



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

MAY 2005

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Some of you have seen the obelisk-shaped prism in my office. When you look through it from one side, you see in the center a cross. Turn it a third, and now you see a chalice. Another third of a turn yields the figure of a ciborium (bread box). It is really quite fascinating.

If you were in church on March 6th you might remember that at our vestry retreat which had just concluded the day before, we talked about looking at the present and future ministry of St. Andrew's in a slightly different way. Not changing things, but "turning the prism" and looking at our ministry from a different angle and with fresh new eyes. Imagining and re-imagining.

We adopted three specific goals for our vestry's work this year and affirmed a unanimous commitment to accomplish them effectively.

I am pleased to tell you that we are making considerable progress on them. First, we are re-imagining our parish's ministries according to a model which has been around the Episcopal Church for several years: **SWEEP—Service, Worship, Education, Evangelism, & Pastoral Care**—all supported by administration and enabled by you, the ministers of St. Andrew's.

For **Service** (think "outreach"), under the vestry purview of Suzy Eidson, an Outreach Committee is being formed. Duane St. John has offered to be the first chair to get it going.

An active **Worship** Committee continues to plan and support our worship services.

An **Education** Committee, under the leadership of Bruce Moore, has already met. See Bruce's article in this issue for the update on what is being planned.

Joyce Waters-Smith will continue to focus her attention as a vestry member in the area of **Evangelism**, and it is here that the aim will be to carry out the vestry commitment of more effectively assimilating newcomers into the life of our parish. See Paul & Betty Dandrea's article in this issue.

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SPOTLIGHT



Day of
Pentecost
May 15

Why not wear red for
this celebration?

The First Lesson on
Pentecost is always
Acts 2:1-11, and we
will hear it read
simultaneously by
5 or 6 people in
different languages,
including American
Sign Language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Usual Weekly Schedule

Sundays

Worship Service10:00 am
Fellowship Time11:00 am

Mondays

Cursillo Reunion GroupNoon

Tuesdays

Healing Service10:00 am

Thursdays

Knitting Group10:00 am
Motley CrewNoon
Cursillo Reunion Group . 5:30 pm
Choir Practice..... 6:30 pm
Hand bell Practice 6:30 pm

Special Items of Interest

Worship Committee Meeting

5/9 5:30 pm

Parish Breakfast

5/14 8 am

Vestry Meeting

5/15..... Noon

Pot Luck Dinner

5/18 5:30 pm

Christian Ed Team Meeting

5/22..... Noon

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.

Adult Sunday School Class

A new class will be offered using the book *Opening the Prayer Book* beginning May 1st and will run for 8 weeks. It will be held in the Christian Ed building from 8:45 till 9:30 am. Please sign up in the Parish Hall in order to ensure adequate books are on hand for purchase (\$10 each).

Ordinations

The following ordinations of Deacons to the Priesthood have been scheduled:

The Rev. Tim Watts May 14th St. John's, Robertsdale

The Rev. Jim Flowers May 27th All Saints, Mobile

The Ordination of Deacons who graduated this Spring includes Betsy Powell, Fr. David's wife. This event will be held at the new Diocesan Cathedral, Christ Church Mobile, on June 4th at 11 am.

Icon Writing Workshop



A workshop will be held at St. Simons FWB from May 12-16. This faith journey is a 4 1/2 day creative process that will include the Eucharist, Gregorian chant, praying with icons, reading from Rowan Williams' and Henri Nouwen's icon books, and meditation. There will be free time and social hours for replenishment. To allow for personal instruction, the class is limited to 20 students. Cost: \$325 per person (program, icon materials, breakfast and lunch).

Register with \$75 deposit per person, nonrefundable. The workshop begins with Eucharist at 3 pm on May 12 and ends Monday afternoon.

2005 Elder Quest

Sponsored by St. Simon's on-the-Sound, is scheduled for June 13-17 at St. Simon's. Program will feature unique story telling and portrayal of Biblical accounts by the Rt. Rev. Charles Duvall II, the 2nd bishop of the diocese. 9-12 daily, for a fee of \$15 program only or \$35, program and lunch. Open to adults of all ages. Please call 244-8621.

Did you Know?

Pentecost The term means "the fiftieth day"...[and] is used in the NT to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1), shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise which Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is now the seventh Sunday after Easter. It emphasizes that the church is understood as the body of Christ which is drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit. Some understand Pentecost to be the origin and sending out of the church into the world. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church ... [and is] one of the feasts that is "especially appropriate" for baptism...The liturgical color for the feast is red.

From An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians, Don S. Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors.

Senior Warden Thoughts

Connie Tanski

After 90 days as Senior Warden, I would like to share some "thoughts" with you.....

First, and foremost, I believe that St. Andrew's is in the process of "growing". I sense a spirit of teamwork and enthusiasm that is taking us forward, and I find an enormous positive energy throughout the Parish.

The team spirit of the Vestry is especially gratifying. Three new members have been quickly integrated into the management and oversight process. The "offsite" retreat was most instrumental in developing needed changes and "vision". We are well on our way to realizing the goals set by the 2005 Vestry, and you will soon be hearing more about how these goals will lead us into the next chapter of our Parish life.

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, Jim Cooper is focusing his vestry work in the area of **Pastoral Care** (think "inreach"—the way we care for each other within the parish).

The final vestry goal—structuring Sunday mornings to more effectively serve the needs of all parishioners—impacts all the above areas of focus, and is actively being considered by the entire vestry.

Administratively, Kate, Dick Westberry, and Kim Moore are reviewing several comprehensive software packages which will give us a much more effective way to better serve the parish and support its membership and ministries.

In all of these areas of ministry, we discover that there are things we as a parish are doing very well and things that we should be doing better. This is a remarkable parish, which has come so far in so brief a time. And yet God is calling us and leading us into new futures—individual and corporate. And God will equip us to accomplish what he calls us to.

Jesus tells of a seed growing secretly (Mark 4:26-29). While it is in the ground you might not see much happening until it sprouts and shows forth its shoots. I am encouraged by the new groundwork being undertaken by this current vestry, building of course on the groundwork of preceding leaders.

In the "turning of the prism" an evolutionary step is being taken in imagining and living out the life and

Inreach and Outreach activities (i.e. Fellowship, Potluck Suppers, and the Dead Sea Scroll bus trip) are complementing well-organized Spiritual Programs. The "Motley Crew", with the help of many volunteers (to include those who have helped with the grounds cleanup after the Parish Breakfasts) have significantly improved the post "Ivan" property appearance.

I am very proud to be a member of this congregation and to serve as your Senior Warden. With your help, the Church will continue to "grow".

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, and be thinking and praying about how God is leading you to use your time/talents at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

ministry of God's people who are St. Andrew's. Look for the signs of new seeds of ministry breaking forth, of the behind-the-scenes work bearing fruit. And prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to use your gifts, talents, and passion—and to discover new ones.

*In Christ's love,
Fr. David*



The Easter Arrangement this year was inspired by the Passion of our Lord. The wooden stump was in remembrance of the wooden cross upon which he died. The rock at the base represented the stone that sealed Him in the tomb of death and then rolled away to reveal that he had Risen. The flowers of the spring season were for the new Life springing out of death. All three attributes together also represented the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Newcomer News

Betty and Paul Dandrea

As we all know there are 3 certainties in life; death, taxes and change. Our Vestry has taken a position this year in regards to the certainty of change. They have included in their Statements of Mission "We, the Vestry, are committed to intentionally identifying and assimilating newcomers into the parish". This is not necessarily a new theme but this year there will be a concerted effort to give this mission focused attention. New members means growth to our family and whether it be growth in our faith, growth in our relationships or growth in our vocations, with growth comes new found prosperity and vitality.

We would like to take a first step in this mission. It is often said that we form our opinions of other people within the first 4 seconds we meet them. Visitors (who are potential new members to our family) form their opinions at the first Sunday Service they attend. Our family worship is great. Its warm, focused on why we are really there and welcome to visitors. Good first impressions are surely made. But we need to go one step further.

Father David each week welcomes guests at the beginning of the service and invites one and all to

UTO - United Thank Offering

Kathy McGee

Your gifts of thanksgiving, coins and bills in your UTO box, are combined with others at the parish gatherings and finally with all of the Episcopal Church. All of the monies collected are given away in the form of grants to support and strengthen the mission and ministry of the church throughout the world.

In 2004, the UTO committee approved 123 grants, totaling \$2,741,965.54. The average grant amount was \$22,292. The largest grant for \$120,000 went to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Tela, Honduras, to completely rebuild their church. Closer to home in our Diocese, St. Anna's Episcopal church in Atmore, AL. received \$22,500 to construct a multi-purpose building for worship, fellowship, and expanded outreach programs. St. Michael's in Chickasaw, AL. received \$4,450 to paint the exterior of a historic church building.

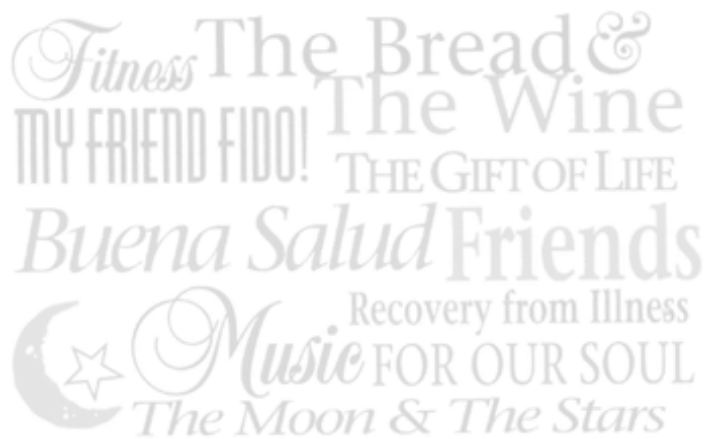
From Papua New Guinea to Wyoming, UTO's goal

attend fellowship afterwards. We stand and greet our visitors and reaffirm the invitation to fellowship. But people are often reluctant to walk into an environment where they do not know anyone. We need to go further. Our vision should be to escort those who accept our invitation to fellowship. Nametags would be very helpful and will be available on the table just outside the Sanctuary. Please take it upon yourself to assist our guests in filling out these tags. They should then be escorted by you to fellowship and introduced to people you know. In addition, those who attend fellowship should make a concerted effort to seek out our guests and introduce yourselves. Our Christian faith is one of reaching out and what a great opportunity to reaffirm this commitment. These guests will easily be identified by their nametags.

We are not asking for volunteers to assist in the above mission. We, as the St. Andrews Family, are all participants. We are asking all to join in this aspect of the mission. The rewards will be great as we together embark on this exciting time of growth within our family.

is to expand the circle of thankful people. Be ever mindful of the abundance of God's blessings in your life and give thanks.

Our spring UTO in gathering will be on May 8th, 2005. I know your UTO boxes are full of your Lenten prayerful thanks. Be sure to see the UTO display in the Old Sanctuary.



Knitting Group

Annabel James

Many of you have asked me about the Knitting group at St. Andrews. During Sunday services, you have seen the prayer/healing shawls/mantles (it is tough to come up with a descriptive title) being carried up to the altar at the offertory and blessed. You have wondered how this all comes about.

There is a corps of people who have taken on a personal ministry to spend some of their time knitting these beautiful things, praying as they knit and/or crochet a piece that will become large enough to enfold someone in softness and warmth as their need demands.

The members of this corp. of folks is divided approximately into half are snowbirds and half are Floridians. Sometimes we meet together and knit while we talk and share things or Duane St. John reads to us. We have enjoyed Mark Twain and recently, a chapter from the book "The European Dream." (Thank you, Duane.) Others do this in their own homes, or Dr.'s waiting rooms (Good conversation starter and you get to tell people about why you are doing it and do they know anyone who might need one of the shawls? Dr.'s and nurses are most receptive and can often give us referrals.) As we knit we pause often to pray that whoever receives this piece will be comforted and healed but most of all will feel the warmth and love

of Christ for one of his own.

This is an ongoing ministry. The meeting group is on hiatus until our snowbirds return (We miss you so much!) but the knitting continues. We know that many of the group have taken this back with them to their Northern home churches and there are many more groups working for the same thing in their communities. I never cease to be amazed at how far a single simple act can grow and grow. Talk about your 'Butterfly Effect'.

As for the people who receive these gifts,...well, I'll just say that they cover a large community of ills and troubles. I know of one shawl that was given to a person whose infirmity improved markedly and he in turn gave the shawl to a person who was going through a rough patch in a marriage, who has given it to....you get the idea. Many a recipient has told us how the cold that accompanies chemotherapy is lessened by being wrapped in their shawls.

I could tell you dozens of these stories...but I won't. You get the idea.

How can you help? Can you knit? Do you crochet? It is so simple to do. I will be glad to give some instruction. I'm not very good at it and don't attempt anything complicated. But all you have to do is look at some of the shawls to know that each is made with love and concern. You can, too.

Junior Warden's Notes

Bill James

The Motley Crew has a list of projects that will keep us busy for some time to come. There are filters to be changed with the turn of the season and still some Ivan damage that needs to be tackled. Maybe you don't feel that you could help with that. Well, I have a deal for you. We need help to maintain the grounds! The next time you are at church, take a minute to look around the grounds. See if there is a flower bed, a group of bushes or just a portion of the yard that you would consider maintaining. You set the pace - do it on your own schedule. If you need tools, supplies, etc...see me. Tom Thiemann and his hearty band of gardeners have been working hard. All you have to do is look

around to see what has been accomplished so far, but there is still so much to do! Please come and help. It's God's house, but its your Church too.



Christian Education News

Bruce Moore

What is Sunday without Sunday school? Passé, now that our Christian Education Team has created a plan to start classes. We held our first meeting on April 9th, prepared a vision for classes starting in the upcoming school year. Classes will be available for everyone from pre-school age and up. The team was formed to help fill a need in our parish to teach and to learn. Our goals are to aid newcomers, providing an avenue to connect to the church, enriching our parish family's knowledge of Christ, and our mission as Christians.

The team needs your commitment as teachers, students, or even advisors. The team is looking for ideas for course topics for adult and youth classes. An invitation is open for anyone who desires to join the education team or to teach a class. Currently we need

Kanuga—A Place for Renewal

Jerry & Kathy McGee

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina, about 500 miles from Destin is Kanuga, the beautiful conference center for the Episcopal Church. Each year, along with summer camp, retreats and conferences, Kanuga opens up their facilities for guest periods. One of these is "See the Leaves", held in the Fall. This year the guest period is 9-16 October.

Guests can attend the full week or just a few days. Jerry and I will be attending our third session, along with Peggy Cramer. We stay in one of the 39 traditional cottages, complete with fireplace. Rooms are also available at the less rustic Inn. The price of your stay includes all meals, served family style, as well as all your activities.

One of the nice things we look forward to, in addition to the natural beauty of the mountains, is the peace and quiet and relaxed way of life. No phones ringing, no TV. Wonderful mountain trails to hike, walks around the lake, wildlife treks, woodcarving, bible study, arts and crafts, morning prayer, vespers, Eucharist, trips to the apple orchards, shopping in downtown Hendersonville; you can do as much or as little as you want. Some folks just sit on the porch in their rocking

teachers for pre-school to high school age classes. If you wish to volunteer, please notify Bruce Moore or the church office. Training will be provided for all teachers before classes start.

St. Andrew's on the Road

Duane & Nancy St. John recently visited St. George's Episcopal Church in The Villages, FL, and St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Marco Island, FL and Kate Driggers visited St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church in Aiken, SC.

chairs and gaze at the lake and the fall foliage.

Fellow parishioners Tom and Mary Crawford have been to Kanuga during the summer guest program. They attended a Renewal Conference. To quote Tom, "it was most inspiring. lots of good preaching and teaching"

To find out more about this wonderful place, visit their website www.kanuga.org or phone 828-692-9136. Their people are most helpful and are glad to send you more information on their programs.



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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,
please e-mail the Editor, Kim Moore, at kimmers@cox.net.