



Peace comes when there is no cloud between us and God. Peace is the consequence of forgiveness, God's removal of that which obscures His face and so breaks union with Him. The happy sequence culminating in fellowship with God is penitence, pardon, and peace -- the first we offer, the second we accept, and the third we inherit.

... Charles H. Brent

Anne Cahill, X-Press Editor

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THE PRESS

FEBRUARY, 2005

Reflections

At each vestry meeting as I have submitted my rector's report, I have a section titled "reflections." It is a time to inform the vestry of what has happened since we last met together. It seems meet and right to use this idea for my last Xpress article for St. Andrew's. As I look back over the time I have been your rector I realize we have done many things together. Much has been accomplished to further God's kingdom here at St. Andrew's.

Here's a short list of some of the many things we have done:

- Maintained our commitment to outreach and service through generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure maintaining the tithe as the standard of giving.
- Implemented Godly Play for our youngest parishioners
- Implemented Children's Chapel with Altar and Processional Cross lovingly constructed by Al Gregory
- Provided Adult Christian Formation on Sundays.

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
7 Faulkner Street
Ayer, Massachusetts 01432

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

- Increased acolytes to include 8:00 Rite I
- Restored our 1916 Pipe Organ with Dedicatory Recital by Craig Smith
- Rewired and updated the lighting in the church
- Replaced roofs on Parish Hall and Parish
- Refinished floors in both the parish and parish hall
- Commissioned silversmith Steve Smithers for a new silver Communion set in honor of Mildred Pillman
- Replaced walks and handrails into the parish and replaced steps to the parish hall.
- Replaced floor in the kitchen and refurbished cabinetry
- Renovated Sacristy including Commissioning Potter Bruce Slade for a piscina
- Commissioned The Holy Rood Guild for all new vestments (with the exception of Lenten array and Advent) as well as new funeral Pall.
- Purchased new thurible (censor) given in memory of all those who died in 2002
- Put into place a plan to replace entrance doors for the parish.

I'm sure you can think of many more things to lengthen this list. No doubt we have been busy and many, many things have been done. It has been a transforming time among you. Thank you for all your hard work and support. I wish you God's grace, peace, and blessings.

Your servant in Christ,

Scott+

Ash Wednesday Services Scheduled

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent..." These are the words that will usher us into the season of Lent on Wednesday February 9th. It is a day of extreme solemnity and penitence. Please make plans to join with all of Christendom as the Church is invited to begin this holy season.

St. Andrew's will offer two Ash Wednesday services: 12 Noon & 7:30 PM

Men and Hotcakes

Okay, maybe the title sounds a little racy, but it's just another way of saying that the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper sponsored by the Men of St. Andrew's is happening on February 8th. At 6:00 PM on Shrove Tuesday, St. Andrew's parishioners are invited to a Pancake Supper and celebration of Mardi Gras.

Perhaps your wondering a bit about "Shrove Tuesday". Well, according to "An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church," Shrove Tuesday is derived from the word shriving, which means confessing and absolving. The Tuesday before the beginning of Lent was a traditional day for hearing confessions. The three days before Ash Wednesday have been known as Shrove Sunday, Shrove Monday, and Shrove Tuesday, with these three days collectively known as 'Shrovetide'". Hope to see you all at St. Andrew's for Mardi Gras!!

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: March 2005

Deadline: February 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 February

Sunday, February 6 – The Last Sunday of Epiphany

First Lesson: Exodus 24: 12, (13-14), 15-18

The Old Testament reading records Moses' meeting with God on Mt. Sinai in an event like the Transfiguration.

Second Lesson: Philippians 3: 7-14

The second reading also points us toward Lent. The goal of Paul's life is given as the model of our goal in Lent, "becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the to the resurrection of the dead."

The Gospel: Matthew 17: 1-9

On this final Sunday before Lent we always have as our Gospel reading the account of Jesus' Transfiguration.

Sunday, February 13 – The First Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-17, 25 – 3: 7

On this first Lenten Sunday, the Old Testament reading is the account of the creation of the human race and its fall, through disobedience, from communion with God.

Second Lesson: Romans 5: 12-19, (20-21)

In the passage from Romans, Paul discourses on the turning of humanity from disobedience to faithfulness.

The Gospel: Matthew 4: 1-11

The story of the Temptation is the story of Jesus beginning to turn humanity around from disobedience to faithfulness.

Sunday, February 20 – The Second Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 12: 1-8

This Sunday might well be called "The Sunday of Abraham," for its Old Testament reading is always about Abraham and Sarah, our forebears in faith.

Second Lesson: Romans 4: 1-5, (6-12), 13-17

In the second reading today, Paul writes the church in Rome about the ground on which God's favor was given to Abraham: Faith in God.

The Gospel: John 3: 1-17

The Gospel reading today is Jesus' discourse on Baptism to Nicodemus.

Sunday, February 27 – The Third Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Exodus 17: 1-7

In the first reading, we move forward in the history of salvation from the call of Abraham and Sarah to the account of Moses and Israel in the exodus from Egypt.

Second Lesson: Romans 5: 1-11

The second reading, from Romans, is an exposition of the new life we have in God through Christ.

The Gospel: John 4: 5-26, (27-38), 39-42

Today was anciently called "the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman."

This story, which will be read as the Gospel today, is one of the classic biblical passages for those preparing for Baptism at Easter.

About the Rectory

About a year ago the long term planning committee completed a study of St Andrews facilities. It proposed major changes to our rectory building. Many parishioners have recently asked me what has happen with that project. The answer is a lot.

Like most things, construction projects have the big news items followed by long period of quiet work. Since last year, the vestry has commissioned a building committee and assigned them a program with a clear budget. With that guidance, the building committee began their work. They requested proposals from eight architectural firms. Five firms responded, three with solid proposals. Those three firms were interviewed and the firm of Helen Karl Architects was unanimously selected.

Helen Karl is a local firm from Groton, MA. The two principles are Lora and Greg Yanchenko, a husband and wife team. Their firm has been in business for over ten years and they have considerable experience in both new construction and renovation projects of a similar nature as ours. Equally important to St Andrews is their stellar track record for controlling project cost. The contract between the architect and the church was signed in October and the team began their work.

The building committee invited several key members of the St Andrews parish to participate in a series of user group meetings to ensure the needs of the parish were met. The architect has finalized the results of those meetings. He will shortly begin preparing several concept schemes for the church's consideration. The plan is to present the first concept sketches at the St Andrews annual meeting in March 2005. The vestry and the project team hope you can join us at this meeting to share in this exciting event.

– *Manny Lindo*

St. Andrew's Annual Parish meeting has been re-scheduled for
Sunday, March 6th.

On that Sunday we will have one service only at 9:00 AM. Following the service we will then move to the Parish Hall to conduct the meeting.

February 2005

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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