



*Whence comes this idea that if what we
are doing is fun, it can't be God's will?
The God who made giraffes, a baby's
fingernails, a puppy's tail, a crooknecked
squash, the bobwhite's call, and a young
girl's giggle, has a sense of humor. Make
no mistake about that.*

... Catherine Marshall

Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor

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THE PRESS

SEPTEMBER, 2004

Kicking it off with a Bang

This September St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will hold its third annual Parish Fair and Rally Day on September 12th at 9:30 in the Parish Hall. Rally Day is a day designed to “rally” the Parish back together following the summer vacation. It is also a time for Sunday school registration and to peruse the various exciting ministry opportunities within the parish.

If anyone has ever attended a job fair at a university, the same concept applies to the Parish Fair/Rally Day. We will gather in the Parish Hall at 9:30 for coffee and refreshments and to sign up to be involved in all the wonderful ministries of St. Andrew's. If you have been having a hankering to join the choir—the Parish Fair/Rally Day is the place to put your name in the hat. If you want to be involved in one of the commissions like Pastoral Care, Outreach, or Parish Life—The Parish Fair/Rally Day is the day to do it.

There are many areas of our common life that need more hands, and more hearts to fulfill our mission and ministry here at St. Andrew's. Here are just a few of the areas where you can become involved: Sunday school Coordinator, Sunday School Teachers for any age, Children's Chapel Shepherds, Nursery attendants, the St. Andrew's Choir, Outreach Commission,

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

Stewardship Commission, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Lectors, Altar Guild. These are just a sample of all the wonderfully exciting areas of ministry where you as St. Andrew's parishioner can have an opportunity to live into a life of stewardship of giving back to God from the talents and gifts given to you. Please mark your calendars for this exciting day in the life of our Parish. I hope to see you then.

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+

Adult Sunday School Class: New Curriculum

Ever want to know more about the Sunday lectionary? Ever read the prophet Habakkuk and end up scratching your head in perplexity? Well this year the Adult Sunday School class will be using the widely acclaimed Synthesis Lectionary series as its curriculum. The Synthesis Curriculum is designed to facilitate a better understanding of the weekly lectionary. What's more, it also provides real life application of the Holy Scriptures. Synthesis has been available to priests for many years in helping them construct edifying and uplifting sermons.

The curriculum works this way: The week prior to the scheduled class, you will receive a handout guiding you through the upcoming lectionary. On the next Sunday we will read the lectionary and engage in discussions guided along by the curriculum. The process will then repeat itself.

I hope you will make plans to join us by signing up for Adult Christian Formation at the Parish Fair/Rally Day on September 12th 9:30-10:15 in the Parish Hall. Our first class will be held September 19th.

The Fourth Thursday of the Month Means Evening Prayer

Throughout the summer we have offered Evening Prayer on the fourth Thursday of every month. We will continue this schedule through the Autumn. This is a wonderful service of Holy Scripture and meditation in the quintessential Anglican tradition. The service begins at 6:00 PM in the Church on Thursday September 23rd. It lasts about thirty minutes and is a wonderful way to end the day. Please mark your calendars and make plans to worship God in this wonderful service.



Christmas Fair Planning

September is here, and we're starting to plan for our annual Christmas Fair in November. Keep us in mind as you start your early fall cleaning! We will be looking for donations for our Silent Auction, White Elephant, and Jewelry tables. Check the weekly service leaflet for information about where to bring your donations and how you can join the Christmas Fair team and help make this year's fair a success!

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: October 2004

Deadline: September 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 September

Sunday, September 5 – The Fourteenth

Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

The first reading is from Moses' concluding instructions to the people of Israel before his death.

Second Lesson: Philemon 1-20

In Paul's brief letter to his friend Philemon, he describes the transformed quality of Christian people's relationship with others.

The Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

The Gospel reading today is another of the passages from Jesus' teaching as he approached Jerusalem and his death.

Sunday, September 12 – The Fifteenth

Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Exodus 32: 1, 7-14

In the first reading, Moses at first seems more forgiving than God. When the people rebelled and created their own god to worship, God intends to destroy them all.

Second Lesson: I Timothy 1: 12-17

We begin a series of readings from the First Letter to Timothy today. Paul is described as the greatest of sinners, because he persecuted the faith.

The Gospel: Luke 15: 1-10

In the reading from Luke, Jesus speaks in reply to those who complained that he had table fellowship with sinners.

Sunday, September 19 – The Sixteenth

Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Amos 8: 4-7, (8-12)

The first reading, from the prophet Amos, speaks to those whose material greed leads them to ignore the plight of

the poor and helpless.

Second Lesson: I Timothy 2: 1-8

Today we continue the series of readings from the epistles to Timothy. These letters, written after Paul's death by his followers, give practical advice to Christian communities about church life.

The Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13

Today's Gospel reading, about the unjust steward, makes the point that how we use our material wealth is directly related to our relationship with God.

Sunday, September 26 – The Seventeenth

Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Amos 6: 1-7

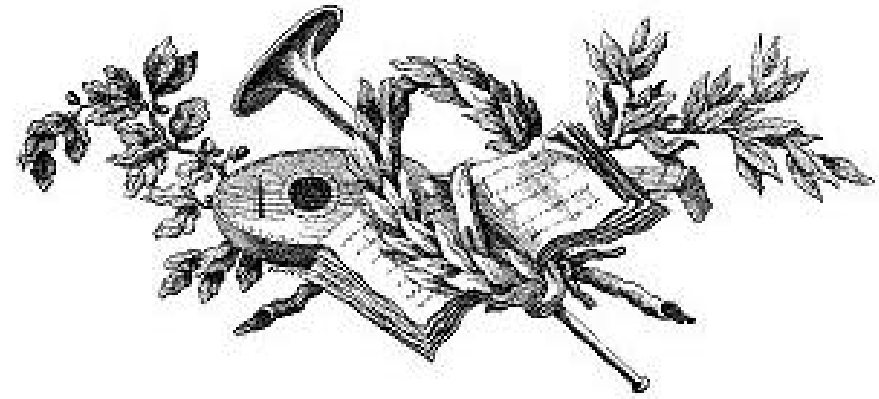
In the Old Testament reading, the prophet Amos warns the rich of his own day. Their indolent enjoyment of their own riches, combined with a lack of concern for the poor and needy, will lead to their exile from God's land and presence.

Second Lesson: I Timothy 6: 11-19

Again, today, we read from the First Epistle to Timothy. This book of practical advice for Christian living urges that the Christian remain faithful to Christ's commandments.

The Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31

In the Gospel reading today we hear his parable of the rich man and Lazarus, with its warning that failure to respond to the gospel in ministry to others can result in losing our place in God's kingdom.



*You are cordially invited to an
Appreciation Luncheon to honor
Judy Adams'
eight years of service and dedication
as organist and choir director of
St. Andrew's Church.*

DATE: Sunday, September 19, 2004

TIME: Immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service.



Contributions towards a gift can be mailed to Mary Medeiros at 8 McDowell Street, Ayer, MA 01432-1419. Please make checks payable to St. Andrew's Church.

Please RSVP to Mary Medeiros at 978-772-3195 by Wednesday, September 15, 2004. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Peabody Room for dessert and drink donations.

Apple Pie Day

is coming up on

Monday, October 18th

Mark your calendars and come join the fun!

Bring your paring knife and/or rolling pin and apron and join us for a fun filled day of friendship and laughter. There are jobs for all - novice through experienced. If you've never made a pie come learn. If you're an old hand, come share your insights with us.

Our goal is to make 60 - 70 pies. Come for as short or as long as you can. A light lunch will be served. We'll be at

St. Andrew's Parish Hall

9:00AM - 2:00PM

If you cannot attend, but would like to help, we would appreciate cash donations for supplies. Look for the sign up sheets in the Peabody room. These pies are a great addition to any meal. They freeze well and cooking instructions will be in the October Xpress. Order early as pies are limited! We only make enough to keep the day FUN!!



If you have questions or requests call Rhonda Cotton 978-456-8680, Peggy Braat 978-456-8701, or Barbara Kamb 978-486-4360.

Diocesan Convention News

November seems so far off here in the heat and humidity of summer. In fact, just nine weeks stand between us and the upcoming Diocesan Convention on November 5-6. The theme of this year's convention is EVANGELISM. Evangelism is the proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in word in deed. It is what every single Christian vows to do in their baptismal vows. To that end, the Diocese of Massachusetts is requesting that parishes send to convention, not only their elected delegates but also "guests" who would like to attend the convention. The Diocese is requesting three other people in addition to the delegates and clergy.

They suggest folks who meet these three criteria:

1. A newcomer to the congregation—someone who has joined within the last year.
2. A person with the natural charism (spiritual gift) of meeting and welcoming.
3. A warden or vestry member.

If you would like to be a guest to the Diocesan Convention, please call the church office for further details.

"God does not condemn us to Hell; God wishes all humans to be saved. He will love us to all eternity, but there will exist the possibility that we do not accept the love and respond to it.

And the refusal to accept love, the refusal to respond to it, that precisely is the meaning of Hell. Hell is not a place where God puts us; it's a place where we put ourselves. The doors of Hell, in so far as they have locks, have locks on the inside."

Kallistos Ware

September 2004

St. Andrew's Church

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Choir? **change** Life Reconciliation

Change is radical, unsettling. Winter, spring, summer, fall. Effected, we can be affected; affected, we can effect! Whether marital, clerical, sibling, employment, whatever, depending in what way and how much we individually feel affected.

When I resigned from *my* position, many felt hurt, betrayed. How could I, after 5 plus years, up and walk away; just leave? I too was venturing into unknown territory. Discomfort. Change. I felt the need to do it for me. Sadly, this left my former parish with having to seek a new "entity" to staff the bench. Two days later, I received a call asking if it were possible for me to extend my "summer vacation fill-in" for a while. Does God move in mysterious ways? You bet.

I empathize with your pain from Judy's resignation. Loss of comfort; discomfort facing the new and unknown. For those who may feel personally affected, might I suggest a three verse section from Matthew's gospel - chapter 18, 15-17; (and perhaps even on til the end of that chapter). I too have been on the "receiving" end; I know the "feeling". It requires courage, calmness, and a willingness to openly, honestly dialogue, and discern. From hence, can come peace. It was the reading one Sunday that hit me squarely on the forehead with a hammer; been there, done that! I proffer its ancient wisdom.

For the past four years I have been summer vacation organist here at St. Andrew's and greatly enjoyed this "singing congregation". Yes, perhaps even a little jealous that it was so good. Now, being offered this opportunity to serve as interim allows me an opportunity to pursue some emboldened and broadening musical endeavors. At the same time it leaves me quaking knowing the expectations of maintaining the standards from the past.

Choir. I hope we lose no one. Any voice and we do not have a chorus. Change; pain; loss. Making harmony is listening to other voices and working to blend. Not a win or lose! All need to contribute, and support. Part of our faith is Stewardship. Stewardship is everything I do after I say "I believe!" Our gracious Creator endowed each of us with an amazingly complicated yet wonderful collection of limbs, organs and brain cells for which we are to exercise responsible care. Paul called this body, "the temple of the living God". If we have the talent and ability, let us share and show our thanks and love to God for His gifts. He gave us the ultimate Gift.

I can't do it alone; your help in creating that chorus is needed. Come, Join, Sing, Praise, Worship. Make a Joyful noise with gladness; serve; and be thankful!

Hugh Smith Tones

P. S. First Rehearsal - 9 September - Table Eucharist and potluck featuring appetizers (a light fare) and yes, even singing! 7:00 P.M., an early first rehearsal.

Annual Parish Fair and Rally Day

***Sunday, September 12th
in the Parish Hall
9:30 - 10:15 a.m.***

***Join us for an opportunity
to reconnect
with friends after the summer!!***

***Learn about ways to share your gifts
and talents!!***

***Register for Sunday School and
Christian Formation classes!!***

BE THERE!!