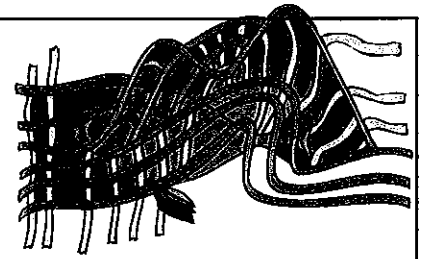
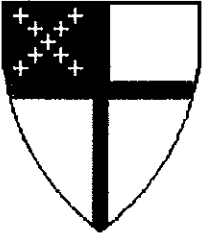


# The Sea Net

June 2001



St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 307 Hwy 98, Destin, FL 32540 Phone: 850-650-2737  
The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, II Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast  
The Rev. Don Cramer, Interim Rector



## From our Interim Rector Father Don Cramer

On Thursday, June 7, 2001, The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan, II paid a special visit to our Church. The purpose of his visit was to meet the members of the vestry and to do a walk through of our property.

Bishop Duncan remembered worshipping at St. Andrew's years ago in the original sanctuary. He was amazed at the progress we have made in this short time and was very encouraging of our continued efforts to rebuild the Episcopal presence in Destin.

I want to thank all of you for the surprise party on Pentecost. That was my 29th anniversary of ordination to the Diaconate. As I reflect back on all the years—I don't think I have had a more challenging assignment than this one. I remarked to Peggy that I felt this was the most difficult and taxing of any calling—but I also felt it was the most rewarding.

To watch a church form out of a remnant is quite an honor. To be associated with you all as it occurs is enjoyable. Peg and I have made some wonderful friends and are looking forward to spending more time getting to know you better, as we continue to gather for more and more events related to the church—and begin to have time for more social interaction, now that the "push" to become self sufficient is almost over.

My first Church was a yoked mission between the Navajo and Apache Indian reservations in Arizona. It was located at an elevation of 7000 feet and was the summer "escape" for many

people from Phoenix and Tucson. I am used to the swings in attendance and activities, but still getting used to the comings and goings of the specific Destin community. We will be shortly deciding how to take best advantage of that.

No Sunday School

JULY 1

Happening Closing at  
4:00 PM

The Vestry will have a day retreat this Friday and we will look at all of our current assets and liabilities, to determine how we can best use them for our future. We will prepare for the congregational meeting where all of you will help plan for the future here. **This will culminate with a visit from our new Bishop during August.** He will be coming to confirm our latest class and have an evening meal while we discuss with him how we see the see-the Church and the future. Hopefully most of you who are "getting cool" in

will be able to be back for this meeting.

The Bishop visited with the Vestry and looked at the plant and grounds last week. He discussed the past and was duly impressed with the wonderful job all of you have done in restoring the beauty and love to this church and the buildings.

He will be here again on Sunday at **4:00 pm on July 1** for the "Happening" closing and you won't want to miss that! We are expecting about 200 people and mostly young people, from around the Diocese—come join the fun. Thanks to so many of you who volunteered so much to the two team meetings we have already had. The best is yet to come—set aside some time the last weekend of the month and call Kathy McGee—she will fix you up for the best time you've had in a long time. It is heartwarming to watch young people come to Christ—a moving experience. Just when I thought I was there to teach them, one of them handed me a drawing of Christ on the cross. The caption read, "While he was on the cross—You were on his mind" - whew! I heard talks from these young people of faith walks that brought a lump to my throat. Come and join—be renewed! Be a servant and watch our Lord work with you as you work with them.

Fr. Don+

*the mountains*

# The SEA NET GIVES THANKS

The United Thank Offering is a program of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church founded by and administered by women since 1889. The Mission of the United Thank Offering (UTO) is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to GOD.

GOD calls each of us to grow in awareness of GOD, our own relationship with GOD, and our relationship in community with all whom GOD has created. As habits of daily thankful prayer mature, our spiritual development matures and awareness of our personal relationship with GOD grows. Habitual (daily) giving strengthens our being and doing.

How many times have you said, "Please, GOD, help me!" during a day? Perhaps you or someone close to you is in trouble, a situation arises which seems beyond your ability to cope, or have lost something important to you. GOD is present in times of panic and trouble. And we call upon His name and power with confidence.

Wonderful things—even major and minor miracles happen every hour of every day! How many times have you said, "Thank you, GOD!" during the day?

Giving our thanks "always and everywhere" keeps our connection with the Creator constant and dynamic. Sharing our thankfulness with others raises a sense of well being with both ourselves and the hearer. Telling of our experiences of daily—sometimes hourly—grace is witness to God's greatness and mercy.



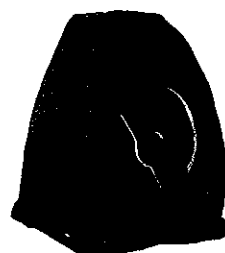
The UTO "Blue Box" is a way for you to express your own personal thanksgivings to GOD. Pick up a "Blue Box" in the Narthex and begin your regular offerings to GOD. When you are thankful for something or somebody, drop a coin into your "Blue Box". This money is an offering, not a donation. An offering is not the same as a donation or a contribution. **An offering is a thanksgiving to GOD—always.** Do this everyday—not just once in a while.

In the Fall and again in the Spring, we will have an "ingathering" to receive our offerings. The offering monies are entrusted to the UTO Committee and is distributed to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society in the form of grants. In 2000, UTO awarded \$3.1 million in grants. Thanks be to GOD!



We are actively seeking a **Music Minister**. We are open to hearing from anyone who can lead, play/sing and feels called to do so. Please contact Fr. Don at the Church if you are interested or if you **know someone** that may be interested in this position.

Don't forget, the new Bishop will be here **THREE** times this summer. He was just here last week, he will be here for Happening #35 Closing on July 1, and again in August for Confirmation and a Parish Dinner.



Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold will be the preacher on The Protestant Hour, a nationally broadcast ecumenical religious radio program on 3 Sundays this summer: July 22, Aug. 19 and Sept. 16. Tune into WLBE, 790AM at 6am on Sunday, WOKC, 1570AM at 8:30am on Sunday, or W P S L, 1590AM on Sunday at 8am. You can also listen online at <http://listen.protestanthour.com>.

# The SEA NET prepares for Happening



Happening is a youth-led, adult supervised, spiritual experience open to senior high youth. During the weekend of June 29—July 1, the participants of Happening #35 will embark upon St. Andrew's. This weekend is designed so that the youth participants (grades 10-12) spend time seriously considering the person and teaching of Jesus Christ in a relaxed, fun, informal and loving atmosphere. Young people are provided opportunities to share, discuss, learn and live with fellow Christians in an environment of acceptance and understanding.

As the **Host Parish**, there are all kinds of opportunities for you to take part in making this a wonderful and loving experience for the youth of the Central Gulf Coast. About 70 youth and adults will make up the staff and participants of Happening #35. Our Church Lady, Kathy McGee has a list of all the love opportunities you can select from. There are very simple things that you can choose, or more "labor-love" things.....your choice; we need them all!

The best part about being the Happening Host church is the Closing Eucharist that is held at 4:00 pm on the Sunday at the close of the weekend.

**That would be JULY 1 at 4:00 pm.**

Please make sure you mark that date on your calendar because you will NOT want to miss this service. Talk about our chance to see young people in action AND to meet the new Bishop as well.

## Want to know more about "Episcopalians and Anglicans around the world?"

**Pick up a copy of Episcopal News Service in the Narthex.** Be in the know about Peace in Israel/Palestine, the blessing of same sex marriages, and other states that are barring priests of the Anglican Mission in America.

## Whisper or Brick?

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and spun the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. He jumped out of the car, grabbed the kid that was standing there and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What do you think you are doing, boy?" Building up a head of steam he went on, "That's a brand new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

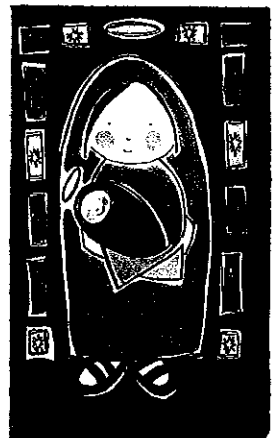
"Please sir, please. I'm sorry, I didn't know what else to do," pleads the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop." Tears were dripping down the boy's chin as he pointed around the parked car. "It's my brother, sir," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair, sir? He's too heavy for me to lift."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took his handkerchief and wiped the scrapes and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be OK.

"Thank you and may GOD bless you, sir," the grateful child said to him.

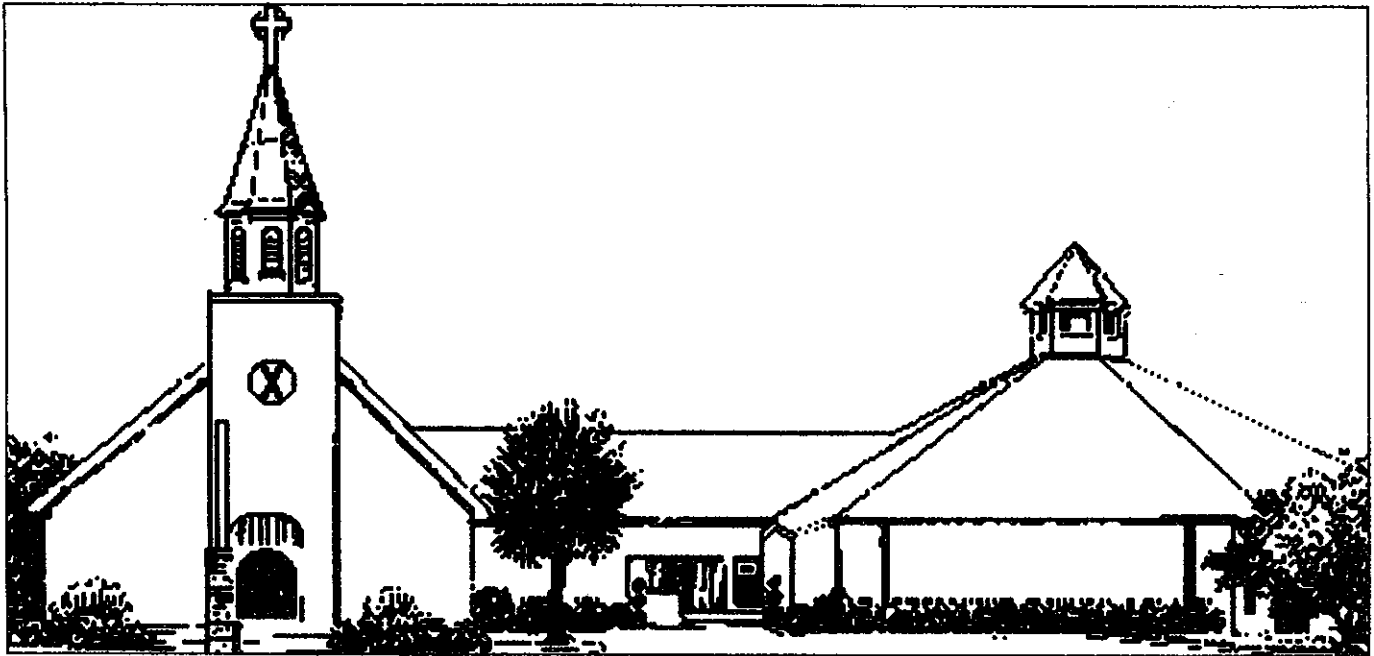
The man then watched the little boy push his brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long walk, back to his Jaguar, a long slow walk. He never did repair the damage the brick caused when it crashed into the side door of his new Jaguar. He kept the dent as a reminder for him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention.

GOD whispers in your soul and speaks to your heart. Sometimes when you don't have time to listen, He has no choice but to throw a brick at you. Of course it is your choice; Listen to the whisper—or wait for the brick?



St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church  
 307 Highway 98  
 P.O. Box 1658  
 Destin, FL 32540

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 DESTIN, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 1



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>JUNE 2001</b>					1	2
3 9 am SS 10 am Eucharist	4 Vestry Meeting 5:30 pm Every 1st Mon-	5	6 6 pm Confirma- tion Class	7	8	9 Happening Staff Meeting
10 9 am SS 10 am Eucharist	11 Reunion Group at Noon	12	13 6 pm Confirma- tion Class	14	15 Vestry Retreat 9:30 am to 4:00	16
17 <b>Father's Day</b> 9 am SS 10 am Eucharist	18 Reunion Group at Noon	19	20 6 pm Confirma- tion Class	21	22	23
24 No SS 10 am Eucharist	25 Reunion Group at Noon	26	27 6 pm Confirma- tion Class	28	29 Happening #35	30 Happening #35

**Church Office Phone # 850-650-2737**