



*Wherever... thou shalt be, pray secretly
within thyself. If thou shalt be far from a
house of prayer, give not thyself trouble
to seek for one, for thou thyself art a
sanctuary designed for prayer. If thou
shalt be in bed, or in any other place,
pray there; thy temple is there.*

... Bernard of Clairvaux

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THE PRESS

MARCH, 2005

This is from a French tune ...

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again.
Laid in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again
Like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain
He that for three days in the grave had lain.
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love has come again
Like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again.
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again
Like wheat that springeth green.

Footnote: Deep in their roots all flowers keep the light. Inside the frozen
bulb is a green place - radiant, alive, indefatigable. Can we see ourselves
like wheat that springeth green?

God's grace and blessings to all this Lenten season,
Rhonda

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

January Vestry Meeting

Following is a summary from the January Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ Opening Devotion – A Litany for Personal Life (The Southwell Litany)
- ✘ Rector's Report – Discussed several pastoral concerns and parishioners in need. Scott reflected that we had a fabulous Advent, great Christmas pageant, Midnight Mass, and service of Lessons and Carols. Scott is looking forward to a promising future and is grateful for his time here at St. Andrew's. He reminded us that the Eucharist is the number one service of the Church and that Eucharist means "thanksgiving".
- ✘ Reviewed organist's letter of employment – Hugh has been provided a letter of hire instead of a contract per the Diocese recommendation. Vestry unanimously passed motion that we accept Hugh's letter of employment.
- ✘ Vestry Retreat – To be postponed February. No future date has yet been set.
- ✘ Quarterly Commission Reports – Christian Formation, Outreach and Parish Life provided written quarterly reports.
- ✘ Vote to accept Scott's Resignation – Motion passed with one dissension.
- ✘ Review of investment income 2004 - \$45,400 of our investments have been used in 2004. (\$42,000 for normal operating expense, \$2,000 for loaves and fishes and \$1,440 for refinishing of the floors)
- ✘ Discuss change of date for the annual meeting – Due to Scott's departure; the date of the Annual meeting has been changed to March 6, 2004. There will be one service that day at 9am. Annual reports will not be due until February.
- ✘ Retention of the Diocesan consultant – Rhonda has obtained the commitment from the Diocese that they will cover the cost of the consultant for all expenses incurred up to this point. If we decide to use the consultant going forward, we will split the expense with the Diocese. There was discussion of potentially using the consultant during the Vestry retreat, but it is felt that it is still too soon to commit.
- ✘ 2005 Budget review – We reviewed the preliminary budget put together by Stewardship. There are still pledges outstanding and the decision needs to be made on how much time we want an interim priest to be present at St. Andrew's (full, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, etc.).
- ✘ Discuss plans for February 13th – Scott advised us that Sheryl and Ian would be leaving on February 11th, so their recognition will be held on February 6th. There will be one service on February 6th at 10am with a lunch to follow.
- ✘ Bishop's visitation January 23rd – It was decided that Stewardship commission should meet with the Bishop in addition to Vestry.
- ✘ Newcomer cards – We discussed how we will respond to newcomer cards now that Scott is departing. Currently a standard letter is sent from the church office with Scott's contact information. Mary to request a copy of the current letter and email for review. Visitor cards in the pews will need to be revised by Judy Converse.
- ✘ Review of Vestry Openings – We still need a Treasurer for next year. Cheryl has offered to stay on until a replacement is found. There was also discussion of creating an assistant Treasurer position to help out.
- ✘ Closing Devotion – We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Got a great dessert recipe? Consider making it for the bake sale on Palm Sunday in the Peabody Room— any desserts you donate and/or purchase will help pay expenses for the annual Christmas Fair.

Sunday School News

We have a need for empty, plastic Easter eggs and candy to fill them with. Or even better, already filled eggs. Would those of you donating, please hold the candy until a week before Easter on March 27 to foil any chocolate-loving critters that may be on the premises. Look for collection boxes at that time in the Peabody Room. Also, volunteers to hide the eggs on Easter morning.

As always, the Sunday School needs volunteers of any age or gender to help out in the Nursery and the classrooms. At present, Nancy Barringer in the fourth/fifth grade class is teaching alone and would like someone to share teaching with every other week, or someone to just pinch hit on an occasional Sunday when she can't be there. It is a very small class with well-behaved children that are fun to teach. The Nursery also needs a caregiver on call for March through school closing in June. Please contact Nancy Barringer at 978-448-2125 or geonan@charter.net for details.

Andrew's Attic

Please stop downstairs in the Sunday School area and open the door into Andrew's Attic. The room has tables filled with leftovers from the Christmas Fair. If you want anything, take it!

Come Spring, the room will be emptied, so please help yourself. Any questions, contact Nancy Barringer.

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: April 2005

Deadline: March 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 March

Sunday, March 6 –The Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: I Samuel 16: 1-13

The first reading takes us to the point in the history of salvation when David is chosen by God as king.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5: 8-14

The second reading describes how those who have been baptized and now live in the light will carry on their lives. The final verse is an ancient Christian baptismal hymn.

The Gospel: John 9: 1-13, 28-38

Today is 'the Sunday of the Man Born Blind.' This Gospel reading has been used since early days of the church to help those preparing for Baptism understand the process of enlightenment they are going through.

Sunday, March 13 –The Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37: 1-3, 11-14

The Old Testament reading looks forward to resurrection as the final conclusion of God's plan of salvation.

Second Lesson: Romans 6:16-23

The second reading is another exposition by Paul of the character of redeemed life.

The Gospel: John 11: 17-44

The story of the raising of Lazarus is the final one of the Lenten Gospels which open the minds of the baptismal candidates to the meaning of Baptism – and it reminds us of the resurrection life we have already received by water and the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, March 20 –The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

First Lesson: Isaiah 45: 21-25

The Old Testament reading from Isaiah is set in the heavenly court, where God summons all people.

Second Lesson: Philippians 2: 5-11

In the second reading for today, Paul announces that Jesus' lordship is revealed not in the power of his divinity, but in self-giving love to the point of dying for us, his beloved.

The Gospel: Matthew 26: 36 – 27: 66

The account of the Lord's Passion is read from Matthew's Gospel, so that we may have a fuller sense of sharing with him in his redemptive acts of dying and rising for our salvation.

Sunday, March 27 –The Resurrection of our Lord: Easter Sunday

First Lesson: Acts 10: 34-43

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the preferred first reading on Sundays is from the Acts of the Apostles rather than from the Old Testament. These weekly readings from Acts describe the life of the first Christians and their proclamation of Christ's resurrection.

Second Lesson: Colossians 3: 1-4

The passage from Colossians reflects our share in the Resurrection, given us in Baptism.

The Gospel: John 20: 1-10

The Gospel reading is the account of the women at the tomb and Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene.

GOOD FRIDAY WALK

The 21st Annual **GOOD FRIDAY WALK** comes early this year with Easter in March.



Hopefully, we will have some weather suitable for practice walking and then a decent day to walk the scenic byways of Harvard. Beginning and ending at the Harvard Common, the walk will be on **MARCH 25th**. Again this year, 2/3 of the monies raised will go to Loaves & Fishes and 1/3 to Sharing, Inc. The local walk has roots at St. Andrews when parishioners, who traveled each year to Hingham and participated in the walk, decided to walk in this area instead. All these years later, it continues as a special day with warm meanings to each walker and worker and of sharing the spirit of communities helping each other. Now walkers of all ages, sizes, backgrounds, and abilities will gather and participate for the shared purpose of raising funds for Loaves and Fishes and Sharing, Inc.

Operating out of Devens; Loaves and Fishes is an assistance program responding to hunger and poverty in our immediate area. Unfortunately, these needs are still too prominent. Serving Ayer, Shirley, Groton, Littleton, Devens and Harvard; Loaves & Fishes was begun as a hot meal program at St. Andrews. So you can see the strong connection St. Andrew's has with both the Good Friday Walk and Loaves & Fishes. Sharing, Inc. directs aid for rural poverty in the Southern United States focusing on children. Sponsor Sheets are available in the Peabody Room along with a sign up sheet to donate food for the day of the walk. Last year 295 walkers and 60 workers raised \$35,818. Please join us for this opportunity to help our neighbors in a special positive way. You will feel uplifted and rewarded with the feeling of having done something good with your own positive effort. For more information please call Ruth Broughton at 486-8557, or Sharon Kerns 456-1240. We hope you will join us.

Young Life Concert

Young Life of North Central Massachusetts will present the contemporary Christian band, Holy Fire, in concert at the Leominster City Hall on Friday, March 11th at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$5.00. They can be purchased at the door or you may call Eric Stoltzfus at 978-501-2118.

March 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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