

The St. Andrew's Xpress

April 2009

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

If we understand the testimony of the witness of the New Testament, God could only have brought about his purposes for reaching humankind through the "Via Dolorosa" or Way of Sorrow and Suffering. We may wonder why an all-powerful God could not have appealed to us without all of what seems so abhorrent. We rightly recoil from suffering, especially the cruel form portrayed by the crucifixion. We certainly see enough of it in the violence that assaults us in the news from Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo and Darfur, Sudan, as well as the gang wars in our inner cities and the domestic problems of many homes, no matter what their economic station is. Why does God have to make his appeal from a cross, so brutal and violent?

There is an "infection" in humanity that has resulted in what we call sin, that in part can be seen in systems of injustice, dominance and the cruel exploitation of one another. Over the years, I have seen both exemplary acts of kindness, self-giving, love and service and movements to bring about justice and help for one another. I have also seen cruelty, manipulation and control in families, broken relationships and violence not

only in society but by and among individuals. It is this condition that God poured God's self into Jesus out of love for humanity, God's creation, and Jesus' willingness to reveal God's love through his suffering and death. We will never comprehend this except by opening ourselves up to be confronted by that love that would change each one of us.

Too many are suffering right here where we are, as well as all over the world, and we can't sanitize it in our culture of celebrity, consumption and glamour. But we can come to the cross with Mary, letting a sword pierce through our souls as it did hers, and stand at the cross where God enters all our human suffering and sin. Then it is with an incredible awe and wonder that we can celebrate God's victory through the resurrection of Jesus and let hope, faith and love fill our hearts and transform our lives. This is the incredible "Good News" that can help us build God's Kingdom here on earth as it is in Heaven.

Faithfully because of Him,

Fr. Alan

(The Rev. Alan B. MacKillop)

The St. Andrew's Xpress

A monthly Newsletter serving the
Central Massachusetts community

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Alan B. MacKillop
Priest in Charge
Kyle Bertulli
Minister of Music
Judith M. Adams
Associate Organist
Lynn Ferrillo
Office Administrator

VESTRY

Linda Kaferle
Warden & Clerk
Richard Dabrowski
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Sue Hildreth
Treasurer
Yvette Nasworthy
Marianne Welton
Mary Medeiros
Don Ulsch
Louise Rogers
Al Coburn
Erica Scattergood
George Miller

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Erica MacKillop
Chair
Susan Shea Ulsch
Editor
Richard Dabrowski
Vestry
Mary Medeiros
Vestry
Alan Rogers
Louise Rogers

Contact Information:

7 Faulkner Street
Ayer, MA 01432-1611
Telephone: 978-772-2615
Email: staayer@verizon.net
Website: www.standrewsayer.org

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THIS MONTH _____

in *The St. Andrew's Xpress*

LETTER

1 The Rev. Alan B. MacKillop

NEWS

4 Vestry Highlights

5 Outreach of St. Andrew's

5 From Senior Warden

EVENTS

3 Holy Week

4 Easter Egg Decorating

5 Crafts and Cakes

7 Hitting the Road

7 St. Andrew's Goes to the Movies

8 Last Supper Celebration

8 St. Andrew's Game Night

FEATURES

6 Episcopal Church Poverty Report

OTHER

7 Rides Needed, Drivers Sought

8 Spring Foyers Have Arrived

NOTE: Remember to mark your calendar for the
May 2009 newsletter deadline:

Friday, April 17, 2009



Holy Week 2009

Sunday,
5 April

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

8:00 am: Liturgy and Blessing of Palms, Holy Eucharist Rite I
with reading of the Passion according to Mark

10:00 am: Liturgy and Blessing of Palms, Procession, Dramatic
Reading of the Passion with Taize music and Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday,
8 April

Noon: Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayer

Thursday,
9 April

Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm: Holy Eucharist with the Commemoration of the
Last Supper, Foot Washing, Procession to the Altar of Repose and
Watch (until 10 p.m.) for those who desire to pray in the Chapel
before the Blessed Sacrament to remember Jesus' prayer in the
Garden of Gethsemene

Friday,
10 April

Good Friday

12 Noon: Noonday Office (prayer service)

7:30 pm: Liturgy with Reading from the Gospel of John,
Communion of the Pre-Sanctified (consecrated at the Maundy
Thursday Liturgy)

Saturday,
11 April

Easter Eve

7:00 pm: Lighting of the New Fire, Procession of the Paschal
Candle, Prophecies, Holy Baptism and the First Mass of Easter

Vestry Highlights February 17, 2009

New Vestry members, George Miller, Al Colburn and Erica Scattergood were welcomed.

Fr. Alan invited everyone to the Diocesan Learning Event on March 7 at Boston University, Sherman Hall to hear speaker, Brian McLaren. He also encouraged everyone to come to the Lenten Program, centering on Bishop Shaw's book, "Conversations With Scripture and With Each Other."

A Vestry Retreat was discussed. Fr. Alan would like the focus to be spiritual rather than an extended Vestry meeting. Linda will investigate places.

Treasurer Sue Hildreth reported a total income for the month of January of \$7,226.30 vs. total expenses of \$11,654.73, leaving a deficit of \$4,428.43. Income was down due, in part, to bad weather on Sundays. Early payoff of the past due diocesan assessment was discussed; consensus of the Vestry was that since it is an interest free loan, it did not make sense to pay it off early at this time.

Motions unanimously passed to:
authorize Linda to review and renew Nancy Mayo's contract; authorize Fr. Alan and Judy Adams to hold a six-month review with Kyle Bertulli as outlined in his contract; authorize Dick and Al Colburn to review and renew contract with Pastor Kim of the Bethel Church; authorize Linda and Al Colburn to review our current policy and investigate the possibility of changing over to the policy offered by the Church Insurance Agency Corporation; authorize the Treasurer to set up a CD for the Flower Memorial Fund in the amount of \$1400, authorize Kyle to work with the Andover Organ Company on maintenance of the organ.

It was decided to put notes on the windshields of all unauthorized cars in St. Andrew's parking lot, asking that they not park there if snow is in the forecast.

Dick Dabrowski was appointed by Fr. Alan for an additional one-year term as Senior Warden. Motion was unanimously passed to elect Linda Kaferle to a one-year term as Junior Warden.

Commission Liaison Appointments:
George Miller – Facilities; Dick Dabrowski – Membership; Louise Rogers – Altar Guild; Mary Medeiros – Communications; Al Colburn – Stewardship; Marianne Welton – Outreach; Linda Kaferle – Christian Formation; Erica Scattergood – Parish Life.

The Town of Ayer is holding a New Neighbor Fair on March 28. Faith Salter and Carolyn Smith will work on St. Andrew's participation.

EASTER EGG DECORATING



The Sunday School will be decorating Easter Eggs! We will be using everything from crayons and dye to feathers and glitter, so please come dressed to play.

WHEN: Saturday April 4th @ 2:00 pm

WHERE: Parish Hall

To make sure we have enough eggs for everyone, please let Yvette know if you will be attending.

(978) 772-0569 or email:

vze1ymv7@verizon.net

The Outreach of St. Andrew's

By Nicola Barlow and Fr. Alan MacKillop

The Outreach Commission held its first meeting of 2009 on Sunday March 8. The commission discussed the focus of Outreach for 2009 and was unanimous in its opinion that we should center our giving around helping the poor and needy, with a special emphasis on Loaves and Fishes. It was decided that, at this time, during global and local economic hardships, Loaves and Fishes should receive the largest donation from our church. We discussed fundraisers for 2009. The tag sale will take place again this year, hopefully in May. We are also discussing other possibilities for fundraising and will inform the congregation as those plans are firmed up.

The commission is hoping to bring The Angel Tree to the church later this year. This is a program that provides Christmas gifts for families of the incarcerated. Please visit their website: www.angeltree.org.

The Commission has decided to "showcase" one support mission one Sunday each month. We will do this with a large poster and brochures/information obtained from the relevant organization. We will utilize a separate table so that we do not interfere with the coffee hour host. We believe this, in addition to the Outreach articles printed each month in the Xpress and the website, will bring Outreach home to our people.

From the Senior Warden/Webmaster

The Episcopal Church is a big, colorful, vibrant church. The Episcopal Church in the United States (ECUSA) launched a new website on Ash Wednesday 2009 to highlight the fact that we are a thoughtful, inquiring, freedom-loving and welcoming body and to welcome

newcomers to the Church. It consists of inspiring personal testimonies by Episcopalians from all over the country, including one by our own bishops, the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris.

To view the web site, please go to: <http://www.IAmEpiscopalian.org>.

Hint to better navigate the site: after a testimony ends, just click the white "X" in the lower right-hand corner of the screen to select another one. After you have seen and heard some of these personal stories, please consider emailing the website address to a friend.

Crafts and Cakes



Delicious baked goods and wonderful handmade Easter items will be on sale in the Peabody Room during coffee hour after both services on Palm Sunday, April 5. The proceeds will provide seed money for the 2009 Holiday Fair.

Plan now to bake some of your favorite Easter goodies (cookies, hot cross buns, cakes, pies, etc.) for us to sell. If you would like to donate handmade Easter crafts please contact Carolyn Smith or Barbara Kamb to let them know what you would like to make.

This year's sale will also feature a small Silent Auction of some of Jean Cummings' Easter and spring collectible figures and decorations.

For additional information contact Carolyn Smith at 978-448-3264.

From the Editor

Episcopal Church report addresses U.S. poverty with model for development initiatives

The following article is reprinted in part with permission of its author, Neva Rae Fox, from Episcopal News Service.

A groundbreaking report released on March 12 calls on The Episcopal Church to address the issues and concerns of the poor in the United States, focusing initially on the needs of Native American communities through its proposed "Model for Domestic Poverty Alleviation."

The report, titled *Faith in the Balance: A Call to Action*, is based on the outcomes of the 2008 Presiding Bishop's Summit on Domestic Poverty. The innovative model outlined in the report will work in tandem with the Episcopal Church's global poverty initiatives of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"The Episcopal Church focus on the Millennium Development Goals has raised consciousness in our own faith communities and the broader culture about the need to address abject poverty in developing nations," explained Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. "This work has increased mission fervor and deepened spirituality. We need to bring the same passion, organization, and accountability to our work on domestic poverty – in the poorest regions of the United States. Social statistics and the conditions of life are quite similar in the poorest areas, both in the U.S. and abroad, but the MDGs are addressed solely to poverty in the developing world. We need to use both lenses (international and domestic; distance and near vision) to see the least among us and around us."

The report includes a suggested resolution for the Episcopal Church's General Convention 2009 in July "to recognize the

pressing challenges to those living in poverty and the working poor throughout this nation and call for new and innovative strategies to address issues related to nutrition, employment, childcare, education, environment, housing, as well as equal protection under law and cultural affirmation."

The resolution also asks for a special focus in "recognizing that many of the poorest counties in the United States are among Native Peoples living on reservations, gives priority" to Native Americans "whose population has increased while disparities in income, economic security, health and healthcare, and quality of life continue unabated."

"The initial focus on the Native American community provides an opportunity to establish measurable goals and lines of accountability," the Rev. Christopher A. Johnson, Episcopal Church program officer for Domestic Justice and Jubilee Ministries explained.

"As Jesus said, 'When you do these things to the least of these, you do them to me' (Matthew 25). He was talking about feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and caring for those with little or no hope," Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori noted. "Our gospel work includes 'preaching peace to all the peoples of the earth, those who are far off and those who are near,' as the mission prayer in Morning Prayer daily reminds us. Francis of Assisi challenged us to 'preach the gospel at all times; use words when necessary.' I hope and pray that this 'Call to Action' may deepen our engagement in the gospel to those who are near as well as those who are far away."

"I am asking the various organizations that comprise the Episcopal Church to work collaboratively with others around themes they share in common," Johnson said.

The full report is available on the *Jubilee Ministry* pages of the Episcopal Church website.

-- Neva Rae Fox is program officer for public affairs for The Episcopal Church.

Hitting the Road for Loaves & Fishes

Now that Spring is clearly in sight and our spirits are somewhat revived at the recent jump in the Stock Market, we are enjoying a pleasant euphoria. However, this happy state is not shared by many of our fellow residents in the Nashoba Valley community. Some can hardly make ends meet. But, happily, the needs of many are met by the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry with the financial help of the pledges to those participating in the Good Friday Walk, started in the nineteen seventies by St. Andrew's own Charlanne Van Wormer and other members.

Having been associated with Loaves & Fishes since its start, I am appealing for walkers and pledgers to raise these necessary funds – your donation and support will help others in real need! I made my last walk in 2005. Sadly, because of remaining weakness from a stroke in 2006, I must support the event by helping check walkers at the half-way point in Harvard, Prospect Hill. Individual donations may be made through St. Andrew's or to me: Bayard Underwood, 208 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450, or directly to Loaves & Fishes, P.O. Box One, Ayer, MA 01432.

St. Andrew's Goes to the Movies!

Please join us on Saturday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m. as we munch on popcorn and enjoy a showing of Oscar-winning director (*Slumdog Millionaire*) Danny Boyle's 2005 film, *Millions*, which is appropriate for all viewers except the very youngest of children. Tickets are only \$1 each, and include a small bag of popcorn; proceeds will benefit St. Andrew's.

In *Millions*, British brothers Damian and Anthony have recently lost their mother and have moved with their father to a new home to start over. Younger brother Damian (Alex Etel) has become obsessed with the lives of the saints, memorizing their statistics like baseball cards,

and seeing and conversing with them in visions that he--and the audience--can't tell from reality. He constructs a haven for himself down by the railroad tracks out of leftover moving boxes. And one day a bag full of money falls out of the sky and crashes into his haven.

Damian is sure it's from God and wants to use the money to help the poor. Brother Anthony just wants to spend it as fast as he can. But there are two problems: England is converting to the euro in one week, after which the money will be worthless, and the money may have been sent by God, but it was delivered by a burglar, who wants it back.

Some excerpts taken from the many favorable reviews include: "*Millions* uses special effects and materializing saints, it's a film about real ideas, real issues and real kids. Like all great family movies, it plays equally well for adults -- maybe better, since we know how unusual it is;"

"English child actor Etel's luminous performance anchors the film and provides its heart and soul. For ultimately, after you cut through all the intellectual and emotional layers, the brilliant cinematography, and the humor and excitement, this is the story of a lonely, loving child trying as hard as he can to be good, to do what's right, and to connect with the world of spirit, but in a way that is never less than believably childlike and real. It's not often a movie like this comes along for the family to share, and talk about."

Rides Needed, Drivers Sought

St. Andrew's needs volunteers to pick up some of our folks who don't have transportation. Let's count our blessings and help out!

Ideally the responsibility can be shared. Whether you can help once in a while or every week, a given neighborhood or any of our towns, please call Judy Adams at 978-448-3598. Our most urgent need at present is for transportation for some of our members in Lunenburg.

Spring Foyers Have Arrived

We now have our new groups and decent weather, so we should have good times ahead! If groups can meet at least twice before June, that would be wonderful. Look through your local circulars or library events lists to find local, inexpensive activities. Or host a games night at your house with munchies and music! I'm happy to add FYI suggestions to the weekly bulletins, but would welcome your ideas. For instance, have you ever been to the Butterfly Place in Westford? I haven't. There's a local film society in Groton that screens "art films" once a month, and there are other ways to enjoy our area. I'd also like to try another day or night out that was for anyone from St. Andrew's to attend, so if you have suggestions, let's see whether or not we can pull it off. The dinner at Villa 57 Alta in Clinton was great fun. Call or write me – Erica Scattergood.

Group 1: Nicola and Brian Barlow, Marianne and Phil Welton, and Faith and Jason Salter; Group 2: Carolyn Smith and Dick Dabrowski, Horace Glover, Marta and Brian Sullivan, Priscilla Andrews, Phil and Linda Malone, Nancy Barringer; Group 3: Lois and Bayard Underwood, Hester Newbury, Audrey and Jim Western, Jackie Stroebel, Sue Hildreth, Judy and Bill Veno; Group 4: Erica Scattergood and John Haynes, Jeanne Cassin, Peggy Braat, Erica and Alan MacKillop, Steve Titus, Marj Costa, Lydia McClure.

Last Supper Celebration

If you would like to share a celebration of the Seder meal, central to the observance of Passover, and coincidentally the meal that constituted Christ's famous "Last Supper," you can join the folks at Trinity Chapel in Shirley on Friday, April 3. This is usually a potluck affair and the minister, Marsha Hoecker, assures us that we are welcome; she merely asks that you phone her, or you can send her an email at: mhhoecker@hotmail.com; 978-425-9041.



ST. ANDREW'S FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Come and enjoy a fun night with your
St. Andrew's Family

For kids of all ages

- Board Games •WII •Cards and More
- Have a favorite game? Bring it!!
Spend an hour or the whole evening

**Saturday May 2nd, starting @ 3:00 pm
in the Parish Hall**

Light refreshments will be served

COOKBOOK CORNER

Recipes reprinted from the 1992 St. Andrew's
100TH Anniversary Cookbook

Cuban Black Bean Soup

To start:

1.5 C. black beans, soaked overnight in 1 gallon
of water and drained, then cooked/simmered for
5 hours

Add:

1 lb. bacon, cooked, drained and crumbled

2 tsp. crushed red pepper

3 cloves garlic, minced

3 medium onions, peeled and chopped

1 C. celery, chopped

1 C. chopped fresh carrots

2 C. grated zucchini

Pinch of oregano, cumin, turmeric and coriander

1 T. prepared mustard

Salt and pepper to taste

Simmer two hours or more. Serve with crusty
bread. Serves 10-12. ~ Peggy Braat

April 2009

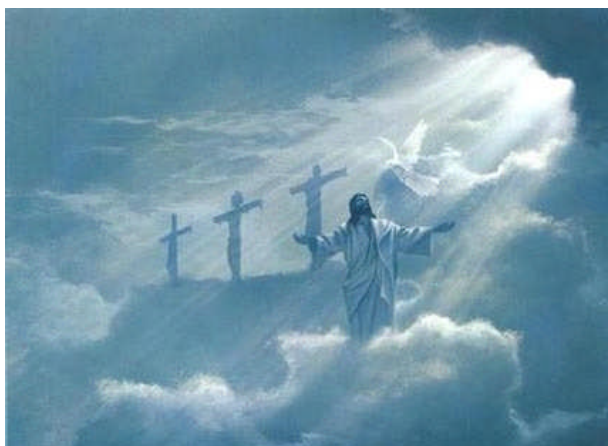
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday, April 5</p>  <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>Thursday, April 9</p>  <p>Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>Friday, April 10</p>  <p>Good Friday</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>12 Noon HE with Healing Prayers 6:00 pm Soup Supper & Book Study</p>	<p>2.</p> <p>12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>2:00 pm Easter Egg Decorating</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>Palm Sunday 8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm Bethel Korean Service Crafts & Cakes after each service</p>	<p>6.</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>7.</p>	<p>8.</p> <p>12 Noon HE with Healing Prayers</p>	<p>9.</p> <p>6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>10.</p> <p>Good Friday noonday office 7:30 pm Good Friday Liturgy</p>	<p>11.</p> <p>7:30 pm Easter Vigil</p>
<p>12.</p> <p>Easter Sunday 8:00 am HEI 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm Bethel Korean Service</p>	<p>13.</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>14.</p>	<p>15.</p> <p>12 Noon HE with Healing Prayers</p>	<p>16.</p> <p>12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>17.</p> <p>Xpress Deadline</p>	<p>18.</p> <p>7:00 pm Millions, the movie</p>
<p>19.</p> <p>8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm Bethel Korean Service</p>	<p>20.</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>21.</p> <p>7:30 pm Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>22.</p> <p>12 Noon HE with Healing Prayers</p>	<p>23.</p> <p>12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>24.</p>	<p>25.</p>
<p>26.</p> <p>8:00 am HEI 10:00 am HEII 1:00 pm Bethel Korean Service</p>	<p>27.</p> <p>9:30 am Bible Study</p>	<p>28.</p>	<p>29.</p> <p>12 Noon HE with Healing Prayers</p>	<p>30.</p> <p>12:20 pm St. Andrew's Weavers 6:30 pm AA 7:00 pm Choir</p>	<p>Saturday, April 11</p>  <p>Easter Vigil</p>	<p>Sunday, April 12</p>  <p>Easter Sunday</p>

See Page 3 of the April 2009 Xpress for details of Holy Week

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
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Ayer, MA 01432

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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.