer Service in the Church. All Worship Commission members are highly encouraged to attend. We will discuss our Liturgical life as well as make plans for the upcoming Holy Week and Easter Celebrations. Agenda items include: Commission Chair, Commission Goals, Acolyte Mentor, and examination of Wednesday Noonday Eucharist & Unction service. Please make plans to join us for the very important meeting.

Private Confession of Sin

"Confession is good for the soul", so goes the old saying. Many within the Episcopal Church are either unaware, or out an out shun the idea of "confessing to a priest." Somehow or another this rite has been "tainted" by the Roman Catholic Church. Yet if we turn to page 447 in the Book of Common Prayer right there it is plain as day—**The Reconciliation of a Penitent**—a.k.a. Confession. Many folks turn away from confession stating, "Well if I want to confess all I have to do is talk to God." And in a manner of speaking that is absolutely correct. However, we neglect another aspect of confession that is all too often overlooked. After one makes his or her confession it states in the Rubrics (the italicized words within the BCP) "*Here the Priest may offer counsel, direction, and comfort.*" For many of us counsel, direction, and comfort are missing in our lives. We long to hear words of comfort and solace to help us in our times of weakness and sin. Sure we come to church and make our "General Confession" but for many we struggle to live in a "repentant" mode.

The Exhortation in the BCP beckons us to seek out a priest for obvious reasons. "For, as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy Sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's Body. Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord. Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven...And if, in your preparation you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess you sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith."

Throughout this season of Lent St. Andrew's will offer many opportunities for Private Confession. If there are certain sins weighing on your heart please know that God through His Church is here to listen and offer guidance, counsel, and support.

March 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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