



# 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



Toward the end of his long work, "For the Time Being: a Christmas Oratorio", the poet W. H. Auden reflects on the ephemeral vision of grace and possibility that it is only glimpsed – but glimpsed never-the-less, but which also fades ever so quickly:

Well, so that is that. Now we must dismantle the tree,  
Putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes-  
Some have got broken – and carrying them up into the attic.

The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down & burnt,  
And the children got ready for school. There are enough  
Leftovers to do, warmed-up for, for the rest of the week-  
Not that we have much appetite, having drunk such a lot,  
Stayed up so late, attempted – quite unsuccessfully-  
To love all our relatives, and in general  
Grossly overestimated our powers. Once again  
As in previous years we have seen the actual Vision and failed  
To do more than entertain it as an agreeable Possibility...To those  
who have seen  
The Child, however dimly, however incredulously,  
The Time Being is, in a sense, the most trying time of all...

There is much I would like to forget about Hurricane Ivan and its aftermath, but there are also many things I don't want to forget:

- Friends and family calling to check on one another.
- Neighbors working on each other's yards and homes to clean and secure them, often before their own homes were tended to.
- The sharing of food, ice and water: someone has meat that is thawing, another has a grill. Anybody who is hungry, come and eat.
- Sharing stories, feelings and experiences.
- Visiting with folks you might never have gotten to know.
- And did we not almost forget how beautiful the stars were on the coast? ... Or how good a cold drink of water could taste?
- To be vulnerable again and recognize that we needed help...to realize once more how truly dependent we are upon one another.
- Who among us has not gotten a lump in our throat and a tear in our eye as crew after crew of workers poured into our area from all over (many are still here weeks later) working tirelessly and selflessly to

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### SPOTLIGHT



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Usual Weekly Schedule

#### Sundays

Worship Service ..... 10:00 am  
Fellowship Time ..... 11:00 am

#### Mondays

Cursillo Reunion Group ..... Noon  
Handbell Practice ..... 7:00 pm

#### Thursdays

Motley Crew ..... Noon  
Men's Cursillo Group ..... 5:30 pm  
Women's Cursillo Group ..... 5:30 pm  
Choir Practice ..... 6:30 pm

### Special Items of Interest

#### October 4, 2004

Pet Blessing ..... 6:00 pm

#### October 9, 2004

Parish Breakfast ..... 8:00 am

#### October 10 & 17, 2004

Vestry Meeting ..... Noon

#### October 20, 2004

Parish Picnic ..... 5:30 pm

#### November 13, 2004

Parish Breakfast ..... 8:00 am

#### November 14, 2004

UTO Ingathering

#### November 17, 2004

Pot Luck Dinner ..... 5:30 pm

#### November 25, 2004

Holy Eucharist ..... 10:00 am

#### December 5, 2004

Bishop Duncan's Visit ..... 10:00 am

#### December 12, 2004

Annual Meeting ..... Noon

### Adult Christian Education

**Exploring Our Episcopal Faith and Practice** will be offered on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45. Led by the rector, the class format will be a mixture of didactic and discussion. We will be using the great little book, Those Episkopols, by The Rev. Dennis Maynard. This offering, with possible supplementary material will fulfill the requirements for confirmation or reception into the Episcopal Church. We will begin October 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Annual Parish Picnic

Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Parish Picnic will be held at Park St. John at 5:30 pm social hour – 6:30 pm food service. Duane & Nancy St. John have again offered their house and bayside deck for this fun event.

The church will provide the meat and the guests will bring pot-luck dishes. There will be a signup sheet in the parish hall during fellowship hour after church service on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

The meat will be hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs cooked to perfection on the outdoors grill. Wine and beer will be available for the usual donation of \$5. Soft drinks and iced tea will also be available at no cost. Music by the electric radio.

The St. Johns live at 333 Calhoun Ave, Destin. Calhoun is the last street on the right before you go over the Destin bridge. Go 7/10 of a mile to the 333 mailbox on the left - turn left. The house is at the end of the cul-de-sac – you can park on the street or in the field on your right. Walk in the gravel circular driveway and follow the path "DUANE ST" to the bayside of the house.

### The Breakfast Club

The second Saturday of each month a group of parishioners gather in the parish hall to eat breakfast and enjoy each others company. Some of us enjoy cooking and we try to vary the menu each month. This past month we said good-bye to our good friend Jack Thomas. If Jack was able to be there you would find him frying up sausage or ham. We're going to miss you Jack!

Everyone is invited to come and join us. All we ask is that you sign up to let us know that you are coming so that we know how much food to prepare. A sign up sheet will be available in the parish hall the week before we meet. Coffee is always ready by 8 am and breakfast is served promptly at 8:30 am. We look forward to seeing some new faces.



*The Sea Net is now a MONTHLY publication. Articles, announcements, etc. for the Sea Net may be submitted to Kim Moore directly (kimmers@cox.net) or through the church office. With the Newsletter committee's approval, these submissions will be included when appropriate. The deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.*

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- bring aid and relief and who caravanned into our neighborhoods to restore electricity and utilities and order.
- And the genuine heartfelt gratitude as people came out to the curb to rejoice and applaud that caravan of trucks and people from Ohio or Michigan or North Carolina or our own Gulf Power or any number of other states ... who brought back the lights and who joined in rejoicing, "Yea, Yea, You've got lights!"
- Pausing to break bread and make eucharist amidst the chaos of a wrecked neighborhood as a handful of people from various denominations paused amidst the rubble to share this sacrament of Christ's presence with us.
- The acts of heroism and bravery – documented and undocumented – that have happened.
- Always with some exceptions...but didn't you notice the patience with the long lines at the stores? People telling workers "Thank you for coming in." Even patience at intersections where there used to be traffic lights.
- A sense of community in shared inconvenience and suffering.

It's a beautiful thing when we remember how to be neighbors to each other. It's powerful...more powerful than the fearsome and destructive power of a terrible hurricane. It's a beautiful thing, and every now and again, we get a glimpse of it...God's love enacted. Transforming, remaking this broken world.

In 'the time being', as the weeks go by, and as hurricane fatigue set in, my hope and prayer is that the vision of grace and possibility that has enfolded us will not fade into a distant memory, that we will not have 'failed to do more than entertain it as an agreeable possibility', but we will claim and celebrate it as the reality of God's transforming love.

**In Christ,  
Fr. David**



*Fr. David with Fr. James Flowers*

## FELLOWSHIP

When one hears the word fellowship at St. Andrew's we usually think of it as the time after church on Sunday morning where there is coffee and an assortment of food to eat. Many people stay after church and partake in this "social hour." Many have other obligations or do not feel comfortable coming back to the parish hall.

In my previous life, (*the time before St. Andrew's*) I always felt very isolated. If I did go to church I'd leave immediately after the service knowing that I fulfilled my religious obligation. But did I? I never got to know anyone, never spoke to anyone except for the cursory, "Good Morning." Then I heard about this wonderful church in Destin. The first time I came to the Sunday Service I received such a warm welcome, I was invited to come to fellowship after the service. I met people who were warm and caring and I actually looked forward to Sundays and to interacting with other people who attended church.

I recently read an article where the author stated that one of the things he was doing to improve his faith was to hang around with a bunch of other Christians. Isn't this really what fellowship is about?

I invite you to come hang out with us in the parish hall after Sunday Services. Sign up to bring food and join in the "Fellowship."

**Marge Pegula,  
Senior Warden**

## MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

This fall the St. Andrew's choir will be exploring our several hymnal resources, and our offertory anthems will be primarily hymns: many familiar, some new, and most sung in unison rather than in parts. It's a great time for those of you who enjoy singing to try out the choir!

We won't ask you for a long-term commitment, just that you sing with us when you can. Choir practice is at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays, and we meet in the choir room at 9:30 am on Sundays. If you're planning to attend Fr. David's inquirer classes, you can join us at 9:45 am to sing through the offertory hymn again.

We hope many of you will "make a joyful noise" with us over the next weeks. If you'd like more details, ask Kate or me.

**Steve McCown**

## OUTREACH

As a small parish, it is sometimes difficult for us to have a large impact on our community in times of disaster. Our outreach efforts turn to in reach as we try to care for our parishioners and their families. That's why we want your ideas on how we can start now to be prepared to make a contribution the next time disaster strikes in Destin.

Many local churches were cited in the local newspaper for their contributions during the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan; some cooked meals, some provided shelter, some passed out water. All of these churches have much larger congregations and can provide much needed services.

What can St. Andrews offer and how can we start preparing now? It was suggested that we could start collecting and storing one non-perishable item that we could make available to the community, like tarps for damaged roofs, coolers, and extra gas cans or flashlights. What about paper products? Is there one thing you really needed but didn't have or couldn't find when the storm hit?

We have all shared stories of how we survived Ivan and we know that sometime in the future another hurricane will blow into Destin. Let's start preparing now to help our neighbors. Please share your ideas.

*God's Peace,  
Teri Darnell*

## HURRICAN RELIEF FUND

The Treasurer has sent a check for \$150 from St. Andrew's donors to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast for inclusion in the Episcopal Church relief fund for the victims of Hurricanes Charley and Frances. Our prayers go along with this money to those devastated by the storms as they seek to rebuild their lives.

## CAN YOU SPARE SOME TIME?

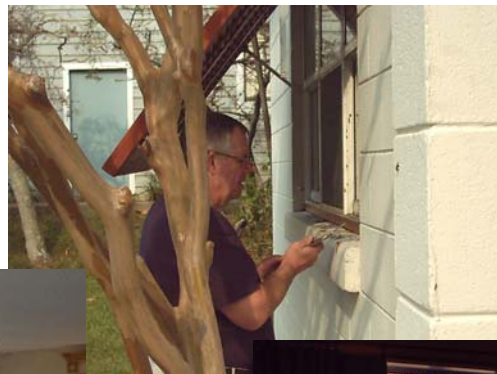
St. Andrew's By-the-Sea has come a long way since the year 2000. We have endured many hardships and we have proved time after time that we are a proud, strong, and loving congregation. We have continued to grow by the Grace of God and by the commitment that our parishioners have for our church and for each other.

There is much work involved in the operation of a church. The majority of this work is accomplished by volunteers. Some of the volunteers have moved on, others are feeling that they would like to step back and have some of our other parishioners step up to the plate.

Some of the areas that need additional support are:  
**Motley Crew**  
**Flower Guild**  
**Newsletter Printing / and putting address labels on for Post Office**  
**Altar Guild**  
**Choir**

In addition to these Sue needs some help in the office. Some one with free time on Fridays is needed to put the visitor cards in the pews and to help fold bulletins.

One of the ways that you can get involved in the operation of our church is to take advantage of the opportunities that are available. If you can spare some time and are interested in any of the above areas please call the office and talk to Sue and she will connect you with the person who is in charge of your area of interest.



*Jerry & Jim,  
members of the  
Motley Crew,  
hard at work  
keeping our  
Church in  
shape.*



*Sue, our secretary, and Jim of the Flower  
Guild can use your time and talents, too!*

