



Aster tripolium l.

*I believe in Christianity as I believe
that the Sun has risen: not only
because I see it, but because by it I
see everything else.*

*... C. S. Lewis, "Is Theology
Poetry?"*

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THE PRESS

AUGUST, 2004

Abject Poverty

At the time of this writing I remember that exactly three years ago to the day I was in a very different place far from Massachusetts. Three years ago, at this very hour, I was standing on the crest of a very tall mountain looking across a vista that would simply take your breath away. Not only was the topography very different than the Bay State, the climate was also drastically different—I was in Haiti at the end of July. I, along with the boys from three different Episcopal churches, three soccer coaches, and one doctor, traveled to Haiti on a mission trip.

The goal of our trip was multi-faceted. First, we were to help in a reforestation project (all of Haiti's indigenous mahogany was clear cut to furnish the Palace of Versailles, and the trees that do remain are currently chopped down and turned in to charcoal for cooking). Second, we were to engage in a friendly soccer tournament between the Haitians and the American boys (girls are forbidden to play soccer in Haiti). Third, we would bring Scouting paraphernalia to help start a burgeoning Scout program (given the attitude toward soccer, Scouting is, ironically enough, gender inclusive). Finally, we were in Haiti to help alleviate the extreme poverty of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. We were actually instructed by the accompanying doctor, "Take as many clothes as you can carry in one suitcase and expect to return with an empty suitcase." Not only were we going to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, we were also traveling north from Port-au-Prince, to the poorest village in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

The village of Cange was an oasis begun by an Anglican priest over 40 years ago to help the people who struggle daily with poverty of the most extreme

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kind. Over the forty years the village of Cange stands as a beacon of light and hope providing assistance of food, jobs, shelter, and most of all, medical treatment by visiting doctors—most notably Dr. Paul Farmer from right here in our own backyard. Doctors from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina had been making quarterly medical trips to Cange for years. This occasion was the first of its kind; taking 18 high school boys to play soccer. We returned to South Carolina forever changed. We had come face to face with starving people who struggled daily with hunger, homelessness, disease, lack of education, and a hopeless future.

In looking back to that mission trip I realize we are all in one global village. When a member of the human race is suffering we all are diminished in some way. When a sister or brother strains under the yoke of abject poverty we are all, in some way, impoverished.

On August 22nd St. Andrew's will host The Rev'd Dr. John Moulton as a representative for Food for the Poor. Food for the Poor's mission is to provide assistance and aid to countries whose citizens bear the heavy yoke of poverty.

Warden's Coffee - August 29th

Between services 9 -10 am
Bring your questions!

Worship Commission Meeting

On Tuesday August 31st at 7:00 PM the worship commission of St. Andrew's will meet to discuss the upcoming Christian Formation/Education year. The meeting will be held in the parish hall. At the meeting will discuss not only the plans for our liturgical life as the school year commences, but also the music ministry and the search committee for our next organist. If you are on the worship commission, or would like to be, please make plans to attend this very important meeting.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE

After four years as a teacher, and three as the Church School Coordinator, I need to scale back my Church School work and redirect my limited energies elsewhere. I am hoping that my job can be handed over in whole or in parts. The job entails the following major areas of activity over the course of the year:

- (1) General management of the church school facility, teachers and students;
- (2) Supervision of the Nursery;
- (3) Advent wreath making;
- (4) Christmas Pageant;
- (5) Easter Egg Hunt
- (6) School year-end activities and teacher appreciation gifts.

Additionally, I am asking for teaching and nursery volunteers. And would those of you who have volunteered the past year please contact me to let me know if you will be working with the school again this year. If you have any interest about the particulars, contact me at 978-448-2125 or geonan@charter.net and please do so as soon as possible. Teaching our faith to our younger "saints" can be very rewarding!

Nancy Barringer

Food for the Poor

In the cover article of this month's X-press, much attention is given to the pending visit of Fr. John Moulton who is representing Food for the Poor. What follows is a more detailed description of this fabulous ministry. For further information please visit them on the web at www.foodforthe poor.org. The mission of Food for the Poor is, "To link the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor the poor in spirit. The materially poor are served by local churches, clergy and lay leaders who have been empowered and supplied with goods by Food for the Poor. The poor in spirit are renewed by their relationship with and service to the poor through our direct ministry of teaching, encouragement and prayer. Ultimately, we seek to bring both benefactors and recipients to a closer union with our Lord."

Food for the Poor also provides a valuable service to churches who have only one priest. They offer to send a priest free of charge so the parish priest can have a day off from Sunday services. While visiting the parish the priest performs all the sacramental duties and preaches about the merits of Food for the Poor. The only thing Food for the Poor asks is for hospitality for the visiting priest. They request, but do not require, housing and meals to be provided for the visiting priest. If you are able to respond to Fr. Moulton with these two displays of hospitality please call Fr. Baker at the church or at home for more details.

Readings for July

Sunday, August 1 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1: 12-14; 2: 18-23 In the Old Testament reading we have the wise reflections of a person who found that spending one's life and commitment on the accumulation of material goods is, in the end, an empty and ephemeral project.

Second Lesson: Colossians 3: 12-17 In the passage from Colossians, Paul describes the new way of living which belongs to those unified with Christ in Baptism.

The Gospel: Luke 12: 13-21 In the Gospel reading, Jesus is asked to settle a property dispute between two brothers. Instead he warns against placing our highest value in material acquisition, for that value is a fleeting and uncertain one.

Sunday, August 8 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 15: 1-6 The Old Testament reading relates God's promise to Abraham and Sarah, old and childless, to give them an heir and produce from them a new people.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16 This section of the epistle to the Hebrews deals with the call to faith which we have in Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 12: 32-40 Central to today's liturgy is the gospel call to live always in the expectation of the Lord's return.

Sunday, August 15 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 23: 23-29 God's message to an unfaithful people through the prophet Jeremiah is that his word comes as a hard truth.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 12: 1-7, 11-14 In the second reading today, we are reassured that regardless of the opposition and division which faithfulness to God may bring, we have hope.

The Gospel: Luke 12: 49-56 In today's liturgy we are confronted with some of Jesus' hardest words. He revealed that faithfulness to God will produce opposition and division.

Sunday, August 22 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 28: 14-22 Isaiah writes about what he sees as the 'alliance with death,' that is the trusting in the secular state and its military and economic power that is the case in his time.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-29 The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we are no longer merely part of this world, which is passing away.

The Gospel: Luke 13: 22-30 In today's reading from the Gospel of Luke, Jesus describes the way into his kingdom as a narrow door.

Sunday, August 29 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 10: 12-18 The first reading comes from Ecclesiasticus, or the Wisdom of Sirach. This passage sees human pride as the source of unfaithfulness.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 13: 1-8 In the last of a series of readings from the Letter to the Hebrews, the writer shifts from a doctrinal discourse on God's plan to the response we are able to make to that plan in our own living.

The Gospel: Luke 14: 1, 7-14 As we celebrate the holy meal of God's people today, the Gospel reading describes the basic attitude and behavior of Christ's followers in terms of a meal or dinner party.

SOUTH AMERICAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The South American Missionary Society, known as SAMS, is an Episcopal/Anglican organization, devoted to reaching out to people in Central and South America and Spain, who have never heard the "simple and life saving message of new life in Christ". It tries to touch lives with the love of God through ministries of compassion, not preaching.

SAMS was founded in 1844 in England by Captain Allen Gardiner. Since that time many people have given their lives to accomplish Jesus' commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations." Churches and Dioceses have been planted, schools, clinics and children's homes founded, and many people have come into a saving relationship with Christ Jesus. SAMS USA has 50 missionaries serving in many countries, and several continents.

At the time of Hurricane Mitch, we became acquainted with SAMS through Father Alan MacKillop. Through that contact, we were introduced to Gail White in Spain and the Waddells in Bolivia, and have been supporting both since then.

Gail White is a 50-ish woman from Maine who formerly worked as an elementary school teacher for 10 years, then another 10 years as a certified nursing assistant, and eventually felt led to missionary service, and applied to SAMS. In 1994 she was invited to be a missionary and served in Honduras after a year of studying Spanish in the Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica. In 2001, while back in Maine for R & R, she felt the need to rethink her mission and to discern her next step. She was offered the chance to think about a placement in Spain, and after a trip to Madrid felt a very real confirmation that she should return as a missionary associated with the Anglican/Episcopal Cathedral in Madrid. She leads a women's ministry, leads the Sunday School teaching program, an Alpha program, and an Outreach program which includes a food bank, and a Ropero, a second hand clothing and furniture outlet at the Cathedral, for the many needy in Madrid. Large numbers of immigrants from Central and South America and Africa have come to Spain, seeking a better life, and opportunities to earn money to send home. Their need is great and made difficult by Spain's immigration laws. Spain has been a democracy for only about 25 years and under the former dictator Franco, Christianity was discouraged and many were killed because they were accused of being Communists. Spain has become increasingly secular since then, with very few churches, even Roman Catholic, and according to the Rev. Tom Pritchard, the Executive Director of SAMS USA, Spain is the most difficult and challenging of all the places where SAMS operates.

Gail's ministry is both challenging and gratifying and the Outreach Commission feels very pleased that St. Andrew's can support her, and asks you to pray for her.

There are many short term ministries also that one can be associated with, and if any of you are interested, please look at the Outreach Bulletin Board in the Peabody Room for more

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: September 2004

Deadline: August 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!

August 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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