



The Mountain Top

The Newsletter of Saint Andrew's-in-the-Valley, Tamworth, New Hampshire

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You!

Epiphany 2006

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Submissions to The Mountain Top should be made in person or by mail to the church, or by email to Standrew@ncia.net.

Contributors

The Rev. Heidi Frantz-Dale

Kate Cauble

Mike Cauble

Tom Reinfuss

Peg Reinfuss

Production Team

The Rev. Heidi Frantz-Dale, editor

Sarah Klauck

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

Bishop

The Rev. Heidi Frantz-Dale

Rector

St. Andrew's-in-the-Valley

678 Whittier Rd.

P.O. Box 436

Tamworth, NH 03886

603-323-8515

standrew@ncia.net

From the Rector

Dear People of Saint Andrew's,

The days are already markedly longer than they were in December and we have moved with astonishing speed from our celebrations at Christmas into the two-month Epiphany season, the time that celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the whole world. But I want to back up to share with those of you who were not able to be with us on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day some of the joys of those liturgies. Under the very able leadership of Sally DeGroot, and with the help of many, we offered a truly wonderful pageant to a packed congregation. Yes, we had great costumes and able solo singing from members of the parish. Yes, the church looked splendid, bedecked with laurel garlands, poinsettias, and dozens of candles. Yes, we had a magnificent Gabriel, as well as heavenly little angels...a singing shepherd, a touchingly graceful Mary and Joseph, three handsome, regal kings, and two superb narrators. And, yes, we even had two live goats and an utterly perfect llama playing the part of the camel. It was definitely a "good show," but far more importantly, it was a wonderful liturgy – joy-filled, tender, and deeply prayerful and holy.

Energy runs high on the night before Christmas, especially for young children and their parents. And we had lots of young children and parents. There was no shortage of excitement in the air. Our young people did a wonderful job, all of them. Their love for the Nativity story was palpable and their gifts of themselves would have made the service complete. But the surprising crowning moment came with the llama. He made his stately march down the aisle in advance of the kings, guided by his mistress, Eliza. When he arrived at his hay-strewn stable, he became a bit restless. Eliza and her dad adjusted him a bit (removing his camel's hump!), and that helped.

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SPECIAL ALL-PARISH MEETING

SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2006 AT 10:15 FOLLOWING THE
SINGLE 9 AM SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF:

- ◆ Considering a revision of parish by-laws regarding Annual Meeting date
- ◆ Presenting the 2006 parish budget
- ◆ Presenting the goals resulting from Fall's Mutual Ministry Review

It is hoped that all parish members will attend

MEMO BOARD

This space is set aside for notices, comments, praises, or worries concerning our wider community. All are most welcome to contribute.

Mark your calendar for

- ❖ **Jan. 20: Chowder Supper and presentation on stewardship of our natural environment**, presented by the St. Andrew’s Men’s Group and Stewardship Committee, see pg. 6 for more details.
- ❖ **Jan. 29: Fifth Sunday— ONE SERVICE ONLY!** 9:00 followed by brunch and special Parish Meeting.
- ❖ **Jan. 29: 2:00 PM at St. Andrew’s, the Back Bay Guitar Trio with Fred Haas**, sponsored by the Tamworth Arts Council.
- ❖ **Feb. 28: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30 PM.**

THANK YOU!!!

To all who fulfilled your pledges for 2005 and all who have pledged so generously for 2006!

To the Finance Committee for their hard work on the 2006 budget.

To all who offer their time and talents in the service of the church and the world, especially our newly licensed Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Grace and Brooks South and our new Eucharistic Visitors: Peg Cade, Becky VerPlanck, and Sammie Wakefield.

A big thank you to Fred Jones for his quick resolution to our poor lighting on the walkway and in the parking lot. It’s terrific to be able to see and lots safer for all of us.

An official welcome to:

The DeGroots – Sally, Vic, Dan, Chuck, and Zach — who have recently transferred their membership from Christ Church, Oyster Bay, Long Island to St. Andrew’s.

Ed and Marie Walters, who transferred from Morristown, NJ Presbyterian Church.

Fred and Donna Jones, who transferred from Most

Rector’s letter (continued from page 1)

Then, just as the lights dimmed to only candles, and our whole packed church began to sing Silent Night as if on cue, the llama lumbered to his knees in perfect contentment, and the two goats bleated gently in the arms of their “tenders.” The sweetness of the Spirit filled the air and transported us back to another stable 2000 years ago. We broke the silence with the quietest passing of the Lord’s Peace on record for a Christmas Eve, a greeting that built into a warm glow of joy. We celebrated the Holy Eucharist with the costumed cast clustered around the altar in thanksgiving, and we all processed out into the world singing “Go, tell it on the mountain!”

Abiding thanks go to Tim Thompson, Addie Murray, Tom Reinfuss, Betsy Rowner, Brian Kelley, Kaitlyn Marshall, Almon Evans, Diana Evans, Lillian Casey, Duane Dale, Ed Walters, Michael Carruth, Matthew Nordwick, Bailey and Bryce Frizzell, Haley and Bryce Edwards, Zach DeGroot, Ben Nordwick, Frankie Evans, Bryce Frizzell, Mikado the llama, Eliza Burke, to the patient parents of the children, to Becky VerPlanck, Marie Walters, Lois Brady, Joan Wright, Devon Clough and Erica Perry, Carol Tubman, Lobin Frizzell, Lynne Clough, Victor DeGroot, and to all God’s People who came to worship the new born king!

Our “midnight” service resounded into the starry night with carols, anthems, and the sound of the trumpet. Our simple service on Christmas morning had a beauty all its own, attended by parishioners, new neighbors, new friends, and a number of regular Dinner Bells guests. The smell of roast beef and turkey was our incense offered to God; the liturgy was followed by a splendid Christmas Feast at which about 30 guests were welcomed. Deep gratitude goes to faithful St. Andrew’s regulars Peg Cade and Carol Tubman who prepared and hosted that gift to the wider community.

It was truly a Blessed Christmas at Saint Andrew’s! And may the Spirit that so blessed us then continue to fill us and send us out into the world to proclaim God’s living presence among us.

Yours in Christ,
Heidi +

COMMITTEE NEWS

Social Justice and Ministry Committee Outreach Funding

By Mike Cauble

The Social Justice and Ministry Committee met on December 17, 2005 with a charge to make recommendations to the Vestry on the allocation of \$1900.

We began by discussing broad categories where we felt there was a special need. After discussion the following categories were identified:

- ❖ International needs
- ❖ Statewide needs
- ❖ Child Care
- ❖ Community Home Services.

We identified that \$555 had been donated to the Episcopal Relief & Development during the year (over \$400 for Darfur) and \$292 for the Bishop Discretionary Fund.

Based on our discussion, we make the following recommendations:

- ❖ International needs:

Episcopal Relief/Devel. for Pakistan	\$600
Mary Sherwood	\$75
- ❖ Statewide needs :

NH Community Loan Bank	\$300
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- ❖ Childcare

Ossipee Children's Fund	\$200
Bearcamp School	\$200
- ❖ Community Home Services

Sandwich Caregivers	\$100
Tamworth Caregivers	\$100
Tamworth Community Nurse	\$200
Meals on Wheels	\$120

From the Finance Committee

There are still quite a number of incomplete pledges for 2005. When you receive your Contribution Report for 2005, please take the time to compare the amount of your general contribution with your pledged amount, written in at the bottom of the report. In putting together the budget for any given year, the committee counts on people to fulfill their promised amount. As always, if you feel there has been an error, or you have needed to change your pledge, please contact the office. Please help us end 2005 in the black. Many thanks.

From the Evangelism and Hospitality Committee

Whether you're relatively new to the Episcopal Church or have been worshipping in this tradition all your life, have you ever wondered about our understanding of the sacraments, the creeds, common prayer, how we understand authority, or what makes us Episcopalians? We now have some handy, user-friendly, new brochures available on the tract racks in the narthex and near the office door. Take a look and have "a read." The information may help you participate more fully and give you a stronger framework to share your experience of the Episcopal Church with others.

Committee Structure

By Kate Cauble

The Mountain Top often reports on news associated with the committees of St. Andrew's, but the credit *behind the news* truly belongs to our hard-working committee chairs and participants. The structure of the committees listed below is as follows: the first name listed as chair, co-chairs are indicated, italicized names are vestry liaisons.

VESTRY: Rev Heidi Frantz-Dale*, Kate Cauble*, Peg Reinfuss*, Elaine South*, Michael Cauble, Lynne Clough, Julie Butler, Fred Jones, Pattie Rau

*=Executive Committee

EDUCATION AND CHRISTIAN FORMATION:
Rev. Heidi Frantz-Dale

ADULTS: Gretchen Behr, Duane Dale, Anne Graaskamp, Becky VerPlanck, Sammie Wakefield, Lisa Thompson

CHURCH SCHOOL: Sally DeGroot, Lois Brady

YOUTH: Lisa Thompson

LIBRARY: Anne Graaskamp, Gretchen Behr, *Elaine South*

PASTORAL CARE: *Peg Reinfuss*, Peg Cade, Peggy Cannon, Tom Reinfuss, Becky VerPlanck

LITURGY/WORSHIP: Sammie Wakefield, Lisa Thompson (co-chairs), *Peg Reinfuss*, Betsy Rouner, Joan Wright, Diana Evans (includes music/altar guild/acolytes/ushers)

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Committee Structure (continued from page 3)

STEWARDSHIP: Tom Reinfuss, *Michael Cauble*, (co-chairs) Priscilla Browning, Elaine South, Christine Kurtz-White

FINANCE: Liz Rowe (chair), Jonathan Brady, Kate/Michael Cauble, Duane Dale, George Rau, *Elaine South*, Karl Svendsen

MEMORIAL/GARDEN: Gabrielle Wallace, Anne Murray, *Patti Rau*

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: *Fred Jones*, Brooks South, Chuck Werning

FOOD PANTRY: Joan Wright, Gretchen Behr, Priscilla Browning, *Elaine South*

DINNER BELL: *Kate Cauble*, Patti Rau

RADICAL HOSPITALITY AND EVANGELISM: Carol Tubman, Peg Cade, *Lynne Clough*, George Rau

FUNDRAISING: *Kate Cauble*, Michael Cauble, Lynne Clough, Gretchen Behr, Karl Svendsen, Donna Jones, Christine Kurtz-White, Patti & George Rau, Peg & Tom Reinfuss

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MINISTRY: Liz Rowe, Michael Cauble, Brian Kelley, *Patti Rau*

- ♦ Continue collaboration and communication between the rector and the vestry to address needs, concerns and expectations within the parish.

They have been reviewed and revised by the executive committee .

Changes in our Music Programming

At their January meeting, the Rector and the Vestry accepted resignations from both Becky VerPlanck and Michael Carruth. Becky has served as organist and music director for a little over two years, sharing her gifts and supporting our choirs and congregational singing with much love, but she has decided it's time for a change. Becky's not leaving St. Andrew's. She'll be enjoying the flexibility of worshipping from the pew, serving at the altar, and pursuing other forms of lay ministry here. Outside of church she's looking forward to devoting her musical energies to building up her piano teaching studio. We are grateful for time as organist and choir director and will publicly thank her at our meeting on the 29th.

Michael, our trumpeter, has been a wonderful addition to our worship for over 13 years, coming once a month to add sparkle to our music. He now lives at a considerable distance from the church and has decided to offer his services closer to home. We will miss him as well.

During the past two weeks I have been busy exploring possibilities for what is next, being open to who we might keep expenses in line and still work towards a strong music program. I am please say that Bernice Thompson, an organist who lives in Madison and who has substituted for Becky several times, has agreed to at least cover us during our "musical interim season." Bernice is available three out of four Sundays, leaving open an interesting "window of possibilities." How might we creatively and joyfully "sing and make music to the Lord" in the absence of a paid organist once a month? Of course we will be counting on the choir for their leadership. Might we also enrich our worship by inviting in a variety of musicians who are members or friends of the parish (not always organists) on those "non-organ" Sundays, in ways that are reverent, fun, expansive and still prayerful?

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Mutual Ministry Review

The goals listed below are a direct result of the Mutual Ministry Review and will offer direction for the upcoming year.

- ♦ Review, rewrite, as needed, the by-laws and activate the committees as listed with vestry liaison.
- ♦ Establish a Radical Hospitality and Evangelism committee, to increase visibility and realize increased membership.
- ♦ Provide consistent attention to all new and established members.
- ♦ Determine surrounding community needs and identify specific outreach programs.
- ♦ Initiate and continue to promote a series of Christian education and youth programs.
- ♦ Develop a set number of fundraising activities to be sponsored by St. Andrew's.
- ♦ Address the budget deficit by scheduling meetings between the vestry and the stewardship and finance committees.

Music Programming (continued from page 4)

If you or someone you know has musical skills that could be offered, please let me know. One of the great joys and strengths of St. Andrew's is the strong singing at the 10:00 service.

And do take the time to thank Becky for all she has given us.

HFD+

Darfur Update

By Mike Cauble

Last year, we asked for contributions for Darfur and the parish responded with over \$400. The plea this time is for signatures. Last fall, Congress seemed ready to pass a law regarding Darfur, with penalties for the Government of Sudan. It also seemed that the U.S. would support the African Union peacekeepers with funds for logistical support. Well, Congress did not act.

Meanwhile, things in Darfur have gotten worse. Attacks on villages have increased along with associated killing, rapes and enslavement of the people of Darfur. It is time to let our President and Congress know that we do not approve of the actions of the Government of Sudan and that we expect them to take all possible actions to stop the genocide.

At the special meeting on January 29, 2006, there will be a petition to our elected officials asking them to take action to stop the genocide in Darfur. Please join us and sign the petition.

Developing Spiritual Communities

The Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge is offering a four-day course, *Developing Spiritual Communities*, May 30—June 2. The course will focus on “the development of spiritual communities, both as congregations and within the context of spirituality groups and group spiritual direction. The course will assume that there is a deep yearning within the church and wider society for connection, and will look at a variety of models and training for deepening and supporting spiritual growth and discernment in communities of faith. Embedded in the course is a theology of baptism which supports

formation and ministry development for the priesthood of all believers.” The course is designed to be attended by clergy-lay teams. If you would like to consider being part of a group from St. Andrew's, please let me know. Support funding is available through a grant from the Lilly Foundation.

—HFD+

Fundraising

By Kate Cauble

Twelve parishioners attended the fundraising committee's breakfast meeting on November 21, 2005. A systematic assessment was made of the previous year's events. It was decided that very specific changes need to be instituted. A focus statement reads: **The fundraising committee will promote community outreach and assist in financial stability for the parish.**

The following fundraisers were agreed upon:

- ♦ Flea Market— rather than gathering large amounts of saleable items, it was suggested and agreed that we would instead rent tables (price to be determined) for anyone who wishes to participate. The items each participant wishes to bring are entirely up to the vendor, but what is brought in will be removed at the end of the day. The parish will conduct a bake sale, a plant sale and sell coffee, and donut-lunch is being considered. Scheduled for late May/early June. Persons responsible are Patti Rau and Kate Cauble.
- ♦ Crop Walk— scheduled in August. Organized by Sammie Wakefield and Lisa Thompson.
- ♦ Rummage Sale— in September, the same day as the Union Hall Rummage Sale. Persons responsible are Gretchen Behr and Joan Wright.
- ♦ Sandwich Fair— takes place in October. Lynne Clough and Michael Cauble will investigate application and fee required.
- ♦ Concert— scheduled for October with Becky VerPlanck, Carol Tubman and Christine Kurtz-White as organizers.
- ♦ Auction— Scheduled for November with George Rau and Tom Reinfuss responsible.
- ♦ Boughs and BonBons— will take place in December with Peg Reinfuss and Elaine South in charge.

Making the Most of our Space

One of our under-actualized sources of income is our meeting space. Over the years many groups and individuals have found our space desirable and convenient. We are wheel-chair accessible, have a kitchen, and are centrally located within Carroll County. Our fees are modest. We would like to have another one or two “regulars.” If you are associated with an organization that needs meeting space, or know people looking for space for special gatherings or receptions, please mention St. Andrew’s-in-the-Valley. Have them call the office and we’d be happy to discuss arrangements.

In the same vein, a reminder to anyone in the parish wanting to schedule parish events: Please contact the office and check with Sarah about availability. All events need to be posted on the parish calendar so that suitable space can be assigned, so as to avoid conflict.

Although occasionally it may seem like an inconvenience, it is a sign of the vitality of this parish and our commitment to serving this area that our space is increasingly well-used by both community and church groups!



New System for Altar Flowers

Have you noticed? There is now a large Flower Chart that covers all of 2006 posted in the Parish Hall on the door to the Food Pantry closet (to the left of the Parish Bulletin Board). Next to it is a container of Flower Contribution Envelopes. Please consider claiming one Sunday to offer flowers as a thanksgiving or memorial. The weekly cost is still only \$20, thanks to the generosity of Hill’s Florist.

Here is the procedure:

- ◆ Please print YOUR name on the flower chart.
- ◆ Fill out the envelope with the details.
- ◆ Put in your contribution.
- ◆ Leave the completed envelope in the offering plate or the office.

If each household covered one Sunday, we would be well supplied with flowers throughout the year and our worship would be enriched. (After the Sunday services, flowers are usually taken to homebound parishioners, but as provider of the flowers, you have the option of taking them home yourself if you should prefer.)



Community Chowder Supper and Environmental Issues Presentation January 20, 2006

The first Community Supper will be held on Friday, January 20, 2006 at St. Andrew’s Church Parish Hall. Dinner will be a chowder supper prepared by the St. Andrew’s Men’s Group at 6:00 P.M. After the supper, there will be a presentation by Blair Foltz of the Green Mountain Conservation Group on the environmental issues in the Ossipee Valley. The presentation will begin about 6:45 P.M.

Donations will be accepted and will benefit the Green Mountain Conservation Group and Focus Tamworth.

NAME TAG REMINDER

Remember to wear yours!! If you don’t have one or have misplaced yours, please call Peg Reinfuss @367-8498. I will be happy to make one for you!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Nathan Porter on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony on January 2nd. Nathan is a member of Troop 151, which is supported by Saint Andrew’s and meets weekly in our space.

Auction Report (Continued from back page)

George, Jeanette and Tom met on December 6th and set the date for next year’s auction, it will be on Friday November 17th. We are going to start the viewing at 6pm and start the Auction at 6:45pm. There will be a meeting for all interested on the 5th of September at 10 am at St. Andrews. We hope that this is enough advance notice.

Please remember that the “Evening at the Auction” is a year-round commitment. If you happen to be at one of the many area businesses that help support us, please take time to say Thank You!

Auction Report

By Tom Reinfuss

Somehow we did it again! The auction was a great success. Now it is time to start on next year's auction, but first we wish to thank everyone who helped make this year's auction a success (\$4165.50).

To start, it is only right that George and Tom confess that without Jeanette Glaws we would be lost. Therefore it is without any hesitation that we think that Jeanette should be listed as one of the co-chairs for the Auction Committee.

Tom Troon and his family once again have donated their time and expertise and we cannot possibly thank them enough.

Sarah, Duane, Lynne, Elaine, Brooks, Sammie, Lisa, Ted, Becky, Ed, Marie, Chuck, Peg, Patty, and all who donated time and effort into making this into a fun and profitable experience, a great big THANK YOU!

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Sunday January 29th
Single 9 AM Service
Special All-Parish
Meeting at 10:15 AM

See Page 1 for more details!