



*Every time we say, 'I believe in the Holy Spirit,' we mean that we believe that there is a living God able and willing to enter human personality and change it.*

*... J. B. Phillips, Plain Christianity*



MAY, 2004

### Transformed by the Spirit

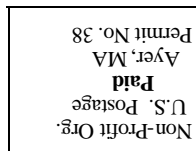
Each of us will go through various transformations in our lifetimes. Moments of transformation bring to mind images of springtime—rebirth, renewal. The crocuses and daffodils and other latent underground bulbs send forth their lovely displays of color. The once wintry landscape becomes awash in the first hues of green, which gives way to the full foliage of summer. The once dormant caterpillar emerges from her cocoon as a beautiful butterfly. Being surrounded by so many images of transformation, no wonder Jesus' resurrection takes on its fullest meaning in springtime. To be transformed is to bring about a new and renewed existence of how we live in the world both personally and corporately. Easter means transformation. In the church's calendar, Easter is not one day but a whole season of fifty days. The culmination of those fifty days is Pentecost. Pentecost is the bookend of Easter. Pentecost is the day we celebrate the gift of God's Holy Spirit poured out and transforming all of creation with God's abiding presence.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> we will gather in the church to celebrate once more the gift of grace in God's Holy Spirit. It is the birthday of the church and the

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transformation of humanity into a whole new existence with God. It is a day celebrating sanctification of God's people. To sanctify means to "set apart; to make holy". Sanctification is the process of being made holy like God in Christ by the presence of God the Holy Spirit working in us. No greater transformation can happen in our lives. It is a transformation of unparalleled proportions. It means turning from egocentricity, which tries to hoard up and make secure one's own individual being, in the direction of an existence that is more "like God," that is to say, an existence that becomes creative by pouring out and conferring its own being and so achieving the highest kind of selfhood. This is the very sort of transformation we read in the Acts of the Apostles. Immediately after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we read how the first Christian community behaved among one another, "All who believe were together and had all things in common: they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:44-46)"

The Easter life is the transformed life lived in by the love of God, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Our transformed and sanctified lives are intended as a witness of God love and power to all those we meet. On May 30<sup>th</sup> you are invited to come and once again claim the transformation of God's love and the gift of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Your servant in Christ,

**Scott+**

# Pastoral Care Alert

Please note that the St. Andrew's Prayer Chain is reinstated and ready to roll. This means you are invited to ask us for prayer and trust the request will be covered by the prayer chain for 24 hours. And can we ask you for follow up within a reasonable time?

Please call Priscilla and Jack Andrews to start the chain - Rena Gagne, John Ferrillo, Rhonda Cotton, Jane Rockwell, Nancy Brown and Scott will complete the chain. If the Andrews are not available, simply call the next person in line.

In religion, we are not asked to make up our minds, we are asked to make up our lives... We may refuse to make up our minds, but our lives get made up, one way or the other... Whatever we believe with our minds, our lives are committed either to God's way or to the God-denying way, and what matters in religion is the act of commitment.  
... A. Leonard Griffith, *Barriers to Christian Belief*

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

***Next Issue:*** June 2004

***Deadline:*** **May 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!***

# *Readings for May*

## *Sunday, May 2 – The Fourth Sunday of Easter*

First Lesson: Acts 13: 15-16, 26-33, (34-39)

Our reading from Acts today presents the proclamation of Christ's resurrection at a synagogue service, which was Paul's usual way of beginning missionary work in each area he visited.

Second Lesson: Revelation 7: 9-17

In the book of Revelation, a portion of which is read this year on every Sunday of Easter, we hear today the description of the gathering of all the redeemed.

The Gospel: John 10: 22-30

This Sunday of the church year is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday," to reflect the passages from the tenth chapter of John which are read in this Sunday each year.

## *Sunday, May 9 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter*

First Lesson: Acts 13: 44-52

Today's reading from Acts traces further the extension of the proclamation of Christ's resurrection. The proclamation today is to the Gentiles who believe in the pagan gods.

Second Lesson: Revelation 19: 1, 4-9

This Sunday's reading from the book of Revelation is a vision of the final consummation of God's kingdom.

The Gospel: John 13: 31-35

Today we hear from John's Gospel some of the Lord's words on the night before his death. The Lord tells his friends that he is going away and gives them his final instructions, "the new commandment" to love one another as he loves us.

## *Sunday, May 16 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

First Lesson: Acts 14: 8-18

In the first reading from Acts, Paul and Barnabas bring healing to a man crippled from birth in the city of Lystra.

Second Lesson: Revelation 21: 22 – 22: 5

John, in today's reading from the book of Revelation, envisions the perfection and

peace of the kingdom which is God's new, perfect city.

The Gospel: John 14: 23-29

Today's Gospel reading is a portion of the discourse between Jesus and the disciples on the evening before his crucifixion. Here Jesus talks about the union between himself and the Father.

## *Sunday, May 23 – The Seventh Sunday after Easter*

First Lesson: Acts 16: 16-34

In our reading from Acts today, we hear how powerfully God's Spirit was at work in Paul and his friends.

Second Lesson: Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20

The second reading is the concluding verses of the book of Revelation in which the Lord's promise to return is anticipated.

The Gospel: John 17: 20-26

Today's Gospel reading is a portion of the "High Priestly Prayer" of Jesus for all his followers. This prayer, which he offered on the night before his death, was fulfilled at Easter.

## *Sunday, May 30 – The Day of Pentecost:*

### *Whitsunday*

First Lesson: Acts 2: 1-11

In the reading from Acts, we hear the account of the first Pentecost Day, when the apostles received the Spirit and proclaimed the gospel in many tongues.

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 12: 4-13

The second reading, from I Corinthians, describes the work of God's Spirit in the church.

The Gospel: John 14: 8-17

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus, before his crucifixion, assures the disciples that his followers will continue the work of the Gospel after his departure.

# Milestones & Memorials

Congratulations to all those who celebrated milestones in their lives:

- ✘ George Koronis, son of Stephen and Karen Koronis, and great nephew of Mary Medeiros and Catherine was baptized on April 18<sup>th</sup>
- ✘ Ned Barringer, Glen Elion, Bill and Heather Norrish, were confirmed on May 1<sup>st</sup>
- ✘ Michael Cashman and Shawna White will be married on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Shawna is the grand-daughter of Eleanor Dattoli and niece of John and Barbara Kamb.
- ✘ Bob Leonard and Nancy McIssac married on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Bob is the son of Lorraine Leonard.

# Newcomers' Dinner

The Parish Newcomers' Dinner will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall. All members of the Parish are invited. Please RSVP to Heidi Wharton via phone: 978 456 7968 or email: [peteandheidew@yahoo.com](mailto:peteandheidew@yahoo.com) by May 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend.

# The Gift of Tongues

Calling all bilingual, trilingual and any others who can speak/read a language other than English. On May 30<sup>th</sup> the Church will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. This is not only the birthday of the Church but celebrates the outpouring of The Holy Spirit on the believers and the accompanying gift of diverse tongues. Last year we had several parishioners stand and read a passage of Holy Scripture in another language other than English. We would like to do the same this year. If you can speak another language other than English please call the office to put your name in the hat. We would like to have a group for both services on Sunday. So, regardless of the service you attend, if you can speak another language, and are willing to help out please call the Church office.

# Incense on Pentecost Sunday

On May 30<sup>th</sup> Whitsunday, The Feast of Pentecost, at the 10:30 AM service we will have incense in celebration of the High Holy Day in the church calendar. There will not be incense at the 8:00 AM service. Many of our St. Andrew's parishioners have said they really like having incense on the High Holy Days commenting that it really adds a festive flare to the day. A few others have said that, "it is not their cup of tea." To that end, we will offer one service with incense and one without. Over the past couple of years we have used incense during our worship on these most festive days. Some continue to ask about incense and express their curiosity. What follows is a bit of information to satiate that curiosity and provide a fuller understanding of why we use incense.

Symbolic of prayer (Rev. 8:3-4), incense is used to enhance our sensory participation in the liturgy on the high feasts days of the church calendar. Frankincense or pure incense, (the resin of certain trees) was among the gifts brought by the Magi to the young child Christ (Mt. 2:11). Its use became part of the post-apostolic Christian worship (from Revelation) and around the year 500 was regularly used for processions. Incense has been used in the Episcopal Church since the Oxford Movement of the mid-nineteenth century. Incense is appropriately used for processions in and out of the church, during the singing of the Hymn of Praise, and during the offertory as the gifts of bread, wine, and money are offered to God. In addition to the Sunday after All Saints' we also use incense for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas), The Epiphany, The Sunday Last after the Epiphany (observing the Transfiguration), Easter Day, Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. On these high feasts days we join the psalmist in saying, *Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense... Psalm 141:2.*



# Vestry Meeting Highlights - March, 2004

- ✘ The meeting began with Evening Prayer.
- ✘ Scott gave his Rector's report and advised the Vestry on the current state of some of our ill or hospitalized members.
- ✘ Claudette Hunt, Susan Leeming, Judy Adams and Scott attended the Special Diocesan convention at BU on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Old Business

- ✘ Meeting with the Bishop – Vestry members commented that the Bishop was “very spiritual but down to earth”. The meeting with him was a nice introduction and chance to “get to know you”. It has also made the Diocese more aware of our plans.
- ✘ Cleaning contract – Scott provided details of the bids received from four cleaning companies. He recommended All Seasons Cleaning from Maynard as being the most professional as they are bonded and a larger organization. They could also accommodate our scheduling requirements, as they will clean for us on Fridays. None of the bids include procurement of supplies, e. g.: toilet paper, paper towels, soap, etc.
- ✘ Rectory tenants eviction – A recommendation was made to draft a termination notice at the end of

April to be given to the tenants in early May with the objective of having them out of the Rectory by the end of June.

## New Business

- ✘ Outreach Commission – The commission has requested \$2000 to go to Loaves and Fishes this quarter, as donations will be matched by a philanthropic foundation.
- ✘ Parish Life and Outreach will host the Easter Breakfast as a fundraiser for Camperships.
- ✘ March 21<sup>st</sup> a speaker will be at both services from Habitat for Humanity. The objective for Outreach is to have a different speaker every 4-6 weeks at church. The hope is to have someone from the organization itself and also someone who has benefited from the work done by the organization.
- ✘ Insurance Inventory – a subcommittee needs to be appointed to document and value the church's possessions.
- ✘ Diocesan convention – Scott gave an overview of the convention, which included a focus on music in worship and a resolution to support same sex civil marriage.
- ✘ Warden's coffee will be in the Parish Hall March 28<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service. Stewardship commission will speak.

# Concord River Deanery First Deanery-wide Confirmations

Many of you may have notice that upon the Bishop's most recent visit we did not celebrate the sacrament of confirmation. The Diocese of Massachusetts has been moving toward Deanery wide confirmation. On Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, Ned Barringer, Glen Elion, Bill and Heather Norrish, and Jason Smith will be confirmed at St. Andrew's in Framingham. Congratulations to all our confirmands.

## Homeless Shelter Speaker

On Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, Steve Petronik, a representative for the **Our Father's House Homeless Shelter**, in Fitchburg, will be speaking at the **8:00 Service** and the **Adult Forum** at **9:30**. The shelter is one of the recipients of St. Andrew's outreach. Mr. Petronik will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. He will **not** be able to stay for the 10:30 Service.

## Come Celebrate Love

Each and every Sunday is a celebration of Love but on May 16<sup>th</sup> we have an added reason for our celebration. On May 16<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 AM service, Bryan and Yvette Nasworthy will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This liturgy of celebration is provided by The Book of Occasional Services which directs that the celebration take place in the context of a Sunday Eucharist. It promises to be a grand occasion and a wonderful moment in the lives of Bryan and Yvette and St. Andrew's parish. Please mark your calendars to join St. Andrew's and the entire Nasworthy family for this auspicious event.



## Letter from Chris Ostberg

IN FEBRUARY SUSAN OSTBERG WRITES ...Chris arrived safely at Ft. Bragg after a three day journey from Baghdad. He has mentioned many times how much your letters, thoughts, prayers and packages meant to him during this year and I want to add that your support has meant more than you can imagine to Ron and me. It's been a long anxious year ...

### **AND CHRIS WROTE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES AFTER 348 DAYS IN IRAQ ...**

It's hard to believe that just days ago I was in Iraq. Now I sit in my room back on Ft. Bragg. It's hard for me to explain what the last 348 days were like. Among those days were some of the best days of my life. It's an incredible experience. It has been said that combat is 90% boredom and 10% sheer terror. Although there were plenty of boring days there wasn't a single day that I would give up. Even on the worst days, the days I saw my friends torn apart. Those are the days that will stay with me for the rest of my life and will have an incredible influence over who I am and will be. It may be hard to imagine that it would be a positive experience to see the things we saw, but I really believe it was.

War is a natural thing. It always has been and always will be. I think that people who see war as a senseless slaughter do not have a full view of the situations. It is true that young, promising lives were cut short during the war, but I can't think it was for no reason.

PFC Christopher Sisson, 19 years old ... killed instantly in a helicopter crash on a training mission, not even a combat mission. CPL Gavin Neighbor killed by enemy fire at the Baghdad trash collection

point, where SGT. Hilario Bermanis lost both legs and one of his hands. I believe they died for a cause - died serving their country and defending friends and family, responsibilities taken seriously.

What you have to understand is that no one in the military wants to die, but given the right reasons they believe it is worth it. The point is how we deal with it. In my time in Iraq I didn't see fear. No matter what the situation none of the soldiers I served with showed anything but bravery. I think this comes from the calm that you get when you understand that your life is in the hands of something greater than yourself, and that if anything should happen to you it is for the betterment of the community. You are fighting and dying (if absolutely necessary) for your family, country and most of, your buddies.

I've spent my entire life up til now studying the history and psychology of war, but never had any idea what it was all about until I experienced it for my self.

Now I am just very happy to be home and be with the people I love. I have to mention the incredible support I have gotten from my family, friends and American people all over the country - letters, packages, some mail from people I did not even know. So from the bottom of my heart thank you all for the love and support which you have given me and my fellow soldiers. I'm proud of what I've done for myu country and appreciate the support I've received.

Thank youy all very much and please continue to pray for the troops still fighting in Iraq and around the world.

**Chris**

# May 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

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