



*The Divine Wisdom has given us prayer, not as a means whereby to obtain the good things of earth, but as a means whereby we learn to do without them; not as a means whereby we escape evil, but as a means whereby we become strong to meet it.*

*... Frederick W. Robertson*

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Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor  
Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM,  
Monday, Thursday, Friday

Web: <http://www.standrewsayer.org>  
E-Mail: [staayer@verizon.net](mailto:staayer@verizon.net)  
Tel: 978-772-2615  
Fax: 978-772-6512

# THE PRESS

NOVEMBER, 2005

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

I've enjoyed the two Sundays and weekdays I have spent at Ayer since beginning my ministry among you. It is a joy to see many familiar faces, and I look forward to seeing more.

November begins with a celebration of All Saints about which I wrote extensively in the last newsletter. We will be gathering on All Saints' Day and All Saints' Sunday to not only celebrate the recognized saints on our calendar but to commemorate the many loved ones we will name before God on those days. Our loved ones who have gone on are still united with us in the "Communion of Saints" which we confess in the Creed. There is a reciprocity to all of us in Jesus and, as we remember them, we know that they remember and pray for us. Also, on All Saints' Sunday we will be bringing two new saints into the Household of God through Holy Baptism. This is always a joyous occasion.

We will also be focusing this month on the call and opportunity to respond to the support needed in this parish and beyond for the ministry that is our calling. While there is more information on this elsewhere in this newsletter, I pray we will all be attentive to the time, treasure and talent that is needed to do God's work here, in the larger church and the world.

Thanksgiving falls this month on the 24th (Thursday) and we will have a parish thanksgiving service the evening before at 7 p.m. If my memory serves me correctly, there is usually a community

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

thanksgiving service on the Sunday prior, but I have no information on that at the moment and will have to check with the other Ayer clergy and publish information on that in the Sunday bulletin.

The feast of our patron, St. Andrew the Apostle, falls on Wednesday, the 30th of November. I would like to suggest a eucharist and potluck supper on that evening in recognition of Andrew, who was the first witness to Jesus when he brought his brother, Peter, to meet him. He is a wonderful saint and the patron saint of Scotland and Ukraine, and there are certainly plenty of Anglican churches named for him. It's hard to believe that the Sunday after that we will be celebrating the first Sunday of Advent and getting ready for Christmas. It is my hope soon to announce some classes that I would like to teach on Scripture, another one on current issues, and I would like to begin to train prayer ministers for a healing ministry in this parish. Prayer Ministry will help to supplement my own commitment to the healing ministry of the church with some of you who feel called to this work. I will be saying more about this and the classes in the weeks to come. I also hope to be developing work with our acolytes, that can also become a larger youth program. We need more lectors, people who will be trained to read the lessons at services. This does not require a license, just a willingness to read clearly the Word of God. We also need more Eucharistic Lay Ministers to help with the administration of communion. However, this does require a license and a training session from the Diocese. Please feel free to speak to me about these.

Meanwhile, there is work to do to strengthen and build up the life of our parish, to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ given to us here in this community. I hope we can find ways of doing this that are joyous and not just putting more work on the same people. God needs all of us to be listening to him and responding to the needs he places before us. Again, I want to say it is a very happy thing for Erica and I to be with you again in this community of faith. I/we look forward to growing together in him. Faithfully yours in Christ,

Alan B. MacKillop

## Holiday Fair News

The Holiday Fair will take place on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9-3 in the Parish Hall. The committee needs everybody's ideas and donations to put on this community event. We still need items for the raffles (contact Dianne Bunis at 448-4090, if you haven't received her flier), for the craft and silent auction tables, and we want smaller, less expensive items for the St. Andrew's attic (please no clothing, bedding, draperies). May we count on you for baking your favorite deserts for the bake table? We are hoping for lots of cookies from you this year, attractively wrapped by the half dozen. Also a sign up poster is available at coffee hours so that people can plan in advance which lunch foods they would like to donate, and whether or not they can work during the fair, or help set up/take down. This is always a fun day, so put it on your calendar!

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*I thank Thee, O Lord God, that though with liberal hand Thou hast at all times showered thy blessing upon our human kind, yet in Jesus Christ Thou hast done greater Things for us than Thou ever didst before:*

*Making home sweeter and friends dearer:*

*Turning sorrow into gladness and pain into the soul's victory:*

*Robbing death of its sting:*

*Robbing sin of its power*

*Making peace more peaceful and joy more joyful and faith and hope more secure.*

*Amen.*

*... John Baillie, A Diary of Private Prayer*

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

***Next Issue:*** December 2005

***Deadline:*** November 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: (978) 448-4053 (home) or (978) 772-5422 x 323 (work).

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

# November 2005

St. Andrew's Church

Tel: (978) 772-2615  
Office Hours: Mon, Th, Fri 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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