



Jesus... did not finish all the urgent tasks in Palestine or all the things He would have liked to do, but He did finish the work which God gave Him to do. The only alternative to frustration is to be sure that we are doing what God wants. Nothing substitutes for knowing that this day, this hour, in this place, we are doing the will of the Father. Then and only then can we think of all the other unfinished tasks with equanimity, and leave them with God.

... Charles E. Hummel, *The Tyranny of the Urgent*

Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor

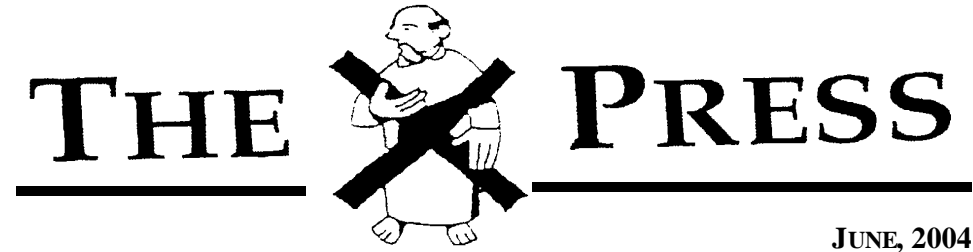
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JUNE, 2004

Growing in the Green Season

The beautiful flowers of springtime are fading fast giving way to the lush green hues of summer. If springtime is the season to blossom, then summertime is the season to grow. Beginning June 13th, we move into what is called “Ordinary Time” or the season after The Pentecost. In the church we mark this change in season through the change in liturgical colors. Throughout springtime, or Eastertide, the church is awash in the purity of white. White lilies, and white vestments adorn the nave and sanctuary. The white of Eastertide gives way to the vibrant red of Pentecost which in turn moves us into the season after The Pentecost—the Green Season. Our liturgical colors symbolize what we do as Christ’s followers. White symbolizes the purity of our baptisms; Red the cleansing of the Holy Spirit’s purging flame; Green the growth in our individual and communal lives of faith. It is fitting that the Green Season is extraordinarily long compared to these other seasons of the church year. The pinnacle experiences of Easter and Pentecost are the mountaintop experiences to enliven us to go about our ordinary lives. We can’t stay on the mountaintop, we must go down into our ordinary daily lives where we draw sustenance and energy from these nodal and Spirit-filled moments.

From such Baptismal/Pentecostal moments we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel to all those we meet. We see the pattern for such growth in the Luke’s account of the Apostles in Acts. From the moment of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit the bystanders hear the saving words of the Gospel and we read, “about three thousand were added.” The pattern of our lives is to grow in knowledge and love of the Lord and to grow in numbers as

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

well. The individual growth is not separate from the communal growth—in fact they are inextricably linked one to another. Throughout the Acts of the Apostles, we read of what it looks like to grow in the green season.

Our culture tells us that summertime is the time for relaxation, vacation, and leisure. Yet if we look at creation around us, which mirrors the Creator, we realize that we are called to grow. We are reminded of these each Sunday we come into the church. The dominant color is green—green for summertime, green for growth. Ordinary time is not ordinary at all. Rather it is the time of growth and maturation in our individual and communal lives of faith. We are called to grow and experience Jesus Christ's love, the Father's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

My God's peace and blessings be with us as we enter our growth season, with His grace and power behind us, I'm sure there will be a bountiful harvest.

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+

Outreach Barbecue Benefit - Sunday, June 13

Noon 'til 2ish
Under the Apple Tree
Saint Andrew's Church

Join us after the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, June 13 for a summer fundraising barbecue! The Outreach Commission is putting on an old-fashioned barbecue with fun and good food for all ages. Kids, come see a REAL fire truck from the Ayer Fire Department! We've invited our neighbors on the block, too, so you may see a few new faces. Bring along your favorite beach chair, and WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

All proceeds to go to the Summer Camperships sponsored by the Saint Andrew's Outreach Commission.

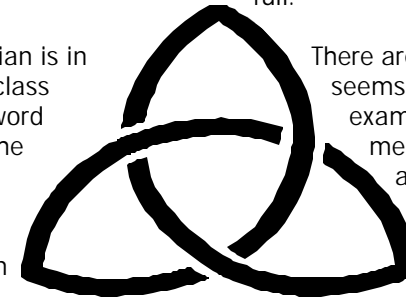
Rain location: Parish Hall - Same Time and Date

Trinitarian Faith

June 6th is one day in the calendar of the church devoted to a doctrine rather than to a specific theme (love, forgiveness, grace, peace, etc.), or person (a.k.a. Jesus Christ). For on June 6th the Church is invited to immerse herself head first in her Trinitarian Faith. June 6th is Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday always falls the Sunday after The Pentecost.

To speak of God as Trinitarian is in itself an exercise in a first class brain teaser. For one the word "Trinity" never appears in the bible. Yet through the revelation of the Bible we understand God as Trinity. Reflection of this revelation are articulated in the church's creeds—The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, and The Athanasian Creed—(Book of Common Prayer pg. 864). These three represent the attempts by the Church Fathers to articulate in a concise manner what Christians believe. Here is one line from The Athanasian Creed, "The catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in trinity, and trinity in unity; neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost; but the God head of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is all one."

We do not worship three gods but One. God is not one God acting in three ways, rather is three distinct persons acting as one. Confused? If you answered yes, you're in good company with many. One of the ways to approach the Trinity is to speak of it as "the mystery of the Trinity." A mystery is that which can be grasped only in part, never in full.



There are two tools I have found that seems to help me some. One is the example of an ice cube being melted, by a flame. Ice, water, and steam are all H₂O. As the ice cube is melted water and steam are emitted from the ice. If you think of the ice as The Father, the water as The Son, and The steam as the Holy Spirit, you begin to capture a glimpse of the Trinity. The second tool is mathematical. Which is sort of funny, considering I'm one of the least mathematical persons I know.

God is not 1+1+1=3
God is 1x1x1=1

As we approach Trinity Sunday let us pray that we may enter ever deeper into the mystery of God as Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: July 2004

Deadline: June 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 June

Sunday, June 6 – The First Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday

First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

The first reading is Isaiah's vision of God. The acclamation by the heavenly hosts, "Holy, holy, holy," was regarded by early Christians as an Old Testament revelation of the triune nature of God.

Second Lesson: Revelation 4: 1-11

The vision of the heavenly worship in the second reading again uses the hymn from Isaiah sung before the throne of God.

The Gospel: John 16: (5-11), 12-15

In the Gospel reading from John, Jesus describes the work of the Father, the Spirit, and himself as the work of the one God.

Sunday, June 13 – The Second Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: II Samuel 11: 26 – 12:10, 13-15

In the first reading, David's repentance for ordering the death of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, results in God's forgiveness.

Second Lesson: Galatians 2: 11-21

Our reading from Galatians deals with the acrimonious debate in the early church over whether one must be Jewish and obey Jewish law in order to become a Christian.

The Gospel: Luke 7: 36-50

Today's Gospel reading, from Luke, deals with the forgiveness of sin. It was Jesus' announcement of God's forgiveness – forgiveness even of those regarded as unforgivable by conventional religionists – which intensified the opposition to him and led to his rejection and death.

Sunday, June 20 – The Third Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Zechariah 12: 8-10; 13:1

The Old Testament reading is a vision of the prophet Zechariah which looks forward to the future salvation of God's people in a new life in God's kingdom.

Second Lesson: Galatians 3: 23-29

Today's reading from the Epistle to the Galatians is a continuation of Paul's teaching concerning salvation by faith.

The Gospel: Luke 9: 18-24

The liturgy today has as its central reading the account of Peter's acknowledgment of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah of God.

Sunday, June 27 – The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: I Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21

In our Old Testament reading, Elisha is called by God to accept the mantle of Elijah and to follow him and take his place when the time comes.

Second Lesson: Galatians 5: 1, 13-25

In the reading from Galatians, Paul speaks about the followers of Jesus, and how we, as His followers, are free because our new life, into which we are growing, is the life of God.

The Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

Jesus often spoke of the cost of following him, as he does in today's reading from Luke. Following him means putting our old life behind and beginning a new way of living and a new way of relating to others.

Vestry Votes Affirmative for Phase I of Long Range Plan

Many may remember that almost thirteen months ago the parish began to prayerfully consider the state of its physical plant. The Long Range Planning Team (LRPT) was commissioned and spent the entirety of last summer exploring and evaluating our space and its impact on our common life, mission, and ministry. At the end of the evaluation the LRPT sent a proposal to the 2003 Vestry outlining a three-phase revitalization plan spanning ten years. Phase I addresses the renovation of the Rectory, additional parking, Peabody room and landscape. Phase II addresses the Parish Hall. Phase III, which addresses the Church itself, completes the Long Range Plan.

On May 12th, 2004 the Vestry voted unanimously to begin Phase I. This Phase will include renovation of the Rectory space, augmentation of the Peabody room, landscaping of the parish grounds to create a more unified appearance, and additional parking. Phase I will address six vital components of our common life, mission, and ministry:

1. Hospitality space
2. Nursery space
3. Administration space
4. Additional Parking
5. Unification of Parish campus
6. Meeting space.

The building committee has already begun with an initial meeting planning how to proceed with the next step—interviewing and selecting an architect.

As with all building projects the first question that comes to mind is, "How much is all this going to cost?" The motion that was put before the vestry, and subsequently passed by a unanimous vote, was for Phase I not to exceed \$400,000. The Capital Campaign Committee will soon be addressing fundraising and other means by which we can raise these monies.

There will be a more information forthcoming as we begin this new and exciting time in the life of St. Andrew's Parish.

Summer Campership Info

St. Andrew's campership program is set up to provide financial assistance so that the youth of our parish and surrounding communities have the means to attend Christian focused summer camp programs. Qualified children and teenagers are awarded a \$100 sponsorship to attend an area Christian camp.

While all local youth are eligible, the intent of the campership is to provide help to those who would not otherwise be able to attend a camp without benefit of some financial aid. Preference is given to St. Andrew's parish applicants, and

camperships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

See the bulletin boards for applications. While Grotonwood is the closest camp, the new Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center has now been added to the list of possibilities. Campership forms and camp applications should be filled out and returned to St. Andrew's office no later than June 15, unless the desired camp's deadline is sooner. If you have any questions or would like a list of camps, please call Judy Converse in the office or Mimi Dorward at 978/456-8721

Commission Rosters

Ever wonder who to talk to if you need help from a commission or would like to find out more about what each commission does? Below, a current membership roster for four of St. Andrew's active commissions.

Communications

Anne Cahill – Vestry liaison
Alan Rogers
Judy Converse

Parish Life

Diane Bunis
Rena Gagne
Priscilla Andrews
Nancy Barringer
Jennifer Ayers
Heidi Wharton – Vestry liaison
Mary Medeiros – Vestry liaison

Outreach

Peggy Braat - Chair
Millie & Jack Mercier
Pete Wharton
Louise Rogers
Lee Burton
Tucker Smith
Victoria Petracca - Vestry liaison

Pastoral Care

Rhonda Cotton - Chair
Jane Rockwell - Coordinator
John Ferrillo - Vestry liaison
Rena Gagne
Jack Andrews
Nancy Brown
Sue Hildreth

Next month: Stewardship, Worship, Christian Formation and Buildings and Grounds.

St. Andrew's Herb Garden News Brief

Jody Gilson came through, donating all those dear little herbs you see in the garden beside the church. I hope they are happy living there, but Jody did promise me replacements if, God forbid, a plant gets sick and dies. In time the garden should fill out and like to receive a dwarf tree, even a fountain or a statue of St. Fiacre, the patron saint of gardeners (donations maybe?). what do you think of that?

Even though Ayer has little in common with the gardens of Palestine I tried to plant herbs and flowers that are associated with the Bible, the Virgin Mary and the Saints' names. Here is a sample of some of what you will find in our garden.

Angelica is a plant of the Holy Spirit and also associated with the Festival of the Annunciation. It is a giant when full grown and is supposed to bloom around May 8th, on St. Michael's Day. It is planted in the back corners of the garden and looks like huge celery leaves.

Camomile edges the front garden and symbolizes humility. "The more trodden upon, the better it grows" - an old saying that bears with the meaning of persecuted people in their triumph over adversity.

Columbine resembles a dove and the name comes from the Latin word for dove, "Columba". Columba was a invincible Celtic missionary. I hope out Columbines multiply!

Field Daisies symbolize innocence, and are often shown in paintings of the Christ Child, where they grow at his feet. Daisies are known as the flowers of St. Margaret.

Flax symbolizes industry. It is the oldest of the textile fibers, an important crop in Egypt and used in the land of Canaan. This delicate

plant will produce blue flowers and is now in the front center of the garden.

Fairy Roses belong in a medieval garden. The Virgin Mary likes them there.

Rue is the herb of grace, good for sprinkling holy water. A sniff keeps a maid from going wrong with love. It should grow tall and lives near the cobblestone drain.

Salvia means to save, and could even symbolize domestic happiness!

Wormwood is a bitter tonic that goes with gall. "He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood ..." saith Lamentations. Wormwood is to grow into a tall, handsome plant and is now on the right, near the Quince bush. It was once used in monastery fasting periods for its bitter taste (Lord have mercy).

Add Hyssop, Germander, Lamb's Ears, Lavender, Violets, Santolina and, to climb the trellis, Virgin's Bower - and that's the garden so far.

Pots of rosemary stand by to welcome all at our church door. Rosemary is best known as a symbol of remembrance, friendship and love. St. Thomas More once said of rosemary:

"I lett it runne all over my garden wall, not onlie because my bees love it, but because 'tis the herb sacred to remembrance, and therefore friendship ..." Shall we all wear wreaths of rosemary sprigs on our heads so we are newver forgotten?

Let us enjoy the garden and pray God waters it regularly.

Jane Rockwell

New Membership Commission

This new commission is basically to evangelize; to let people outside of church know about St. Andrew's, to address issues/ barriers at St. Andrew's specifically from the viewpoint of newcomers, and to be responsible for facilitating a comfortable entry into the church of those newcomers. Anyone interested in working with us on this please contact Rhonda Cotton or Carolyn Smith.

Warden's Coffee Hour - June 13th

The second in the series of warden's coffee hours will be held June 13th. To accommodate more parishioners schedules it will be held 9:15 - 10:15 in the parish hall. The focus will be Outreach and Pastoral Care. Come prepared with your recent positive church experience and any questions you have. Future dates for coffee hours are August 29th and October 31st.

June 13th is Acolyte Recognition Day

On Sunday June 13th we will recognize the faithful and dedicated service of St. Andrew's acolytes. There is a committed core of acolytes at both our 8 and 10:30 service. At each service on June 13th we will honor these wonderful folks for all they do to make our liturgy so glorious. Please make plans to join us for this festive occasion.

Some helpful information about Acolytes—

"In contemporary Anglicanism, a general term which covers not only servers, torchbearers, and lighters of candles but also crucifers, thurifers, and banner-bearers. Acolytes are mentioned as a minor order (along with porters, lectors, and exorcists) as early as a letter of Pope Cornelius to Fabius of Antioch in 252 A.D. They were also mentioned in Cyprian's writings. They assisted deacons or subdeacons at the preparation of the table. Later they carried candles in processions. In Rome they carried fragments of the bread consecrated at the papal Mass to other churches. In the late middle ages, when candles began to appear upon altars, they lighted the altar candles. Eventually lay servers or sacristans performed duties earlier associated with acolytes, and the order of acolyte was normally conferred upon a candidate for priesthood in the course of training. (taken from, An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-friendly reference for Episcopalians, by The Rev. Dr. Don Armentrout, and Rober Boak Slocum.)"

Pastoral Care Alert

If you have a desire to join the prayer chain, please let Jack Andrews or anyone on the commission know.

Attention - All Graduates!!

If you or someone you know is graduating from high school or college this spring, please let us know!

Call the Parish Office and give us the name, school, and future plans so we can celebrate with you!

(978 772-2615) THANKS!!

Outreach Report - Our Father's House

One of several occasional articles describing those projects which St. Andrew's Church supports through its Outreach Program.

Our Father's House was founded in 1983 to provide meals, shelter, housing search and advocacy services for homeless men and women in North Worcester County who are over the age of eighteen. This house is located at 53-55 Lunenburg Street in Fitchburg. Then in 1993, Our Father's House opened the Transitional Housing Program for homeless men in recovery from drugs and/or alcohol at 4 Leighton Street, Fitchburg. That same year the agency opened the Transitional Shelter for homeless women, located on the third floor of the Lunenburg Street house. And still later, in 2000, Our Father's House assumed the management and operation of *Elizabeth House*, a transitional housing program for homeless women in recovery, located at 76 Mechanic Street, Fitchburg.

The transitional housing programs require that chemically addicted men and women have a continuous source of income, have at least 30 days sobriety, have a personal plan for recovery, are involved with a self-help group, have a willingness to participate in the program, and are in need of temporary housing. Residents are self-supporting, pay 30% of their income for rent, attend a minimum of seven AA/NA meetings each week, have on-site meetings, and share the cooking, shopping, and budgeting for the meals they share each week as a group. Both programs provide case management services with individualized service plans.

Although Our Father's House receives government funding, the funding does not cover the full cost of the expenses. Help is needed both financially and in the form of volunteer skills, such as serving meals, transportation, carpentry, plumbing, electrical work, etc. Gifts of household items, food, and cleaning supplies are always needed.

Your Outreach Commission feels that this is a very worthy organization and are grateful that we can support it financially. We will also start a collection once a month at each service of canned or bottled foods (institutional size, preferably) and cleaning supplies, which we will deliver when we have a load. Our Father's House is able to feed one person three meals a day for only \$2.00 because of donated food and monthly trips to the Worcester County Food Bank.

If you are further interested in helping please feel free to call for specific information.

The Administrative Office phone is: 978-345-2256

The mailing address is :

Our Father's House, Inc.
P.O. Box 7251
Fitchburg, MA 01420

June 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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