



"Every human being has a great, yet often unknown, gift to care, to be compassionate, to become present to the other, to listen, to hear, and to receive. If that gift would be set free and made available, miracles could take place."

*Henri J. M. Nouwen
Out of Solitude: Three Meditations
on the Christian Life*

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THE PRESS

NOVEMBER, 2006

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

Last night I sat in a class I am taking here in Manchester, NH where I lived next to a man who had on a T shirt that said "Recovering Catholic." I didn't choose to ask him what that meant, but I assumed he was stating publicly that he had a negative experience of growing up in the RC church. Someone else might say the same for another denomination or congregation, but it made me wonder how many people see the church described in the bible as the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the Pillar and Ground of Truth in practical terms of being a community where they are built or torn down. No one has to go church now and there is no required church membership as existed in other centuries. People are drawn to the church but others drop out and often it is not over great theological matters, but because they have been hurt or found it irrelevant. I have heard careless remarks and have probably made them myself that can cut to the quick. With all the claims made about and by the church it had better be an experience with more positives than negatives because in today's world religion is seen as causing most of the violence and many of the problems in and between societies.

In this month in which we celebrate the mystical union of God's saints (people) in Heaven and Earth in All Saint's tide we can ask how this fractured and divided reality truly reflects Jesus who and died for the

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

church. Our job is to build one another up and if we tear one another down the whole enterprise comes off as phony. The world needs to know that God loves his creation and people, and that starts with what we communicate in our own lives, in how we treat each other. That is important as we try to grow as a parish and deepen our own understanding of our identity at this time and in this place; who are we and what is our mission at St. Andrew's in Ayer? We may end run the whole enterprise for one person by just one thoughtless put down.

I'll close this pondering of mine which I share with you by quoting the late Henri J.M. Nouwen, a wonderful spiritual writer and guide to many Christians and seekers and not just to Roman Catholics.

"Over the centuries the Church has done enough to make any critical person want to leave it. It's history of violent crusades, pogroms, power struggles, oppression, excommunications, executions, manipulation of people and ideas, and constantly recurring divisions is there for everyone to see and be appalled by."

Can we believe that this is the same Church that carries in it's center the Word of God and the sacraments of God's healing love? Can we trust that in the midst of all it's human brokenness the Church presents the broken body of Christ to the world as food for eternal life? Can we acknowledge that where sin is abundant, and that where promises are broken over and over again God's promise stands unshaken? To believe is to answer yes to these questions." from "Bread for the Journey, A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith.

Thank you for wrestling with these questions and realities with me.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Residence

Many Thanks

Thanks to Barbara Kamb for the Sunday Bulletins dating during the WWII era (fascinating covers), and the 1950's during Rev. Henry Mattocks term. She also passed along some great reading in the Mattocks newsletters. When we can assure their safety we will put them on display. Thanks also to Jean Cummings for passing along newsletters dating from 1998 – 2006. They all contain interesting facts about parishioners and events. Could be useful to future researchers. If you have the following at home and can part with them it'd be appreciated; 2006 Nov & Dec.; 2005 June – Dec.; 2002 Oct.; 2000 Jan.; 1999 Jan – April; and 1998 Jan – June. Also, anything prior to 1998 would be appreciated. You could either put them in Alan Rogers cubby in the Peabody Room (by the phone), or bring them to the office with a note to Louise Rogers attention. Thanks.

Historical Commission

And More Thanks ...

... from Peggy Braat to everyone who participated in the pie baking event and from Alan Rogers to those stayed for the parish clean up day. Can't do without YOU - ALL!!

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: December 2006

Deadline: November 17th

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!*

Kim Lindo is now Nursery Supervisor

Parents and children of Saint Andrew's are happy to have Kim Lindo in the church Nursery overseeing our salaried Nursery caregiver Caelan Taylor and church volunteers. The Nursery supervision function was most recently performed by Nancy Barringer, retired Sunday School Supervisor. Kim and her husband Manny and three and a half year old daughter Olivia were married at Saint Andrew's five years ago and live in Harvard. They both work at Hanscom Air Force base in Bedford, Kim in a civilian capacity as a Financial Specialist and Manny as the Deputy for the International Operations Division and a Colonel in the Air Force Reserves.

Nursery care is available in the Parish Hall from 9:15 am to 11:15 am every Sunday.

Saint Andrew's thanks Kim for taking on this job of seeing that our littlest Saints receive care and love while their parents worship.



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

*O God of Love, we yield Thee thanks
for whatsoever Thou hast given us richly to enjoy,
for health and vigor, for the love and care of home,
for joys of friendship, and for every good gift of happiness and strength.
We praise Thee for all Thy servants
who by their example and encouragement have helped us on our way,
and for every vision of Thyself
which Thou has ever given us in sacrament or prayer;
and we humbly beseech Thee that all these Thy benefits
we may use in Thy service and to the glory of Thy holy name;
through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord.
Amen.*

*Written by Dorothy L. Mattocks
Wife of the Rev. Henry Mattocks
Vicar, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1948-1950
Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1950-1968*

Feeding the Kids

Many thanks to the several volunteers have provided dinner for the Young Life meetings. Nicola Barlow has agreed to be coordinator (978-448-8951) and is happy to make arrangements. She also has suggested that if you are not able to make a meal (too busy, terrible cook), the ingredients may be provided and she will take it from there. There can be up to 20 people at the meetings but they are not fussy and it's dinner only, no dessert. It is a real blessing to Eric Stoltzfus, the director and his wife to have these meals provided, so let's see if we can continue providing meals. Give Nicola a call or talk to her on Sundays.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY

Saint Andrew's Day, the celebration of our patronal feast falls on Thursday 30 November. At this writing no decision has been made as to whether to celebrate the day or do some thing the Sunday before, but we will do something to honor our beloved Andrew and let you know later the details.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

There will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service here at 7PM when we will join other local clergy and Christians to celebrate God's goodness and provision. As we prepare for family holidays it is an opportunity to remember to whom we give thanks and why? I hope we can make a good assembly of local churches to worship together on the eve of our national feast.

Diocesan Convention

Diocesan Convention will have taken place in Boston at Trinity Church with Fr. Alan, Kim Lindo and Jeanne Cassin representing the parish. The X-Press goes to press for a report which will have to appear in the December issue.

Vestry Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the September, 2006 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ Opening Devotions and Prayer
- ✘ Priest-in-Residence Report: Coming up on one year anniversary of Fr. Alan's return . Much positive change has occurred with a lot yet to be accomplished. Clergy Day with the Bishop took place last Thursday. Bishop Shaw spoke optimistically about our relationship with the rest of the Anglican Communion. Bishop Barbara Harris spoke about the new Presiding Bishop Elect, the first woman bishop in that position. Grateful to Nancy Barringer for continuing to oversee the Christian Education Program. Volunteers needed to take a leadership role in certain programs such as advent wreath and pageant. Kim Lindo to oversee the nursery. Approximately 30 children have enrolled in Sunday School. Delegate needed for Deanery Meeting to take place at St. Peters Church in Weston on 9/27/06.
- ✘ Senior Warden's Report: Received a bid from Al Colburn for the completion of the painting of church's trim. Motion approved to use funds from cash or the John Riley estate money (at the discretion of the Treasurer) to complete the scraping, priming and painting of the remaining trim on the church's exterior. Russ has asked Janine Doucette, a sign designer, to provide sign sketches for new church and parish hall signs. Working out sound system "bugs". Need to assign a "10 o'clock technician" to be responsible for overseeing sound system. Fr. Alan's microphone not conducive for giving sermons. Motion approved to buy a headset microphone. Discussed vestibule refurbishment and cross for top of Parish Hall. Fr. Alan will use money given anonymously by parish member for the purchase of a simple wooden cross. Parish secretary to be reviewed by Fr. Alan and Russ.
- ✘ Junior Wardens' Report: Wanted to extend the parish's appreciation to Parish Life for last Sunday's terrific brunch. Alcoholic Anonymous has requested use of the Parish Hall from 9 AM to midnight on Thanksgiving. Parish Hall security—Mary to get ideas and report back to Vestry.
- ✘ Treasurer's Report (given by Fr. Alan in Sue's absence): Sue had asked that we pay all of our 2005 assessment in one payment rather than by a monthly installment which Al Colburn had set up with Jack Dorin from the diocese since Jack Dorin did not seem to remember the agreement; however, Al Colburn has the agreement in writing and we will reconfirm this agreement him.
- ✘ Old Business: Handicap Ramp—Manny has gotten two quotes for a wheelchair lift (between \$18,000 and \$22,000). Will also pursue the building of a ramp.
- ✘ Commission Reports
- ✘ Outreach: After much discussion a motion was approved to disperse \$1,000 to each of the four Outreach Ministries (Habitat for Humanity, South American Missionary Society, Young Life and Loaves & Fishes)
- ✘ Stewardship: Annual Appeal to take place in October; discussed possible fundraisers (St. Andrew's Calendar, Music fundraiser with Michael Smith)
- ✘ Membership: Planned last Sunday's brunch with Parish Life; working on brochure for new members and help with retention of current members; working with Pastoral Care on "share the ride" program; also discussing a possible church directory (names, addresses, phone numbers)
- ✘ New Business: Manny reported that Louise Rogers had asked about the establishment of a Building Fund to raise additional revenue for designated projects. This will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

Vestry Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the August, 2006 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ Opening Devotions and Prayer
- ✘ Priest-in-Residence Report: Described taking a group of St. Andrew's parishioners to a healing and evangelistic service where Christ's healing power included our parishioner, Jackie Strobel, who had suffered from a hip fracture and other issues. She testified to her complete healing the following Sunday. Reported that attendance at Sunday service has been good (70 attendees last week). Commented on the informative talk Gail Morris Davis (Rector of Good Shepherd Church in Acton) gave on the General Convention.
- ✘ Senior Warden's Report: Al Colburn has found a product that will successfully clean granite and will get a small sample to try on the Church's stone. Russ relayed the message from Al Rogers that the rectory furnace will need to be replaced in the not-too-distant future. Russ reported on a church website given to him by Dick Dabrowski that does a good job of evaluating the purposes of the church along the lines of what he would like done at St. Andrew's.
- ✘ Junior Wardens' Report (In Mary's absence, reported by Fr. Alan and Carolyn): Proposed the creation of an up-to-date church directory. Sue suggested a two-tier approach: Publish a listing of parishioners with addresses in September, and have informal photos added later in the year. Proposed an updating of the Narthex interior (painting, new floor, etc.). Proposed the painting of the church ceiling as a future project. Carolyn pointed out the pruning of shrubs that was completed, allowing more light into the Snuggery and the church sign to be seen.
- ✘ Treasurer's Report: Sue explained that pledges have come in more slowly during the summer months (which is to be expected with people on vacation). Sue has reviewed 2004 Parochial Report (basis for 2006 Assessment). Found that the diocese has not been following acceptable accounting practices, and has written a letter to diocese asking that the assessment be adjusted.
- ✘ Old Business: Sunday School & Nursery—Kim Lindo has agreed to be on the team overseeing the Sunday School. Parish Hall Handicap Ramp—Manny is waiting for a materials list from Job Core but suggested that we get quotes from general contractors. Sound System—Scheduled to be installed by the 2nd week of August. Signage—3 signs (costing \$465) scheduled for receipt on 8/18 to be professionally installed in the current locations. Lili asked Vestry to consider purchasing two additional signs. Handicap Lavatory in Peabody Room—Carolyn will ask Dick to call the draftsman working on the plan for a status update.
- ✘ New Business: Commission Payment Policy needed—Sue will draft a policy to be reviewed at next month's Vestry meeting. Parish Picnic—Consensus that it is too late to organize for this year, Carolyn proposed that it be replaced by the Parish Brunch.
- ✘ Commission Reports
- ✘ Stewardship: Recruited four new members; Planning a fall fundraiser (possibly music related).
- ✘ Membership: Judy Adams to coordinate Sunday Shuttle Service for those people who need a ride to church. Planning to create a brochure about St. Andrew's to give to new members
- ✘ Parish Life: Planning a Welcome Back Brunch on 9/10/06 after the 9:00 service. Propose re-instituting foyer dinners (groups of eight parishioners gathering at each other's homes for informal dinners)
- ✘ Outreach: Purchased and put together 10 backpacks for Loaves and Fishes

Lift High the Cross

"Lift high the cross" is not only the name of a popular hymn, but the a reality with the raising of a mahogany cross on the cupola of the Parish House tying all the buildings we have together. It is a simple cross painted white to go with the neo Colonial style of the building. It is raised in loving memory of Vic Burton who died this year after a valiant battle with cancer. Vic did so much for "fabric" of St. Andrew's. Funds given in his memory made this possible, and we are grateful not only for those funds but most all for Vic. Look up at the cross when you go by next. It was crafted by local craftsman Lindsey Mullen. I think Vic is pleased.

- ABM

Need Wheels?

St. Andrew's Church needs to be sure that everyone who want to come to worship services and parish events can get there. IF YOU NEED A RIDE OR CAN PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION please call Judy Adams at 978-448-3598.

Keep 'Em Coming!

If you have not yet made your financial pledge to St. Andrew's for 2007, there is still time. Sue Hildreth and the Stewardship Gang are pleased with the results so far but....

Help Needed

St. Andrew's has the honor of hosting the annual meeting of the American Guild of Organists on Sunday afternoon, November 19th. Judy Adams is in charge of arrangements, which include dinner, so give her a call at 978-448-3598 if you would like to help.

St. Andrew's Annual **Harvest Crafts Fair** **Saturday, November 17th, 9 am - 3pm**

Come gather with friends and family for lots of fun and Christmas shopping for unique gifts! Bring your neighbors! There will be something for everyone.

There will be lots to choose from:

- ✧ 21 Crafts Tables
- ✧ Silent Auction
- ✧ Jewelry Table
- ✧ Raffle Baskets
- ✧ Bakery Shoppe
- ✧ Andrew's Attic
- ✧ Lunch Plus (beef stew, pie, sandwiches)

FUN FOR ALL!

Don't miss this special event!

November 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																																																								
Other Parish Hall events: 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 11/8, 6:30- 8:00 p.m., Boy Scout Pack Meeting 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28 7-9 p.m. Parents Helping Parents 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30 7-10 p.m. AA meeting 11/23 8 a.m.– midnight AA's Alkathon			1 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Study of Gospel of John	2 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers	3	4																																																								
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19 9:15 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II followed by Stewardship brunch	20 9:30 AM Bible Study	21	22 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 7:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service	23 Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed	24 Wedding (Melota-Bosque)	25																																																								
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