



The Sea Net

St. Andrew's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church



The Rt. Rev. Phillip M. Duncan II, Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
The Rev. David Powell, Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



Dear Friends,
Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!
As I write this note I am surrounded by boxes awaiting the movers on Wednesday and making final plans to move to Destin and begin our adventure together as priest and congregation. There is so much to say and do and learn from each other in this journey we are taking, and there will be time for that. But for now I want you to know that I am deeply humbled that you have called me to be the first full-time rector of the new St. Andrew's. I am eager to get settled in and begin to get to know you better and continue discovering with one another the purposes for which God has called us together.

With you, I am grateful for the faith of those clergy and lay persons who have preceded me in this good work these many years, particularly for the skillful, loving and faithful ministry of Fathers Don Cramer and Bob Graves who have shepherded this parish to its current vitality and health. I pray for the grace to continue effectively in their legacy.

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Dearly Beloved,
"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." With these words St. Paul began his letter to the Christians in Rome a long time ago. With these same words I begin my last letter to you, because they are just as true now for you to read as they were for the original receivers.

Your faith is proclaimed throughout the world and to say so is no exaggeration. In our transient world people come and go through the life of St. Andrew's and the word comes back time after time of the blessing of the experience, whether briefly on a Sunday morning or a longer sojourn. Your faith – your willingness to hold the hand of God and to walk with him and to allow Him to love through you is known near and far.

I am one who gladly testifies to this from my time with you. These nine months we have shared are the birthing of deep gratitude and great joy in my heart. I have witnessed and been made party to miracle and grace, hospitality and generosity,

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Inreach Committee

Mother's Day and Father's Day were especially beautiful. All of our Mothers received a lovely carnation, and our Fathers received their choice of golf balls, DVD's, chocolate candy, or fishing lure. Many thanks to Florida Golf Outlet for donating the golf balls.

Special thanks to all who continually provide food for Fellowship. We have been blessed with an abundance of fabulous "chefs"!! Keep up the good work. Many thanks,

Connie Tanski

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Fr. Bob con't from page 1

struggle and uncertainty, death and birth – shared, celebrated, and offered to the Lord who has bound us together in His love and in His promise to be with us always.

The challenges before you to remain faithful, and to learn to trust God more and more are enormous. Trust Him. Never let go of the hand by which you were brought into being, the hand that feeds and blesses you and never lets go of you.

Jane and I will seize every opportunity we have to worship with you. We will always and daily pray for you whom we love and by whom we have been wonderfully loved.

Thank you. Thank you, for the gift you have been to us.

Faithfully and joyfully,

Fr. Bob

Interim Rector



Pictured above: The Altar in the Children's Sunday School
At right: A Banner the children made



From the Jr. Warden

Like the Marines, we are looking for a few good men and women. I have the notion that many people feel that they have no skills that apply to Motley Crew tasks. We do a little of everything – cleaning, polishing, mowing, trimming, painting, carpentry, changing A/C filters, changing bulbs, some minor electrical and plumbing, setting up tables, planting flowers, changing sprinkler heads...the list goes on.

Surely you can perform one or more of these tasks. You can always turn to Marge, Kathy, Janet, Jim, Dick, Jack and Jerry for help or advice. And if all else fails you can see Bill for a tool; (just remember to give it back.)

My second concern is that I am not aware of all that needs to be done around the church and grounds. So PLEASE tell me or any member of the Crew if you know of a problem or an area that needs improvement.

Bill James

Jr. Warden, AKA Motley Crew Chief

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Fr. David con't from page 1

In my prayers I have been praying daily for each person on the mailing list by name for the last month or so. In the mystery of God's love that activity has already drawn me closer to you. My family and I know you have been praying for us, as well, and we value those prayers dearly.

Again, know we are eager to get going - Betsy, from a distance as she completes her final year at The General Theological Seminary in New York City, and I, as I make the move to Destin and settle in as your rector.

Thank you for the faith you have placed in me. May we all step into these new chapters of our lives with faith, love, and joyful expectation!

Faithfully,

Father David Powell+





Columbarium Update



Current expansion plans for the Columbarium Chapel are complete. All altar niches have been pre-purchased. Sixty-six new niches and a Gospel cross have been installed on the east

wall of the Chapel.

On either side of the Alpha-Omega stained glass window are bronze memorial plaques. These plaques are for people whose remains or ashes are placed elsewhere, but who would like a memorial within the church.

From the Father Don Cramer Memorial Fund came the purchase of the two votive candle stands and two kneelers.

The new niches are available for pre-purchase by members of St. Andrew's on a first-come, first-serve basis. The cost of these niches is \$550.00. The memorial plaque is priced at \$100.00. A payment plan is available. The advantage of pre-purchase is you have a better chance of co-location and choice of site. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry McGee 837-2539.



Cursillo Update

Anyone interested in Cursillo can visit our information table in the old Sanctuary. We have a pamphlet that gives you the background of this movement within the Episcopal Church. Anyone having questions, please contact Jerry McGee.

Sunday, September 12, 3:00 pm, St Andrew's by-the-Sea will sponsor a Diocesan Cursillo Ultreya. All who have been to Cursillo are welcome and may bring a friend to see a little of what Cursillo is about. We will be joined with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the surrounding area.

There are currently two fall Cursillos scheduled for 2004, Cursillo #125, Oct. 28-31 at Camp Beckwith and Cursillo # 126, Nov. 4-7 at the Blue Horizons, Panama City Beach. If anyone wishes to attend, now is the time to process the applications.

Anyone who has been to Cursillo and feels the call to serve on staff in 2005 should start processing their staff application. These are located in the old Sanctuary on the Cursillo display table.



Lighting of Votive Candles



If you've been in church lately, you hopefully have noticed the newest additions to the Columbarium; two votive candle stands and two kneelers. With the

monies collected for Father Don's memorial fund, Peggy chose these things to honor his memory.

I have had several people express to me that they weren't sure what these votive candles were all about. Hence, I am writing this article to enlighten you on the lighting of votive candles.

Anyone may light a candle on the votive stand. As soon as we begin to think about it, we understand what a friendly and beautiful thing light is. Our Blessed Lord tells us that He is the Light of the world. He is the Everlasting Light who makes the world bright and glad at all times and in all places.

The lighting of candles in church is a method of prayer. We pray for some special object, and light a little candle that will burn several hours as a memorial of our petition before God. We believe He looks upon our votive candles and remembers our prayers.

Lighting candles is also a method of thanksgiving. There is, of course, no obligation resting upon anyone to light a candle. But, just as we light candles on a birthday cake, or illuminate a city when a dignitary visits, so there are those who, when they have a special cause for thanksgiving, like to do something more than return verbal thanks to God. They like to illuminate the house of God with a blessed candle or two. Then, after they have left the church, a little light shines there as a token not only to God, but also as a sign of their love and gratitude.

When you light a candle, it is also a reminder of our vocation, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Some people place money in the stand. You don't need to pay to light a candle; follow your heart. Any donations collected are used to purchase new candles.

So, dear people, come and let your light shine!

Kathy McGee



When we think of Kate Driggers, we usually think music, but she says that sometimes she “plays” with paints. During the first two years of the re-building of St. Andrew’s By-the-Sea, there were many references to our “rising from the ashes” after the split. Kate had already been thinking about a phoenix painting, then got a real push from a sermon of Father Don’s; after finishing the phoenix on the background of a St. Andrew’s cross, Kate showed it to Fr. Don before he & Peggy left on their European trip.

Kate & Art had moved to Destin almost a year before our “rising from the ashes” began, and have been happy to be able to be a part of the re-building of this church family. Kate began playing

for services here in November 2000. She says music is definitely in her blood: her mother was a Methodist Church organist in South Carolina for almost 50 years, and her older sister is now organist at that same church! Kate’s been playing piano since she was 8, has been an Episcopalian for 30½ years, and has now served as organist at 1 Presbyterian and 4 Episcopal Churches in 3 states.

Art grew up a Methodist, too, but in Georgia. Kate & Art have been friends since meeting in the Clemson University Glee Club in 1968. After a lot of years of friendship, they finally (at fifty!) figured out that they deserved each other and were married in July 1999.



Outreach News

If a stranger approaches you at the church and asks for something to eat, what can you offer them? You can give them one of our food bags, packed and ready to go from the office. We have food bags for the homeless and hungry already made up, stored under the secretary’s desk.

What’s in the bag? We buy non-perishable, nutritious snacks in bulk at Sam’s. We pack each bag with a granola bar, peanut butter crackers, Vienna sausages, fruit cups, beanie weenies and a fruit drink box, along with a napkin and a plastic spoon. The cost of these food bags comes out of the budget for community outreach.

You might be surprised to know that we have several regular recipients in addition to those on their way through Destin. We have passed out as many as 15 bags in one week this year. Now you know another way that we are reaching out at St. Andrews.

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being “care-full”, you find yourselves cared for. “
Matthew 5:7-8

Teri Darnell



From the Interim Sr. Warden

Transition...a time of change!

Our congregation should be used to things changing. The first big change took place in 2000 when we numbered only a few brave souls after the split. Seeing the need to help a struggling church, the then retired Fr. Don Cramer stepped forward and became the interim rector. He and his wife, Peggy, helped St. Andrew's to grow and continue to show an Episcopal Church presence in Destin. Fr. Don was a kindred spirit. It was through his special skills of understanding, nurturing and guidance that our numbers grew and Bishop Duncan gave us permission to begin our search for a full time rector. Unfortunately a few months into the search, Fr. Don met an untimely death. We are blessed that Peggy Cramer has remained on board and continues to be an invaluable member of St. Andrew's.

During the past 9 months we have been blessed by the presence of Fr. Bob Graves as interim rector. Fr. Bob is truly a special person. He has blessed us with his kindness, his devotion and caring and also with his laughter, his tears and his PUNS. To you Bob and to Jane, I say THANK YOU for being a part of my life and a special part of St. Andrew's. You have helped

us to deal with our grief following the tragic death of our beloved Fr. Don Cramer. Now, you help us as we prepare to welcome Fr. David to our congregation.

We are about to undergo another very big transition at St. Andrew's By-the-Sea. Our first full time rector since the split occurred will take the reins on July 1st. We have been preparing ourselves for this occasion since the beginning of the search process some 16 months ago. Who would have believed that Fr. David Powell would have his first Sunday service with us on July 4th. Talk about an Independence Day!

I look forward to working with Fr. David and getting to know him as a priest, a spiritual director, and a friend. I hope that you all will take advantage of every opportunity to get to know both him and his wife Betsy.

I know that this newsletter goes out to a lot of people who are not regular Sunday worshipers with us. That being said, I encourage you to come to church on Sunday the 4th of July to help us celebrate our independence and to welcome the Rev. David Powell and his wife Betsy into our congregation.

Marge Pegula



In the Pink at Fr. Bob's Going Away Dinner





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This Newsletter is a gift of Time & Talent by the parishioners
at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.
If you have anything you would like included,
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