

Prayer is not a way of making use of God; prayer is a way of offering ourselves to God in order that He should be able to make use of us. It may be that one of our great faults in prayer is that we talk too much and listen too little. When prayer is at its highest we wait in silence for God's voice to us; we linger in His presence for His peace and His power to flow over us and around us; we lean back in His everlasting arms and feel the serenity of perfect security in Him.

... William Barclay, *The Plain Man's Book of Prayers*

Office Hours: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM M, W, Th, F
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Tuesday

Web: <http://www.standrewsaysayer.org>
E-Mail: staayer@verizon.net
Tel: 978-772-2615
Fax: 978-772-6512

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Ayer, MA
Permit No. 38

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
7 Faulkner Street
Ayer, Massachusetts 01432

THE PRESS

JULY, 2007

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

Summer may mean a slowdown at church, but it doesn't mean we have taken a vacation from the worship of God which is the principal reason for our existence. The old Westminster Catechism states "the first duty of man is know God and glorify him forever." which means before anything else we as God's people have both the call and joy of worshipping the One who is All Holy, All Worthy, who created, redeemed and loves us. So worship, while down to one service until after Labor Day, still is offered along with a weekday (Sunday at 9 and Wednesday at 12) doing that which Jesus commanded us to do in memory of Him until he returns in glory (I Corinthians 10) namely the Holy Eucharist which he instituted on the night before he died. Since it is the "food of wayfarers," "the Bread of Heaven" and that which binds us together as members of one another because we are members of his Body of which He is the Head. From this flows everything else, evangelism, service, outreach, education, work for justice and so many other things.

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.

So, my friends, this all by way of saying do not neglect the worship God who does not take vacations. Try out different churches where you travel and bring back a bulletin. Also please maintain your pledge because expenses don't take a vacation either; just drop it in the mail. Having said that, please have a relaxing and restorative vacation whatever you do or go, and may God bless us all.

Faithfully in Him,



Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Residence

Have you signed up for the FOYER GROUPS yet?

It's been a little while since St. Andrew's has engaged in this very popular and highly successful activity, but many of us would like to see this part of our social lives resurrected. We hope to begin the program again in the fall, and wonder how many people are interested in taking part in this wonderful, informal way of getting to know our fellow parishioners. While the details have not been completely ironed out, we are thinking forming of groups no larger than eight which meet every month for 3-4 months and then change. This would probably start with very casual dinner meetings but could expand to embrace opportunities to walk, discuss books, or take part in other activities. I hope that others will be as excited by this prospect as I am, and that you will contact me at : ericascattergood@charter.net or (978) 448 8030 to offer suggestions, comments, etc. There will be signup sheets in the Peabody Room after services as well.

I look forward to hearing from all of you and hope that I will meet people from the eight o'clock crowd!

~ Erica Scattergood, coordinator

Pray for YOUNG LIFE

Our Young Life trip to Rockbridge Alum Springs in Goshen, Virginia is just over two weeks away and our WyldLife trip to Lake Champion in Glen Spey, New York is just over a month away. Every teenager we have taken to Young Life and WyldLife camp before has said that it was the best week of their life. What a gift!

- 1) Please pray that the King of Kings would draw teenagers to Himself over the next month. We still have a number of spots to fill on our Young Life and WyldLife trips.
- 2) Please pray for those teens who have been before, that they would gain a vision for their friends. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you: I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh." Ezekiel 36:26
- 3) Please ask our heavenly Father to pour out His spirit on the lives of teenagers.
- 4) Please pray for our leaders, that the Lord would prepare them for this sacred time and purify them with Christ's love and holiness.

We are so grateful for your prayers and your continued support! Thanks for your partnership in reaching the next generation with the transforming love of Christ. I greatly look forward to sharing with you all that the Lord will do, for by faith, "the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." James 5:16b

IN HIM, Eric
Phil 1:21

X-Press Submission Information

Next Issue: August 2007

Deadline: July 20th

Send submissions to: staayer@verizon.net, or drop off your submissions at the Church Office during office hours or in the Peabody Room on Sundays.

*Please be sure to include your contact information on **all** submissions.*

LOAVES & FISHES

Remember, hunger doesn't take the summer off; there are no school meals programs for children and the number of clients seeking help often increases, so please remember to bring foodstuffs to church or even just send money, which can be used to purchase food at the Greater Boston Food Bank at a discounted price. Make checks payable to: Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc. and send to P. O. Box 1, Ayer, MA 01432

And the BACKPACKS

As noted last month, if you would like to contribute a backpack, or supplies (listed in the Peabody Room), please place them in the labeled box there. If you would like to make a monetary contribution the check should be made payable to St. Andrew's and backpacks written in the memo line. Two special needs this year are:

- filled backpacks for the high school age group (currently the group with the greatest need for backpacks)
- smaller sized empty backpacks for the preschool age children (we have supplies to fill these)

All backpacks are asked to be at the Loaves & Fishes facility at Devens no later than July 21, so that distribution can begin in early August. We thank you for your past participation, and we hope that you will consider helping each child served by Loaves & Fishes to start the 2007-2008 school year off with a new backpack and school supplies.

CHOIR BE SEATED, PLEASE

The chancel will have a new look in November! The choir has outgrown the haphazard seating offered by placing pews in various awkward configurations. We have, with the vestry's approval, placed an order for 20 handsome choir chairs to be delivered and blessed on All Saints Sunday of the coming liturgical year. These chairs are oak with rush seats, similar to the ones in Groton School chapel. They will provide flexible seating options, so the choir can experiment with a variety of singing formats. It will be possible for individuals to donate a chair in memory or honor of someone; the approximate cost per chair is \$250.

Vestry Meeting Highlights ~ April 2007

- ✘ Priest-in-Residence Report: Susan Leeming announced through a letter to approximately 80 parishioners that she is leaving the church due to her on-going struggles with the Episcopal Church. Fr. Alan and the members of the Vestry are sad to see her leave but hope this action will bring her peace. Fr. Alan attended the annual clergy conference held on the Cape at the end of April; The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, our presiding bishop, and Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies, spoke. A new sanctuary lamp has been installed. Fr. Alan along with many parishioners attended the U2 Eucharist on April 29th at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham. It was a powerful presentation of the UN's millennium goals using Bono's music.
- ✘ Mission: Newly added agenda item to further our understanding of the role of the vestry through an on-going discussion of God's mission for St. Andrew's. Fr. Alan hopes to investigate the possible implementation of many ideas identified at the diocesan convention held at the end of March. Discussed the possibility of having a Spanish speaking priest from Salem, MA, lead a Spanish service at St. Andrews. Russ introduced the idea of having an energy audit done that would help the church economically as well as to help the environment as a whole. The powerful film, Tender Mercies, to be shown next Tuesday. Tri-parish Ascension Day Service being organized by Rev. Marsha Hoecker, rector of Trinity Parish in Shirley, to be held at St. Andrew's.
- ✘ Wardens' Report: Russ distributed a packet of possible church sign designs prepared by Broadmeadow Sign Studio in Groton. The consensus was to go with the red sign. Russ inquired (on John's behalf since he came late to the meeting) about our desire to have John and friends perform a concert in the fall as a fundraiser for the church. After some discussion, it was decided that September, 2008 would probably be the best time for it, should we decide to go ahead.
- ✘ Treasurer's Report: April is in the black due to Easter and people catching up with their pledges.
- ✘ Old Business:
- ✘ Access Ramp: Motion approved to replace Manny Lindo with Jim Western as project manager. Many thanks to Manny for carrying the project to this point and to Jim for accepting the challenge of bringing it to completion.
- ✘ Vestry Retreat: To be held on June 16th from 9 AM to 4 PM.
- ✘ Rectory Rental: Subcommittee met on Sunday to discuss the possibility of applying for Section 8 which would allow us to rent to lower income people and be assured of a monthly payment (approximately 70% of the rent) by the state. John is not comfortable with making the rectory an outreach project; the church needs the income from its rental. Section 8 could help do both. Further discussion needed by the sub-

A REMINDER

As of May 31, 2007, the church had received \$49,182 in pledged donations. Although it's great that almost \$50,000 has come in, this is a short fall of \$3,858. Our parish commitment for this period is \$53,040. Summer is here and with the beautiful weather, come vacations, a drop in weekly attendance and a slow down in donations.

Please help our cash flow by keeping your pledges current or even paying ahead. Thank you!

Vestry Meeting Highlights ~ continued

committee of the possibility of splitting the house into two smaller units and replacing the steam furnace with two gas furnaces.

- ✘ Insurance Review: Linda to include a request in the X-Press for someone with insurance expertise to oversee the policy.
- ✘ Commission Reports:
- ✘ Christian Formation : Nancy Barringer has requested more volunteers to teach Sunday School and is looking for someone to fill the paid nursery school position.
- ✘ Communications: Investigating advertisement costs in newspapers. Investigating town-wide mailing costs. Deciding on approximately five postcard mailings per year.
- ✘ Outreach: Outreach Fair to be held June 10th after the one 9 o'clock service. All the charities we are supporting have been invited, as well as the Esperanza Academy in Lawrence that we are considering.
- ✘ Pastoral Care: John would like to see an additional LEMBE to help deliver the Eucharist to house-bound parishioners.
- ✘ Stewardship: Meeting scheduled on June 3rd to work on 15-month calendar for September fundraiser.
- ✘ New Business:
- ✘ Tri-parish activities: Ascension Thursday Service; Canoe trip from Nashoba Peddlers on June 15th for youth and adults with pizza following at Trinity Chapel in Shirley; Common Cathedral—Making plans to provide food for homeless following church service on Boston Common one Sunday during the summer; Planning U2 Eucharist in the fall in this area (venue TBD)

This is an email from my cousin Ellen-Alisa Saxl in Boulder; her son Lance Corporal James Cochran is a Marine currently serving in Iraq. We pray for him and others in the military every Sunday. I thought you might like to read this little email, too. Thank you for the prayers. Sue Hildreth

5-31-07 (I) hadn't heard from James in a while, then he called at 02:00 (AM) – gee, it was great to hear his voice this morning! The temps are in the upper 120s already - he says being outside is like having a hair dryer blow on you. I guess they tried fans at the posts, but when they turned them on it was like being blasted by a furnace - no cool air to circulate. We talked about how it (this, his second tour of duty in Iraq) would be a benchmark for the rest of his life and he won't have to do it again. He said: "You got that right!" Sounds like my Marine is missing the Colorado Rockies!

They're well stocked with Gatorade and such, and so far everyone's been able to stay reasonably hydrated. Although always on alert, it sounds as though more and more humanitarian missions claim their time as they work to not only train the Iraqi Police and secure Ramadi, but get it in working order. James said they're hiring locals to clean up rubble, delivering clean water to the neighborhoods, handing out gas for generators, and the Army's working on the sewer and electrical systems. For the first time in years locals are feeling safe enough to sit outside at sidewalk tables and have a cup of tea.

So, looks like a lot more good things are going on in Iraq than the media would have us believe.

Be Well,
Ellen-Alisa

HELP WANTED

St. Andrew's needs someone with knowledge of insurance to oversee the church's insurance policy (which is through the diocese) in order to ensure it is kept at the proper levels of protection. Call Linda Kaferle at 978-456-8641 or email at kaferle@charter.net.

TRANSITIONS

BAPTIZED

Elizabeth Gilda Colburn, daughter of Michael and Amy Colburn, granddaughter of Al and Jill Colburn on June 3, 2007

GRADUATED

Jamison Colburn and Joshua Gump are cousins who have both just graduated from Groton-Dunstable Regional High School. They are close friends and are both planning to attend the University of Lowell and study Computer Science. Meanwhile, Jamison will spend the summer working for his grandfather, Al Colburn. Best of Luck, Fellows!

DECEASED

John Ferrillo's father passed away Sunday after several years of struggling with both Parkinson's and Ideopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. John says, "I believe he had the best possible care, and the family is at peace with its decision to finally turn off his respirator. My mother has been a model of strength, faith, and clarity. The Holy Spirit was present in a most tangible way."

DOGSITTING IN MY HOME

I can take care of your dog for a week or a weekend, provided we get along and he/she can't/won't jump over my fence.

Call me: Judy Adams, 978-448-3598

HEARTFELT THANKS

- to **Nancy Barringer and the Sunday School teachers** for their excellent work this year in passing on the fundamentals of the faith to our young people. Certificates and gifts were given out on Sunday, June 17th. Nancy spoke movingly about their attempt to bring the love of God into the children's lives.

The need for more teachers was again brought out. Even offering to teach or help one Sunday a month would be very helpful. Talk to Nancy or Fr. Alan about this offering of your time.

- to **the Outreach Committee**: Nicola Barlow, Erin Peuschel and Erica MacKillop for organizing the wonderful **Outreach Fair** on Sunday, June 10th. Deacon Gail White, our missionary in Spain, spoke of her work with passion and humor at the service and also had a picture presentation in the parish hall after the service, as did Habitat for Humanity, Episcopal Relief & Development, the Battered Women's Shelter, Young Life, Esperanza Academy, our Prison Neighbors, Seven Hills Residence for handicapped children and Loaves & Fishes. A representative from each organization had an opportunity to tell about its work and distribute literature.

SPECIAL THANKS to **Mary Medeiros and friends** for rising to the occasion on short notice to organize the delicious brunch. It was brought to the attention of the Vestry that Parish Life needs more "manpower" with setting up tables and chairs, etc. for these events.

DIOCESAN SUMMER CAMP

It's not too late to register for one of the six one-week camp sessions between July 1 and August 18 for 3rd to 10th graders seeking an active, fun and challenging program in a Christian community that inspires campers to grow in faith.

In addition, the camp offers for high school students travel programs to the Maine coast and Cape Cod, and a "Monadnock Adventure" for 7th and 8th graders, as well as specialty camps focused on the creative arts and choir for young singers.

FOR INFORMATION: Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, NH (603) 547-3400; camp@bchcenter.org

July 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																									
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM HE Communications Committee meeting after service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00 AM Gospel of John Class 7:00 PM Membership Committee meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Parents Helping Parents</p>	<p>4</p> <p>office closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM AA</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>																																																																																									
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM HE</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 AM Gospel of John Class 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Parents Helping Parents</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayers 7:00 PM Vestry meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM AA</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>																																																																																									
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM HE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Parents Helping Parents</p>	<p>18</p> <p>12:00 PM Noonday Office with healing prayers</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM AA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>X-Press deadline</p>	<p>21</p>																																																																																									
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM HE</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Parents Helping Parents</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with healing prayers</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:20 PM St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM AA</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>																																																																																									
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM HE</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00 AM Gospel of John Class 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Parents Helping Parents</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption style="text-align: center;">June</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption style="text-align: center;">August</caption> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18		19	20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30	31		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																									
					1	2																																																																																									
3	4	5	6	7	8	9																																																																																									
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																																																									
17	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																									
24	25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																									
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																									
				1	2	3	4																																																																																								
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																									
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																									
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																									
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																										