



*God does not lead His children around
hardship, but leads them straight
through hardship. But He leads! And
amidst the hardship, He is nearer to
them than ever before.*

... Otto Dibelius

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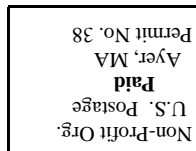
THE PRESS

FEBRUARY, 2006

Dear People of St. Andrew's:

February has a number of interesting days: Ground Hog, Lincoln and Washington's Birthdays now summed up in Presidents Day, my birthday (no details available), but this year no major Holy Days, namely Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. This means a long Epiphany season and a late Easter. Actually, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on the first day of March. The evening before, the last day of February, we will have our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, with details about that elsewhere in this X-Press.

We hope the Ground Hog will have good news about the length of winter but in the meantime I want to continue through this Epiphany season to emphasize missions and Jesus' call to the Great Commission in Matthew 28: "Go into all the world, baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and making disciples of all nations." A parish church is not a club but is a part of the living organism of Christ's Body, the Church on earth and in heaven. We are a part of God's plan, God's desire to reconcile all humanity to himself, and to overcome the powers of division causing human sin, arrogance, violence and all that divides us from God and one another. The Epistle to the Ephesians says that this plan of God has existed from eternity but in the fullness of time revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus who has made us the bearers of this Good News. It is such a privilege to be a part of this divine mystery, and in the readings through Epiphany we will concentrate on understanding how we are to fulfill this call.



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

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

One thing that February normally brings my wife and me is a trip to California to see our son, Alan Jr. and his wife, Nina. Since retiring back to New England, February seemed like a good time to do this, before Lent begins (because I have been working a good deal of my retirement) and to have a winter break. Fr. Ted Lewis, formerly rector of St. Paul's, Hopkinton and now in private practice as a therapist in Groton and helping out at Christ Church, Fitchburg, will be taking services on the 12th and 19th. He is known to many of you in the parish and is a fine priest, who as it turns out also has a son in San Diego! I thank Fr. Ted for taking these services. Please show up and make him very welcome!

I am preparing a Lenten Schedule that is not yet complete but will include Wednesday night soup suppers with some significant speakers. All good soup makers are encouraged to pick out a date and get that show on the road. I will publish all the opportunities for Lent when it is complete. You can start thinking on your own about what kind of commitment you are prepared to make between God and you for spiritual growth and nurture and how to add to your personal disciplines the opportunities at church.

Finally, many thanks to Al Colburn, who while remaining on the Vestry, is stepping down as Senior Warden. Al is a prince of a man, has been at the helm of the years in many situations and took on the job at a critical transitional time last year at St. Andrew's. Thank you, Al!

May God bless us all in our life in Him,

Fr. Alan

Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Residence



NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 VESTRY

Senior Warden	Russ Harris
Junior Warden	Mary Medeiros
Junior Warden	Carolyn Smith
Treasurer	Susan Hildreth
Asst. Treasurer	Lorraine Leonard
Clerk	Linda Kaferle

Vestry	Jeanne Cassin	2009
Vestry	Marilyn Guest	2009
Vestry	Yvette Nasworthy	2009

Parish Historian	Louise Rogers
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Convention Delegates	Marilyn Guest
	Richard Harris

Remaining:		
Vestry	Al Colburn	2007
Vestry	Manny Lindo	2007
Vestry	Carolyn Smith	2007
Vestry	John Ferrillo	2008
Vestry	Lili Ott	2008
Vestry	Russ Harris	2008

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: March 2006
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!

Church School Event - The Chronicles of Narnia

On the afternoon of Sunday, January 8 three adults and six children met at the cinema in Tyngsborough to see the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Father Alan and Vivian Ferrillo drove up from Ayer while Nancy Barringer brought her son Ned and Lizzie Malone and Lizzie's friend Shaelyn Landanno. Yvette Nasworthy arrived with her Kayden and Myranda.

We were all immediately engrossed in the story of four siblings evacuated from London during the Blitz. They stay at a medieval country house that affords them little to do. While playing hide and seek, the littlest child Lucy discovers that the back of the wardrobe allows her entrance into a fantasy land of snow called Narnia. Soon all four children enter Narnia and thus begins a wonderful story of family, betrayal, hope, courage and resurrection.

On the surface, the plot is a riveting fairy tale of talking animals, close escapes, an evil queen and battles with knights in armor. But dining on pizza after the movie, both adults and children could draw parallels with the story of Jesus and His disciples, His death and resurrection.

Ned said that Aslan was a VERY BIG Lion. Nancy thought the younger brother was the Judas of the group. Lizzie and Shaelyn reminded us that just like the women at the tomb on Easter, it was the two sisters that witnessed Aslan's body disappearing then re-appearing.

Church School Time Change

Beginning Sunday, February 12, the two youngest classes will start at the beginning of the ten o'clock service. The classes affected are the Godly Play for the youngest taught by Jeanne Cassin and Yvette Nasworthy and the Intermediate taught by Nancy Barringer. The children will be brought to the church during the Peace so that they may take Communion with their families. The junior/senior high class taught by John Ferrillo will continue meeting from 9:15 am until 10:00. Any questions, please contact Nancy Barringer at geonan@charter.net or 978-448-2125.

MARDI GRAS Pancake Day FASNACHT VASTAPAEV

Shrove Tuesday
February 28, 2006
5:30-7:30 PM
Parish Hall

Pancakes and more –
protein and other things
that are ACTUALLY
good for you.



Admission: a bag of groceries to be
donated to a food panty

and

A Surprise raffle

TO RAISE \$\$ FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS

THE END OF CARNIVAL - The Day before Lent

We'll Ne'er Forget Ye, Judy



December 26, 2005
The Feast of St. Stephen's

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's,

Two weeks ago I received a beautiful card and a check from you, and I am still overwhelmed by and so very grateful for your good wishes and generosity as I begin a new and different way of learning about and being in ministry.

As you may know I have felt a call to be an ordained pastor in the Lutheran church, and entered into the candidacy process in June of 2004. I have been taking classes at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts. This fall I took two required courses towards a Master of Divinity degree – Greek and Systematic Theology, and one other class called Field Education that requires some intentional learning experiences at a church. For that class, I spend about fifteen hours each week at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Nashua, New Hampshire – observing, participating, leading, and learning about ministry. All of this, plus the usual demands of family and home, keep me busy, but I have felt strengthened and affirmed in ways that make each day exciting.

I continue to be very grateful for my time at St. Andrew's and for the many ways in which you taught and ministered to me during those eight and a half years. Thank you for your support and encouragement, and know that I miss you and hold you in my prayers always.

In Christ's love and peace,
Judy Converse

Church Milestones

Baptisms

November 6, 2005

- ✘ Hayley Margaret Cahill, daughter of Anne and Gerry and granddaughter of Michael and Sonia Hayward
- ✘ Annabelle Rose Clemence, daughter of Randall and Pamela, sister of Abigail

December 25, 2005

- ✘ Ryan Jan Braat, son of Steven and Robin, and grandson of John and Peggy Braat

January 8, 2006

- ✘ Derek Edward Peuschel, son of Mark and Erin

Funerals

January 27, 2006

- ✘ Arden Frederick, 92



Bible Study

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS... read the instructions!

There is always something more to be found in the Scriptures, and the group that meets on Monday mornings, led by John Ferrillo, is presently taking a deeper look at the Gospel of Matthew, specifically the Passion.

Interested? You are most welcome to come to the parish hall at 9:30 Monday morning, have a cup of coffee and maybe a snack and join in the discussion. Bring your favorite Bible, your children (John Petracca brings his toddler and they manage just fine), and an open heart. The study usually wraps up about 11.

No reservations necessary - just show up at 9:30 on Monday morning.

Vestry Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the December, 2005 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ Rector's Report: A report from diocesan consultant Alden Flanders has been received by Fr. Alan but not read yet. Political motions are before the Massachusetts State Legislature that would require all religious institutions to reveal their finances and that would remove religious exemptions from charitable reporting. The Episcopal Church is protesting these actions. Parochial Report forms need to be filled out annually and this year Father Alan, Lynn Ferrillo and the Treasurer will do this. Plans for the 5pm Christmas Eve service were finalized. Plans for church-sponsored activities for the youth and acolytes were discussed. The revival of foyer groups or small group fellowship will be looked into. Russ brought up the need for Episcopal evangelizing which stimulated discussion of cable television and newspaper ads, both of which were placed for our Christmas services. Father Alan wishes to have a Discretionary Fund to work with. Our hopes for generous Christmas offerings are high.
- ✘ Clerk Nancy Barringer asked the Vestry to review their copies of the November Minutes which were accepted.
- ✘ The Treasurer's Report was presented by Lili Ott, reviewed and accepted. Amongst topics discussed was that we still owe much more to the Diocesan Assessment.
- ✘ In order to control heating and lighting bills, groups using the Parish Hall must be reminded to turn off lights and lower the thermostat when they leave. Parishioner Faith Salter who lives on Church Street has seen lights on during the night after such meetings.
- ✘ Mary Medeiros reported that as of December 12, \$102,472.00 has been pledged.
- ✘ The Vestry slate for the coming year has added the names of Marilyn Guest, Yvette Nasworthy and Sue Hildreth as Treasurer and Lorraine Leonard as Assistant Treasurer. Another person is still needed.
- ✘ We need to contact Peter Wharton concerning Outreach. We need to know what commitments have been made to which groups. The intention is to restructure our programs this year.
- ✘ The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2006. There will be one service at 9am that day. Commission reports are due for printing January 15. Father Alan will propose the formation of a new commission on Youth.
- ✘ A meeting with Alden Flanders will be scheduled for February 7 or 8, a Tuesday or Wednesday.
- ✘ The Welcome Letter is still pending.
- ✘ The Audit Report is in progress by George Miller and Alden Smith.
- ✘ Alcoholics Anonymous will increase their rental donation to \$90.00 a month.
- ✘ A thank you note will be sent to David Wheatley at Shade Tree Landscaping by Nancy to thank him for arriving promptly to snowplow our property on the day of the Nativity Display and for not accepting any payment as well.
- ✘ The Organist search has seen ads sent to AGO schools in the Boston, Worcester and New Hampshire areas. There are two responses thus far.
- ✘ The meeting ended at 9:45 pm.

Excerpts from our Missionary's Letters

Hi Everyone,

Yes, it is me and I am alive and doing very well.

In a "What if..." moment I accepted a chance to spend January and the first half of February as the person in charge of the Anglican Student residence in Salamanca. The couple that are usually here are on vacation so I am just substituting for them. For those of you who are new to my mailing list, I was sent by the South American Missionary Society to work at the Center when I came to Spain. I was to have been in Madrid for a year and then move to Salamanca to help run this residence. I am here until Wednesday learning the job. Wednesday, I return to Madrid for Christmas and then return here on the 29th to take over.

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Many thanks to the wonderful people who do so much for me while I am serving God as a missionary in Spain, those I know and those whom I have never met. I will end this letter with a story of how the love and prayers you show me are used.

I love Advent but during the last two weeks of the season I became very busy: the Christmas program and volunteer Christmas Party plans, three days here learning the job I am doing now, choir singing at a Community Christmas Carol service, sorting toys and stuffing candy bags to mention only a few - the typical church worker's last minute Christmas sprint.

On Friday I had been busy all day, going with the Bishop and Omar to get food for Saturday's bags, unloading the food, packing the food bags and then a few last minute Christmas gifts to buy. When I was slowly walking up the stairs very tired and knowing that Saturday was filled with things I HAD to do I was really not in a good mood. Lord, when do I get to rest? I really had a great Advent. Where will I find the energy I need for tomorrow and Sunday?

As I turned the last corner in the third flight of stairs, I noticed two envelopes and a large white envelope outside my apartment door. I took them in and plopped down on the couch. I opened the two smaller envelopes

continued

Excerpts from our Missionary's Letters ... continued

first and they were Christmas cards from folks at my home church in Maine. The large envelope was filled with cards the children in that church's Sunday School had made for me. I was so blessed! I just cried and realized that the Lord would supply the energy I needed, and I also remembered the prayer behind the many cards I have received this year and amazingly things didn't seem near as stressful. The next day I had the energy I needed

Who could have known that the cards those children were coloring in Sunday School and the letter from their teacher would be just what I needed to refocus and to stop feeling sorry for myself and enjoy those last two days of Christmas celebrations. Saturday the Bishop and Ana had Susan Buell and I and three young men from the Dominican Republic who have been in Spain for a few months in for a fantastic meal with several courses and then a time of Bible reading, prayer and Christmas carols.

Thank you again for everything and I pray you all experience the abundance and richness of God's blessings in 2006!

In the love of Jesus,

Gail White



"Your Majesties, Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Imagine what would happen if the nations of the world spent as much on development as on building the machines of war. Imagine a world where every human being would live in freedom and dignity. Imagine a world in which we would shed the same tears when a child dies in Darfur or Vancouver. Imagine a world where we would settle our differences through diplomacy and dialogue and not through bombs or bullets. Imagine if the only nuclear weapons remaining were the relics in our museums. Imagine the legacy we could leave to our children. Imagine that such a world is within our grasp."

*--Mohamed ElBaradei, Nobel
Lecture, Oslo, December 10, 2005.*

Get the Word Out

Do you know one critical factor is the success of church events? Right! It's publicity, and it can be done from home. Getting information out to newspapers, etc. can be done by e-mail or snail mail. Posters can be done at home (by hand or computer) and taken along when you go to the market or school. You can do it with a friend. You know, it could be fun... Talk to Erica MacKillop, Communications Commission, if this arouses your interest.

Job Openings

Do you love God's house and the beautiful worship in it? Would you like to be one of the people who works behind-the-scenes to prepare the altar and sanctuary for Sunday and weekday services? There is certainly a place for you on the Altar Guild! Speak to Fr. Alan or Barbara Kamb. You'll be glad you did!

Whatever Happened to Dorothy?

Erika Hubatka, child of Austrian immigrant parents at that time living in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, thought she observed as she progressed through the primary grades in school, that it was better to be of British descent. It was not something ever talked about but "God Save the King" was sung every morning at the beginning of class and the wartime news on the radio focused on England since Canada at that time was its colony. Also, most of the other children had British names.

In 1944, my parents decided it was too darn cold on the northern prairie and moved to British Columbia. My 10-year-old mind saw this as the perfect opportunity to become more British and enrolled in Grade 4 using my middle name, Dorothy. Later, my father went into business for himself and had our surname legally changed to Hudson which would be easier for people to pronounce and remember. The transformation was complete. I even married a Mac (Killop)!

However, Alan was captivated by my "Viennese" heritage and brought me to a greater appreciation of it through the years. But it was not until he retired and we both went through the transition of retirement that I thought about it and decided I was not at all British and that I really was Erica (as my first grade teacher had spelled it). It was quite a job to get legal certification and all our papers changed but I am happy that now I am called by my original name.

— Erica MacKillop

Commission Roster - 2006

Christian Formation

Nancy Barringer
Yvette Nasworthy—Vestry
Erin Pueschel

Investments

Al Colburn
Lili Ott

Parish Life

Priscilla Andrews
Sue Hildreth
Mary Medeiros—Vestry
Heidi Wharton

Worship

Susan Leeming—Chair
Priscilla Andrews
Catherine Wheatley
Nancy Barringer—Vestry
Helen Priest
Bernie Dillard
Linn Swain

Communications

Anne Cahill—X-Press
Cheryl Gump
Manny Lindo—Vestry
Erica MacKillop
Alan Rogers

Membership

Dick Dabrowski
Lili Ott
Faith Salter
Carolyn Smith

Pastoral Care

Jack Andrews
John Ferrillo—Chair
Sue Hildreth
Heidi Wharton

Altar Guild

Barbara LeDeaux
Jean Cummings
Lin Swain
Audrey Western
Priscilla Andrews
Jill Colburn
Blanche Foss
Barbara Kamb
Sue Hildreth
Louise Rogers

Facilities

Vic Burton
Russ Harris
Manny Lindo
Alan Rogers—Chair
Lee Burton—Garden

Outreach

Fr. Alan
Jeanne Cassin
Erin Pueschel
Pete Wharton

Stewardship

Sue Hildreth—Co-Chair
Lorraine Leonard—Co-Chair
Mary Medeiros
Carolyn Smith—Vestry

LEMBs

Sue Hildreth
John Ferrillo

February 2006

St. Andrew's Church

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