

The St. Andrew's Xpress

September 2008



Rev. Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Residence

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

Among the things I will remember about the summer are a great deal of rain, two enjoyable weeks for Erica and me at the beginning of July and now at the end of August in Vermont and Quebec respectively, and good congregations that made the church look full despite the fact that many were away on Sundays during this time. Yet, the church schedule has been light and it is now time to start resuming many of the activities that come with fall. Included in this newsletter will be reports of lots of events that have taken place and ones that have yet to occur that need the support and commitment of all of us.

I want to encourage your strong support for the Outreach Concert on Sept. 21st. This will be a wonderful event, I know, because it is the third concert that John Ferrillo has generously given of his time and talent and we look forward to the offering of those who will be working with him. It will provide funds for St. Andrew's Outreach and a warm social gathering for parishioners and for the many others who will come for the music and discover St. Andrew's. Unfortunately for Erica and me, there is a conflict of dates because of a long-scheduled trip for my 50th reunion of my graduating class from Willamette University in Salem Oregon on that same weekend. My wife's high school

reunion comes the following weekend in Kelowna, British Columbia. It will be wonderful to see old friends and celebrate milestones, but they preclude us from being present at the concert. You will have the great joy of welcoming back a one-time parishioner and now a retired bishop, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley, filling in for me on one of the Sundays.

We are hoping for a year of growth and service to the awesome God whom we worship and who in Jesus Christ has invited us into the most important relationship that any of us can experience. Serving him means serving one another and the world for which he lived and died and rose again. May we deepen those ties to this great mystery: "Christ in us, the hope of glory." **Colossians 1:27**

Faithfully yours,

Fr. Alan

Looking Forward:

The Emerging Church

This study will begin in October on Tuesday evenings to help us in our formation of understanding who we are as Christians and how the church is and needs to be changing to meet the challenges of culture in which we live. We will be using some books that will be the basis of discussion, and I am being assisted by Phil Welton in offering an opportunity that I encourage everyone to consider attending to help us grow into God's Mission for us at St. Andrew's. At this time, we are looking to begin at 7:30 p.m. but this can be moved to 7:00 p.m. if that would be preferable. We are not

Dear People Page 3

The St. Andrew's Xpress

A monthly Newsletter serving the
Central Massachusetts community

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THIS MONTH _____
in *The St. Andrew's Xpress*

LETTER

- 1 Rev. Alan B. MacKillop
- 3 Summer in the City

NEWS

- 3 Bishop Walmsley to Officiate
- 8 NVEP Formerly Tri-Parish
- 6 Volunteer Recruitment
- 7 New Minister of Music
- 8 Making Lemonade

FEATURES

- 4 Helena, in Search of the Holy Cross
- 6 Vacation Bible School

EVENTS

- 3 Sunday School
- 5 Fall in Love with the Classics
- 7 Congregational Resource Day
- 8 Blood Drive

OTHER

- 7 Welcome Back Foyers
- 7 Outside Together
- 7 Remember Pie Day

TRANSISTIONS

- 8 New Kid on the Pew

NOTE: Remember to mark your calendar for the
September newsletter deadline:

Wednesday, September 17, 2008.

•Dear People Continued from Page 1
planning dinners to go with these classes at this point, but we want to give this study an important opportunity for growth for all of us in the parish.

New Orleans Clinic

St. Andrew's is being invited to participate in helping with a medical clinic in New Orleans that will make a significant difference to the people there still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. The information we have on this is still incomplete but the Rev. Katherine Black, a priest of this diocese who took services at St. Andrew's during Martha Guiltinan's sabbatical some years ago, is organizing a project in which she hopes that we together with some other parishes can become directly involved. There will be much more concrete information in the next newsletter, but this sounds like a challenge of the right kind. – Fr. Alan B. MacKillop

Bishop Arthur E. Walmsley to Officiate at St. Andrew's, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008

By Erica MacKillop and Louise Rogers

Arthur E. Walmsley attended St. Andrew's Church as a young man while living in Ayer. He took on the job of St. Andrew's part-time sexton and later worked at the Ayer Post Office, after classes at Ayer High School, in order to earn money for college. When he heard the radio broadcast of the Japanese surrender, ending WW II, he ran from the Post Office, across the railroad tracks--there was still a crossing from Main Street to the church--to the church where he rang the bell in celebration. He entered Divinity School, became an Episcopal priest, later being elected to the position of Bishop of the Diocese of Hartford, Connecticut.

During his sermon at St. Andrew's Centennial celebration on Sept. 26, 1992, Bishop Walmsley mentioned that his family were members of St. Andrew's from about 1937 until his mother's death in 1972. He stated, "During the ministries of the Rev. Hugh Latimer Willson and Henry Mattocks, I went forth to college and seminary under the sponsorship of St. Andrew's. And now, this year I anticipate retirement after forty-two years of ordained ministry. I look back to my formative

years at St. Andrew's - not with nostalgia, but with thanks for the many gifts of this community to a young man many years ago. Here is where I began a lifetime of service in the church. Here, a light turned on for me. In the words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount we just heard, 'You are the light of the world. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'" He continues on to teach how God plants the light of truth in our lives. "That is what places like St. Andrew's are about. Especially St. Andrew's!"

Summer in the City

Thanks from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Youth Program in Boston. Here is a quote from the letter by Rev. Tim Crellin, Vicar and Liz Steinhauser, Director: "Your support is helping us offer an outstanding program of academic support, cultural enrichment and emotional sustenance to the ever-expanding group of young people we serve.

This year, our B-SAFE summer program has expanded to 6 sites, meeting the needs of more than 500 children and teens. In addition to providing a safe place to be and two healthy meals each day, we are supporting the education of our youth with a full day of creative activities. Our program is now among the largest in the city, making a real difference in the communities we serve. Your gift is helping make this important program possible.

At the same time, we are working on plans for after school programs for the 2008-09 school year. Plans include expansion of the program to a second site in one of Boston's more underserved neighborhoods. With your support, we're confident we can make it happen."

See the bulletin board in the Peabody Room for a copy of the letter of thanks and a photograph.

Sunday School Registration Day

Registration Day is Sunday, September 14, 2008, between services in the Peabody Room.

The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday September 21st.

From the Editor

Helena, in Search of the Holy Cross



There are many legends and traditions that surround Helena (250-330 A.D.), who was the mother of Constantine the Great. But most agree about the dedication she demonstrated in the search for the Holy Cross.

The daughter of an innkeeper, she was born circa 250 of a humble birth in the city of Drepanum, a province of Bithynia in Asia Minor, today a harbor-town on the west coast of Sicily.

Little is known about her young, formative years. However, Ambrose, the fourth century bishop of Milan, referred to Helena as a *bona stabularia*, inferring that she was a good stable-maid or a maid in a tavern or inn. Some speculate that she first met her future partner, the Roman general Constantius I Chlorus, about 270 while he was campaigning against Augusta Zenobia in Asia Minor. The authentic relationship between Helena and Constantius has been the source of much debate. Some scholars believe they were united in a common-law marriage, a union recognized by fact but not by law. Others maintain that their marriage was legitimate, claiming their sources were more reliable. Nevertheless, she bore him their first and

only son, Constantine, in 274 at Naissus in Upper Moesia, modern day Nis, Yugoslavia.

By 293, Constantius had acquired a strong leaning toward politics, having become the co-Regent of the West. He ultimately allowed himself to be persuaded to divorce Helena in order to marry Theodora, stepdaughter of his benefactor, Emperor Maximianus Herculus. The troops in Britain at York proclaimed Constantine successor to his father's throne after Constantius' death in 306.

Following his victory over the Roman Emperor, Maxentius, in 312, Constantine continued to encourage his mother's devotion to Christianity. Eusebius (circa 263-339), the bishop who was often regarded as the Father of Church History, wrote that "she became under his influence such a devout servant of God, that one might believe her to have been from her very childhood a disciple of the Redeemer of mankind." When summoned to the imperial court in 324 by her son to be conferred with the title of Augusta, or Empress, Helena was given the honor and status of mother of the sovereign.

After Constantine declared Rome a Christian city in 325, he put his mother, now in her mid-seventies, in charge of the 1,400 mile sojourn to Jerusalem to search for Christian relics. Soon after her arrival in the city she, with the aid of Bishop Macarius, ordered the destruction of the temple of Venus, which had been erected over the site of Jesus' tomb, near Calvary. Tradition also credits Helena with the painstaking search that led to the excavation and discovery of three crosses. Demanding solid proof that this was the site of the Crucifixion, she turned to a woman who was fatally ill from a certain disease and told her to touch one of the crosses. Seeing the miracle of the woman who had recovered immediately and completely from near death, Helena proclaimed that this one was the cross of Jesus. Filled with dedication, enthusiasm and the support of her son to glorify Christ, Helena had many basilicas erected, including at the site of Christ's tomb, one near the Grotto of the Nativity, another on the Mount of Olives at the place of the Ascension, and more throughout the Holy Land and Cyprus.

"FALL IN LOVE WITH THE CLASSICS"

SEPTEMBER CONCERT

3:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

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St. Andrew's Vacation Bible School

By Erica Scattergood

On Monday, August 11, 2008, St. Andrew's held a one-day intensive Vacation Bible School with the theme, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The day was packed with activities celebrating the wonders of God's earth, and emphasizing the role we can play in protecting it. Each of the leaders concentrated on a different aspect of appreciating our environment: Father Alan led the children in songs relating to God's gifts to us in the natural world and the importance of taking care of those gifts.



Elizabeth Haynes demonstrates fruits and vegetables while Andrew Welton looks on.

Erica Scattergood gave an interactive talk on recycling in our daily lives; Jeanne Cassin gave a lesson in planting, then the children planted flowers; and Elizabeth Haynes gave a hands-on lesson on the botany of fresh fruits and vegetables, most of which came from either the Haynes-Scattergood garden or the Groton Farmer's Market. Growing your own produce and/or shopping for locally grown produce were encouraged.

Various projects reinforced these lessons. The children made blueberry muffins with fresh blueberries picked from the Haynes-Scattergood garden and freshly-squeezed lemons were turned into popsicles. (Dylan and Andrew are awesome "squeezers!") The pizzas at lunch were made with some of the vegetables and herbs that Elizabeth had presented. They decorated prayer stones with

stickers and customized reusable cloth shopping bags using the terrific collection of sequins, cloth scraps, ribbons, and other goodies that were donated by our parishioners (thanks to Judy Adams, Sue Hildreth, Louise Rogers, and Lois Underwood). They also made and painted stunning one-off bugs from empty egg cartons.



On the right, Isabel Politis, Gillian Folger, Dillon Pueschel, Sam Volger, Autumn and Georgia Tameo decorate reusable cloth shopping bags.

The teachers had a wonderful time and apparently the children did as well. Several said they wanted to come back next year and a couple are planning to join St. Andrew's Godly Play in the fall. Hurray!

Our first VBS seemed to be a great success, and we hope next year to expand it to a full week.

Volunteer Recruitment

A Workshop in Progress

Faith Salter recently conducted a workshop about volunteer recruitment and retention for the Town of Ayer and has signed up for the volunteer fair in September in Ayer.

She is more than willing to provide a workshop to St Andrew's as well if there is an interest in it or a variation on the theme. Call Faith if you have questions (978)772-7028.

Kyle Bertulli, a Man and His Music



Our new Minister of Music, Kyle Bertulli, is a music student on a bachelors/masters track at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Before accepting the position at St. Andrew's, Kyle was an organist at his home church, First Congregational Church, Milford, MA and also at St Peter's RC Church, Northbridge, MA. It was on Michael Smith's recommendation that St. Andrew's consider Kyle, who has played at St. John's Chapel at Groton Chapel.

Kyle says that there has never been a moment in his life when he has not been drawn to the love of music, even though he did not come from a musical family. His goal is to teach music as his life's vocation. Kyle began studying the organ at age 11 and received four scholarships in high school from the American Guild of Organists four years in a row for outstanding organ playing to help pay for lessons. He also received the "Chopin Piano Award" upon graduating from Milford High School, has completed seven musical compositions and has had some of them performed by the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra

He will begin his ministry on the first Sunday in September and has already begun choir rehearsals. He will be happy to have any new people who want to join. Welcome, Kyle!

Congregational Resource Day

Save Saturday, September 27th (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) for this resource day, "Tools for Parishes," sponsored by the diocese at Bentley College in Waltham. Workshops will help parish teams develop skills and will provide them with information and practical help around congregational development. There will be something for everyone: vestry members, Sunday

school teachers, web managers, newsletter editors, and committee members of all stripes. All three bishops will be involved this year in this valuable event.

Online registration will begin this month via www.diomass.org, or you can call Amy Cook at the Resource Center: (617) 482-4826.

Welcome Back to Foyers

By Erica Scattergood

Now that people are back home from their summer adventures, it is time to resume our Foyer Groups. Please let me know if you are willing to host and/or to coordinate group meetings this year. We are approximately arranged in five groups of eight, the composition of which changes every three months during the year. We do not meet in December, because other commitments are often too numerous.

I shall be contacting current members either in person or by email, and we do have new people who are interested in joining. Do let me know, please, if you have any questions, suggestions, comments, etc. I can be reached at (978) 448-8030 or (508) 423-6358, or write me at my email address: ericascattergood@charter.net.

Just Looking to Get Outside Together

By Faith Salter

A Day at Davis Farmland: the apple orchard, mega maze and farmland. The mega maze is for older kids, farmland is for younger kids, and the orchard is for everyone.

I would like to try and get a sense of whether or not you want me to try to organize a tour of farmland, so let me know.

I will send out more details later. This is the website for the farmland: www.davisfarmland.com.

Remember the Pie Day

By Leslie Harrower

Apple Pie Day will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008. If anyone has any questions, contact me at (508) 641-2688.

From the Nashoba Valley Episcopal Partnership – NVEP

Formerly Known as Tri-Parish

By Marsha Hoecker
NVEP Missioner

Representatives from four Nashoba Valley churches attended our last meeting at the end of July. St. Andrews in Ayer, St. David's in Pepperell, St. Marks in Westford, and Trinity Chapel in Shirley. We continued our discussion about how best to share information about our churches with the surrounding communities. We decided that our plan for having a shared brochure for a broad mailing was too expensive so we looked at other options. Dick Dabrowski and Carolyn Smith from St. Andrews shared some of the work they had done for their parish and what it had involved. The group opted to have each church do their own brochure rather than share one, and to decide at the parish level where and how to distribute them. We may want to consider doing a small brochure that describes the Nashoba Valley Episcopal Partnership that could also be available in each church, particularly as our collaboration grows.

One area of collaboration that is moving along is our shared confirmation program set to begin on Sunday, Sept. 28. Letters will be going out to prospective participants and their parents very soon. The sessions will be held monthly on a Sunday afternoon beginning at 4:30p.m. A simple meal will be shared and the session will end at 7:00 p.m. If there are adults who would also like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, we would like to hear from them as well. We may be able to have a separate class for them or have them share in some of the youth classes.

We are also working together to have a Blessing of the Animals and a Pet Fest on the green in Shirley Center on the weekend of Oct. 4 or 5 in celebration of St. Francis Day. We will be inviting the community to come and bring their pets of all kinds for some fun and for a blessing. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this event, call Marsha at (978) 425-9541.

The Nashoba Valley Episcopal Partnership committee includes representatives from our four parishes. If you want to know more about what we do, speak to one of the representatives from your church. They are: Dick Dabrowski and Carolyn

Smith from St. Andrew's; Marilyn Huslander, Sharron Pothier and Linda Crewe from St. David's, Herb Elliot and Mark Trumbore from St. Mark's, and Paul Wade and Nancy Sawyer from Trinity Chapel.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7:30 PM at St. David's in Pepperell. Anyone is welcome to join us and share their ideas about how we can work together in our shared ministry.

Blood Drive

St Andrew's Inaugural Blood Drive is Tuesday, October 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Hall. General guidelines to donate blood include: you must be healthy; be at least 17 years old; you must weigh at least 110 pounds; you cannot have donated whole blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days) or double red cells in the last 16 weeks (112 days).

Making Lemonade

When Life Gives You Lemons

The kids of St. Andrew's got together and had a lemonade stand at the beginning of the Rail Trail in Ayer on Saturday, August 23, 2008.

The money they raised will go to the "Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation" for Children's Cancer", which raises money for Pediatric Cancer Research. How's that for the care and concern of your neighbor?!

For additional information about the "Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation," be sure to visit their website: www.alexslimonade.org.

Transitions

New Kid on the Pew

Sloan Matilda Casavecchia was baptized on Sunday, July 27th, daughter of Andy and Rosanna and sister of London. It was a joyous occasion with lots of friends and family filling the church.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

September 2008

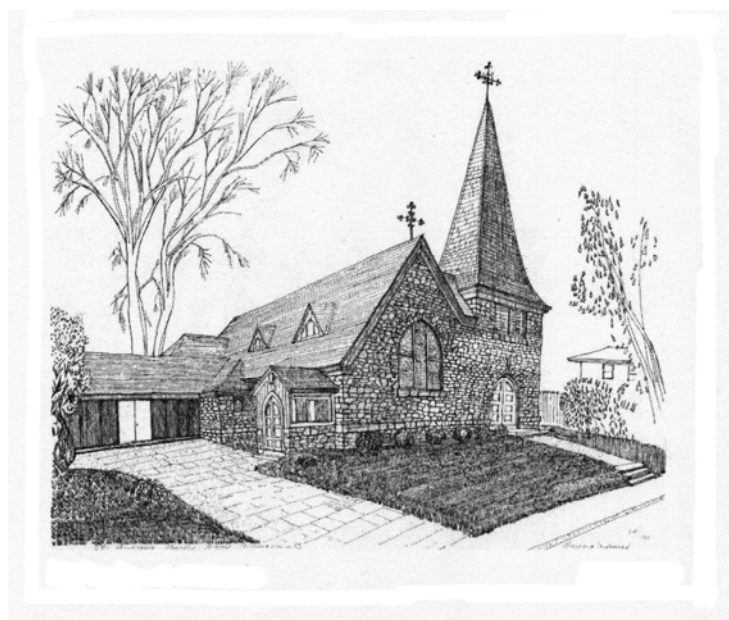
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1. Office Closed	2. 7:15 pm Vestry Meeting	3. 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir	4. 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	5.	6.
7. 9:00 am HEII Parish Meeting following service Welcome new Minister of Music, Kyle Bertulli Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	8. 9:30 am Bible Study	9.	10. 12:00 noon Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir	11. 6:00 am - 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm AA 7:30 pm NVEP Meeting	12.	13.
14. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Sunday School Registration	15. 9:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Boy Scout leaders	16.	17. Noonday Office with healing prayers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir Newsletter Deadline	18. 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	19.	20.
21. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm 3:00 pm September Concert Sunday School Classes begin	22. 9:30 am Bible Study	23.	24. Noonday Office with healing prayers 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Choir	25. 6:00 am to 7:30 am Young Life 12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm AA	26.	27. 8:30 am to 2:30 pm Congregational Resource Day: "Tools for Parishes" Bentley College, Waltham, MA
28. 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII Bethel Church: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm 4:30 pm Confirmation Class at Trinity Chapel, Shirley	29. 9:30 am Bible Study	30.				

**Remember to mark your calendar on Sunday, September 21st for the
 🎵 *September Concert* 🎵 at St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Ayer, MA**

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