

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

As Lent unfolds its annual journey from it's early focus on Jesus' temptation in the wilderness after his baptism, and our self examination in a desire to deepen our own relationship with God, we move steadily to focus on the passion and cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Last month I talked about suffering and violence in the world that is part and parcel of every life and some lives much more than others. Jesus' suffering and death are seen by the church as the sum total of all human suffering, violence and hatred being borne by God. God is not detached from our suffering but knows it intimately because God has shared it through the Incarnation in Jesus. This is the means of our salvation and atonement (at-one-ment) with God. The church has never had one particular theory of the exact meaning of Jesus' suffering and death. Rather, in Christian history there have been many, some very crude, but all an attempt to understand St. Paul's words in II Corinthians 6:14-15,19 "---that one died for all, therefore all died, and he died for all that they who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died and rose again on their behalf.--- that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and that he has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

Paul also says in Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for

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*The X-Press" is the monthly newsletter for St. Andrew's parish family and friends. We welcome your comments, suggestions, letters and photographs. If you no longer wish to receive "The X-Press", please let us know.*

**A Prayer for Nearness to Christ**

Almighty God, who has sent thy Son into the world to be forever the friend of mankind; Grant to me the consciousness of His presence, that, receiving His power, I may conquer temptations and troubles, and rise with strength to do Thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

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

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us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." So God's involvement with our pain, suffering, violence, both individual and communal, are because of his incomprehensible love. A natural response for humans to violence or being made to suffer is to act in kind, to return what has been done to us. Even at a more mundane level, we will feel happy when we see certain people get in an old New England phrase "their comeuppance." The closest thing I have seen that reflects the love of God in Jesus Christ on the cross is the response of the Amish community in Pennsylvania last fall to the murder of children in their school, the forgiveness extended and the embrace of the murderer's family was so amazing in light of what they had suffered. They communally had entered into the Passion of Christ and lived out that Passion in their response to the most incredible act of violence.

As we focus on the cross we do it conscious of the continuing suffering and violence in our world, society and too many of our own homes. But we are called to draw near not to a distant God, an aloof God but one who in Jesus has taken on our suffering in himself. If our hearts are broken for some reason, if we have caused another to suffer, if we reflect on the communal violence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, Israel-Palestine, in the marginalization of any minority or group that suffers discrimination, violence, hate and injustice at home or elsewhere we must come to the cross to let God's love redeem and transform us. This is a lifelong journey but one I hope we can intensify during these days of Lent as they hasten on to Holy Week and Easter.

Faithfully in Christ Jesus,



Alan B. MacKillop  
Priest in Residence

## Sunday School Teachers Day Tripping

Sunday School teachers Nancy Barringer and Jeanne Cassin had the opportunity to attend a Christian Education seminar sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Lexington on Friday and Saturday, February 9 and 10. The keynote speakers were a married couple, well known in their field, John and Caroline Westerhoff. Rev. Westerhoff is an Episcopal priest while Caroline has long worked in the field of Christian education as a lay-person. The Westerhoffs presented the topic of the teaching ministry of pastor and educator. They further developed the theme by discussing the making of a Christian by formation, education and instruction. Caroline held our attention by reading stories, many from her childhood years of visiting grandparents in southern Georgia, that further illustrated the day-to-day challenge of living into our baptism and living the faith. We enjoyed meeting and talking with

our table-mates, including the new pastor of the Federated Church in Ayer. Several vendors present sold books and curricula with great ideas. Perhaps the most fun we had was learning a song using American Sign language called "Jesus makes beautiful" taught by a young seminarian. If we can remember the movements we hope to teach it to our youngsters.



### *Editor's Note:*

*Next Issue: April 2007*

*Deadline: March 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!*

## “DOES CHRIST LIVE HERE?”

Bishop Charles Lewis Slattery used to tell the following story he heard in a little church in France:

A new pastor had come to the village, and called at a certain cottage. When the husband came home from his work the wife said, “The new pastor called today.”

“What did he say?” asked the man.

“Oh,” she answered, “he asked, ‘Does Christ live here?’ and I didn’t know what to say.”

The man’s face flushed.

“Why didn’t you tell him that we were respectable people?” he said.

“Well,” she answered, “I might have said only that; only that isn’t what he asked me.”

“Then why,” continued the husband, “didn’t you tell him that we say prayers and read our Bible?”

She replied, “But he didn’t ask me that.” The man grew more vexed.

“Why,” he continued, “didn’t you say that you were always at church?”

“He didn’t ask that, either. He asked only, ‘Does Christ live here?’ ”

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



## Lenten Day of Reflection

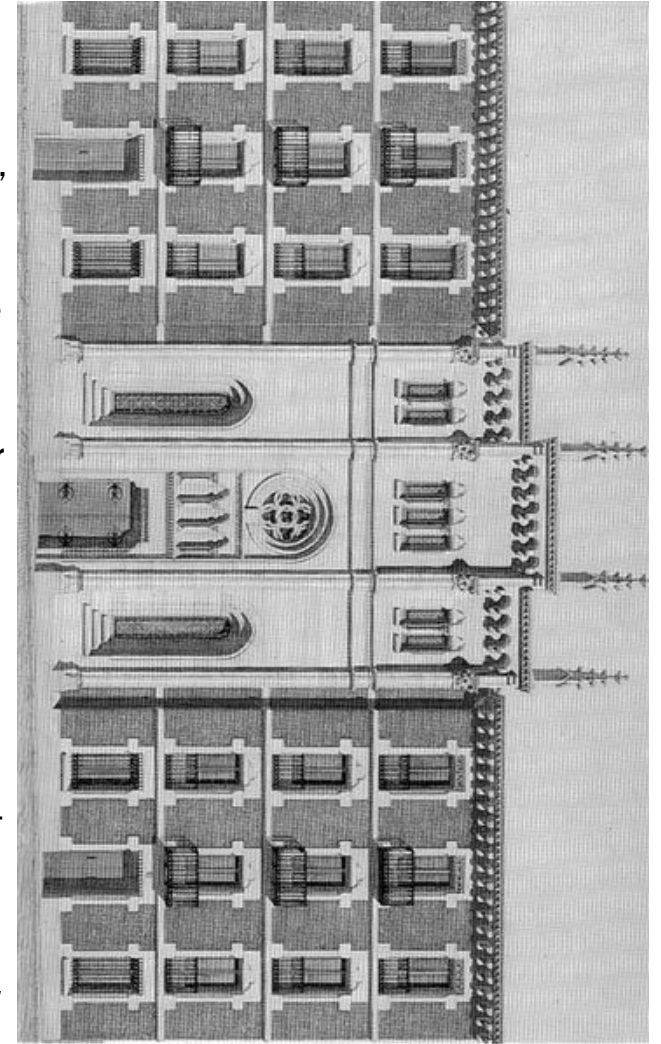
March 21, beginning at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, with a guided meditation followed by free time to read or pray. Eucharist at 12 noon as usual, then lunch and time of sharing. Bring a your brown bag lunch, beverages provided.

## A Report from our Missionary in Spain

This is a postcard picture showing the Cathedral of the Redeemer in Madrid and the two buildings the diocese owns. The top windows on the right are to my apartment, and the bottom windows to the left are where my office is and where we have the clothing bank (ropero) and prepare up to 300 bags of food a week.

I will be coming to the USA for the New Wineskins Mission Conference in April this year. I will also be staying in the USA until the middle of June to do some fund raising. With the increases of prices in Spain and the value of the US Dollar being at times as low as .65 cents for 1 Euro and the increase in airfare to travel back and forth from Spain, it seems to me good stewardship to combine these two activities at once rather than making a trip now and another next year.

- Deacon Gail White



# THE DIOCESE IN ACTION

**The Province I Conference on Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Development in Westborough is March 16-18.** This event has been transformative in the lives of individuals and congregations who take seriously the gospel imperatives for evangelism and stewardship. We have seen significant spiritual growth and growth in numbers in many congregations that have brought teams of people to the conference and returned home on fire with a vision and tools for growth. My office has scholarship aid available for persons and teams not able to pay the full fees. Please don't stay home because of cost or the feeling that this is just another church meeting! Look for all the program and registration details at [www.province1.org](http://www.province1.org). Register early—it tends to fill up.

**The Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue, March 16-24, starts in Northampton and culminates in Boston on Saturday afternoon, March 24 with an interfaith service and rally.** Please consider joining the walk for an hour, an afternoon, a weekend or the whole nine days. You can join me on March 24 in walking the stretch from Cambridge to Boston and for the interfaith service at 2:00 p.m. at Old South Church in Copley Square and the rally afterwards (which organizers hope will be the largest global warming demonstration in the history of the U.S.). Walk as an individual, family or team from your congregation or school. Our colleague and friend of the earth, Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, asks that congregations bring banners and that clergy wear collars.

There will be a swift, bold and comprehensive call to political and social action to address the dangerously critical and deeply moral and ethical issue of global warming. For decades we've heard scientific warnings – dismissed as the view of some alarmists. There is no more time to delay if we do not wish to leave our grandchildren a planet ravaged by climate change because of our poor stewardship and selfish ways.

## Check us out on the Web

Epiphany Pageant photos are now on the web site:

<http://www.standrewsayer.org/recent-events/photos20.htm>

# Vestry Meeting Highlights

## Highlights from the January, 2007 Vestry Meeting:

- ✘ **Priest-in-Residence Report:** Christmas services very well attended (110 at 5 PM; 84 at 10 PM which was double the amount of last year). Russ suggested Mary do the same level of advertising for Easter that was done for Christmas. Lenten program has been planned – details to follow later. Confirmation to take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Anne's in Lincoln. Special diocesan convention to take place on March 10<sup>th</sup> in Westboro; Kim Lindo and Jeanne Cassin will attend as delegates. Parishioner attendance is encouraged.
- ✘ **Senior Warden's Report:** Discussion regarding the Vestry's role as financial stewards of the church. Two motions were passed: 1. To keep an informal accounting of the expenditures from all bequests over \$30,000: such expenditures to be made public in The X-Press; 2. To talk about the Vestry's goal of keeping track of expenditures out of legacy gifts over \$30,000 at the Annual Meeting.
- ✘ **Jr. Wardens' Report:** Mary reported that Moore's Lumber will help us with materials for the ramp.
- ✘ **Treasurer's Report:** Provided a copy of the Statement of Financial Activities (including the 2007 Budget) and the St. Andrew's Balance Sheet that will be included in the Annual Meeting Report. Asked for (and received) the Vestry's approval to move \$6,000 out of the checking account into the Fidelity Investment account. Reported that 2006 ended with a positive Net Operating Income of \$5,660.53. Received \$1,000 restricted donation to pay down the diocesan assessment. Assigned rental expenses to Rental Income in order to decrease our exposure to the possibility of paying possible real estate taxes at some future time. Received 73 total pledges amounting to \$127,300. Pleased that the 2006 Total Income was so close to the 2006 budgeted amount (\$142,600 vs. \$143,800).
- ✘ **Old Business: Directory:** John and Carolyn hope to have it ready for distribution at Annual Meeting
- ✘ **Investment Policy:** Sue requested that the procedure of obtaining double signatures be eliminated since it is not effective in insuring that things are done properly. Effective procedures include having several people involved in "keeping the books" and having annual audits. Sue would like to explore using "cross church audits" at a deanery level. Motion made to accept the Business and Investment Policy as written (our thanks to Jeanne Cassin) with the elimination of the references made to check signing in Items 2 and 3 under Part A.
- ✘ **New Business: Preparation for Annual Meeting:** Carolyn to send out a reminder card to the Parish noting one 9 AM Service followed by a luncheon and Annual Meeting on 1/21/07. Russ to write a report on the ramp to be included in the Annual Meeting Report.
- ✘ **Investment Report:** Marilyn requested that the Riley Estate money be separated out from the Fidelity Growth & Income total amount so people can see the actual growth in that account. \$300,000 bond is in process. Al Colburn agreed to continue managing the investments until a new manager is found. John said he would consider taking the job next year when he is no longer on the Vestry.
- ✘ **Nominating Committee Vestry choices:** Mark Louttit, Linda Kaferle, Mary Ann Welton, Dick Dabrowski
- ✘ **Gratitude and round of applause for outgoing Vestry members:** Al Colburn, Manny Lindo, Mary Medeiros, Lili Ott, Carolyn Smith

# Good Friday Walk

Once again, for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual time, the GOOD FRIDAY WALK will take place on April 6<sup>th</sup> in Harvard beginning at the Congregational Church on the Harvard Common.

St. Andrew's ties to the original walk go back 30 years to parishioners traveling to Hingham to walk 20 miles to raise money for the poor in Mississippi. (Now Sharing, Inc.) That walk, and the money raised, has now reached over the \$3,000,000 mark and help is spread in many directions concentrating lately on children's' issues.

The Harvard walk was begun to avoid the travel on a busy weekend and now has 2/3 raised donated to Loaves & Fishes and 1/3 to Sharing, Inc. It is community walk with a warm special feeling to it with walkers, helpers and sponsors repeating their volunteering and generosity year after year. It is also the largest annual fundraiser for Loaves & Fishes, the food pantry at Devens, serving, Ayer, Shirley, Littleton, Groton and Devens.

We would love to have you join us in any way possible. Walkers range in age from those in wagons or carriages to seniors and all ages in-between. Sponsor Sheets for the walk are available in the Peabody Room and we will have a sign up sheet for donating food for the day of the walk. 2006 had 277 walkers, 60 workers and raised \$28,640.

Please think about joining us to raise money for those in our towns struggling to make ends meet. Loaves & Fishes served over 400 families monthly last year and 40% of those are under the age of 18. Come to the Congregational Church on Good Friday morning any time between 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and walk as little or as much as you would like. Bring your Sponsor Sheet and all donations with you. Some practice walking is a good idea. Those under 18 will need a parent or guardian signature and walkers under 12 must have adult supervision.

We look forward to having you join us to try and help your neighbors make life a bit easier and be part of this most important tradition. It truly takes a team of willing volunteers and participants. Please call Ruth Broughton 978 486 8557 (rebroughton@verizon.net) or Laurie Heron at 978 621 6545 with any questions or needed additional information.

## MORE WEDNESDAY LENTEN PROGRAMS

March 4 and 11 Phil Welton, our parishioner who is taking part time courses at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, is continuing his series exploring the Windsor Report to help us understand 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 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 interesting discussions.

March 18 and 25 These two evenings are centered on films we will watch with discussion following. "The Apostle," starring and directed by Robert Duval, shows an interesting slant on certain types of Christianity. The second film will be Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" which will get us into conversation about one of the most important moral issues of our time relating to the stewardship of our planet.

All four evenings begin with a soup supper at 6:30 p.m. (see signup sheet in the Peabody Room)!

## WINTER HUMOR—NEW ENGLAND TEMPERATURE CONVERSION CHART

60 F: Southern Californians shiver uncontrollably. People in New England sunbathe.  
50 F: New Yorkers try to turn on the heat. People in New England plant gardens.  
40 F: Italian and English cars won't start. People in New England drive with the windows down.  
32 F: Distilled water freezes. Maine's Moosehead Lake's water gets thicker.  
20 F: Floridians don coats, thermal underwear, gloves, wool hats. People in New England throw on a flannel shirt.  
15 F: New York landlords finally turn up the heat. People in New England have the last cookout before it gets cold.  
0 F: All the people in Miami die. New Englanders close the windows.  
10 below zero: Californians fly away to Mexico. The Girl Scouts in New England are selling cookies door to door.  
25 below zero: Hollywood disintegrates. People in New England get out their winter coats.  
40 below zero: Washington, DC runs out of hot air. People in New England let the dogs sleep indoors.  
100 below zero: Santa Claus abandons the North Pole. New Englanders get frustrated because they can't start their "kahs."  
460 below zero: All atomic motion stops (absolute zero on the Kelvin scale). People in New England start saying, "cold 'nuff for ya?"  
500 below zero: Hell freezes over. The Red Sox win the World Series. (well, maybe not anymore ...)



# March 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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