

## 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.

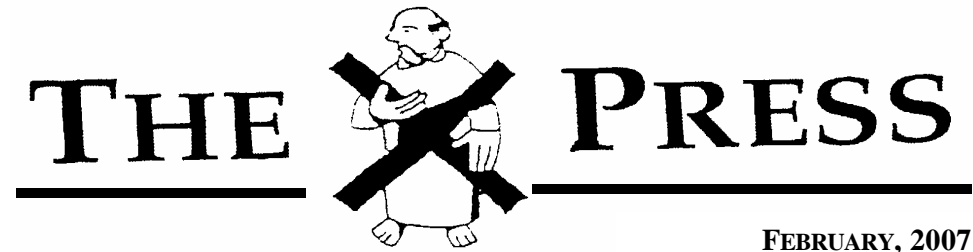
Written by Dorothy L. Mattocks, Wife of the Rev. Henry Mattocks (Vicar, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1948-1950; Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 1950-1968)

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Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM M, W, Th, F  
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FEBRUARY, 2007

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

With Lent beginning this month I think it is well for us to think about the whole subject of suffering, not because we want to wallow in it in some kind of Lenten self chastisement but because there is so much of it in the world. In a sense there always has been, and Our Lord's crucifixion is the central focus of all suffering in history. However we are privy to so much human agony because of the media. Daily we can see bodies on the streets of Baghdad with weeping people around them. We can also see the bodies of young people shot by other young people in some sections of Boston. People have pondered for millennia as to how a good God can allow such things to take place or why good people seem to suffer and sometimes evil people get away with it, or so it seems. Well, I can't deal with all those questions in depth here, but we are called to join with Jesus in taking up our crosses, and we are called to speak out against all forms of exploitation and all that causes suffering for great numbers of people. The easy availability of guns has to make us question the disingenuous claims of the National Rifle Association or sending more troops to Iraq in the face of a failed policy and a civil war. We have a minimum wage being raised after 10 years that will still not provide the means for supporting a family, and so we have hungry Americans living in cars even while working. Even the most impressive of homes may hide desperation in families with painful and angry relationships or hidden addictions.

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

Jesus calls us then to look to him who walked with humanity on this road and knows the frailty and sin which causes so much human grief. God does not send suffering, but God can redeem suffering. God calls us not to hide from suffering either in acknowledging it in ourselves or seeing it in the lives of others; to deny either is to deny our own humanity. Recently the new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Warsaw, Poland was forced to resign that position when it was discovered he helped the secret police under the old communist regime. None of us can judge such a man because none of us know what pressures he had put on him, and we didn't have to walk in his shoes. He claims he did not put anyone's life in danger. How he must be haunted and suffering. Let's, without being morbid, try to think about the meaning of suffering this Lent as we contemplate Jesus whose suffering is at the centre and core of our salvation.

Faithfully in Him,



Alan B. MacKillop  
Priest in Residence

## FORWARD DAY BY DAY

Forward is a daily devotional guide put out by the Episcopal Church. St. Andrew's presently orders a stack of small editions and 15 in large-print. A sizeable number are never picked up and taken home, and presently it seems prudent to reduce the order. The new editions which have just come, which run through May so there is plenty of time for those of you who may want to keep the small edition available or to speak up if you feel that a serious reduction in numbers might jeopardize your getting hold of a valued devotional friend. I am going to prepare a sign-up sheet so that I can get a better idea of how many use Forward Day by Day. It will be in the Peabody Room and at the back of the church. Call the church office at 978-772-2615 if you are not able to get out but would like to continue to have it. Fr. Alan

## PRAYER CHAIN

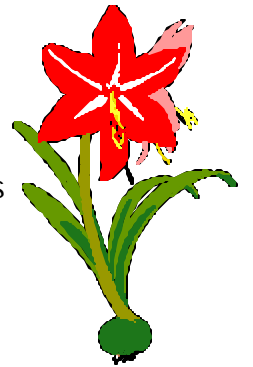
Do you feel you would like to pray for others but don't know how to go about it? I am starting a prayer chain, which would be by telephone: one person passing the prayer on to the next. It has been my experience that this is a very good way to put people and prayer together. Even just a call to have someone to pray for a doctor's visit you've been dreading helps both the recipient and the prayer. It's not just for healing but any concern or need whatever, and of course it would be completely confidential.

It would be great to get started soon so if you are interested, call me (leave a message if I'm out and I'll get right back to you). Thank you for considering this opportunity, and I hope to hear from you.

JACKIE STROBEL, 774-722-1297 (cell) or 781-448-3083 (home)

## A REAL JOY!

Fr. Alan and Erica were thrilled to receive the lovely Amaryllis plant for Christmas from St. Andrew's Church and thank you all for the lovely gift. Its lush red blossoms are still gracing our living room, these many weeks later.



### *Editor's Note:*

*Next Issue: March 2007*

*Deadline: February 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!*

# Choir Crosses



St. Andrew' Choir members are wearing beautiful olive-wood crosses on their robes these days, a gift from Carolyn Smith, who obtained them from the Holy Land a while ago but never got around to giving them to the choir until now. Everything in its good time - perhaps they are a symbol of the renewed commitment the choir has to the work and ministry of bringing beautiful music to our worship at St. Andrew's Church.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation will take place in a Deanery service at St. Anne's Church in Lincoln on June 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday), when the bishop will confirm, receive and hear the reaffirmation of baptismal vows of people brought from parishes in the Deanery. Confirmation an adult commitment to the church with the prayer by the bishop for the Holy Spirit to strengthen the individual in this lifelong commitment. It is also the way that one becomes a member of the Episcopal Church. However, people confirmed by a bishop in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox Churches do not have to be confirmed again and may be "received" by the bishop into the communion of this part of Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. Some individuals return to the church after long periods of time away from it and may want to reaffirm their baptismal vows in that service of dedication. All people who fall into those categories are invited to study with Father Alan in preparation for the June 2<sup>nd</sup> event. Youth will study separately from adults and Fr. Alan invites anyone who feels moved by this invitation to join those youth or adults already scheduled to be confirmed that day to speak to him and join those classes. The times are yet to be established but will be set at the convenience of the individuals involved. This is an invitation for some of you to consider.

Episcopalians moving from other parts of the country and parishes should request "A Letter of Transfer" from their previous parish. This helps with accurate records, both for us and those other parishes. It is a simple procedure and easily done. St. Andrew's office can also request the Letter of Transfer on behalf of any individual or family.

## NEWS & NOTES

- ✘ We welcomed two new clergy to our Deanery in January: Marcia Hoecker, rector of Trinity Chapel in Shirley and Steve Voysey, rector of St. Peter's in Weston.
- ✘ Judy Adams, our assistant organist, received this note and gift of \$100 in early December:

"Enclosed is a donation from the Merrimack Valley AGO\* for the meeting held at St. Andrew's on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your hosting this event and request that this donation be put into the music fund of your church. Sincerely, Craig Seaman, Treasurer"

*\*American Guild of Organists*

- ✘ We really need more ushers! Speak to Alan Rogers or call the parish office. More oblation bearers are also needed, which just requires you to step out of the pew at the right time and go forward with the bread and wine. YOU can do it!!
- ✘ The new altar flower chart has arrived and is posted on the back of the door between the Peabody Room and the church. There are a number of openings available, so be sure to sign up. Aside from Lent when flowers are not used to decorate the church, arrangements of flowers are used every Sunday. Flower memorials may be given by a single family or a combination of families. Flowers may be given as memorials and thanksgivings or just to enhance our worship. A regular arrangement by the florist for Sunday is \$50, more for special occasions. Some families with gardens do their own arrangements, which is also welcomed.

### OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED

After the second service on Sunday, the offering is counted, recorded and prepared for bank deposit. We have a few good people but certainly could use more. Formerly, only Vestry members could be counters but that is not the case any longer, so please speak to Fr. Alan or Sue Hildreth if you can help in this work. and Thanks!

## MEET THE WELTONS

And many of you already have because Maryanne, Phil and Andrew jumped right into parish life at St. Andrew's when they began attending last summer. They certainly are an asset to our church.



Phil is a local boy, born in Shirley to a family with deep roots here. He attended Assumption College, Worcester, where he majored in math and philosophy., indicative of his many talents and interests. (He is a classical pianist as well as lending his good singing voice to St. Andrew's choir.) His first job was in Salem, New Hampshire, where he met Maryanne, who grew up in Rhode Island, the youngest of 7 children. She had moved around a lot in her young life but decided to settle down with Phil and they were married in 1998. She was the one who introduced him to the Episcopal Church.

He took to it right off and worked as director of the business office of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge for eight years, although he probably always wanted to be a student there and did take courses along the way. Maryanne joined him in being involved with the life of the EDS community. The commute from New Hampshire proved too much so they moved to Fitchburg and attended Church of the Good Shepherd. Now they live in Ayer, and Phil is financial administrator at Harvard University, although he still has his eye on the ordained ministry.

Maryanne is "in the money" too, working for Middlesex Bank in Boxboro. She recently showed them she could still do a "split," having been a gymnast in her younger years. She is also a full-time Mom to Andrew, born in 1999 and a lively first grader who loves his bike, roller skates and dinosaurs. He was one of the Three Kings in the Epiphany Pageant.

As you see on the calendar of events and the results of Annual Meeting, Maryanne and Phil are offering even more of themselves to the life of St. Andrew's and we are glad!!

## Vestry Meeting Highlights

Highlights from the December, 2006 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ **Priest-in-Residence Report:** Bishop Shaw to visit this Sunday. Fr. Alan will contact new parishioners to see if they would like to sit with the bishop during brunch. Requested a nominating committee be formed for new Vestry members. St. Andrew's bylaws indicate the nominating committee be made up of the rector, wardens and three members of the parish appointed by the Vestry. Requested that job descriptions for incoming Vestry members be firmed up, and requested that baptismal certificates and letters of transfer for Vestry members and candidates be presented. The Annual Meeting is set for 1/21/07 following the single 9 AM Service and brunch. A committee has been formed to take over the mailing responsibility of the X-Press; we are always interested in more articles. Asking for volunteer interested in interviewing parish families. We had several successful Pre-Christmas Services — Lessons and Carols at Groton School; In a Manger and Carol Sing at St. Andrews. A big thank you to Carolyn Smith for the wonderful crèche display.
- ✘ **Senior Warden's Report:** Storm window construction—Motion voted to approve payment of \$700 for labor and \$255 for materials to Lindsey Mullan for the construction of new storm windows for stain glass windows in need. Ramp discussion—Currently have two bids to do the work. One contractor has agreed to do the work now; the other wants to wait till spring due to concerns over freezing conditions. Motion approved to solicit a third bid; wait until spring for construction; have Mary check with Moore's Lumber about the possibility of receiving a discount on materials.
- ✘ **Treasurer's Report:** \$294 raised from In a Manger raffle; \$4,965.23 raised from Christmas fair and pie sale; Outstanding pledges slowly being received. One Outreach Commission check remains to be sent (to companion diocese) after name correction made. \$1001 still remains in Outreach Commission budget. 2007 Budget Draft. \$123,159 in 2007 pledges have been received to date (\$9,000 needed to meet budgeted amount). Pledges from approximately 7-8 families are still expected. Possible fundraiser needed to bridge the gap. Cost of Living raises and increase in vacation time discussed. Motion passed to approve COL increases for Fr. Alan, Lynn Ferrillo, Michael Smith and Nancy Mayo as well as an additional week of vacation for Fr. Alan and Lynn.
- ✘ **Old Business**
- ✘ **Church Directory:** John Ferrillo volunteered to take over responsibility from Carolyn since he has the time. John hopes to have it completed by early January.
- ✘ **Signage:** Lili has received proposed drawings for the main church sign; recommends waiting till spring to act on them.
- ✘ **Investment Policy:** Waiting for Jeanne's draft of a formal policy. Included safeguards (checks and balances) to help determine what amount of bonding insurance to purchase. Tentatively scheduled meeting on December 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM to review Jeanne's policy draft and determine bonding amount to be purchased. Al Colburn distributed an investment report (as of 11/30/06) valuing our investments at \$329,302.
- ✘ **New Business**
- ✘ **Sunday School:** Yvette to ask the former fire chief (member of parish) what kind of fire extinguishers should be purchased for the Sunday School and then buy them.

# Report on St. Andrew's Annual Meeting

January 21, 2007

Just under 50 people enjoyed a delicious brunch and then settled down to do the business of the church. As Fr. Alan prayed, we are here to **build** and to **bless**.

First, the retiring Vestry Members were acknowledged and thanked: Al Colburn, Mary Medeiros, Carolyn Smith and Manny Lindo. Lili Ott, was not able to be at the meeting. Carolyn said she was honored to have been elected to serve and urged everyone to consider serving on the Vestry at some time.

A slate of five was presented to fill the vacancies and was elected by acclamation: Dick Dabrowski, Dwight Harshbarger, Linda Kaferle, Mark Louttit and Maryann Welton. Delegates to Diocesan Convention, Kim Lindo and Jeannie Cassin, were reelected, and Nicola Barlow and Phil Welton were elected delegates to the Deanery. The assembly was advised that the canons of the national Episcopal Church have been changed in order to allow 16 year olds to vote, the minimum age formerly being 18, so Lizzie Malone and Ned Barringer are eligible to vote at Annual Meeting.

Explanation was made about the proposed handicapped access ramp, that it is actually an access ramp for everyone, including mothers with strollers and for the delivery of supplies and bringing in goods for the parish fair. An anonymous donation of \$5000 was made for the building of this ramp and, with the possibility of material donations, the money is in hand and work should begin in the spring.

Reports of the Priest in Residence and the Senior Warden were read and approved. All other reports were accepted "By Title." Sue Hildreth gave a detailed presentation of St. Andrew's finances from the financial pages in the Annual Report. In particular, she explained that the seemingly high diocesan assessment is actually at least half for outreach projects, for AIDS assistance in Africa as well as needs within the diocese. She also explained that people who do not want to support the national church can designate that their offering is to be used only for St. Andrew's expenses. Her report was also approved.

Fr. Alan then encouraged everyone to share their "dreams" for St. Andrews and much good discussion followed regarding who we are, how we can grow in quality and quantity as a parish and particularly how we can reach our neighbors.

Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Peabody Room

## Coffee Tyme

It looks as if people really enjoy Coffee Hour after services! I myself appreciate the opportunity for fellowship, and I've experienced some great baking, too. But you know, we need more good folks to participate in providing this wonderful extension of the Eucharistic fellowship. If we have more volunteers, people would only have to do it once a month or every six weeks, which would make it easier on everyone. Thanks and give the parish office a ring with your response. Fr. Alan



## PAGEANT REPORT

On January 7<sup>th</sup> St. Andrew's 10 o'clock service was treated to a wonderful Epiphany Pageant put on by the Sunday School. This was a most unusual pageant, beginning with the 10 Commandments and the Ark of the Covenant, and in which the Jordan River played a prominent part! The story began with God's revelation in the Old Testament and ended with an interview with John the Baptist, explaining the fulfillment of the scriptures. Yes, the Holy Family and the Wise Men were there, as well as words from Isaiah and Jeremiah. The credits go to Nancy Barringer and Russ Harris, with a little help from Fr. Alan, and the players all did a wonderful job. It was a great presentation and really brought the whole story of God's redemption of humankind together.

## Annual Soup Supper

The **Annual Soup Supper** for those who worked for and helped to organize the Holiday Fair in 2006. Supper will take place in the Peabody Room on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Everyone who is interested in and has suggestions to make for the Fair is welcome to come. Lynn Ferrillo and Barbara Kamb will be making soup, so bring whatever else would go down well with that on a mid-February eve.

RSVP to Lynn at parish office, 978-772-2615 or Barbara at 978-486-4360.

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*"Two of the ugliest things to watch are making sausage and making legislation."*

*- Paraphrased from well known quote, but the author forgotten  
(by way of NH Peace Action newsletter)*

# Lenten Happenings

Ash Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, is the beginning of Lent and is a day of fasting and abstinence beginning the forty-day preparation for Easter. There will be Holy Eucharist with the Penitential Office and Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon and 7 PM. There will be music at the later service.

We are preparing what we hope will be a great series of Wednesday evenings, beginning with soup suppers and program to follow. Last year, our Wednesday evenings in Lent were well attended and very successful by every standard. If you will make soup or provide bread, rolls or butter, there will be a signup sheet in the parish hall. There will be five Wednesday evenings, of which three will be devoted to exploring the Windsor Report with Phil Welton, our parishioner who is taking part time courses at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. Phil has written a paper for the Windsor Report that I have reviewed and I think it is an excellent way of understanding this important document relating to how we understand the Anglican Communion and our place in it. The focus will be on mission and the excitement that we can experience if our eyes are open to the possibilities of working to do God's work in the world. The Windsor Report can sound academic and dry but we plan to make it the basis for exciting discussions.

In addition, there will be two evenings centered on films we will watch with discussion following. One film is "The Apostle" starring and directed by Robert Duval, with an interesting slant on a certain type of Christianity. The second film will be Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," which will get us in conversation about one of the most important moral issues of our time relating to our stewardship of this planet. There will be more information and publicity about these evenings which will be Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

I am also planning to do a Quiet Day in Lent on a Saturday but the date has yet to be set and will be announced later. Meanwhile, I hope to see you in church on Ash Wednesday and the first Lenten Evening on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Let's all plan a holy Lent together.



## CALENDAR GIRLS (and Guys too)

Later in February, Louise Rogers and Erica MacKillop will begin looking for and at interesting pictures relating to St. Andrew's Church in order to assemble them into a 2008 calendar. It might be all "historic" pictures or it might be a "then and now" collection. Anyone who is interested in working on this project, please speak to Louise or Erica and we'll see what happens! We do intend to keep our clothes on...

## BY POPULAR REQUEST

Here is a copy of the poem Fr. Alan read Christmas Eve, which was written by Howard Thurman, an African-American Methodist minister and Chaplain at Boston University in the 40's and 50's when Martin Luther King Jr. was there at BU School of Theology.

When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the Kings and Princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost

To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner  
To teach the nations  
To bring Christ to all  
To make music in the heart.



# February 2007

## 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

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