



*Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you. (Psalm 84)*

With the arrival of the Easter season, a large black crow has swooped up to the gutter outside the second floor church window to sip rainwater. His wingspan is dark against the new green leaves of the oak beyond, and he seems to feel that this haven of a churchyard is his home this spring.

This church of St. Andrew's has become both workplace and spiritual home to me. Six months after the installation ceremony that celebrated our new ministry together, new relationships have been forged and much has been accomplished.

In April, the vestry and rector spent a Saturday in retreat at the Convent of St. John Baptist in Mendham to focus on the mission of our parish. One mission goal we discussed is evangelism: how to share the healing presence of Christ, which we know is real in our lives, beyond the doors of St. Andrew's. As the prophet Isaiah wrote in God's name, "My house shall be called "a house of prayer for *all* peoples." If we are the people who find their strength in God and in this faith community, let us not keep that inner strength to ourselves, but extend it to newcomers, friends, and strangers.

The typical Episcopalian only invites a friend to church once every eighteen years. What a sobering national church statistic! What would it take to have our church grow? When we tell someone our faith story, we share with them the meaning of Christ's life and cross and resurrection. Through storytelling we become a reconciling agent for the Lord. All of us are called to this divine work, and may end up entertaining angels. I encourage you to reach out toward a neighbor or colleague in this way and invite them into the haven of our churchyard, to our house of prayer.

Faithfully,

Peggy Hodgkins

A Message from the Minister of Music

CHOIR

The choirs just completed a busy Lenten Season and Easter services. All involved worked very hard and deserve our applause. Both choirs were magnificent on Easter – and other Sundays as well.

The Senior Choir will participate in the Confirmation service at the cathedral in Trenton on June 4, at 3 p.m. That should be a wonderful service!

New members are still needed in both choirs to keep this important ministry flourishing. Our recent campaign for additional Junior Choir members resulted in one new person to date. The Senior Choir needs new members as well. Please see me, Joyce Kern or any choir member for additional information.
--Howard Dreizler, Minister of Music

Adult Christian Education

Sunday Forum - Join us every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. for an adult education forum in the Library. There is always an interesting topic and conversation over coffee or tea.

Evening Bible on the Book of Exodus, Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m., led by Edwin Tait, PhD. All are welcome.

The Scripture Study Group meets at 1:30 p.m. in the Shreve Room on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. We use the Synthesis as our study guide. Pick up a copy and read it before the meeting to be prepared. We welcome ALL who join us as we discuss the readings. Our

upcoming meeting dates are: May 10 and 24, June 14 and 28. For more information call Frances Bellak (908) 233-6779.

Evening Candlelight Service with music from TAIZE, Sunday June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at CSJB - Convent of St. John Baptist, "a service of deep prayer and beautiful music".

Labyrinth Walks, Saturdays, May 13 and 27, June 10, 2-4 p.m. at CJSB - Convent of St. John Baptist "Experience this ancient way of practicing the Presence of God". www.csjb.org.

Pilgrimage to Celtic Britain, Sept. 6-16, 2006. Come to the south of Britain, a region steeped in history. Visit Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, Dartmoor, Cornwall, and more. \$2350 double, \$2650 single. Contact Sister Margo at 973-543-4641 ext. 4 or srme@csjb.org.

Celtic Pilgrimage to Ireland, See Croag Patrick, Donegal, Connemara, Inishmore, Aran Islands, and more! Small group with time to appreciate each holy site. \$2350 double; \$2650 single. Contact Sister Margo at the Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham at 973-543-4641 ext.4 or at srme@csjb.org.

Confirmation & Reception
Come and support our newest members
of St. Andrew's!

Festive service of Confirmation and Reception
Sunday June 4th at 3:00 p.m.
Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. George Councill
presiding

*Please call the parish office if you would
like to carpool*

Convocation News

All parishioners and Convocation delegates are invited to the Watchung Convocation Meeting Tuesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at St. John's, Somerville

Agenda: Evensong, Elections, Mixer Activity or Confirmation Choir Practice

We will have the following elections:

- 3-yr Members for Board of Missions:
1 clergy, 1 lay
- Unexpired term: Dean

Note that after Evensong & Elections there are two options: a) A mixer activity for delegates and parishioners; b) Choir practice for people participating in the choir for the upcoming group Confirmation. Music for the Confirmation Service on June 4th will be distributed, and a practice will be held for all who can come. To carpool, call Rev. Peggy at 908-464-4875.

Let's talk about the Windsor Report!

We were asked to discuss the Windsor Report on a local parish level by a Diocesan Convention resolution made in March '06. Our triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be discussing the report on a national level this summer. If we inform ourselves about the report (93 pages!), we can better understand what our church is struggling with about human sexuality, and make some kind of response to the General Convention delegates representing our diocese. You can download the report from this website: www.anglicancommunion.org/windsor2004/downloads.index.cfm

Please keep an eye out in the Weekly Reminder as we find a date for this discussion.--Peggy+

Sunday School Spirit

Easter Appreciation

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with the Lent and Easter children's activities: Alleluia Banner, Easter Activity Bags, Flowering of the Cross, and the Easter Egg Hunt! You made it possible and a success with your support of all the plans and preparations.



PENTECOST

We will have regular Sunday School Classes on Pentecost June 4 and join the service at the Peace. Please wear red on this day to signify the "tongues of fire" that signify the Holy Spirit.
Parent Information: Pentecost is the day that the Holy Spirit gave power to the church through the apostles to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth. Pentecost is the birthday of the church! Some great words of Pentecost are: Apostles, Breath (sign of life), Dove, Mighty Wind, and Tongues of Fire. The Holy Spirit, whose power, like a strong wind, we can feel, even though we cannot see it. Resource: The New Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education.

TEACHER SIGN UP YEAR 2006-2007

"Whoever welcomes a child in my name welcomes me" (Mark 9:30-37) will be the theme for our Sunday School next year. **Why be a Sunday School Teacher?** You are serving God by teaching about God's word and love, while providing children the opportunity to learn about God's laws including what it means to be a Christian. Sunday School teachers provide the classroom instruction and love that is the foundation of a Christian education for a child. You teach lessons to children from the excellent Episcopal curriculum that we have at St. Andrew's Sunday School.

A benefit of being a Sunday School teacher is

experiencing the scriptures and lessons *by teaching* them to children. Our goal in church school is to have each child sense that we are part of a church family, to know why we are Christians, to learn Christian values and stories. Please sign up on the **TEACHER SIGN UP CHART**. We invite friends, couples and other interested adults to join our teaching teams of Co-teachers at St. Andrew's Sunday School. Please sign up early to have a term of your choice and I hope the chart is completely filled with Co-teachers from April 30 to June 11 so I can plan for next year. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Sunday School Creation Program: "The Beauty of God's World" will be held on May 21, 2006 at 9:30am during regular Sunday School class time. The children learn about creation and conservation of God's beautiful world as they plant red, white and blue flowers in the round white containers on the front entrance terrace designated for their own class. (Colors of the Episcopal Church and patriotic for the summer holidays!) **A gardener once said, "How can a person look at a flower and not believe in God?"** The Creation Program includes a lesson about the Days of Creation, talking about caring for God's creation and serving others. Enjoy the flowers and watch them grow!



Student Recognition- Tim Kunyz and Meredith Talbot are graduating seniors this year and outstanding youths! I want to recognize their fine efforts in serving the Sunday School and church.

Awards and Recognition Sunday during the 10am Service - I hope we have "touched" the lives of children as they learned about being Christians.

EARLY COMMUNION CLASS

GRADES 1-5



All children in Grades 1-5 are invited to come to Early Communion Classes and learn about the Eucharist (Holy Communion). The most special meal of the church is the Eucharist. It is a special meal because Christ the Lord is with us. The word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." At the Last Supper while eating Jesus took the bread and wine. He gave thanks to God and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat...do this in remembrance of me." After supper Jesus took a cup of wine and after he thanked God he gave it to his disciples saying, "drink this in remembrance of me."

As members of the Christian family we gather at the altar to receive the Holy Communion. We eat and drink in the presence of the risen Lord. At the Early Communion Classes we will talk about: Meals, God Gives, Remembering, Forgiving, Caring, Belonging, Thanksgiving, and Living the Good News. We will bake Communion Altar Bread together in class to share when we have an Instructed Eucharist on May 21 at the 10:00am service together.

The Reverend Peggy Hodgkins and Joyce Kern will lead the classes. St. Andrew's would like to help children understand about the Eucharist. We will eat bread and drink grape juice as refreshments each week of Early Communion classes. There will be Early Communion classes on the following dates and a class sign up sheet in the front entry.

Early Communion Class Schedule

- Thursday, May 11, 3:30-4:30pm
Introduction, Baking Communion Bread
- Thursday, May 18, 3:30-4:30pm
Early Communion Instruction
- Sunday, May 21, 10am Service,
Instructed Eucharist, Special Communion Bread

Youth

The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) The Rite 13 Leadership selection process had been completed. We are happy to announce that Beth Pontius has joined Pete Muriello and Cynthia Macdonald as our leaders. They will continue to work with this class through June of 2007.

Meanwhile, the Rite 13 youth have been busy with their weekly discussions. They also assisted by putting together Welcome Bags for our Open House in February. Several of the youth attended the Open House and helped with the children's activities.

These kids are busy, active members of our parish regularly participating in the following ministries:

- Junior Choir
- Acolyting
- Ushering
- Alter Guild
- GOSA
- Sunday School Student Assistants

Our first Rite 13 Liturgy was a joyful celebration. Thanks to all who contributed to this special occasion by sharing words of wisdom which will be "published" and presented to the kids in our first "St. Andrew's Book of Wisdom".

-- Eileen Fairchild

Middle & Sr. High Youth Event Calendar

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| May 19-21 | Spring Youth Event 6 th – 12 th Grade |
| July 31-August 7 | Mission Trip to El Salvador for rising 11 th & 12 th Graders |

For more information about any of these activities, please see Rev. Peggy.

Nursery School



Mrs. Bauries and Mrs. Keenan's 5 day 4-year old morning class celebrate Earth Day!

From left to right: Julia Ellis, Jane DiSibio, Jason Bloomenthal, Colleen Graham, Katherine Tully, Madeline Reilly, Yasmin Stedman. During the week of April 17th the children in our school learned the importance of beautifying our earth!

- I cannot believe that in about five weeks we will be saying goodbye to another terrific school year!
- I enjoyed watching each child grow and develop. When they entered in September, we had many tears and anxieties and now they want to know why they cannot come to school on Saturday!
- The classrooms continue to generate creative and exciting activities throughout the curriculum they offer each day.
- The children's art work will be on display at the New Providence Library through May 10. Please stop by to see our young artists' work.
- During May, the children are creating cards and drawings to send to the troops in Iraq. What a wonderful gesture from our children.

- Dessert with Dad was a huge success! The children enjoyed sharing an ice cream with dad and playing on the playground.
- Many thanks to our Parent Association for serving the faculty a delicious breakfast on Wednesday, May 10, for Teacher Appreciation Week. The children showed how much they loved their teachers by making a very special project.

The kinderkids will be planting in the front of the kindergarten to beautify the grounds. In the next few weeks, as you pass the kindergarten, take a look at the colorful flowers! – Diane Kostibos

Action Campers

Action Campers! A time for arts and crafts, water and sand play, music, sports, special entertainment and outdoor fun. Enrollment for this fun-filled summer program is underway. Our camp program is for the children of St. Andrew's Nursery School and from the surrounding communities. Our teachers and staff will be trained under the requirements of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey for abuse awareness. Action Campers runs nine weeks starting June 12 and ending August 11.

Primary Campers -- 4 – 7 year-olds, 9 – 1:30 p.m.
 Wee Campers -- 3-year olds, 9 – 12 Noon
 Extended care -- 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For more information, please call the parish office: 908-464-4875 --Terry Machin

Outreach

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to make Care Bags for the Homeless. On May 7th, during coffee hour after the 10 a.m. service, we assembled twenty-eight bags. These bags will be taken to Faith Lutheran Church. Homeless people are housed there about four times a year. One of

our bags will be given to each family. The Outreach Committee hopes St. Andrew's families will help assemble these bags. --Sarah White

Mothers Day Gifts – you contributed so many beautiful toiletries during Lent we were able to gather some of the very pretty articles together and make about fifteen gifts for the mothers at the Shelter for Abused Women in Elizabeth. These gifts will be wrapped and taken to Elizabeth before Mother's Day.

Helpers needed at Faith Lutheran – St.



Andrew's is a partner with Faith Lutheran in their program to house the homeless about four times a year. This program is a part of the Union County Interfaith Council for the Homeless network. St.

Andrew's contributes care bags and helps supply cooks and

overnight hosts during the year. Cooking is an easy way to help and can involve your children who can benefit in many ways from helping serve the homeless. Also, groups from St. Andrew's may wish to help cook. Sleeping at Faith is also a most needed activity. Many people from St. Andrew's have done this over the years. Speak with Rick Anderson, Marlin White, Marian Bahler or Margaret Miano and they will tell you what is involved. Please contact Sarah White 908-464-8609 or Kim Delatour 908-464-1419 from Faith Lutheran.

Seaman's Church Institute – On a recent trip to the Seaman's Church Institute Rev. Hodgkins, June deBang, Georgia Jervy and Sarah White helped assemble gift bags for the sailors as a part of the "Easter at Sea" program. Many thanks to you who contributed to the fund to help make this program possible. The ministers going aboard the ships took cell phones for the sailors to call home – many calls to far distant places. Your funds helped to pay for these important calls!

--Sarah White

GOSA NEWS

Flower Fund- The Gardeners Of St. Andrew's Spring Flower Fundraiser was held in the month of April. Funds collected will be used to purchase flowers to beautify the church grounds. Would you like to still participate in this fundraiser? Place check to "St. Andrew's Church", with "GOSA Flowers" in memo field; in mailbox of Joyce Kern or Rick Anderson. Thanks for supporting GOSA.

Garden Work Parties- Our first garden clean-up Garden Work Party, scheduled for April 22nd, was rained out so there is lots of work to be done. If you can give some time to this ministry, please call Rick Anderson at 908-464-8911. Our second GOSA Garden Gathering Work Party will take place Saturday, **May 20**, 9AM-1PM. You are invited to come out and join us in the gardens, that day. Bring your gloves!

Mark your calendars:

GOSA Green Thumb Work Parties

June 10, July 8, August 12.

GOSA Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 7:30 PM, in church library.

We welcome those interested in various aspects of gardening. Green thumbs NOT required; just a desire to support our efforts.

--Joyce Kern & Rick Anderson, Chairpersons



Church and the Environment

How does our faith relate to the care of the earth? Visit www.greenfaith.org

Volunteers Needed

Altar Guild Would you like to help with this important ministry? You can work either the 8 a.m. or the 10 a.m. service. Please consider the Altar Guild and help St. Andrew's keep up their good work. Need more information? Call me at 908-464-8763. --Clarice Milbrodt

Coffee Hour! Volunteers are needed. A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board by the Parish Hall entry. If you can brew coffee and put cookies on plates, you have all the necessary skills. Pick a friend and do it together! Set it up on Saturday to avoid the Sunday rush! Volunteering for Coffee Hour is a rewarding way to serve our St. Andrew's family. Questions or suggestions, please call Diane LaPara at 908-508-0577.

Adult & Youth Ushers wanted for both the 8AM and 10AM services. Ushering is an important part of the service, but not a difficult task for anyone. Please help us out. We are flexible, and our monthly ushering schedule will fit your schedule. We welcome young members to also help out, from time to time. Please contact Les Medford (8AM) 582-4676 or Rick Anderson (10AM), 464-8911.

NAME TAGS PLEASE

The ushers encourage parishioners to please wear your name tags, while attending church service. This helps the ushers, as well as other parishioners, easily identify you; and remember your name. Name tags are located on narthex table. Thanks very much.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES PHOTOGRAPHER

It would be great to have photos of baptisms; junior choir; Easter services; Children's Time during 10AM service; and other events. Do you enjoy photography? These images could be stored, for use on posters, publicity, church website; and St. Andrew's historical archives. Anyone interested? --Rick Anderson.



Carolyn McGhee; Sarah White, Outreach Chair; Carolyn Glatz, Children's Clothing & Toy Sale Chair; Marty Dragos and Marlin White pack a car with toys and clothing articles for Grace Church, Elizabeth and FISH, Bound Brook following a very successful fundraiser on Saturday, April 29. Looking forward to doing it again next year with the aid of even more school parents and parishioners... Thanks to all for supporting the Fundraising Committee during this event. --Carolyn



Have a wonderful Mother's Day - May 14, 2006