

# The St. Andrew's Xpress

March 2008

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Rev. Alan B. MacKillop  
Priest in Residence

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

Walking with Jesus is what this whole season is about; walking with him as he takes a sure and certain road that will lead to his conflict with the powers that are determined to destroy him. The scripture tells us that after Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John "he set his face towards Jerusalem!" In other words, he knew what would befall him in the end, but he was determined to take that road because he was convinced it was necessary to accomplish God's will. Humanity needed then and needs now to be saved from itself, and Jesus would reveal God's all encompassing love through suffering at the hands of "us." Jesus' "Passion" or suffering is not something to be explained intellectually but to be seen as revealing the depths God was willing to go to save us, to bring us, as the Apostle Paul said, "peace through the blood of his cross." How or why this is so cannot be explained but reveals graphically God's gracious desire to bring us to himself and to be received with faith.

The experience of each one who chooses to participate in the final days of Lent and Holy Week will bring the whole meaning of Easter powerfully into focus. Lots of people go to church on Easter, but it is the ones who share in the events celebrated in the liturgies of Jesus' days leading up to his cross who will be able to powerfully realize the meaning of

Easter because of all that went before it. The world still suffers, the powers of evil still do their work to derail God's loving purposes, but we are assured that Jesus has accomplished by his Passion, Death and Resurrection a victory over evil and death. It may seem as if God has waited too long in the face of the tragic choices of humanity to war, violence, hate and so much that grabs our attention every day just from turning on our TV or reading a newspaper, and we can be aware of our own struggles with temptation to sin or to be less than God created and redeemed us to be. Take the opportunity of God's call to be with Jesus during these final days of Lent, so our Easter celebrations may have depth and richness because we have been with Jesus in this journey.

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain  
Free to all, a healing stream  
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

*Refrain:*

*In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait  
Hoping, trusting ever,  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river.

Words by Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)  
Music by William H. Dean (1832-1915)

Faithfully because of him,

Fr. Alan

*The St. Andrew's Xpress*

A monthly Newsletter serving the  
Central Massachusetts community

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**NOTE:** Remember to mark your calendar for  
the April newsletter deadline:  
**March 17, 2008.**

# *Holy Week Schedule*

## **\*\*Sunday, March 16, 2008\*\***

Palm Sunday

Sunday of the Passion

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite I

St. Andrew's Church

Blessing of Palms, Liturgy of the Passion

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

St. John's Chapel, Groton School

Blessing of Palms, Liturgy of the Passion

## **\*\*Thursday, March 20, 2008\*\***

Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm: Simple Supper, Parish Hall

(Please sign up in the Peabody Room or call the parish office)

Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Foot Washing

During the shared meal, we will begin the Eucharist with appropriate readings, followed by the ancient tradition of foot washing. We will then proceed to the Sanctuary to conclude the service. The altar is stripped, and there will be a Watch at the Altar of Repose.

## **\*\*Friday, March 21, 2008\*\***

Good Friday

12:00 Noon: Good Friday Noonday Office

7:00 pm: Good Friday Liturgy

## **\*\*Saturday, March 22, 2008\*\***

Easter Vigil

7:00 pm: Lighting of the New Fire (outside),

Prophecies, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and First Eucharist of Easter.  
(The congregation is invited to bring bells for the Gloria and final hymn.)

## **\*\*Sunday, March 23, 2008\*\***

Easter Sunday

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:00 am: Holy Eucharist Rite II

(The congregation is invited to bring bells for the Gloria and final hymn.)

## **Good Friday Walk Dedicated to Charlanne Van Wormer**

The twenty-fourth annual Good Friday Walk will be held on Friday, March 21, 2008 at the Congregational Church on the Common in Harvard, beginning at 7:30 am and continue through 12:30 pm. We will keep our toes and fingers crossed for decent weather and dry walking roads.

This year the walk will be dedicated to Charlanne Van Wormer. After traveling to Hingham with St. Andrew's parishioners for many years, she decided to walk locally with friends rather than travel the long distance to Hingham. Charlanne co-chaired the walk for 19 years before retiring. In addition to the Good Friday Walk, she was a co-founder of Loaves & Fishes, serving in many capacities, including as a Steward and Board Member.

Charlanne is dearly missed. We honor and recognize her long commitment, and her tremendous caring and devotion to helping others.

Hunger continues in our local communities as well as with families and children in the South, who continue to struggle from poverty and racism, which may not be blatant but underground. Two-thirds of the revenues have been donated to Loaves & Fishes and one-third to Sharing, Inc.

The Good Friday Walk is a friendly community event of volunteers, all with a special feeling of belonging and giving a bit back to those in need. Loaves & Fishes serves the towns of Ayer, Shirley, Littleton, Groton, and Devens, where the food pantry is located. Last year, 267 walkers and nearly 60 volunteer workers raised \$27,792. We invite all of you to join us and become a part of this long tradition. Sponsor Sheets will be available in the Peabody Room.

Come to the Congregational Church on the Common in Harvard on Good Friday and walk as much or as little as you would like. Bring the filled out Sponsor Sheet and donations with you. Practice walking is a good idea to get your walking muscles in shape.

All ages are invited to participate, including those in strollers, wagons, or wheelchairs. Less than 18 years of age will need a parent or guardian signature, and walkers under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. It takes a team of willing helpers, sponsors, and walkers to continue the support of the pantry at Devens.

Walking for a good cause makes it even healthier!

Please call with any questions or offers to help. Co-chairs - Ruth Broughton 978.486.8557 (rebroughton@verizon.net); or Laurie Heron at 978.621.6545.

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## **A Palm Sunday Reminder from Michael Smith**

ATTENTION PLEASE! TAKE NOTE!

Palm Sunday  
10:00 am ONLY

This service will take place at St. John's Chapel, Groton School

School is out, and we are going to have use of this beautiful space for our later liturgy with one of the finest organs in the nation.

Come to Groton School in time for the Procession at 10 o'clock!

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## **Tuesday Lenten Program Continues**

**Tuesday, March 4 at 6:00 pm**  
Soup Supper – Parish Hall

Followed by program: "*The Anglican Communion Today*"

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. William Bergmann, Rector of Church of the Good Shepherd, Clinton, will help us better understand the ecumenical scene today. Christians can seem more divided than ever, but Jesus' high priestly prayer before his death was that we might all be one.

**Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 pm**  
Soup Supper – Parish Hall

Followed by program: "*God's Forgiveness and Ours*"

Moderator: Phil Welton  
Video presentation by Miroslav Volf, Professor of Theology at Yale University Divinity School. Professor Volf, a native of Croatia, knows firsthand about the difficulty of forgiveness, having come out of the violence of the terrible events in the 1990's in the former Yugoslavian states.

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## **Dismas, Gestas, Longinus: Two Thieves and a Soldier**

Little is known about the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus on Calvary. The Gospels of Luke and Matthew do not give the names of the two thieves; instead, the names arose from early tradition that gradually unfolded within the Church.

The apocryphal names given to them were Gestas and Dismas, first appearing in the Gospel of Nicodemus (Acta Pilat--the Acts of Pilate). Book IX:5 states, "Then Pilate commanded the veil to be drawn before the judgment-seat where he sat, and said to Jesus, 'Thy nation convicted you as being a king: therefore I have decreed that you should first be scourged according to the law of the pious emperors, and thereafter hanged upon the cross in the garden wherein you were taken: and let Dismas and Gestas, the two malefactors, be crucified with you.'"

The Gospel of Luke confirms that the malefactor, Gestas, being executed to the left of Jesus, taunted Him by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us."

Hanging in crucifixion to the right of Jesus was Dismas, also known as the Good Thief or the Penitent Thief. "Don't you fear God," he asked Gestas, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve." Dismas then asked Jesus for forgiveness of his sins and to be remembered by Him in Heaven.

Jesus responded, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

The Gospel of Matthew refers to the two insurgents once: "... the robbers who were crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him."

Fr. William P. Saunders, Columnist for the Catholic Herald, wrote in an April 2004 article, "From these few verses, we know the following: First, others were crucified with our Lord, which would fit the Roman methodology of execution. Second, the "thieves" were more than thieves; they were probably insurgents who were involved in some threat or action against Roman rule since only such a crime would result in crucifixion. Note that for this reason the Jewish leaders changed the charge against our Lord from blasphemy to claiming to be King of the Jews when He was brought to Pilate; only the latter charge would result in crucifixion. Third, one thief blasphemed our Lord, while the other one

made a confession of faith and thereby was welcomed into Heaven."

Fr. Saunders further stated that an unsubstantiated story that circulated in the early Church relates, "How the Holy Family encountered these two thieves on their journey to Egypt when fleeing the wrath of King Herod. Moved with compassion, Dismas wanted to leave the Holy Family unharmed, but Gestas wanted to rob and hurt them. So, Dismas bribed Gestas with 40 drachmas to leave them in peace. The Blessed Mother said to Dismas, 'The Lord God shall sustain you with His right hand and give you remission of sins.'"

Old Testament Prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah and that at the time of His crucifixion, "He shall be pierced and His bones shall not be broken."

Many of the early Christians of Jerusalem were thoroughly convinced that Jesus was the Messiah when they saw that His legs were left intact. Both of the thieves, however, had their legs broken by Roman soldiers, preventing them from pushing up with their feet against their cross to gasp for air. But when the emperor's officers realized that Jesus was already dead, they did not break His legs. Another Roman soldier pierced the side of Jesus after He had cried out and had given up the ghost. Roman hagiography tells us the name of the centurion was Longinus and that he was nearly blind. The blood and lymph water of Jesus flowed into the eyes of Longinus, curing his blindness. It was then that he proclaimed, "Truly this man was the Son of God," as recorded in Luke 15:39.

Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824), known for her visions of Christ and other mystical wonders, wrote about Longinus. "Grace and salvation at once entered his soul. He leaped from his horse, threw himself upon his knees, struck his breast, and confessed loudly before all his firm belief in the divinity of Jesus."

Blessed James of Voragine (d. 1298) in his *Golden Legend* writes about St. Longinus' martyrdom. In Caesarea of Cappadocia (modern day Turkey), he was arrested for being a Christian; he had become famous for converting many to Christianity. When he refused to offer sacrifices to pagan gods, the Roman governor ordered the beheading of Longinus, but seeing his courage and goodness, the governor repented.

The date and place of his canonization is not known, but the relic of St. Longinus' lance is preserved at St. Peter's in Rome. The Turkish Sultan Bajazet donated the relic to Pope Innocent VIII in 1492.

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## Vestry Meeting Highlights

January 15, 2008

Fr. Alan relayed facts from the 1989 Parish Profile that the number of parishioners attending services was very similar to the number that are attending now. This relates to the idea of mission within our community and how we can think of ways to increase those numbers by reaching out to the neighborhood. He suggested making Christ known in our own neighborhood with a Vacation Bible School.

Bishop Cederholm will be visiting St. Andrew's, St. David's and Trinity Chapel on February 10th. He will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. here.

Regarding the Korean Congregation, it was approved unanimously to extend an invitation to the Korean Congregation to use our building rent-free for 6 months after which time rental charge to be negotiated.

Wardens reported that Alan Rogers is working with Wilson Bros. Heating on the church furnaces.

The Vestry Retreat will take place on Friday night, April 4<sup>th</sup> and all day Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Margaret's Convent in Roxbury.

Treasurer Sue Hildreth reported a considerable shortfall of pledges to the Operating Budget. This clearly is not sufficient to support a full time priest. Need to institute some creative fundraising and increase membership; suggested looking at the budget in 6 months and revising it, if necessary

The new access ramp is now completed, with many thanks going to Belle Choate and the Westerns, and the Ferrillos for their contribution of a new door.

There are four candidates to be presented at Annual Meeting, Dick Dabrowski, Mark Louttit, Mary Medeiros and Don Ulsch, for four positions open on the Vestry.

Insulation installation to take place in the Rectory next month.

A Safe Church and Safety at Church Policy was put together by Jeanne Cassin, which was unanimously accepted.

Phil Welton is considering a call to the ministry and is beginning the discernment process, with the Vestry's approval and support.

Many thanks to John Ferrillo for all his work during his 3-year term on the Vestry.

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## Tri-Parish Book Study

*The Heart of Christianity:  
Rediscovering a Life of Faith*  
By Marcus Borg

"What is the heart of Christianity?  
What does it mean to be a Christian, today?"

Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent at Trinity Chapel, 188 Center Road in Shirley, as we continue a discussion of this work and how it does or doesn't speak to our own faith journeys. Discussions will be facilitated by the Rev. Marsha Hoecker, rector of Trinity Chapel and Missioner in the Nashoba Valley. For more details, call 978-425-9041. Books can be purchased on-line from Amazon.com for \$4.97 (used) to \$10.17 (new).

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## Vacation Bible School

Plans are being formed for a vacation Bible School this summer that would be five weekdays from 9:00 am until 12 noon for children K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This would be the first time in memory this has been done at St. Andrew's, and we will need volunteers to teach, do refreshments, be "gofers," and do other jobs, all as an out reach to children in Ayer (and their parents) and our own children as well.

Please think and pray that your schedule permits you to help out in what can be a meaningful ministry in this community to bring the light of Christ to shine brightly right where we are. Speak to Fr. Alan if you will help. The exact date to be announced soon.

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## Daylight Saving Time Begins



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour, beginning at 2:00 am, Sunday, March 9, 2008.

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# Sharing Jesus: Talking the Talk

The 2008 Diocesan Spring Learning Event



Saturday, March 15, 2008  
Boston University, Sherman Union  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Special Guest Speaker:

***Dr. Marcus Borg,***

“One of the leading historical Jesus scholars of his generation.”

To register: go to [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org)

For more information, contact:

Amy Cook, Resource Center: 617-482-4826 ext. 645  
[acook@diomass.org](mailto:acook@diomass.org)

**Visitors Welcome!**



The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

## **Climate Change Action**

By Bishop Bud Cedarholm

Thank you to those who joined us at the Massachusetts Interfaith Climate Action Network (MICAN) Day of Prayer and Advocacy at the State House, January 29, and to all of you who are working in your community to fight global warming. Legislators were impressed with this growing interfaith movement. The Episcopal Church nationally has endorsed and is committed to the Millennium Development Goals, one of which is to promote and build a sustainable environment. Global climate warming is an issue of moral imperative and we, as caretakers of our planet, must take action.

Here in Massachusetts, the Diocese is part of the MICAN Network, and I am proud to lend my support to their efforts and to ask you for yours. MICAN will be lobbying for passage of legislation this year for policies and regulations that will achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. You all can join this growing interfaith movement by signing the "Interfaith Pledge for Climate Action." You may view photos from the State House event by going to this web site address: <http://picasaweb.google.com/diomass/MICANevent12908?authkey=q-ROPVPnrxQ>

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## **Our History with Us**

By Louise Rogers

### **Helen Priest's Painting of Jesus**

The painting of Jesus outdoors, surrounded by multi-national children, which is now located at the bottom of the stairs to the lower level of the parish hall, was painted by Helen Priest, a parishioner from Ayer. She painted it in the 1950's, in oil paints on a canvas stretched and glued over a 4 X 6 plywood board. Rev. Henry Mattocks, St. Andrew's Rector 1950 - 1968, wanted a large picture or painting of Jesus to be placed over the children's altar in the Sunday school area in the new Parish Hall. He wanted the children in the picture to be multi-national. Helen took on the challenge. It took her about a year to finish it, because she had surgery during that time. She used her imagination in painting Jesus but used the photos of children, in their native countries, from the *National Geographic* magazine as models for the children.

## **William Day Donates Baptismal Font**

The large baptismal font at the front of the church was given to St. Andrew's by William Day, in 1987, in memory of his wife Sadie. Many children and adults have begun their Christian lives at this font. William and Sadie were the parents of Barbara Kamb and Eleanor Dattoli.

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## **What About the Harvest Fair?**

Younger people with organizational skills, lots of energy, and a love of tradition are needed to take over! Barbara Kamb and Audrey Western don't feel they can continue to be coordinator and stew-maker, respectively. Peggy Braat has also stated that she feels unable to be apple pie coordinator any more, so this truly is a benchmark year. Either we get some younger members to take over these fundraisers, or we may have to end them altogether.

If our Harvest Fair is to continue, we must have new leadership! Who will do it?

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## **Somebody Else's Treasure**

By Nicola Barlow

Outreach is organizing a fundraising tag sale this spring, so clean out your attic, garage and basement! Collect your books, CDs and all castoffs in good condition. The date hasn't been set yet, but we will need many volunteers to put out tables and sort and price the "stuff." Please call Nicola Barlow at 978-448-8951 and volunteer your help!

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## **Tools Workshop a Success**

By Nick Morris-Kliment

At the Deanery Workshop on Tools for Marriage and Partnership this past Feb 2, we had 25 couples and 20 kids, and a wide range of ages and life stages represented. From an attendance standpoint, and from what I heard, it was a successful and useful day for the couples involved.

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**Remember: March 17 is the deadline for April's *The St. Andrew's Xpress* newsletter.**

## The Weavers

By Lynn Ferrillo

Jim Western, Linda Kaferle and Lee Burton are still meeting weekly to learn and improve their skill in this ancient art. I have one loom vacant for anybody who wants to learn. I am so happy that the St. Andrew's Weavers have contributed their craft to our annual parish fair for two years running.

Currently, Jim is investigating tapestry, which in my opinion is the most difficult form of weaving, and all three took the plunge to buy looms, so now they can embark on a project independently whenever they like. Lee is weaving red and orange "log cabin weave" placemats for her sister-in-law, and Linda is threading 18(!) colors for what will become a wonderful cotton throw. We do have fun together, I believe. Call me at 978.772.2615 if you are interested in this craft.



Lynn Ferrillo (left) and Linda Kaferle (right).

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## Teen Movie Night at the Ferrillo's

Friday, March 7 at 6:00 pm

By John Ferrillo



The movie, "Dead Man Walking," is the story of Sister Prejean's attempt to counsel and evangelize a man on death row in Louisiana.

This choice was the result of floating a number of movie ideas past my teen Sunday

School class. It is an intense movie, but I feel that the subject has a contemporary relevance for Christians. (I will not be taking a position myself on the issue of capital punishment, though I will certainly have them engage in a discussion of the issue).

The event will be at our place, 69 South Shaker Rd., Harvard at 6 p.m. on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The fare will be hot dogs, popcorn, etc. Call 978-772-1898 for details.

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## The Bethel Evangelical Free Church

By Pastor Kim

I have met with your two wardens, and they showed me the church and the office space we can use. I am really thankful for the hospitality they have shown to me. At that meeting they suggested that I come to your church Sunday service on the 2nd of March in order to introduce myself to your church members. I think this would be good idea, so my wife and I will be there on that day.

The name of our congregation is The Bethel Evangelical Free Church and the first service will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2008. Our members believe that God led us to Ayer, particularly to your church for the spreading of the Gospel and for His Kingdom's sake.

I really want to thank you and your church for welcoming us in the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. Also, I want give a special thanks for your kindness and open mind that enabled our church to start a new ministry at your church.

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## Notices

Need a Ride?

Don't be shy! If you need a ride to church services or other events at St. Andrew's, call Judy Adams at 978-448-3598 or the church office at 978-772-2615, and it will be arranged.

Art Note

Kate O'Connor, who is listed in our directory and is a neighbor of Judy Adams, is having a photography exhibit at the Groton Public Library, beginning January 12 until sometime in March.

## *An Irish Blessing*



*May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*May God be with you and bless you;  
May you see your children's children.  
May you be poor in misfortune,  
Rich in blessings.  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward.*

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home,  
And may the hand of a friend always be near.*

*May green be the grass you walk on,  
May blue be the skies above you,  
May pure be the joys that surround you,  
May true be the hearts that love you.*

# March 2008

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1.
2. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Girl Scouts: 4:00 pm – 5:30pm	3. 9:30 am: Bible Study	4. Soup Supper & Lenten Program: 6:00 pm	5. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	6. Young Life: 6:00 am St. Andrew's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA – 7:00 pm	7.	8.
9. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII  Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM	10. 9:30 am: Bible Study	11. Soup Supper & Lenten Program: 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting: 7:15 pm	12. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	13. Young Life: 6:00 am St. Andrew's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA: 7:00 pm	14.	15. Diocesan Spring Learning Event at Boston Univ.: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
16. <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:00 am HEI – St. Andrew's Church Blessing of Palms; Liturgy of Passion 10:00 am HEII – St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton Blessing of Palms; Liturgy of Passion Girl Scouts: 4:00 pm – 5:30pm	17. 9:30 am: Bible Study Boy Scout Leaders: 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm  St. Patrick's Day	18. Soup Supper & Lenten Program: 6:00 pm	19. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	20. <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Young Life: 6:00 am SA's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA: 7:00 pm Lenten Supper: 6:00 pm HE Rite II-Foot Washing Watch at Altar of Repose	21. <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> Good Friday Noonday Office 7:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy	22. <b>EASTER VIGIL</b> First Eucharist of Easter: 7:00 pm Lighting of New Fire; Prophecies; Baptismal Renewal; bring bells for Gloria and final hymn
23. <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:00 am HEI (bring bells) 10:00 am HEII (bring bells)	24. 9:30 am: Bible Study	25.	26. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	27. Young Life: 6:00 am St. Andrew's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA: 7:00 pm	28.	29.
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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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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.*