



A scientist said, making a plea for exchange scholarships between nations, "The very best way to send an idea is to wrap it up in a person." That was what happened at Christmas. The idea of divine love was wrapped up in a Person.

... Halford E. Luccock

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THE PRESS

JANUARY, 2006

Dear People of St. Andrew's:

January brings the season of Epiphany, which begins on the 6th, commemorating the visit of the Wise Men as recorded in the second chapter of Matthew. The important thing in the symbolism of this event is not that they were three kings (which they were not) or even that they were more likely astrologers from what would be present day Iraq. They were the first Gentiles, or non-Jews, to worship Jesus. Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth" and Jesus, even as a babe, was shown forth as Lord of the whole world. Jew and Gentile are called into fellowship with him who reveals the love of God in all its fullness. Therefore, traditionally, Epiphany has been a time to strongly emphasize the mission of God to the whole world. That mission calls us to see beyond the narrow confines of our own parochial life to work and pray, to share Jesus and to reach out in his name to all.

The earliest Christians were Jewish disciples located primarily in Jerusalem. The book of Acts, which records the spread of the Gospel from its original location to all of the known world of that time, particularly under the missionary genius of the apostle Paul. St. Andrew's has had a long and noble vision of outreach, which includes Loves and Fishes founded by two parish members in the 1980's, Habitat for Humanity, Young Life and the South American Missionary Society.

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

Some of these have focused on particular ministries to people in different kinds of needs and others to the specific work of evangelism with young people (Young Life), or evangelism at a distance (the South American Missionary Society). We need to become more intimately aware of all whom we support and what they are specifically accomplishing. We always must remember it began with those first visitors who came to acknowledge Jesus and before that in the heart of God, who so loved the world from all eternity that he gave his only begotten son. God still loves that world and calls us to be a part of making that known. During this holy season we will be focusing particularly on missions and our call and privilege to be a part of God's plan for redeeming all of us.

Faithfully, because of him,

Alan B. MacKillop, Priest in Residence

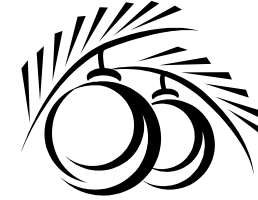
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 29th, following one service only at 9 a.m. There will be a brunch, sponsored by the Parish Life Committee. Sign-up sheets for the potluck will be put out later. There will be child care provided during the meeting.

After the brunch, the meeting will commence for the purpose of voting for new Vestry members (there will be biographies of all the people on the slate available soon), voting on the budget, and hearing the reports of parish organizations. This is a time of fellowship and an opportunity to review where we have been and where we want to go. All members in good standing, 16 years of age or older, are entitled to vote. Come and help us to build a stronger, more vibrant and Spirit-filled parish.

Having Her Say

Susan Leeming has written an article expressing her own perspective and concerns regarding the events that have shaped and confronted the Episcopal Church in recent times. There are plans in the works to have some meetings soon to discuss these matters soon. Susan's piece will be put on the St. Andrew's website and members of the church may respond if they wish.



For Fair and Fun

Everyone who worked on St. Andrew's Holiday Fair is invited to come for a potluck soup supper at 6:30 pm on January 12th. Afterwards we'll meet to wrap up this very successful annual event and talk about how to make it even better next year. Don't forget as you repack your holiday decorations, bring to the Parish Hall any Christmas tree ornaments you wish to discard. We can sell them at next year's holiday fair.

RSVP to the church office or Barbara Kamm at 486-4360.

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: February 2006

Deadline: January 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!*

Search Narrows

The committee charged with finding a new organist for St. Andrew's and headed by Mark Louttit has been hard at work and now has three excellent candidates, whom they will interview soon. Judy Adams has graciously agreed to continue playing for Sunday services until such time as a new musician can begin. Thanks, Judy and committee.

Mass Meddling

There is presently a bill before the State Senate (SB 1074 "An Act Relative to Charities in Massachusetts") which could have an adverse impact on St. Andrew's. This bill would require every religious organization to file a 13 page "Form PC" with the Division of Public Charities with a registration fee based on revenue and submit a full financial audit by a Certified Public Accountant. The reason for this bill has to do with the fact that some Roman Catholic parishes are not up front regarding their financial dealings, which distresses some of their members.

Al Colburn, our Senior Warden, has written letters in the name of St. Andrew's Church to our Senators and Representatives, asking them to vote against this measure because it "will have an onerous impact on our church, adding unnecessary bureaucratic overhead, substantial additional direct and indirect costs, not to mention being a direct intrusion by government into religious affairs that seem to be indisputably unconstitutional.

"Most protestant churches run lean budgets and the additional costs associated with fees and mandatory audits would divert funds from service ministries that are of great value to the community. Paid staff and volunteer time would be diverted from primary ministries to paperwork and compliance."

A Heartfelt Thanks

MANY THANKS to all who helped make our Christmas services so beautiful and meaningful. Thanks to Belle Choate and all who worked to decorate the church, to Judy Adams and Mary Ferrillo, organists and the volunteer choir, and all those who took part in the services. Truly a lovely Christmas offering to God!

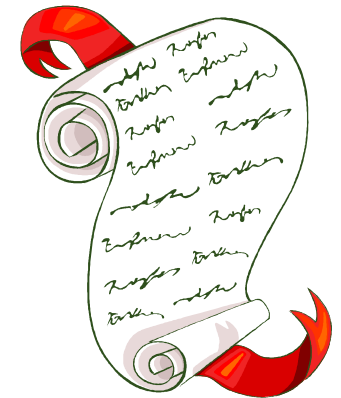
Church School / Youth Activity Update

Our church school started the 2005-2006 school year with three classes of 14 regularly attending children and teens: 5 in the Jr/Sr High Class, 4 in the Intermediate Class, and 5 in the Godly Play class. Teaching are John Ferrillo, Nancy Barringer, Yvette Nasworthy and Jeanne Cassin. Alice Cassin is tending children in the Nursery with some help from Lizzie Malone. Though small in number, the teachers and children are happily learning about and discussing the Old and New Testaments, the Psalms, church history and traditions and making crafts. The teens are following the "We Believe" program, the Intermediates are focusing on Israel in the time of Jesus, and the youngest are hearing stories shaped by the Montessori-based Godly Play curriculum.

Recently, we held a very successful bowling and pizza party at the Harvard Lanes, attended by many of the church school children who brought friends. We are hoping to get together during the Christmas vacation to see the movie "Narnia". There are more activities being planned by Father Alan and church school coordinator Nancy Barringer who is always happy to answer any questions regarding the Nursery, Church School or Youth programs. Nancy Barringer geonan@charter.net or 978-448-2125.

Sunday School Wish List

1. Chalkboards for 4 classrooms.
2. Corkboards for 3 classrooms.
3. Rug pads for under the Godly Play rugs where we sit on the floor.
4. Better armchairs for Nursery and Snuggery. Secondhand is fine if in good repair.
5. Nice fake florals for windows.
6. Apple & Cinnamon fragrance air deodorizers.



Report of Delegates

Marilyn Guest and Richard Harris to the 220th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts

(This report was submitted in a timely fashion but regretfully did not make it into the December X-Press)

On November 4 and 5, 2005, we attended the annual convention of the diocese held at Mansfield, Massachusetts as the lay delegates of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ayer. Over a thousand were in attendance, including the two delegates from each of about 300 parishes and delegates from other church bodies. The Right Reverend M. Thomas Shaw, Bishop, presided with enthusiasm and related the many successes of the year and had the various church-supported groups report to the convention and requested our continuing support. Also speaking was Dr. Diana Butler Bass, who gave an informative summary of her research into the interaction of Protestant church members, tradition and current concerns. She gave an inspiring talk at a workshop. She also was our luncheon speaker. Another forceful speaker was State Senator Jarrett Barrios, who urged us to support programs to reduce the rate of recidivism among the criminal population.

We were impressed by the strong social action taken by various groups sponsored by the diocese: outreach groups for the homeless, the poor, the immigrants, the youth, Chinese and Latino communities, AIDS victims all received our attention to their problems. Significant efforts were made worldwide, including earthquake and hurricane victims and orphans in East Africa.

Bishop Shaw told us that although the overall growth of members and of revenue had been fairly flat this past year, several parishes showed great growth in both areas. He urged us to carry on the struggle to reach targets of 5 new parishes and 15% rise in donations in the next decade. He had the various church-sponsored groups introduce themselves and report on their past year. Diocesan officers for the coming year were elected.

Two issues were the subject of resolutions to be acted upon by the delegates. Both were passed after orderly discussion and passage of amendments. The first one called upon the church to reaffirm its condemnation of anti-Jewish behavior and attitudes and for the church to peruse its literature to identify any language offensive to Jews. The second resolution called for further study of the issue of sexual behavior in the light of the Windsor report, which deals with the sensitive issue of homosexuality and the church.

The convention was optimistic and very topical. Even the service of Holy Communion was enlivened by a theatrical group known as the Covenant, which portrayed vignettes of faith.

There were several handouts: 2006 budget report, newsletters and posters, all of which are available in the Peabody Room for your perusal and consideration.

RING IN THE NEW!

Treasurer, that is. Sue Hildreth has agreed to become Treasurer of St. Andrew's, beginning January 1, 2006. She brings much experience (30 years as an accountant), enthusiasm and ideas to the job. Behind the scenes, Lorraine Leonard and Lynn Ferrillo will do some of the data input and account reconciliation. There will be monthly reports in the X-Press, and as always all communication should be done through the church office. In other words, don't call her at home.

Many thanks to Lili Ott, who has been doing a great job paying the bills and keeping the financial records in good order. She will close the books for 2005 and turn them over to Sue for final verification. St. Andrew's is truly blest to have such fine people willing to give their time and talent so generously.



Bishop's Visit

THE BISHOP IS COMING in the spring, for an area confirmation. Fr. Alan will be preparing the young people, and he asks that any adults who wish to be confirmed, received (from another denomination) or want to renew their baptismal vows speak to him, so he can arrange a class to prepare them.

Vestry Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the November, 2005 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ Father Alan read from Jeremiah and led us in prayer.
- ✘ We welcomed new member Yvette Nasworthy.
- ✘ Rector's report: Father Alan is contacting parishioners by telephone. There have been two baptisms. He spent a day at the Diocesan Convention with Marilyn Guest and Richard Harris as delegates. Clergy conference next week. Will be meeting with acolytes after Sunday's 10:00 service, and plans to restart the Youth Group.
- ✘ Father Alan wishes all to know his two e-mail addresses: amackillop@verizon.net at the church office and amackillop@earthlink.net at home.
- ✘ The Treasurer's report was reviewed. Checks totaling \$3,600.00 were disbursed to Habitat for Humanity and Loaves and Fishes from the Groton School Concert profits. There are questions about our Diocesan Assessment which should be \$8,000.00.
- ✘ The Stewardship Commission will not have a "Pony Express" - type drive this year. They will stress the donating of Time, Talent and Treasure with a Treasure chest theme. On November 20, there will be one service at nine o'clock to launch the Stewardship drive and to welcome Father Alan and Erica back to Saint Andrew's. There will be brunch served, coordinated by Audrey Western.
- ✘ The Vestry Slate for 2006 requires one more person. There is also a possibility that Nancy Barringer will not stand again as Clerk, and a Treasurer is needed.
- ✘ The Membership Commission is still planning on new Episcopal signs for along the main roads. We discussed how to attract visitors. Russ Harris recommends reading "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren and creating a study group for this purpose.
- ✘ A review of what each group that uses our church facilities pays or contributes will be done. It was agreed that increases for most of these groups is overdue.
- ✘ The search for the new music director has produced a written job description that was read and accepted.
- ✘ The new Welcome Letter draft was distributed. Father Alan said it was a good one. Now how shall we make it available to newcomers?
- ✘ For the upcoming Audit, George Miller will be asked to join Alden Smith.

2006 Pledge drive update

The 2006 pledge drive is nearing completion – all the door-to-door envelopes have returned, numerous letters mailed and phone calls made. As of 12/20/05, we have received \$105,000 in pledges, that's 86% of our goal of \$120,000!

Thank you to all the door-to-door stewards:

John and Lili Ott
Nancy Barringer
Russ Harris
Lorraine Leonard
Many Lindo
Sue Hildreth

Yvette Nasworthy
John and Lynn Ferrillo
Erin Pueschel
Alan and Louise Rogers
Mary Medeiros
Carolyn Smith

Al Colburn

If you have not made out a pledge card, there are blank ones in the back of the church. Please help yourself. Or call a member of the Stewardship Commission.

The 2006 boxed envelopes are ready for pickup in the back of the church. Please discard your 2005 envelopes; data entry errors can result from using the previous year's envelopes. Using your envelopes does make computer input easier, so please use your envelopes when you can. Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who has pledged. Your generous commitment to St. Andrew's is deeply appreciated by all of us!

Your Stewardship Commission,

Sue Hildreth, Lorraine Leonard, Mary Medeiros, and
Carolyn Smith



January 2006

St. Andrew's Church

Tel: (978) 772-2615
Office Hours: 8:00 AM –12:00 PM M, W, Th, F
12:00 PM –2:00 PM Tuesday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																									
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29 9:00 AM HE, One Service Only followed by Brunch & Annual Meeting	30 9:30 AM Bible Study	31 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Parents Helping Parents (PH)	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption style="text-align: center;">December 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></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <caption style="text-align: center;">February 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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></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	31	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					
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