

The St. Andrew's Xpress

April 2008



Rev. Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Residence

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

I don't know about you, but I found this a long winter, tedious in fact. So April speaks to me of the fact that the kind of changes I have been looking for are imminent: snow gone, things turning green--not only with leaves appearing on trees but coming through the ground--and finally the sun not only shining but really feeling warm on my face. Yet, Easter will have occurred when much of this was still in waiting. The Victory of Easter is not contingent on weather but God's powerful act of raising Jesus from the dead. We find many symbols of hope in spring and the new life that was always lying hidden in frozen ground.

Jesus' resurrection appearances to his apostles shape the man of the gospel readings we will hear and remind us that he still comes to us in mysterious and sudden ways, especially when we may feel down. His promise is that "he will never leave or forsake us" (Hebrews 13:5), and with this word from him, I pray we may, as individuals and as a parish community, look to the future with confidence.

Faithfully in Him,

Fr. Alan

New Gifts Dedicated on Easter

On Easter Sunday at 8:00 a.m., a number of enhancements to our sanctuary were blessed and dedicated in loving memory of Leo LeDeaux, who departed this life in December 2006. A former Vestry member, officer in the US military, and active member for many years of Saint Andrew's, Leo was a quiet and unassuming man, always seen with his wife, Barbara, at the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist. A new Aumbry--or tabernacle--was created and made by Al Gregory from cherry wood and is on the left wall of the chancel to reserve the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's consecrated body and blood from which it may be taken to the sick and shut in, be used when needed at services when consecrated elements run short, and for the adoration of the faithful. An aumbry is a kind of cabinet that is on the wall (and called a tabernacle when it sits on an altar). This gift is truly a beautiful work of love and art, and we are indebted to Al's willingness and craftsmanship to make this wonderful endowment to our sanctuary. Al also made the lovely children's altar in the Parish Hall.

In addition, a new and very handsome ciborium was given in memory of Leo to hold the consecrated bread. A ciborium looks like a chalice with a cover. This one is silver with fish on the knob or middle joint, symbols of Christ.

Finally, an icon, a very fine reproduction, sits over the chapel altar in Leo's memory as well. Done in the form of highly symbolic iconography used in the Orthodox Church, it is of Christ, the "Pantokrator" or ruler of the world, with one of his hands held in blessing and the other holding the Book of Life mentioned in Revelation with our names written in it. It provides a special focus for prayer in our lovely chapel where a candle may be lit as desired to accompany our prayer. It joins two other icons in the church on the right and left hand sides of the chancel. One, near the aumbry of Saint Andrew, our patron saint, and on the other side

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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 May newsletter deadline:
April 21, 2008.

Dear People *Continued from Page 1*

is one of the Blessed Mother, pointing to her son, Jesus the Saviour of the world. We are grateful for these enhancements to our sacred space to enable us to sense the presence of God and the communion of saints.

Enduring Legacy Gala

By Claudette Hunt

A diverse group of us got together eighteen months ago and created the New England Friends of the UNCF (United Negro College Fund) to help heighten awareness and raise funds for college for students of color from the New England States. The UNCF colleges and universities graduate students that become contributors and leaders in our local economies. The UNCF also administers the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium fund, which provides scholarships to high achieving students of color to attend any university in the USA.

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, the New England Friends of the UNCF is hosting its inaugural, Enduring Legacy Gala, at the Boston Burlington Marriott, starting at 6:00 p.m. First Lady, Diane Patrick, is the Honorary Chair of the event. We will be joined by Governor Deval Patrick, Dr. Michael Lomax, UNCF President and CEO, and a host of other dignitaries. Bishop Gayle Harris will deliver the invocation. (The Diocese has purchased a table.)

This will be a fun filled evening of great entertainment, silent auction, dinner, and dancing. I would love to have support from the parish. A table seats ten people. Ticket donation is \$150 each. A table for ten is \$1,500. This is a tax-deductible donation. I am holding tickets. You can call me at 978-456-3219 or email me at claudettehunt@aol.com.

Seder Supper

By Erica Scattergood

For the many years that we attended Trinity Chapel in Shirley, we enjoyed taking part in their annual Seder supper, the meal that constitutes so important a part of the holiday of Passover. As you all know, it was this traditional meal that Christ himself celebrated, as what we

call the "Last Supper." The symbolic parts of the meal come from the Old Testament story of the Exodus as Moses led the Hebrews out of Egyptian bondage.

Some of us have never had the pleasure of participating in this moving tradition, but it is a wonderful way both to learn more about another faith as well as to appreciate our own in a new way. It is a real treat to take part in this lovely celebration.

If enough people are interested, I would try to work with a friend who may be able to lead us through the process of this important celebration. It is a good time for families as well as adults. One of the best parts of the meal is a treasure hunt for the youngsters.

This year, we would hold the supper in April, to coincide with the later occurrence of Passover. If this idea interests you, please let me know at (978) 448-8030. You may also email me at ericascattergood@charter.net.

A Letter from the Pueschel Family

News about Dylan

Hi there,

We just wanted to let everyone know that Dylan's first chemotherapy was postponed because he came down with the flu. He had the flu shot, so maybe that minimized his symptoms, but basically he had a fever and was very tired, and so they tested him for the flu. He's doing better now – no fever in a week, and the cold he's had is improving, too. He's still pretty fatigued, which might also be the after effects of the radiation setting in.

We're keeping him out of school until he fully recovers and until this round of chemo is complete. His spirits are still pretty good. Thank God for Derek, who keeps him entertained around the house (well, Mark helps in that department too). We'll update again once he gets this next treatment completed. As always, we so appreciate all of your prayers and support!

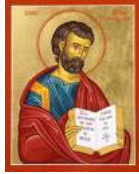
Love,

Erin and Mark

Editor's note: the Pueschel family web site is www.caringbridge.org/visit/dylanpueschel

From the Editor

Mark, the Apostle



St. Mark is often referred to as John Mark, John being his Jewish name, Mark his Roman name. He was born in the small village of Aberyatos, the ancient North African region of Cyrene, founded in the seventh century BC by Greek settlers and later, conquered by Arabs. Today, known as Shahhat, Libya, it was the first Greek city in the region. It lies in the heavily forested and lush valley of the Jebel Akhdar uplands--Arabic, meaning the Green Mountain--which provided some protection against invasions by pirates. Research suggests, however, that when the barbarian tribes of Berbers and Ethiopians devastated their home and property, Mark's family immigrated to the province of Palestine near the city of Jerusalem. It was there, as a young man, Mark first met the apostle, Peter, and spent many hours in his company, learning and abiding by the truths of Christianity.

One of the earliest disciples of Jesus, Mark's mother, Mary, a woman of substantial means, was originally responsible for her son's ability to speak Greek, Latin, and Hebrew. Her home became the disciples' primary, and sometimes secretive, haven for meeting and praying, including the night Peter arrived there after his release by an angel from Herod's prison. Although not specifically mentioned in the Scriptures, many scholars believe The Last Supper was held in the upper room of Mary's house, making it the first Christian church. With the support and aid of Barnabas, Mary, like many of the other first Christians, sold land and "put the proceeds at the feet of the apostles" (Acts 4:35). Some traditionalists think Barnabas was Mary's brother, others that he was Mark's cousin.

Mark's father, Aristopulos, was a cousin of Peter's wife. Tradition holds that during an excursion in the desert near the Jordan River, Mark and his father were confronted by a lioness and a savagely aggressive lion. Fearing for his

son's life, Aristopulos ordered Mark to flee while he remained there to stave off the attack at the probable cost of his own life. Mark immediately responded by telling his father that Christ, in whom he believed, would not let the beasts prey upon them. Mark then prayed to the Son of God, asking Him to protect them from the lions and to end the lives of any offspring. The lions, immediately, fell to their death. Being a witness to this miracle, Aristopulos asked his son to tell him about the teachings of Christ and was soon baptized into the faith.

Among the many perceptions that surround Mark, noting that none are definitively verified in the New Testament, is his attendance as the servant that poured out the water that Jesus made into wine at the Marriage at Cana and the one who carried the water to the Last Supper; also the "young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind" (Mark 14:51). Mark was hosting the disciples in his home after the resurrection of Jesus, when He appeared to them, saying, "Peace be with you."

During the famine of 45-46 AD, Mark was invited to accompany Paul and Barnabas, who were returning to Antioch to preach the gospel. From there, the three disciples traveled to other cities, including Cyprus and Perga Pamphylia, where Mark made the decision to return alone to Jerusalem. Following the Apostolic Council in Jerusalem, Mark sailed with Barnabas back to Cyprus, the first leg of a journey that would ultimately take him to the place of his birth, where he taught the verities of Christianity. Many theological adherents credit him as being the founder of Christianity in Africa and the first Pope of Alexandria. Returning to Rome sometime before 60 AD, he authored the second Gospel, purposely in Greek, making it easier for Gentile converts to understand the life and teachings of Jesus.

Mark's final trip was his return to Alexandria. During the feast of the Resurrection in 68 AD, which coincided with the feast of the Egyptian god, Syrabis, the pagan citizens became outraged that the Christian celebration was being held on the same day. They bound Mark with a heavy rope to several horses and dragged him through the streets until his death. His relics were stolen by Italian sailors and moved to Venice, Italy in 828 AD, where they remained until June 22, 1968, when Pope Paul VI handed them over to Pope Kyrillos VI of Alexandria, where Mark had been martyred.

Parish Historians' Society of the Diocese of Massachusetts

Annual Conference
St. Andrew's Church, Ayer, MA
Saturday, May 3, 2008
Topic: Church Architecture

Become more enlightened about church architecture and notable church architects, such as Henry Vaughn, H. H. Richardson, and The Rev. Hermon Gaylord Wood at St. Andrew's Church. After lunch, attendees will then visit and learn about the Groton School Archives and renovations that have occurred at St. John's Chapel at the Groton School.

Richard Dabrowski will be speaking on St. Andrew's architect, The Rev. Wood. Dr. Milda Richardson, PhD, a church architectural historian, will also speak.

Schedule:

9:15 a.m.	Registration in the Peabody Room
9:45 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:00 a.m.	in the Sanctuary "Church Architecture," Keynote Speaker
11:00 a.m.	"The Rev. Hermon Gaylord Wood," Richard C. Dabrowski
12:00 p.m.	Lunch in the Parish Hall

The conference will continue at the Groton School until mid-afternoon.

Registration fee is \$15.00, which includes lunch. Advance registration is required, although anyone can attend. You don't have to be a parishioner or historian to enjoy the conference.

Young Life Highlights

By Eric Stolfus

In January and part of February, the Young Life leaders had a friendly contest. You've heard of the biggest loser on TV? Well, we created our own version, which one of our leaders, Geoff Batstone, entitled, "The Biggest Cruiser." What? Well, the idea was to use the

month of January and part of February to build relationships with as many new teens as we could on their turf. We did not hold any outreach meetings, but you could find Young Life leaders at lots of different places meeting teens on their turf – the mall, Super Bowl parties, basketball games, hockey games, wrestling tournaments, and class plays. Selby Swain won our friendly contest and met the most new teenagers. Congratulations, Selby, on meeting fourteen new teenagers!

We enjoyed a trip to the Hard Rock Café in Boston with thirty of our closest teenage friends! We also enjoyed a ski/snowboard trip to Okemo Mountain in Vermont.

We continue to meet on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings before school to give teenagers an opportunity to eat a hot breakfast and dig into the living word of God. We have started our Club season and had 6 new teenagers show up! It was great; well, very chaotic and somewhat organized. Let's just say that you can always tell you've had a good night of Young Life club when you lose your voice.

What a privilege it is to share the good news of Jesus with young people who have not had a chance to clearly hear all that God has done for them.

Prayer requests

- Please pray for our golf marathon, that many golfers would join us on May 20th.
- Please pray for our camp trip to Saranac Village this summer, that there would be a strong number of second timers inviting their friends.
- Please pray for our finances, that we can raise an additional \$8,500 before our golf marathon in May.

Please pray for those adults who are praying for a combined total of over 300 teenagers by name everyday, that they might persevere and be encouraged and that the Lord would honor their prayer requests and reach teenagers with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Spring Choir Concert - Groton School

Friday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Chapel
Michael W. Smith, Organist and Director of Choral Music
Music of Benjamin Britten, Josef Haydn, and Paul Winter.

Foyer Groups

By Erica Scattergood

It's time to start our new--and final--foyer groups, the last of this year. What I propose is that we meet twice more in our small groups and then, probably on either June 8th or the 22nd, we have a barbeque at the rectory all together.

There is one group that formed but was unable to meet this winter; they have asked to stay together and try for better luck in the spring. For the rest of us, please check the groups below and contact the leaders of your group (or, if you are a leader, the members of your group). Once again, please try to be as flexible as possible; not everyone can host, and there are a number of inexpensive local meeting possibilities. The idea is to get together in a way that enables us to enjoy one another's friendship. Any questions or problems? Please feel free to contact me at (978) 448-8030 or ericascattergood @charter.net.

Carolyn Smith and Dick Dabrowski

Steve Titus, Peggy Braat,
Phil and Linda Malone, Mary Medeiros

John and Lili Ott

Jackie Stroebel, Jeanne Cassin,
Martha Goodale, Jim and Audrey Western

Nicola and Brian Barlow

Phil and Marianne Welton, Erin and Mark
Puesche
Faith and Jason Salter

Lois and Bayard Underwood

Priscilla Andrews, Hester Newberry,
Marj Costa, Bill and Judy Veno

John Haynes and Erica Scattergood

Lee Burton, Alan and Erica MacKillop
Linda Kaferle, Nancy Barringer

Tag Sale for Outreach

Saturday, May 31, 2008

It's almost spring and we will soon be clearing out our attics and cellars. Bring all that good but no longer needed stuff to church for Outreach's Giant Tag Sale, which will be held on Saturday, May 31, 2008. There are some limits:

no clothing, no large furniture, everything should be in good repair, and all appliances in working order.

People power is needed, too, to help sort, price and arrange our merchandise. It's always fun to work together, so please plan to bring your castoffs and stay to help out to raise money for our important outreach projects.

Celebrate Patriot's Day

By Judy Adams



Come to the Minuteman National Historical Park on Saturday, April 19, 2008. Nicola Barlow and I are presenting a program of "Old English Songs," voice and harpsichord, in costume, at the Smith House between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Park at the Hartwell Tavern parking lot on Route 2A.

Web Site Attracts

By Dick Dabrowski

Here are some statistics on the St. Andrew's web site: number of unique visits to the site (one person looking at several pages in one session): 2005 (May-December only) 1,954; 2006 - 14,933; 2007 - 26,931.

The number for 2007 translates to just about 74 people using the web site every day--or 3 people visiting every hour, 24/7, for 365 days straight! Another way to look at it: that represents 5 times as many people who actually attended services at St. Andrew's in 2007. For example, in December, 2,916 visitors used the web site.

The average visitor looked at 3.3 pages on the site. Of course, most visitors come from the U.S., with the U.K., Canada, and Australia coming in as the other major geographical sources.

April 2008

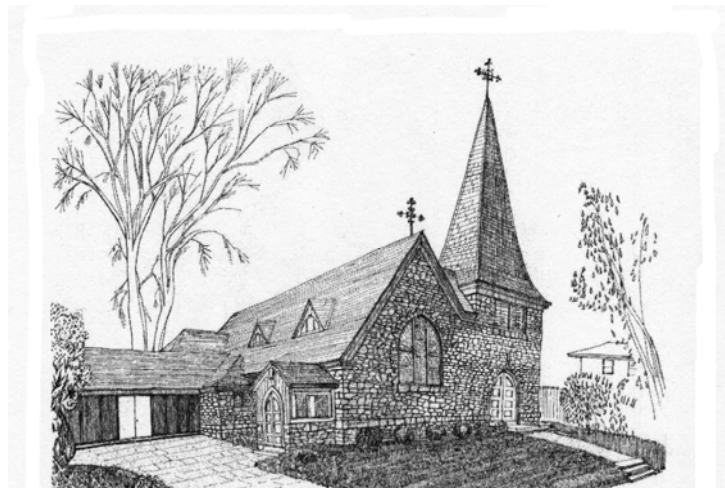
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1.	2. Noonday Office with healing Prayer	3. Young Life: 6:00 am St. Andrew's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA: 7:00 pm	4. Vestry Retreat, St. Margaret's, Boston	5. Vestry Retreat, St. Margaret's, Boston
6. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	7. 9:30 am: Bible Study	8.	9. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	10. Young Life: 6:00 am St. Andrew's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA: 7:00 pm	11.	12.
13. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Girl Scouts: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm	14. 9:30 am: Bible Study	15. Vestry Meeting: 7:15 pm	16. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	17. Young Life: 6:00 am St. Andrew's Weavers: 12:20 pm AA: 7:00 pm	18.	19. ♪ <i>Patriot's Day Celebration</i> ♪ 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Smith House Minuteman National Historic Park
20. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	21. 9:30 am: Bible Study Boy Scout Leaders 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	22.	23. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm	24. Young Life: 6:00 am AA: 7:00 pm	25. ♪ <i>Groton Spring Concert</i> ♪ 7:00 pm St. John's Chapel Groton School	26. <i>Enduring Legacy Gala</i> 6:00 pm Boston Burlington Marriott
27. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Girl Scouts: 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm	28. 9:30 am: Bible Study	29.	30. Holy Eucharist with healing prayer: 12 noon Choir: 7:00 pm			

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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.