

## On Faith

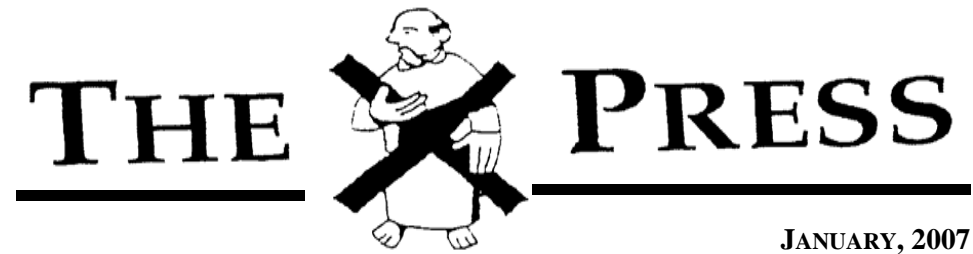
One's faith in Christ ought to grow, and if it does not grow there is something wrong in one's life. The child should have simple faith, the youth a stronger faith, adulthood should find a mature and enduring faith, and old age the best faith of all. Knowledge is as tinsel unless one is growing in faith and love all the while. Open your heart and let Christ in.

Written by the Right Rev. Charles Lewis Slattery  
Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1894-1896  
Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts 1927-1930

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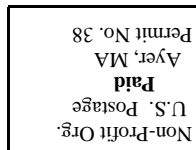
JANUARY, 2007

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

This letter is being written right after the Visitation of Bishop Tom Shaw to Saint Andrew's on 17 December. What a wonderful day it was with worship enhanced by glorious music, a moving sermon by the bishop and then a delicious brunch put together by the hard work of the Parish Life committee. The Bishop spoke and fielded questions from the congregation at the brunch.

Following the brunch, Bishop Shaw met with the Vestry where he not only shared with the parish's leadership but listened attentively and in a wonderfully pastoral way to concerns and hopes expressed to him. His leadership was exercised with great sensitivity, and there was a deep sense of connection that was very healing in a number of ways. The parish has come through some "rough waters," but we are in a good place with a strong sense of God's direction for our corporate life. It was just a very special day! We were very blessed to have Bishop Shaw with us, and we think he felt blessed as well.

January is especially focused on the season of Epiphany, which focuses on the Incarnation: God coming to us in human flesh and the light that Christ brings symbolized by the star that guided the Magi to bring their gifts and worship Him. Light is so important because the gospel of John in chapter one says that "the Light (Christ, the Word of God)



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

shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." I live in the faith of the truth of those words, and I hope you do too. There is so much darkness with the horror of war, violence, injustice, crime and the suffering caused by all of these, from the genocide in Darfur, the scourge of AIDS and malaria to the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and the streets of our cities where many young people shoot each other in senselessly, often spawned by poverty and a clear lack of hope.

I believe we all long for peace with justice and that our parish be a beacon of light and hope in the town of Ayer and well beyond. Our worship of the newborn child is the gateway to the One who came to bring us peace within and amongst us, a servant God who shared his life and through his Spirit continues to do so to all who believe in him.

May Jesus light all of our lives and help us to live together in such a way that others might see him in us.

Faithfully in Him,



Alan B. MacKillop  
Priest in Residence

## St. Andrew's Mailing List

Over the last few months, several individuals have remarked, "I used to receive "The X-Press but I don't anymore," or "I grew up in this parish and would enjoy knowing what is going on here." If you know someone who would like to receive "The X-Press" free of charge—students away from home, former parishioners, Episcopalians who are not attending another church regularly—please do contact Lynn Ferrillo in the parish office. We'd be pleased to add them to our mailing list to receive "The X-Press" and postcards about upcoming events at St. Andrew's.



## ANNUAL MEETING January 21, 2007

9AM—United service of the Holy Eucharist, followed by parish brunch and parish meeting, election of Vestry members, delegates to diocesan convention, and deanery representatives.

Reports of parish organizations and commissions will be given, approval of the 2007 budget, and opportunities to share, discuss, and dream together for the life and ministry of St. Andrew's parish community.

Please come and help build our life together in service to God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



### *Editor's Note:*

*Next Issue: February 2007*

*Deadline: January 17th*

*Send submissions to: [acahill@hybricon.com](mailto: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!*

# FROM THE DIOCESE

Taking as this year's theme the passage, "Open our ears and loosen our tongues..." from the Gospel of Mark, the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan 18-25, is an occasion for churches around the world to join in prayer and reflection about the unity Christians share through Christ and the need to heal divisions among Christians and their churches and within the world.

## A PRAYER FOR UNITY

God, the Source of all Wisdom,  
We turn our minds and hearts to you  
As we pray for the unity of Your Church.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, has revealed your desire  
For all men and women to live in your love  
And share that love with one another.  
By the power of the Spirit  
Open our ears to hear your Word,  
Loosen our tongues to speak the truth in love  
And give us the strength to follow the path  
Your Son has set out for us.  
We make our prayer in confidence and in hope  
For we offer it with Jesus our Savior.

See the complete text of the letter written by church leaders in Massachusetts at [www.masscouncilofchurches.org](http://www.masscouncilofchurches.org) (click on Resources, then "Ecumenical Texts," then scroll down to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity link at the bottom of that page.

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## On Prayer

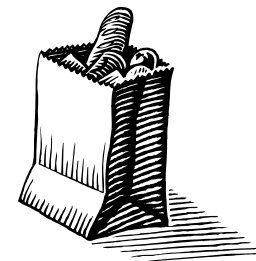
Prayer is the intentional sharing of our thoughts and desires with God. Only what is intended for Him serves directly to build up our relationship with Him. For it is as true of our relationship with Him as of our relationship with our fellow men that we meet by sharing, by having things in common. The words are not needed on God's side.... The words serve as an aid to the interior act on our side, because we think and decide and will largely in terms of words. Furthermore, our thoughts are commonly born in the process of being expressed. Those who wrestle to express their thoughts and feelings toward God will think and feel things that would never come to birth in any other way.

Written by The Right Rev. Angus Dun  
Vicar, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1917-1919  
Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, DC 1944-1962

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## New Year - New Tradition?

Circle January 7 on your calendar for what may possibly be a new Saint Andrew's holiday tradition. During the ten o'clock service, the Sunday School children will be dramatizing four scenes from the Bible to illustrate the Nativity/Epiphany events. We don't know what to call this special occasion yet (any ideas?) but we do hope children will volunteer as actors or narrators (very minimal speaking and acting - this is fitting into the actual service). Or just come and enjoy it! Please see Nancy Barringer or Russ Harris for more information.



**FOOD FOR THE POOR** wishes to thank St. Andrew's for the welcome extended to Father Brown on his recent visit to the parish. On behalf of our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean, we thank you for having shared in our work. They, and you, are blessed by your generosity.

## Milestones

**MARRIED** the day after Thanksgiving, November 24<sup>th</sup>:  
Karen Basque and Robert Melota.

Due to a plumbing problem, the fire alarm went off in the church and the Fire Department arrived along with the Bride! After a brief inspection, the all-clear signal was given and the wedding proceeded as planned.

# Habitat Around the World

Seventy-two priests and more than 300 volunteers joined to build homes in Armenia in early September. His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians, blessed the event held in his name and planted a symbolic tree to represent a new beginning for the families moving into their 37 new homes.

In early September, the Habitat for Humanity Lebanon staff was joined by regional and disaster response experts from HH International to carry out an assessment of the recent conflict's destruction and to develop a rebuilding strategy.

The fighting in Lebanon destroyed vital infrastructure and leveled buildings throughout the country, especially in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon. The UN estimates about 15,000 homes destroyed, with several thousand more damaged.

According to a 2005 study by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 5.5 million South Africans are living with HIV/AIDS. Nearly a quarter of a million are children under age 15, and many of them are orphans whose parents already have succumbed to the disease.

In Cape Town's Nyanga area, Habitat for Humanity South Africa is partnering with a local church and nonprofit the J.L.Zwane Centre, to help provide safe, decent housing for AIDS orphans.

In September, Habitat for Humanity in Vietnam received government approval to operate in the provinces of Tien Giang,

Kien Giang and Dong Nai, as well as in Ho Chi Minh City. Earlier this year, Habitat had already helped to improve the living conditions of 801 families through housing microfinance loans and technical assistance.

With this year's Jimmy Carter Work Project successfully completed in Lonavala, India, it's time to mark calendars for next year's event: The 2007 JCWP will take place October 28-November 2 in Los Angeles. During this week, volunteers will join former US President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn in building and repairing 100 houses with low-income families from around the area.

Shelter is still a priority in Pakistan, though more than a year has passed since a 7.6 magnitude earthquake shook the country. Since February 2006, Habitat has provided more than 220 shelters to families in Balakot. As winter approaches, Habitat continues to meet the pressing housing needs of survivors, transporting shelter materials by jeep into remote villages for assembly.

Habitat plans to build 40 houses in a poverty-stricken area of Porto Alegre, Brazil, with construction slated to take place over the 40 days of Lent in 2007. Project partners include churches, local government and private businesses. It is estimated that more than 50 million Brazilians live in inadequate conditions.



# Vestry Meeting Highlights

## Highlights from the November, 2006 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ **Priest-in-Residence Report:** Established a Wednesday evening bible study class using a book by William Temple to study the Gospel of John. Requested the early formation of a Nominating Committee to propose candidates for Vestry (replacements for Al Colburn, Lili Ott, and Manny Lindo), Convention Delegates and Deanery Delegates. Discussed asking prospective candidates for certificates of baptism and confirmation as well as letters of transfer from former churches. Attended Diocesan Convention at Trinity Church in Boston in late October with delegates Kim Lindo and Jeanne Cassin. Exterior painting of church completed and looks great. Since only one of two choir leaders has been hired, Michael Smith has requested the compensation be increased to \$30 rather than the \$25 originally budgeted for each.
- ✘ **Senior Warden's Report:** Upon receipt of the last disbursement of the Pillman Estate this week, Russ felt (as did all the Vestry members in attendance) an accounting was in order detailing the expenditures made using monies from the estate.
- ✘ **Junior Wardens' Report:** Mary is in process of updating the form to be filled out by users of the Parish Hall. Mary was asked at a prior meeting to check with Nashoba Lock regarding the possibility of installing a buzzer security system at the side door of the Parish Hall and was told that they have no such system available.
- ✘ **Treasurer's Report:** October Financial Report – Net operating income of \$65.85 for the month. First draft of the 2007 Budget distributed and reviewed.
- ✘ **Old Business:**
- ✘ **Church Directory:** Carolyn hoping to have it completed by the end of the calendar year. Format will include a listing of parishioners' names, addresses and phone numbers in the front with pictures of as many as possible in the back. John has been working diligently to take pictures of as many parishioners as possible.
- ✘ **Sunday School:** Three new lessons from Godly Play have been purchased, and enrollment is way up.
- ✘ **Handicap Ramp:** After much discussion of Manny's e-mail proposal to build a ramp, the subject was tabled till next meeting when he will be asked to bring pricing information on lifts.
- ✘ **Signage:** Three replacement signs have been installed at a cost of \$269 (signs themselves cost \$480).
- ✘ **Investment Policy:** Original copies of the investment reports to be kept in the church office; copies to be given to Al for his use in managing the fund. Must be bonded properly.
- ✘ **Commission Reports:**
- ✘ **Stewardship:** Currently have 59 (includes 10 new) pledging units in the amount of \$108,870 (much better than last year at this time). Approximately \$35,000 needed to meet goal of \$144,000.
- ✘ **Membership:** In A Manger and Carol Sing to take place on 12/9/06.
- ✘ **Outreach:** Approve disbursement of Outreach Commission's monetary requests.
- ✘ **New Business:** Consensus that the money raised from the Nativity Raffle to be put into the "Parish Hall Dishwasher Fund"

# Stewardship Update

As of 12/18/06, we have received \$127,059 in pledges for 2007. Hopefully, by the time we all go to the Annual Meeting on January 21, 2007, more will have arrived and increased our 2007 budget to the necessary level.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked on the campaign...all those who have given...and all those who will give.

## Java News

Subject: Those Popular Coffee Hours

Problem: Too few Coffee Hour hosts/hostesses

Solution: More volunteers, both for the 8:00 and 10:00 services

Question: ***Can you help???***

Mission: On your assigned day, prepare coffee, put out cream and sugar, cups and saucers, and whatever you have brought for snacks before the service.

Remember: Any current server will be glad to help and/or advise.

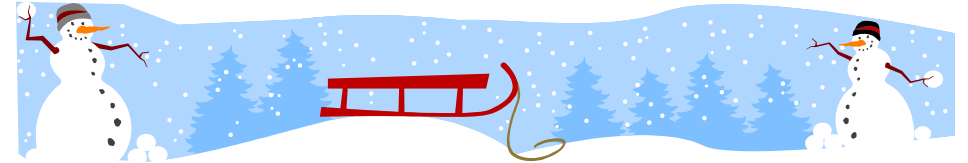
Result: Fewer times to serve for each server, and a very good feeling about helping to promote fellowship.

Please consider this opportunity, and call Lynn at the Parish Office if you can help.

***Thank you from all of us Coffee Hour people!***



*Thank You To Mary Ferrillo for taking charge of the Advent Wreathmaking activities this year. When Nancy Barringer couldn't do it, Mary stepped forward!*



## Need Wheels?

NEED A RIDE to Sunday services or some other St. Andrew's event? Bad weather making you nervous? Car in the shop? Given up driving? No problem!

We can help with weekly or one-time transportation. Membership Commission member Judy Adams has organized a St. Andrew's Share-A-Ride Program. Please speak with her at coffee hour after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sundays or leave a message for her at the Parish Office (978-772-2615). She will match you up with a St. Andrew's volunteer driver in your neighborhood.

## December's Historical Notes

The beautiful blue array (altar covering and priest's vestments) now being used for the Advent season was donated by the Colburn family. Also in continuous use, and dedicated in December 1992, are the red communion railing cushions. They, plus a cushion set for Rev. Martha Giltinan at her priedieu, were designed and stitched in celebration of St. Andrew's 100th anniversary, December 1992. Every cushion shows three symbols, representing the liturgical seasons of the church, the sacraments, and our immediate environment. The arches above the symbols represent the ceiling beams in St. Andrew's Church. The ivy in the lower corner is the ivy that grows on the outside of the building. The following parishioners stitched the cushions. Their initials are on the altar side of the cushion they stitched: Priscilla Andrews, Helen Priest, Rev. Martha Giltinan, Elaine Mullen, Kay Terry, Ruth Broughton, Brenda Bergeson, Rena Gagne, Nancy Brown, Lee Burton, and Jenny Neat. The design arrangement of each cushion was planned by our interim priest Wm. Underhill. They were drawn & charted by Helen Priest who also coordinated the work. Lack of space wouldn't permit detailed descriptions of each cushion but they are available.

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

# January 2007

## St. Andrew's Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>1</i> Office Closed	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayer 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Class on the Gospel of John	<i>4</i> 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 8:00 AM HE I 10:30 AM HE II	<i>8</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study	<i>9</i> 7:00 PM Class on the Gospel of John	<i>10</i> 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayer 7:00 PM Choir 7:30 PM Vestry	<i>11</i> 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 8:00 AM HE I 10:30 AM HE II	<i>15</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study Office Closed	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayer 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Class on the Gospel of John	<i>18</i> 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i> 9:00 AM HE II Annual Meeting following service	<i>22</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayer 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Class on the Gospel of John	<i>25</i> 12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i> 8:00 AM HE I 10:30 AM HE II	<i>29</i> 9:30 AM Bible Study	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayer 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Class on the Gospel of John	Other Parish Hall events: 1/8, 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 7-9 p.m. Parents Helping Parents 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 7-10 p.m. AA meeting 1/10, 6:30-8:00 pm and 1/22, 6:15-7:45 pm Boy Scouts		