



Rev. Alan B. MacKillop  
Priest in Residence

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

This month marks two years since I began my ministry as Priest in Residence. It has been a time of transition, building and rebuilding, and seeking to discern God's will for the particular task of this parish as a part of the diocese of Massachusetts, the Episcopal Church in the USA, and the worldwide Anglican Communion. That is to say, local congregations have their local character and focus in mission but are not independent but interdependent in their identity as belonging to a wider church. It has been a call and a challenge to move ahead in discovering our local focus and to build a stronger church in union with our bishop.

The Vestry received with regret the resignation of Russ Harris as Senior Warden and Vestry member due to the demands of a new employment position. We all want to thank Russ for his work and leadership with the prayer for him as he faces the challenges of his new job.

This presents a good opportunity to say something about the way Episcopal churches are structured. The word "Episcopal" is drawn from the Greek word "episcopos" for bishop or overseer, shepherd found in the New Testament. So our government and unity focuses on the role of bishop as opposed to the forms of government in other denominations. After the American Revolution the name "Church of England" was no longer appropriate for Anglicans in the former colonies, and the particular structure of the Episcopal Church was set up in part by many of the same

people who created the new American government. At the local level parishes were set up to be led by both priests and laity, elected trustees called the Vestry. Responsibilities were divided between spiritual, given to the priest i.e. worship, Christian education, etc. and the temporal, given to the Vestry i.e. property, fund, etc. Obviously, both priest and Vestry have to see they have an involvement in both areas. The wellbeing of a church depends on both the spiritual and temporal being intertwined in seeking to serve God and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vestry canon law (the governing code of the church) calls for two "wardens" who have a particular role of leadership in relationship to supporting the priest/rector and the congregation. Frequently the names, Senior and Junior Wardens, are used and sometimes Rector's and People's Wardens. In different dioceses there are different ways of selecting wardens either by appointment by the rector and Vestry or by election of congregations at Annual Meeting. At present, we have two interim wardens, Linda Kaferle and Dick Dabrowski, elected by the vestry to fill vacancies until Annual Meeting. I am grateful to both for being willing to serve in this capacity.

Finally, while a parish is formed and shaped by its leadership and its history, it also depends on the commitment of all its members in stewardship, service, and willingness to contribute time, talent, and love of Jesus and his body, the church.

Saint Andrew's parish, located in historic buildings in the center of Ayer but serving a much wider area of a number of towns, has a special call from God to reach out to bring gifts and to make God in Jesus Christ known and to serve that same God by working for things that are at the heart of the gospel all the way from teaching and caring for our present membership to reaching out in working for justice and the needs of those who are not on our membership rolls. God loves the whole world and not just us. Our call is live out what that means in our particular circumstances. So, as I continue on with you until the parish is ready to go into search of

*The St. Andrew's Xpress*

A monthly newsletter serving the  
Central Massachusetts community

**CLERGY & STAFF**

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*Associate Organist*  
Lynn Ferrillo  
*Office Administrator*

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*Warden & Clerk*  
Richard Dabrowski  
*Warden*  
Sue Hildreth  
*Treasurer*  
Jeanne Cassin  
John Ferrillo  
Marilyn Guest  
Dwight Harshbarger  
Yvette Nasworthy  
Marianne Welton

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Our Mission: We seek to grow in faith as individuals and, as a community, to glorify God as revealed in Jesus Christ and to nurture those around us. We reach out to share His Word and His Love with all people, especially those in need.

**THIS MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_

in *The St. Andrew's Xpress*

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*By Rev. Alan B. MacKillop*

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**NOTE:** Remember to mark your calendars  
for the November newsletter deadline:  
**October 17, 2007**

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a permanent rector, I pray for my own and your ministries together in service and proclamation of the good news God has given us. May the Holy Spirit empower us to respond to that call.

Faithfully yours in Him,

Fr. Alan

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### **Highlights of August Vestry Meeting**

Regarding the mission of St. Andrew's Church, the Vestry wants to explore ways to make each parishioner's commitment to funding programs, such as Outreach, a deeper and more personal thing. The idea of an ecumenical or tri-parish vacation bible school has also been discussed.

*Treasurer*, Sue Hildreth, reported that we are "in the black" once again this month. \$2,000 of the \$2,500 pledged to Young Life was paid, and 10 backpacks were supplied to Loaves & Fishes (\$117.95) for needy teens.

Linda Kaferle, *Communications Commission*, reported that Sue Ulsch is working on a new XPress format, beginning with the September issue. Dick Dabrowski and Carolyn Smith are working on five "take away" brochures to have available in the vestibule of the church.

On Rally Day, September 9, 2007, all commissions will be asked to man a display table after each service to explain their work. Carolyn and Dick will design a banner announcing the beginning of Sunday School.

*Membership* announced a Diocesan Resource Day for Congregational Development scheduled for September 22, 2007, in Waltham. Dick would like to put a team together from the church to attend.

*Outreach*: Fr. Alan asked for prayers for Gail White, our missionary in Spain, who broke her ankle.

For *Parish Life*, Marilyn Guest reminded everyone that if any commission

functions involve food, Audrey Western must be notified well ahead of time.

Louise Rogers and Dick Dabrowski attended the quarterly meeting of all the historians in the diocese on July 18, 2007, in Boston. Annual Historians Meeting is to be held at St. Andrew's in April of 2008 with representatives from 220 parishes invited to hear quality speakers.

Under *Special Committees*, Linda reported that Judy Adams has been added to the rectory study committee. (See article on Rectory for the outcome of this study)

*Access Ramp*: Sue proposed that the direction of the ramp be changed slightly, which precludes the building of a \$4,000 sidewalk. It will be more pleasing aesthetically and safer since it will empty into the parking lot rather than the street. The change will require an additional \$1500 which was approved.

Under *unfinished business*, a motion was unanimously passed to purchase three new signs (Church sign to be installed on front lawn, Parish Hall sign and campus sign) at a cost of \$4,295 plus building permit fee.

All the new choir chairs have been purchased by parishioners as memorials and they will be blessed on All Saints Sunday with a special Hayden choral mass for choir, organ and orchestra.

Linda Kaferle was unanimously elected Junior Warden

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### **A Critical Need and a Great Opportunity**

From time to time we have a critical shortage of servers at Sunday services – and this is one of those times. It is not difficult and is such a valuable service to the St. Andrew's congregation.

Fr. Alan would like to have more adults or teens to serve so as not to take children out of Sunday School. This is an important ministry at the altar and can be a great joy to those serving. Please speak to Fr. Alan – he will be glad to work out convenient times for instruction.

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**Submission Deadline**  
November 2007 newsletter  
**Wednesday, October 17, 2007**

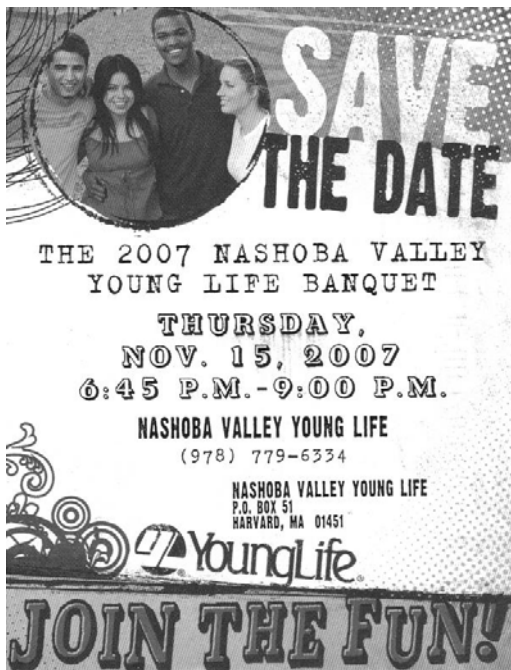
## **“Young Life” Reaches out to At-Risk Teens**

Young Life is one of the important local Christian organizations, reaching out to at-risk teens in the Nashoba Valley. St. Andrew’s has supported them for many years and continues to be involved in bringing God’s saving grace to these young people in their formative years.

The Annual Young Life Banquet is an opportunity to hear about the work of the Young Life, meet other Young Life supporters and join opportunities to help and – last but not least – enjoy a delicious meal donated by the Outback Steak House.

We hope to have a table of boosters from St. Andrew’s – it’s free, but you will be asked to make a donation at the end of the evening. Speak to Fr. Alan or Nicola Barlow if you are interested in attending.

**Young Life Needs You!  
November 15, 2007**



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### **Transitions**

A memorial service was held at St. Andrew’s on August 28 for Edwin “Red” Bennett who died August 20, 2007.

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## **Tri-Parish Committee Recognizes Growth**

A little over a year ago, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts suggested that representatives from the three parishes in the northwestern corner of the diocese send representatives to a meeting to brainstorm about how they might work together to strengthen their ministry. With the development of Devens and evidence that this is a growing region, the Episcopal leadership felt these three relatively small churches might work on a mission strategy together to enhance the presence of the Episcopal Church in the area.

St. David’s in Pepperell, St. Andrew’s in Ayer, and Trinity Chapel in Shirley, each sent two people to the meeting to talk informally about what each was doing and how they might work together. The three parishes talked about sharing information with one another in order to support each other’s activities. Attention was also given to trying to develop some joint youth activities. On Ascension Day, November 17, 2006, the three parishes were invited to worship together at St. Andrews. The committee planned the service, dividing the liturgical roles among the three clergy and lay people from each church. A joint choir was formed for the event and a nice reception followed.

On June 15, a small inter-generational crew representing all three churches boarded some canoes at Nashoba Paddler and took an evening river trip. Afterward, they shared pizza at Trinity Chapel.

The churches teamed up again on Sept. 2 to make sandwiches and take them to the Common Cathedral in Boston, which is a Sunday afternoon outdoor Eucharist especially for the street people, offering spiritual and physical food!

The Tri-Parish committee meets once a month, and we’d like to have at least two members of each parish present, and additional members are always welcome. The members of the Committee at present are: St. Andrew’s, Ayer - Sue Hildreth, Carolyn Smith, and Erica Scattergood; St. David’s, Pepperell - Marilyn Hulslander and Sharron Pothier; Trinity Chapel, Shirley - Paul Wade and Nancy Sawyer.

♦Tri-Parish Page 5

◆ **Tri-Parish**

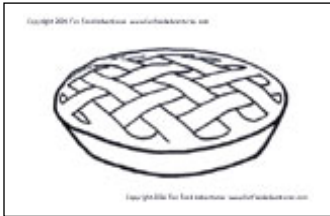
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Our hope is that by working together all our churches will be able to grow in ministry and in faith, and be vital instruments of Christ's mission. We do not know where this shared endeavor will ultimately lead us, but we trust the Holy Spirit will guide us.

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**"Apple Pie Day" is Coming Monday, October 22**

By Peggy Braat



Once again, the Westward Orchards in Harvard, will supply apples for us to make our delicious apple pies!

So bring your paring knife and/or rolling pin and apron, and join us for a fun filled day of friendship and laughter. There are jobs for all, whether you are a novice or long experienced. If you've never made a pie, come and learn! If you're an old hand, come and share your know-how with the rest of us.

Our goal is to make 60 - 70 pies. Please come for as long or short a time as you are able. A light lunch will be served about 12:00 noon, and we will sample our wares to be sure they are good enough. (They will be!!)

DATE: Monday, October 22, 2007; PLACE: St. Andrew's Parish Hall; TIME: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

If you cannot attend but would like to help, cash donations for supplies would be a great help.

The pies will be sold frozen and uncooked so that you can use them when you are ready. They are a great addition to any dinner. Think Thanksgiving! The pies will be sold for \$8.50 each.

Sign up sheets for workers and for pie orders will be in the Peabody Room. Order your pies early as we only make enough pies to keep the day FUN!!

If you have questions or requests, call Peggy Braat at 978-456-8701

And THANK YOU!!!

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**Preparations for Harvest Fair Begin**

Harvest Fair - November 10, 2007  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

By Barbara Kamb

Now is the time we shift into high gear to get all the parts of this delightful, annual fundraiser in place. Several chairpersons have volunteered, but there are many important areas in need of help. We need you! Here are some ways you can help.

**Silent Auction:** quality items are needed, including small furnishings, art, silver, collectibles, glassware, etc. Antique items are accepted with pleasure. Please bring items to the parish office and check them in. Do not just leave items in the parish hall, since some have disappeared in the past. Talk to Blanche Foss (978-456-8298 or Priscilla Andrews (978-448-5273).

**Jewelry Table:** very popular. Costume jewelry – old and new – baubles, bangles, and beads are always welcomed. Talk to treasure hunters, Dolores Louttit (978-840-0788) or Erica MacKillop (603-645-6051).

**Craft Table:** knitters, stitchers, and crafters – if you are creative, make a few of whatever you do best for this colorful table. If you need supplies, such as fabrics and trimmings, check with Barbara Kamb first. She might have it to share (978-486-4360).

**Raffle Baskets:** this year we plan to raffle a huge food basket, probably a wine and cheese basket, and maybe one other. Barbara Ledeaux will need help at this table (978-772-3894). Cash donations are the way to go here.

**Bakery Shop:** Judy Veno (978-456-3791) has stepped up again this year to chair this table. She and her committee will be contacting you closer to fair time about baked goods, packaging, etc.

**Andrew's Attic:** No chairperson as of yet. Two or three people have offered to sort and price ahead of time and work on the day of the bazaar. We need quality

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◆ **Bazaar**

Continued from Page 5

items. We do not need items of no use: broken, cracked, soiled or incomplete items. No clothing or bedding. Attic treasures should be brought in during the month of October.

*Kitchen:* Mary Medeiros, Audrey Western, and Louise Rogers will be serving the ever-popular beef stew, apple pie, sandwiches, and more. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Peabody Room in October. More help will be needed on Friday's preparations and for serving on Saturday. Mary Medeiros (978-772-3195).

*Important:* We need muscle-power (at least two people) on Friday morning to help set up tables and move heavy furnishings. We will also need some able-bodied people to help clean up the parish hall on Saturday after the fair. Call Barbara Kamb (978-486-4360) or Sue Hildreth (978-456-9553) if you can help.

The fair will be a success if everyone takes part.

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### **New at the Fair**

#### **A Shopping List for the World!**

The Outreach Committee will have an Alternative Gift Market at the Harvest Bazaar this year. They will be offering opportunities to give noncommercial gifts of relief and development goods and animals for persons in need in the third world – Alternative Gifts! Cards will be inscribed with the gifts purchased, which can be sent to friends and relatives to inform them that this gift has been given in their honor. Many are familiar with Heifer Project, which operates on much the same basis. Ninety-per-cent of the money raised through Alternative Gifts International for these projects goes to the designated project. You will be hearing more about this in the coming weeks.

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Send submissions for The St. Andrew's Xpress to: staayer@verizon.net or drop them off at the Church Office during office hours or the Peabody Room on Sundays. Please include contact information.

## **What's Happening with the Rectory?**

At the September meeting of the vestry, it was decided that the church will use the rectory rather than renting it. There had been investigations into creating an apartment for rental purposes with use of part of the rectory for the church. However, once the building inspector became involved and his insistence that any plans had to be architect approved, the cost became prohibitive.

Presently the church will begin using the rectory for a nursery, smaller meetings, and part of the church fair, which will be there as well as in the parish hall. This is all on a trial basis with a decision to re-evaluate this over a period of months to see if it's working. The hope is to be able to create a door on the church side of the rectory to give easier access for parents to the nursery, meetings, and fair access. The church will start using the rectory even before that occurs with its present entrances. The parish hall, of course, will be needed for larger functions: Sunday School, dinners, and offices, but we will see how this works with having the use of both buildings.

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### **Rock My Soul**

On October 13, 2007 - 7:30 pm, the First Parish Meeting House on the Common, Shirley, performance by The Gospel Music Project concert. It will be for the benefit of the Trinity Chapel Rectory Restoration Fund and First Parish Meeting House Preservation Fund

Tickets: \$12 in advance / \$15 at the door  
Information: (978) 425-9041 or email  
mhhoecker@hotmail.com

*The Gospel Music Project is a nonprofit, interfaith, nondenominational organization whose purpose is to carry an uplifting message of hope, strength, and joy to diverse audiences, bringing us closer together to understand the meaning of peace, equality, respect, unity, and justice.*

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## Hester Newbury Finds Stability and Independence

Abiaa, a Great Dane, Seen as Ambassador



*Hester Newbury and Great Dane and great friend, Abiia, before Sunday services at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.*

Presently a resident of Groton, Hester Newbury has lived all her life within 30 miles of Boston, spending summers at Mt. Monadnock as a child. She is a neighbor of Lois and Bayard Underwood and was brought to St. Andrew's by her friend, Susan Leeming. That doesn't mean that she hasn't traveled to other parts of the world. In fact, as a young person she trained to be a missionary and went to Andorra to teach English. She had wanted to start an orphanage there but, unfortunately, became ill with a malarial disease and had to return home.

Hester has multiple sclerosis, which she says, began to affect her as a teenager. Here is where her friend, Abiaa--formerly

named Stella--comes into the picture. Providing stability and independence for Hester and making it possible for her to return to church, Abiaa (pronounced Ah-buy-ah) is a Great Dane from Bavarian stock, trained by a woman who has been doing this work for 26 years. The dog is completely focused on helping her but is friendly when not "working." At home, even without the harness, Abiaa sticks close to Hester, day and night.

*Hester's medical condition doesn't keep her from a job as a social worker or from her talent as an artist.*

Her disability doesn't keep Hester from being active as a geriatric social worker at the Groton Senior Center several hours a week. "But," she says, "don't call the Center on Fridays with any questions, because I don't know any answers!"

That's not all. Through the Women's Educational Union, Hester has been attending art classes at the Museum of Fine Arts. She calls herself an abstract expressionist, looking to bring out the spiritual and hopeful aspects of the subjects of her oil paintings. She doesn't sell her work but may – sometime.

Hester sees Abiaa as an ambassador, a teaching tool in her mission to bring hope and love to all they meet.

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## **All Saints Sunday**

The congregation is invited annually to submit names of departed loved ones to be remembered on All Saints Sunday. All Saints Day, Nov. 1 and All Souls Day, Nov. 2 are celebrated on the first Sunday in November under Prayer Book rubrics. Please use this form to list names to be read at either 8:00 or 10:00 AM on that day.

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Remember the following names on All Saints Sunday

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Please check one: 8:00 AM ( ) 10:00AM ( )  
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## A Flower Guild? Flower Arranging Could Be Your Gift



Over the summer some flower arrangements on Sunday came from private gardens or from purchases made directly by the donor. These arrangements have been particularly lovely and caused positive comment.

In my former parish in San Diego, a Flower Guild was formed, independent of the Altar Guild. There was some overlap, but it was a separate group who were initially trained in arranging flowers by an accomplished and experienced floral arranger. In a discussion with Barbara Kamb, the thought was expressed that something like this might occur at St. Andrew's if there were persons who felt this might be their gift and calling. Perhaps there are flower arrangers out there amongst you that we don't even know about.

I think the important thing is to find who will say to Barbara or me, "I think I would like to volunteer to be doing this. It may just be my gift." This would be more reasonable cost-wise and allow us to get more flowers or reduce the price. We have a short growing season here, so garden flowers are limited, but it is an idea well worth investigating. If this is your epiphany of service, speak to us!

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## The Giving Tree

By Erica Scattergood

Can you knit a pair of socks? Design a website? Wash a poodle or feed a traveler's cat? Do you garden or cook? Repair small appliances or carve wooden

spoons? Can you help plan a trip or offer tutoring help?

We're all talented in some way or another. The Giving Tree—a new way “to give and to receive” while supporting the church at the same time—is coming in November!

Symbolized by a small Christmas tree that will grace the Peabody Room, decorative paper ornaments will offer goods or services that stem from all the talented folks in our church family.

To give some examples, let's say that one person is an outstanding baker of cakes. He/she would offer to bake a cake to feed 8-12 people, and to decorate to suit the occasion. The price for such a talent is determined by the baker and, lo and behold, the harried mother of twins (whose birthday looms too closely in the future for her comfort) sees this ornament and feels great relief! She quickly purchases the ornament, particular details are exchanged, and the church gains a donation. Example Two occurs when an enterprising young person volunteers to rake a yard or shovel a walkway for someone who finds these tasks especially irksome. Voila! Another happy exchange is made to the benefit of the church.

The Giving Tree provides a way for people to donate to the church in an unusual fashion, one that has the added benefit of being very flexible. While the “ornament” will be purchased in November or December, the actual item or service can be delivered at any time that is convenient to the giver and the seller. For instance, if you purchase a homemade picture frame or pocketbook, it may not be wanted or needed until the spring. This leaves the donor time to complete the gift, and the giver an opportunity to clarify preferred colors or other special details.

Participating in this project lets us appreciate one another and our talents in new ways. Please think about not only what you might like to give, but also what sorts of things would entice you to purchase another's offerings! Experience has shown me that people love this project and that it can be a valuable fund-raiser with offerings that are very diverse: party planning, massages, music lessons, woven goods, catered meals, babysitting or pet-sitting, and much more! Please contact me at church, or at home to help out (978-448-8030).

# October 2007

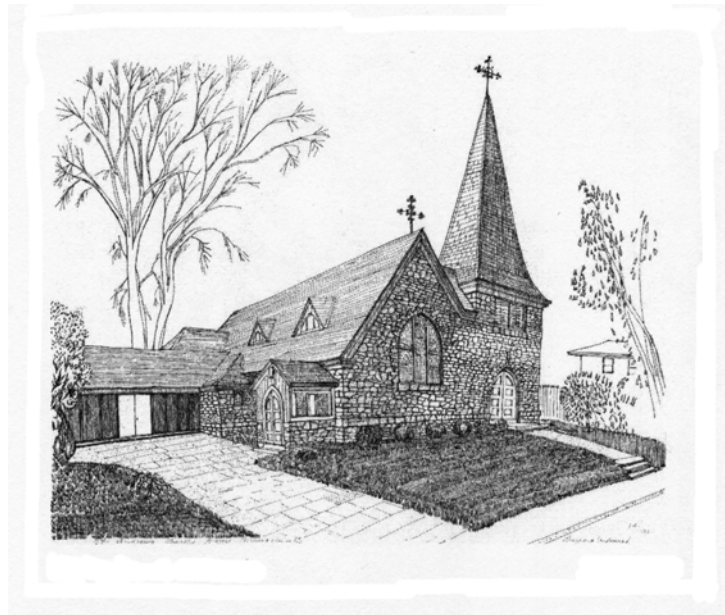
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1. 9:30 AM Bible Study 3:30-5:30 PM Girl Scouts	2. 11:00 AM Gospel of John Study 7:00 PM Membership Meeting	3. 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers 7:00 PM Choir	4. 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00-10:00 PM AA	5.	6.
7. 8:00 AM HE I 10:00 AM HE II	8. 9:30 AM Bible Study  Columbus Day Office Closed	9. 11:00 AM Gospel of John Study	10. 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers 6:30 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	11. 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00-10:00 PM AA	12.	13.
14. 8:00 AM HE I 10:00 AM HE II	15. 9:30 AM Bible Study 3:30-5:30 PM Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00 PM Boy Scout Leaders	16. <b>11:00 AM Gospel of John Study</b>	17. 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers 7:00 PM Choir  Xpress Deadline	18. 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00-10:00 PM AA	19.	20.
21. 8:00 AM HE I 10:00 AM HE II	22. 9:30 AM Bible Study 3:30-5:30 PM Girl Scouts  9:00 AM- 2:00 PM APPLE PIE DAY	23. <b>11:00 AM Gospel of John Study</b>	24. 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers 7:00 PM Choir	25. 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00-10:00 PM AA	26.	27.
28. 8:00 AM HE I 10:00 AM HE II	29. 9:30 AM Bible Study 3:30-5:30 PM Girl Scouts	30. 11:00 AM Gospel of John Study	31. 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers			

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**Expressing Faith, Community, and Love**

- The St. Andrew's Xpress is a monthly newsletter for the St. Andrew's parish family and friends. Comments, suggestions, and photographs are welcome. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please check the box.