



*Sometimes, when the soul least thinks  
of it, and when it least desires it, God  
touches it divinely causing certain  
recollections of Himself.*

*... John of the Cross*

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

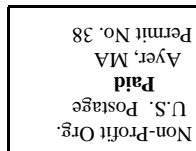
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# THE PRESS

DECEMBER, 2005

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

Advent comes from the Latin word meaning "to come" or "Coming." Naturally we tend to identify this with the first coming of Christ 2,000 years ago. However the season has, especially at its beginning, a focus on the second coming of Jesus we confess in the Creed and about which he spoke along with all the New Testament writers. This is a subject that uses many symbols and cannot be easily understood except by analogy. What it does point out though is the conviction that God is moving all history to a time of judgment, redemption and fulfillment. The earliest Christians expected Jesus' imminent return in glory, delivering many of them from persecution and tribulation. Certain periods of history have also seen great interest and focus on what many believed was the end of all things only to be disappointed. Yet Jesus himself at his Ascension told his disciples who questioned him on these matters "It is not for you to know the times and seasons (of the end of all things - his return), but you will be my witnesses when the



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Holy Spirit has come upon you ---(Acts 1:8). This in no way diminishes the reality of Jesus' second coming but rather says we have work to do for him and the Kingdom, and we are not to speculate on these matters.

When the world seems to be in such a mess with all the things we can think of that seem to say life just goes on with the same old violence, evil, injustices etc. we can be discouraged, disillusioned and cynical, but God has his own timetable which may mean mercy while judgment is deferred, but all things are moving toward a predetermined destination in which God will finally banish all evil, heartache, wrong and everything that contradicts his reign. Jesus said "look up --- your redemption draws near." Let's take a rest from all the crass and canned assault of the season to reflect on what it really means. Jesus is still the "reason for the season." The earliest Christians used to pray the Greek word "Maranatha" – "Come Lord Jesus!"

Yours because of Him,

Alan B. MacKillop

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

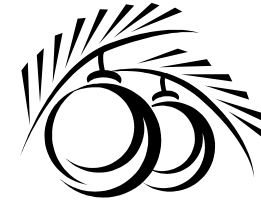
**24 DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**5PM FAMILY EUCHARIST WITH DRAMATIC REENACTMENT**  
**OF THE GOSPEL**  
**10PM FESTIVAL EUCHARIST WITH CHOIR**

**25 DECEMBER, CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**9AM HOLY EUCHARIST AND HOLY BAPTISM**

## Greening of the Church

As in previous years Belle Choate has kindly agreed to bring the greens for the church. The greening is planned for Thursday December 22. We need a few volunteers to help put up the roping and the inside wreaths.

For more information contact Belle Choate or Alan Rogers (978-772-2758)



## Christmas Choir

St. Andrews needs a choir at 10 PM on Christmas Eve. We are planning a simple but lovely anthem for women's voices for that service. All we need is the voices! Please contact Judy Adams (978-448-3598) immediately if you can join us. We will be practicing for 10 or 15 minutes after the service each Sunday and we need YOU!

Judy Adams

### *Editor's Note:*

*Next Issue: January 2006*

*Deadline: December 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!*

# The Peace

A parishioner asked me recently to say something about the Peace in the liturgy. It was universally practiced in the early church as a sign of our unity in Christ and also a time to be reconciled with anyone from one might be estranged. It later largely fell into disuse except at very formal eucharistic celebrations when only the Sacred Ministers at the altar did it. It was revived with the most recent prayer book and in many other churches as well. Initial reaction was not necessarily positive, but most people are somewhat used to it now. Many people enthusiastically greet others with hugs etc. but others can find that overwhelming. It is not meant to be a social time (coffee hour is for that), and its most important symbolism is to recognize our corporate reality and unity, broken only by enmity that should be resolved before coming to the altar for Christ's body and blood. It's wonderful when we can express our unity with great warmth, but I would suggest that there also needs to be sensitivity to those who are more reserved and may not feel comfortable with overt demonstrativeness. Please respect when a person signals a desire not be touched for whatever reason and do not chalk it up to unfriendliness or coldness. We all need to accept that we have different approaches to many of these things. The important thing is to rejoice in our unity in Jesus and repair it where it may be broken.

- ABM

# Lessons & Carols at Groton School

Groton School will hold it's annual service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 9th at 7:30PM. This service, held since 1928, is modeled on the original at King's College, Cambridge, England. That service is often broadcast around the world on Christmas day. Fr. Alan will be reading one of the lessons as it is customary that the priest at St. Andrew's do that. St. Andrew's, Ayer, and the Groton School, both founded by the Rev. Malcolm Peabody, were tied together for more than forty years officially. This service is a beautiful way to enter into the season.



# Acolyte Training

The Acolytes met for a training on Sunday 13 November and Fr. Alan appointed Ned Barringer and Lizzie Malone, our most senior acolytes to serve as Head Acolytes along with our one adult Carolyn Smith. We decided to do some fun things too and a bowling-pizza party was planned for the Saturday after Thanksgiving at the Harvard Lanes. Acolytes may invite friends and other parish children are invited also. We'll start out with once a month events, the second one probably falling after Christmas and to be announced. We welcome new acolytes including both children and adults. It's a special and honorable ministry to serve at the altar and we hope to have some fun things attached to this commitment as well. We are grateful to all who are and have served and encourage anyone, 9 to 90 to get trained and serve at the altar. Fr. Alan will be working with acolytes, so feel free to contact him.

# Holiday Fair Report

This year, the weather was clear and bright; the crowds came, and so did Santa! There were jams and jellies, shawls, crafts galore, beef stew, loads of cookies, lots of scarves and raffles! There was the snowman quilt raffle and four baskets to raffle! And there was our creative recycling - the previously owed jewelry, many antiques, and household goods. It was fun and work.

At the end of the day we all knew we had done well dollar wise too. Later that night the emails flashed the word around how very, very well we had done — nearly a 50% increase over last year!!

It will be ever better next year! We plan to have a wrap up and brain storming session for next year's fair in January. Want to come and share the fun? Have some good ideas? Love to do crafts, but somehow can't find the time? Join us for a soup supper meeting on Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 in the parish hall. Everyone's welcome.

Merry Christmas!

- Sue Hildreth

# December 2005

## St. Andrew's Church

Tel: (978) 772-2615

Office Hours: Mon, Th, Fri 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>November 05</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>January 06</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1	2	3
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