



I am disposed to say grace upon twenty other occasions in the course of the day besides my dinner. I want a form for setting out upon a pleasant walk, for a moonlight ramble, for a friendly meeting or a solved problem. Why have we none for books, those spiritual repasts -- a grace before Milton, a devotional exercise proper to be said before reading [Spenser]?

... Charles Lamb

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THE PRESS

JUNE, 2006

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

On 13 June General Convention, the triennial synod and highest legislative body in the Episcopal Church, will convene in Columbus, Ohio for ten days. The Convention is modeled on the bi-cameral legislature of the federal government; no surprise since both were created by many of the same people in the 18th century. The House of Deputies is made up of clergy and lay delegates elected from each diocese and the House of Bishops is composed of all active bishops in the church. The House of Bishops will elect a new Presiding Bishop at this convention to succeed the Most Reverend Frank Griswold, who is retiring. The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church carries out the mandates of convention in the intervening triennium.

While much of the business of convention consists of "housekeeping" issues, hanging over this convention will be the discussion and indeed debate, I'm sure, of the church's response to the Windsor Report, a direct result of events in ECUSA (Episcopal Church in the USA) and the Anglican Church in Canada. In the USA it was the election of Bishop Gene Robinson of NH, an openly partnered gay priest, and in Canada the decision of the Bishop of New Westminster (Vancouver BC) to authorize blessings of same sex unions in his diocese. None of this is news I'm sure to anyone reading this, but the worldwide Anglican Communion of which we are a part and which is made up of 77,000,000 members in national churches in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the historic center and unifying see that holds us together is in tension. Relations with other Anglican churches became strained after the events mentioned above, especially third world churches. The Windsor Report asks certain things after commenting on all these events: that there be a moratorium on the election of gay bishops who are partnered, abstinence of blessings for same sex unions, an apology for causing the strain in relations within the communion and no bishop

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from another country or diocese going in uninvited to take over or establish parishes in another bishop's see (i.e. a number of African and South American bishops have done that here and in Canada). So there are requests made for different sides in this discussion. A lot will hang on how the debate goes at convention that will affect our relationship with other Anglicans. Needless to say the Archbishop of Canterbury has had his work cut out for him.

Over the past forty years there has been a real abrogation to many core issues and certain fringe bishops or theologians have captured the limelight. A recent article by the bishop of Pittsburgh asserts that our long standing role as a "via media" church bridging protestant and catholic ethos's has given way to a more current marriage to cultural trends and now bridging historic Christianity and secular life. I'd say the church has been the captive of culture for a long time in the sense in which the church has always been diminished in her witness by a weak or non-existent witness on any number of issues including slavery, race, war, privileged and moneyed power that included many Episcopalians in our history. This is a constant temptation and challenge for the church to be faithful to Christ and be countercultural to so many of the values that mark the culture but are in opposition to the gospel. I Peter 4:17 says "For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God. "We are the bearers of the gospel, the good news that" God in Christ is reconciling the world to himself and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation." II Corinthians 5:17. When all is said and done "Jesus is Lord" and has the final word for his church and the world for which he died. He has written and decreed the final outcome, and our faith, no matter what is going in the world and the church must be in him, his Lordship and his authority.

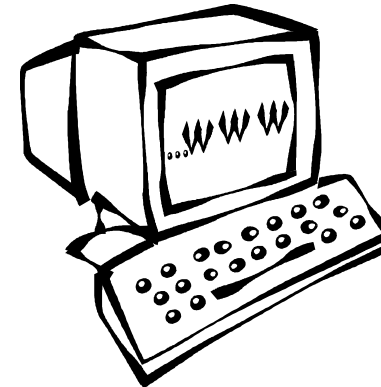
I am praying for God's Spirit to lead and guide these important discussions at Convention. I am not going to enter into what is now called the "blood sport" of blogs on both sides that use invective, smear and even hate to hurl at others with whom they disagree. There are people of good will on both side of this debate and no matter what one's convictions are gays and lesbians should not be scapegoated or denied their rightful place in the life of the church. There are deeper issues affecting the church that revolve around core doctrine and one's fidelity to the creeds and scripture. Faithfully because of Him,



Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Residence

Mystery Solved

Helen Priest has solved the mystery as to who gave the sanctuary lamp, hanging to the left of the altar, over the aumbrey. It was given by Phil & Jane Russell, the former in-laws of Helen's son. It was an antique when they donated it! Phil also built the aumbrey, the small wood cabinet, on the wall below the lamp, that is the repository for blessed communion bread. When the repository is on the altar it's called 'tabernacle', otherwise 'aumbrey'. Thanks to Fr. Alan for the repository's proper name, and Erica for questioning about the donor, and a big thank you Helen for solving the mystery!



standrewsayer.org

Calendar on the website continues to be updated!

Three new biographies in the Parish History section!

Your comments/suggestions always welcome!

Dick Dabrowski, Webmaster

Editor's Note:

Next Issue: July 2006

Deadline: June 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!*

Parish Historian Meeting 2006

On the very stormy Saturday, May 13th, Louise Rogers and Dick Dabrowski attended the 2006 Parish Annual Meeting held at Grace Church in New Bedford. The theme of the meeting was the Diocesan mission strategy of 1880-1920 which doubled the number of churches in the Diocese of Mass. during those years. Grace Church has a beautiful mosaic of the Phoenix on the flooring leading to the altar, as the church is a literal Phoenix, raised from the ashes of a devastating fire in 1987. An extraordinary renovation was done, saving and/or recreating the beauty of their magnificent stained glass windows and intricately carved woodwork. Each historian gave a short description of their church's history and Dick spoke about our St. Andrew's. A lovely lunch was provided by their church members and we were given two very interesting tours, Grace Church, and the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum (a Greek Revival whaling mansion).

We are fortunate to have a very enthusiastic Diocesan Archivist, Margaret Gardiner, who, since living close by in Acton, offered to drive us to the meeting. We of course accepted. She has been to St. Andrew's, at our request, to look over our archival material and advised on how to keep them safe from the ravages of age.

In the Garden

GROWING PLACES GARDEN PROJECT still needs helpers to plant vegetables with low income families to help supplement their meals. This only takes an hour or two during the first 2 weeks of June. See the brochure in the Peabody Room and contact Pete Wharton at 978-456-7968. You'll be glad you did.



Java, Java

More hosts are needed to provide "coffee hour" after each service on Sunday. There are several families who have done it faithfully for quite a while and we are indeed grateful to them. It's not a difficult job (bought goodies are OK) and is a good way to become involved in the fellowship of the parish and to get to know people if you are new. Call the church office (978-772-2615) or e-mail (staayeer@verizon.net) or sign up on the sheet on the table in the Peabody Room. Give it a try - we won't make you do it forever!

SOME DONE, MORE TO COME

Many hands attempted to make light work of St Andrew's on cleanup day (May 21). Some structural repairs were done, cleaning of refrigerators and polishing of pews was done, and for this we are very grateful. Many thanks to all to stayed or came back to give the church a post-winter brightening.

But the more was done, the more seemed to be needed, and it looks as if one cleanup day a year is not going to do it. We could have work done by commercial companies, which would take some resources away from the real mission of the church, or we could do it ourselves every quarter or so. Think about it - could St. Andrew's use some brightening up and renewing oftener and thus avoid big time work later? If we each give a couple of hours on a regular basis, we could be better stewards of our property. Would an ongoing schedule of upkeep allow each of us to offer some time, expertise and muscle and still allow us to keep our main focus on The Lord's work? What do you think? Speak to your Wardens and Vestry!

**"Life may not be the party we hoped for...
but while we are here we might as well dance!"**

Vestry Meeting Highlights ... continued

- ✘ Outreach Commission - To be chaired by Fr. Alan. Had meeting to review current projects: Habitat for Humanity, Loaves and Fishes, Young Life, South American Missionary Society. Will ask all to provide a financial statement and that they be willing to visit once a year to report on progress. Possible new projects include: Garden Project in Harvard; Projects in New Orleans
- ✘ Worship Commission - To be made of Fr. Alan and Michael Smith at this point
- ✘ Altar Guild and Christian Formation Commissions Going Strong
- ✘ Convention Delegates - Need replacements for Marilyn and Richard who had announced several months ago their inability to attend this year's convention. Jeanne volunteered, voted to appoint Jeanne Cassin as convention delegate.
- ✘ Vestry offered many thanks to Fr. Alan for all his hard work during Holy Week

Church Milestones

- ✘ Bayard Underwood celebrated his 90th birthday on May 27th. He is at home and recovering well.
- ✘ Our missionary in Spain, Gail White, will be ordained Deacon on June 4th. We have been supporting her as part of our outreach program for several years now and she is certainly "bearing fruit" for God.

The Voyage Continues

It's not too late to get on board! St. Andrew's people are continuing to get together on Tuesday evenings (June 6 and 13) to carefully read the scriptures and discover for ourselves what God desires for us and for our church. Every person's views and opinions will be part of our discussion to clarify God's purposes for His Church right here in the Nashoba Valley.

6 - 7 pm Soup Supper in the Parish Hall 7 - 8:30 All-parish meeting

Sunday School Wrap

At the 10 o'clock eucharist on June 18th, we will celebrate our youngsters and the work they and their teachers have done all year to come more fully into the living faith. Superintendent Nancy Barringer will be awarding Attendance Certificates to all and Bibles to those moving up to 4th grade. There will be gifts for children and teachers as well as a special cake at the coffee hour in the Peabody Room.

Thank you, Nancy! This concludes Nancy's final year as superintendent, and we are deeply grateful for the many, many hours she has devoted to this ministry with such success. Big shoes to fill (but we'll try!).

Graduating from Groton School is Alice Cassin, daughter of vestryperson Jeanne Cassin. First of all, we congratulate her on the completion of her studies at Groton, with all good wishes and prayers for her ongoing education at Princeton. She has been our faithful nursery caregiver and we heartily thank her for the many months she has been taking charge of the precious little ones so their parents can concentrate on worship. Special thanks to Lizzie Malone who has frequently helped with child care and to Mary and Vivi Ferrillo who were willing to pinch hit on short notice.

Help Get the Word Out!

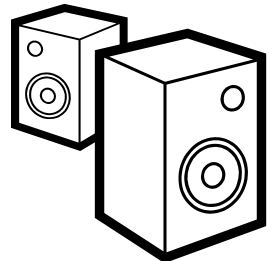
One of the most important purposes of any church is Worship. As a parish, we need to consider how we can improve the quality of our worship services for the greater glory of God, to attract others so that we can introduce them to the joy of life together in our savior, Jesus Christ. The Bible is clear that one of our responsibilities as Christians is to make the Good News available to all. We don't necessarily need to go knocking on doors and preach, but we can make our worship services as joyful and accessible as possible.

Fr. Alan, Sr. Warden Russ Harris and the members of the Vestry are recommending that we install a sound system in the church to enhance the quality of our worship services. We see many potential benefits from such a system:

1. **Record Sermons.** Fr. Alan will use a wireless microphone which will allow his sermons to be directly recorded and put on the internet shortly after each service. We believe that making his sermons available will be a blessing to both St. Andrews shut-ins, those who might miss a service and also to attract new members to our church.
2. **Amplify Lay Readers.** Some Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers cannot be heard at the back of the church. A sound system will allow the readings and Prayers of the People to be clearly understood in all parts of the church.
3. **The Snuggery.** One feature of the sound system is to 'pipe in' the service to the Snuggery. This will allow parents to enjoy the service while caring for their children and also know when to come forward for communion.
4. **The Choir.** We have a wonderful choir - let's amplify their lovely musical offerings.

This sound system is not cheap because it is of high quality. It is not a sound system that one would consciously notice. It will boost the clarity and balance of sound in our sanctuary, but it will not sound "tinny" or obviously amplified. In researching this sound system we decided to seek quotes from two firms that specialize in sound systems for religious organizations. Both companies have each installed over 400 sound systems in churches throughout New England. These churches range from small to the so-called megachurches. We felt very comfortable with the capabilities of both firms. The higher quote was \$10,400, the lower \$6,000.

We are recommending that the lower quote of \$6,000 be accepted. The Vestry suggests that half the money should come from the estate of John Riley who valued St. Andrew's special accommodations. Will you help us to raise the other half? If thirty people gave \$100 each, we'd be able to have the system installed. If you'd like to contribute, please send a check for any amount to the office or put it into the collection plate, marked Sound System. Most of our monies over the years have gone to salaries, building maintenance and Outreach. Now we believe that adding this sound system to our church will bring us even closer to our goal of being the place where God IS.



Vestry Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the April, 2006 Vestry Meeting:

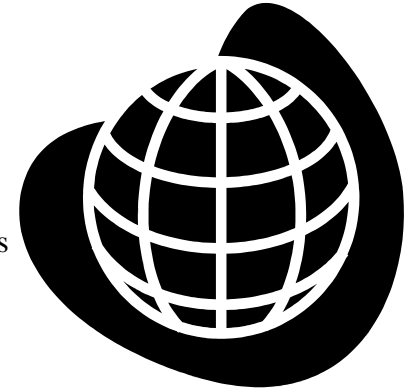
- ✘ Priest-in-Residence Report:
 - ✘ Holy Week and Easter Services well attended. 200 people attended Holy Saturday Vigil/Easter Sunday 8 AM & 10 AM. Good attendance at Lenten Series, anywhere from 30 to 40 in attendance.
 - ✘ Michael Smith doing fantastic job as organist
 - ✘ Ex-parishioners returning to the church
 - ✘ Three baptisms this month
 - ✘ Increase in Sunday School attendance
 - ✘ Investigating sound systems for church
 - ✘ Church lighting dimness discussed
- ✘ Jr. Wardens' Report
 - ✘ Church's by-laws available on website; Carolyn asked that vestry members review
 - ✘ Website calendar updated regularly; e-mail Dick Dabrowski with any updates
 - ✘ Article regarding Michael Smith to be run in local newspapers this Friday
 - ✘ Article regarding Fr. Alan to be run in local newspapers in a few weeks
 - ✘ Louise Rogers asked the vestry to review Mass. Interfaith Power and Light link on www.diomass.org regarding energy savings for the church
- ✘ Treasurer's Report
 - ✘ Budget in the black for the quarter, though March budget in the red due to snow removal bill of \$2200 covering Dec. through March
Vestry voiced appreciation to Sue for the timely issuance and clear and concise nature of church statements
- ✘ Rectory rental: Bad credit rating reports received for three current candidates; Marilyn continues to receive interest in the property
- ✘ Parish Hall ramp Discussed bids received and other possible ways to get a ramp installed (Shriver Job Corps? Monty Tech students?)
- ✘ Renovation of Peabody Room bathroom: Carolyn has requested a CAD drawing using closet space to enlarge the bathroom to make it handicap accessible as well as making room for a changing table
- ✘ Snuggery Improvements: Sue and Heidi Wharton have been working to make the Snuggery "kid friendly"
 - ✘ Moved bookcases out; Added table and file cabinet (for use by money counters and to hold baby supplies); Heidi to wash all toys; Will add a mat to be used as changing table; Put printer on casters so it can be moved into closet; Need to remove orange chair - mothers think it carries germs; Looking for some second hand wood chairs
- ✘ New Locks - Voted to purchase security locks not to exceed \$600 from a company to be worked out by Fr. Alan and Mary.
- ✘ Cleaning contract awarded to Nancy Mayo after some negotiation on the price
- ✘ Commission Reports

Continued

Global Mission Event

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In time for planning your summer, I want to call your attention to an unusual upcoming event in July that will be taking place close by. For many years, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has held an annual Global Mission Event—"GME," as we call it—at various locations in the country. This year GME is being held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst from July 27-30. A thousand attendees are expected.



This is a special GME because for the first time the Episcopal Church is co-sponsoring this conference/exposition with ELCA, with which we are in full communion. That means we will be able to join our Lutheran brothers and sisters—along with international guests and missionaries—in rediscovering the global community of God's grace.

There's something for everyone at GME. There's music and worship from around the world. There are challenging speakers to sharpen your sense of God's mission and reveal new ways for you to participate. There are kid-friendly activities for children 3-10, and activities and understandings for junior high and high school youth. Childcare will be provided for children through age 2.

This year's theme, "Sent by God's grace for the sake of the world," ties in closely with our diocesan Mission Strategy. Frank Griswold, our Presiding Bishop, will be opening GME, together with the ECLA presiding bishop and I will be participating during part of the event. There will be other Episcopal and Lutheran presenters as well. To learn even more about GME, you can go to their website at: www.elca.org/gme. You can register on the website.

I am hoping that many of you will choose to participate in this extraordinary opportunity to equip yourselves to make a difference in God's world.

Faithfully, Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE

June 2006

St. Andrew's Church

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