

# *The St. Andrew's Xpress*

October 2008



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## **The Bad News and the “Good News”**

### **The Emerging Church**

For “Cradle Episcopalians” and those who have more recently been drawn to its historic, beautiful worship: there is bad news. There are a lot of people out there who are not like you. But Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News.” What to do? Maybe we are going to have to learn a new language and mode of operation to interest those others in the Gospel and the corporate worship of the church. And it’s not for their benefit alone – it’s for us, too, so our church will continue to be a vital and viable entity in the 21st-century.

Phil Welton and Fr. Alan are inviting everyone to a discussion here at St. Andrew’s on Tuesday evenings in October where they will show that the formation and community models that have been the hallmark of the church in New England and across America since the mid 19th-century are significantly changing. The church is shifting from being more of a parochial institution that supports the prevailing local culture to a mission-focused community of faith that seeks to transform culture in the light

of the Gospel. The book they will be using as a basis for the study is Anthony B. Robinson's "Transforming Congregational Culture."

A picture of the "Emerging Church" will then be presented that will specifically identify ways in which congregations are going to need to adapt for ministry in the early 21st-century and beyond if they are going to both survive and thrive. Those attending will have ample opportunity to reflect on how the paradigm shifts affect them personally and how they see this affecting St. Andrew's.

This certainly doesn’t mean the baby will be thrown out with the bath water! Rather asking, “What can we add to what we already offer at St. Andrew’s that will attract and hold people who don’t think like we do but are hungry for a satisfying spiritual and community life.”

The facilitators of the discussions will take ample notes on the discussions (both general and small group discussions), and the end result will be a visioning document that will be provided to the Search Committee to be considered in the ongoing life of St. Andrew's.

Could be worth your time? Tuesday evenings at 7:15 on October 7, 14, 21 and 28. Refreshments served.

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## *The St. Andrew's Xpress*

A monthly Newsletter serving the  
Central Massachusetts community

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in *The St. Andrew's Xpress*

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**NOTE:** Remember to mark your calendar for the  
October newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, October 20, 2008.**

## **St. Andrew's Stewardship Campaign for 2009 Focuses on the Parish Family**

By John H. Ott  
Chair, Stewardship Commission

On Friday evening, October 24, 2008, the Stewardship Commission will host a dinner for the Parish, open to all parishioners and their families. It will be an evening to bring church members together, in an old fashioned setting of a relaxed, end-of-the-workweek dinner to share a meal, exchange thoughts on the work of the church and to hear from church friends how our parish family can flourish in these difficult times. The meal will be a treat, consisting of Viennese Goulash prepared by Erica and Fr. Alan MacKillop and Stewardship Commission members.

In looking at the challenges we face as a parish and the stress many are under these days, the Stewardship Commission felt the focus of this year's work to meet our financial and spiritual needs should revolve around our *Parish Family* and our *Parish Home*. Modeled after the work at another parish in our area, St. Paul's in Natick, the theme of our program examines our lives and involvement at St. Andrew's as we do with our own families and homes, to find what we share in common and approach parish life from our common goals. We will meet to eat, talk, and enjoy one another's company and to hear from special guests how we can strive to move ahead with a focus on each other, the members of our "*church family*."

So mark your calendar, Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. and come join us for a home style, laid back and fun evening with your church family. Invitations with the menu, program and speakers will be forthcoming.

If our faith remains at the core of our work, our inspiration to each other, Christ will be there to guide us and to help us understand the power and underlying commitment we possess to meet the mission of this church we

see printed every Sunday on the front of our service bulletin.

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## **Day of Repentance**

The Episcopal Church has set Saturday, October 4 as a Day of Repentance for the sin of slavery, as called for by action of the General Convention. A two-day national observance at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia will culminate with a Service of Repentance led by the Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop, on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m.

The observance will include presentations and displays on Friday, Oct. 3 that make a historic and contemporary exploration of slavery and its effects on the church and society. Included among the presenters will be Byron Rushing, Massachusetts Representative and General Convention deputy from St. John/St. James Church in Roxbury. More information on the national observance is available at website: [www.episcopalchurch.org/79901\\_99818\\_ENG\\_HTML.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_99818_ENG_HTML.htm) or by calling the Episcopal Church Center (800-334-7626, ext. 6053 or 6054).

Concurrently, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston is planning "A Conversation on Slavery in the U.S. and Liturgy of Purpose" on Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10:00 a.m. to include showing and discussion of the documentary film "Traces of the Trade." All are invited.

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## **Sunday School Alert!**

On Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> there will be no Sunday School. There will be a youth Church Service with the children participating in the service as Ushers, Oblation Bearers, Lectors and other areas.

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## **Brief Notes from the Parish Meeting Sunday, September 7, 2008**

The Vestry has unanimously voted to begin the search process for a new rector, probably a half-time priest, beginning immediately. Fr. Alan will continue on as Priest-in-Residence for day-to-day operations but will now act as Interim with regard to the search process, meaning he will have no direct role in the search process, as is usual. He has offered to stay no longer than two years from June 2008.

The Wardens and Vestry will appoint a Search Committee of 8 or 9 people, including 1 or 2 from the Vestry. The Committee will utilize the "Appreciative Inquiry" approach, which is based on the premise that organizations change in the direction in which they inquire. In other words, those which inquire into problems will continue to find problems but those which attempt to appreciate what is best in the congregation will discover more and more that is good.

The parishioners of St. Andrew's will be asked to take part in this process on a Sunday in October under the direction of Carol Kingston, a trained facilitator employed by the Diocese. Responses will eventually be worked into the finished Church Profile. After this brochure is created, the search process could take anywhere from 6 to 12 months until a new rector is called.

Sue Hildreth, Treasurer reported that finances are still below necessary income, which could be taken care of if all pledges were current. The Diocese has made clear that (1) any parish can afford to do a search, and (2) there are a lot of good priests looking for part-time work, and they will help us find them.

So, the first part of a search is a time of discernment when we dream about how we would like St. Andrew's to look in 5 years but also to find out what the parish is able to fund to bring those dreams into being.

## **Apple Pie Day**

**Saturday,**  
October 18, 2008  
St. Andrew's Parish Hall  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

By Leslie Harrower



In keeping with one of the many traditions that occur at St. Andrew's in Ayer, on Saturday, October 18, we will open the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. for a day of apple pie making. Once again, the Westward Orchards in Harvard will supply apples for us to make our delicious apple pies. I cannot thank them enough for their continued support!

Our goal is to make 60 - 70 pies. Please come for as long or short a time as you are able. You are welcome to bring a friend, whether they are male or female; all are welcome. A light lunch will be served about 12:00 noon, and we will sample our wares to be sure they are good enough (although we have yet to be disappointed).

So, grab your aprons, rolling pins and paring knives, and meet us in the Parish Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup>. I can guarantee you a fun filled day of friendship and laughter. There are jobs for all, whether you are a novice or long experienced. If you have never made a pie, come and learn. If you are one of the better cooks in the parish (and we have some of the best in the area), please come and share your baking secrets with the rest of us.

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

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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! At \$8.50 each, this is indeed a bargain.

Sign up sheets for workers and for pie orders can be found in the Peabody Room. Order your pies early as we only make enough pies to keep the day fun! The pies will be available for pickup on the 18<sup>th</sup> between 2:00PM and 3:00PM. Although we have a freezer available, any “same day” pickups would be appreciated.

If you have questions or requests, feel free to contact Leslie Harrower at 508-641-2688. Thank you so much! Hope to see you on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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## Hands-on Help

By Phil Welton

In the Lower Ninth Ward, simply getting medical care can be a health hazard in itself. Because Methodist Hospital and Bywater Hospital, which served residents of the Lower Ninth Ward, have not reopened since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the closest hospitals are the ones clustered downtown, a half-hour drive away — and the only way to those is over a drawbridge crossing the Industrial Canal. In addition, the hospitals are facing a shortage of nurses and doctors because many have left the area since 2005.

Alice Craft-Kerney, a registered nurse who lives in the Lower Ninth Ward, decided to take action, leading a community-driven effort to build the Lower Ninth Ward Health Clinic, which is staffed by volunteer doctors and has a diverse board of directors. Since early 2007, the clinic has been serving up to 20 people a day. Services include diagnoses, referrals, checkups and prescription writing. Clinics like this have become essential health providers for New

Orleans residents as, almost three years after Katrina, the city is still struggling to reopen hospitals and provide critical services to people.

The clinic operates out of a powder-blue house at 5228 St. Claude Ave. that was donated by Patricia Berryhill, a resident nurse who is now its clinical director. It is shaded by an enormous tree, surrounded by a tall black fence and has a wooden wheelchair ramp outside. Inside, there are shiny new wood floors, colorful chairs and artwork featuring the names of people who have donated money to the clinic.

Craft-Kerney said the Clinic receives medical, legal and accounting assistance from various nonprofit organizations and law firms. She added that the clinic has received monetary donations from as far away as Switzerland and medical equipment from companies like General Electric. On June 1, the clinic began charging fees depending on a person’s income. They will not turn anybody away who is unable to pay.

The Episcopal Church in Massachusetts decided to get involved. A meeting, which will be held at St. John's Church, Bowdoin Street in Boston, is the very first on how a parish collaborative (consisting of St. John's, St. Andrew's, Ayer, and one or two others) will help provide ongoing support and care for the Lower 9th Ward Health Clinic.

The opportunity for mission in supporting the work of the Clinic is very wide, from providing "on site" visiting and assistance to patients who visit the clinic, helping out with administrative and other tasks, assisting with strategic planning, fundraising, grant writing and Trustee oversight, to gauging how health care delivery services can best be delivered to the suffering people of the Lower 9th-Ward.

Nicola Barlow of St. Andrew’s Outreach Commission, who has visited the Clinic, says, “We are hoping to involve as many people in the parish as possible in this effort, and the kick off meeting for planning how the member congregations in this effort will begin to support

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**Hands-on Help** Continued from Page 5

the Clinic is set for 7:00 p.m. on October 15th at St. John's Church, Bowdoin Street.”

Speak to Nicola or Fr. Alan if you are interested in getting involved and/or attending the meeting or send Phil Welton an email at [pwelton@eds.edu](mailto:pwelton@eds.edu)<<mailto:pwelton@eds.edu>>.

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### **Alan Rogers Receives Prestigious Award**

Long-time and much-loved parishioner, Alan Rogers, has worked for many years in Westford at the M.I.T. Haystack Observatory. The Observatory has been performing radio astronomy and radar studies for over forty years using a collection of large radio telescopes and high-power radars. A few years ago, Alan invited the church family to visit and gave a tour of his facility to a large group of us who were totally fascinated by the equipment and the work performed. This past summer, the Union Radio-Scientifique Internationale (URSI) presented Alan with the prestigious John Howard Dellinger Medal for work he performed in the past six years. The Dellinger is presented to only one person, internationally, every three years. The citation to Dr. Alan Ernest E. Rogers reads as follows: “For his outstanding contributions to instrumentation in radio astronomy and its use to make fundamental discoveries about interstellar masers, superluminal expansion of quasars, deuterium abundance in the galaxy, and plate tectonics.” Saint Andrew’s has known and appreciated Alan for his outstanding contributions to our church. Now we can congratulate him on his professional achievements as well.

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### **Energy Summit**

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts invites each parish to send two representatives on October 18 to an Energy Summit on *Savings*,

*Sustainability and Spirituality*. Hosted by WGBH studios in Boston, the event will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2008 from 8:15a.m. to 2:45p.m. Join us for discussion and information with other parishes, experts in the field, and those engaged in environmental issues as we join the spiritual and practical together. Some topics we'll be covering are: How big is your carbon footprint?; Moral Imperative or tempest in a teapot?; What have other faiths and churches done?; How do we save money this winter?

If you are an advocate for the environment, get a friend and go to this event and report back to the X-Press. If you have questions, please contact Amy Cook, 617-482-4826, ext. 645, or [acook@diomass.org](mailto:acook@diomass.org).

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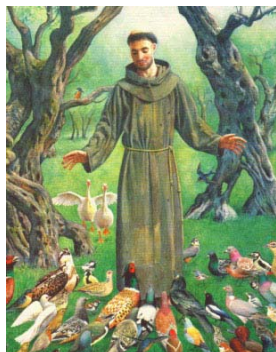
### **You Can Go Home Again**



Dwight Harshbarger, long time member of St. Andrews and recently a Vestryman, has moved back to his home state of West Virginia. He will be living in Morgantown, where his son and family also live. Dwight has lived in New England for about 20 years but has never gotten far from his roots and has, in fact, written books about the area in which he grew up. We will miss him but wish him well and hope he comes to visit us once in a while. The parish office has Dwight’s new address and email, and it sounds as if the welcome mat will be out for any of us going south.

## *From the Editor*

### **St. Francis; From Riches to Rags**



Giovanni Francesco Bernardone is known as the patron saint of animals, birds and the environment and is equally recognized as the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, a mendicant order that is completely dependent on charity for their livelihood. Today, they are more commonly referred to as the Franciscans.

He was born circa 1181 A.D. in Assisi, Umbria, a hilly, mountainous region centrally located in Italy, to Pietro di Bernardone and his wife, Pica Bourlemont, a member of a noble family of Provence. At the time of his son's birth, Pietro was in France on a business venture. Perhaps intuitive about her son's future or more probable, because of her strong devotion to Christianity and the hope that her son would grow to be a great religious leader, Pica had him baptized with the given name, Giovanni, in honor of John the Baptist. On his return, Pietro was outraged to discover that his son was named after a man of God. His fondest wish was that his son would follow in his footsteps, becoming a prosperous cloth merchant like himself. Having had an intense infatuation with France since childhood, Pietro immediately renamed his infant son Francesco, in English, Francis.

During his formative years, Francis received instruction from the priests at St. George's at Assisi, but being an individual who did not enjoy the benefits of studying, he dismissed a proper education and looked to the

future, yearning to become a writer and lyricist of French poetry, a troubadour, and even a knight. Indeed, Francis enjoyed the advantages of parental wealth, but the thought of becoming a lifelong cloth merchant held little or no appeal to him. Thomas of Celano (1200–1255), a Friars Minor, a poet who held a heartfelt fascination for the lives of the saints, and Francis's first biographer, wrote, "No one loved pleasure more than Francis; he had a ready wit, sang merrily, delighted in fine clothes and showy display. Handsome, gay, gallant, and courteous, he soon became the prime favorite among the young nobles of Assisi, the foremost in every feat of arms, the leader of the civil revels, the very king of frolic. But even at this time Francis showed an instinctive sympathy with the poor, and though he spent money lavishly, it still flowed in such channels as to attest a princely magnanimity of spirit."

About the age of nineteen, Francis joined other rebels in an attack on Perugia, the capital city of the province of Umbria. During the rampage, the Assisians were defeated and he was taken prisoner at Collestrada where he was chained and held captive in a dark and harsh dungeon for more than a year. It is probable that the long, serious illness suffered while imprisoned caused Francis to feel a sense of abandonment, which afforded him the opportunity to evaluate the feeling of emptiness that had begun to plague his thoughts. Returning to health and after his captors had received the required ransom, he was set free to return home to Assisi.

Still longing for a military career, Francis joined the army of the Count of Brienne, Walter IV the Great of Brienne, in 1205. The Count was preparing to wage an expedition against the emperor of the Neapolitan States, Frederick II, Constance of Italy and son of Henry VI. During the purge, the campaign advanced to Spoleto, an ancient city 39 miles southeast of Perugia. It was there that Francis had a vision, the voice of God calling him to service. He immediately returned to Assisi.

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His former comrades noticed a marked difference in his demeanor and chided him, asking if he was contemplating marriage. His response was emphatic, "Yes, a fairer bride than any of you have ever seen," signifying Lady Poverty. Refusing any relationship with his previous friends, Francis embraced a life of solitude, seeking God's enlightenment and guidance through constant prayer.

In 1206 while crossing the Umbrian Plains on horseback, Francis came upon a leper. He dismounted his horse, kissed the suffering man on the hand, and gave him all the money he had with him. He looked back on this encounter as a test, knowing then that someday he was going to devote the rest of his life to God's will.

Following a pilgrimage to Rome where he begged for alms for the poor, Francis went back home where he had a vision. While praying before the crucifix in the dilapidated chapel of St. Damian just outside of Assisi, he heard the voice of Jesus, saying, "Go, Francis, and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin." He bundled a large load of draperies from his father's cloth shop, mounted his horse, and rode to a prosperous mart in town. There he sold both the goods and his horse to procure money for the restoration of the chapel. However, the officiating priest at St. Damian's turned down the offer and reported the incident to Francis's father, who became incensed and beat, bound and locked his son in a closet. Freed by his mother, Francis was delighted when asked by his father to give up all rights to his inheritance.

On the morning of February 24, 1208, Francis was at Mass in one of the ruined churches he had restored near Assisi, the Porziuncula, the chapel of St. Mary of the Angels. Here, he had also acquired a small piece of land and built a little hut. The sermon was about Matthew 10:9: "Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep."

From that point forward, Francis committed himself to a life of poverty.

Barefoot, with no staff, wearing a coarse garment, Francis commenced his lifetime journey of preaching repentance. In less than a year, he and eleven followers were sanctified by Pope Innocent III in Rome to preach the Gospel throughout the land. Never wanting to be ordained priests, they preferred to live as a community of *fratres minores*, Latin meaning, lesser brothers.

Francis created the first known three-dimensional Nativity Scene in 1220 in Greccio, near Assisi. His motive was to enlighten the senses, especially sight, of the birth of Jesus. He utilized a trough filled with straw, a live ox, and a live donkey in the scenario. According to Thomas of Celano, "It was beautiful in its simplicity with the manger acting as the altar for the Christmas Mass."

During the forty day fast in preparation for the September 29, 1223 celebration of Michaelmas, Francis had another vision where he received the stigmata. According to G.K. Chesterton, noted English writer of the early twentieth century, Brother Leo, who was with Francis at the time, left a clear and simple account of the event. "Suddenly he saw a vision of a seraph, a six-winged angel on a cross. This angel gave him the gift of the five wounds of Christ."

After more than three years of suffering from these stigmata and an eye infection, Francis died the evening of October 3, 1226 in the hut for infirm friars next to the Porziuncula. He was canonized on July 16, 1228 by his close friend, Pope Gregory IX. The following day, the first stone was laid by the pope for the foundation of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi. Two years later Francis's remains were transferred and buried beneath the high altar in the lower church.

The Feast Day celebration of St. Francis is celebrated on Saturday, October 4. Be sure to bring your pets to the Pet Blessing at Shirley Center, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

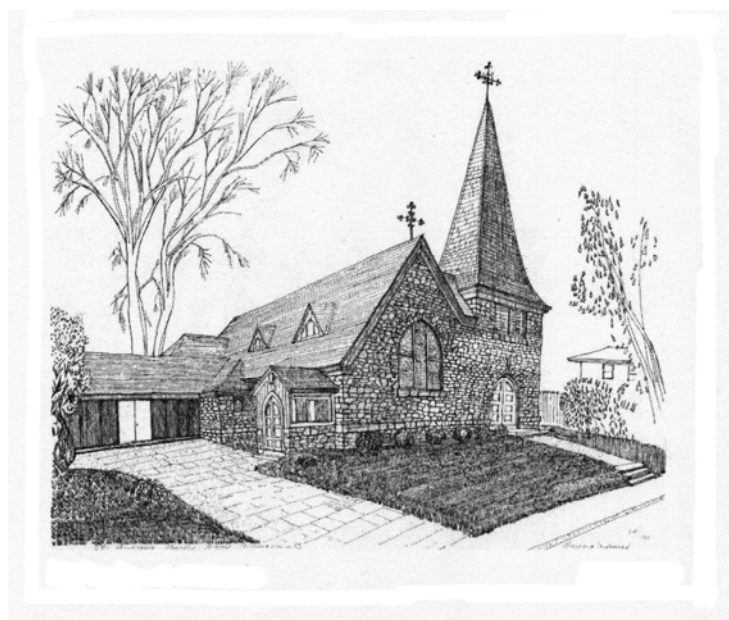
**October 2008**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
			<b>1.</b> 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer  6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Boy Scout Leaders	<b>2.</b> 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	<b>3.</b>	<b>4.</b> 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm Shirley Center <b>Pet Blessing</b>  10:00 am "Traces of the Trade" Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston
<b>5.</b> 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Bethel Church	<b>6.</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>7.</b> 7:15 pm <b>The Emerging Church</b>	<b>8.</b> 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer  6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Boy Scouts	<b>9.</b> 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	<b>10.</b>	<b>11.</b>  <b>Harvard Flea Market</b> (see rain date: Monday, October 13)
<b>12.</b> 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Bethel Church	<b>13.</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  9:30 am Bible Study  Harvard Flea Market (rain date)	<b>14.</b> 7:15 pm <b>The Emerging Church</b>	<b>15.</b> 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer	<b>16.</b> 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	<b>17.</b>	<b>18.</b>  9:00 am to 2:00 pm <b>Apple Pie Day</b>
<b>19.</b> 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Bethel Church	<b>20.</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>21.</b> 7:15 pm <b>The Emerging Church</b>	<b>22.</b> 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer	<b>23.</b> 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	<b>24.</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Stewardship Commission Dinner</b> for the entire Parish	<b>25.</b>
<b>26.</b> 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm: Bethel Church  <b>No Sunday School</b>	<b>27.</b> 9:30 am Bible Study	<b>28.</b> 7:15 pm <b>The Emerging Church</b>	<b>29.</b> 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer	<b>30.</b> 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	<b>31.</b>	

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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.*