



The Epistle

A Newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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Reverend Daniel R. Collier, Rector

February ~ 2012

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

The month of February brings a wonderful richness with it this year. On Saturday the 11th, we will be having the *Pot Luck Dinner with the Men's Cake Auction*. Beginning only a few years ago, this now annual event invites baking creativity of all kinds and shapes - all of which are honored with the warmth of laughter and lots of ooh's and ah's. On Sunday the 19th, the parish will have its first *Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast* right after the Eucharist. In recent years, the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper seems to have become more difficult for people to attend. So it is hoped that this breakfast gathering is more accessible to parishioners and more responsive to complicated schedules. This event also builds on the Sunday pancake breakfasts that the parish has begun this year. It is hoped that this simple yet tasty Mardi Gras meal allows us all to celebrate the gift of community before we together begin the great journey of Lent. The forty days of Lent start with Ash Wednesday on the 22nd of the month and offer a time and space for us to draw into our hearts the lengths to which God will go to love us. And, of course, lest I forget, there is Saint Valentine's Day on the 14th.

When I think about Valentine's Day, my mind goes back to elementary school. Each year, we would look around the house to find a shoebox - or something that could pass as a shoebox. The creative process would then begin as we decorated the box with construction paper - using colors like reds, pinks, and whites. Wielding children's scissors, we would - with great care - cut out heart-shaped paper decals and then glue them onto the box. Somewhere on the surface of this emerging holiday mailbox we would also write our names. At some point in this process of assembly we would also carve a hole in the top of the box so that it could ultimately receive all the affectionate mail that would come its way. Alongside with the building of the boxes, we would address and sign all the Valentines we would be giving to our classmates. The cards themselves were generally not folded, but a single piece of paper. On one side there would be images - possibly cartoon characters of the time - with lots of hearts and words like, "Be My Valentine." On the other side we would sign our names. With a list of all the kids in the class, we would then sign a card for each classmate, insert the cards in the little white envelopes, and address every envelope. When all this was done, we would carry the festive boxes and the many envelopes to school where we placed our creations alongside of those of our classmates - all along the sill of the great windows of the classroom. Then, taking all our Valentine cards, we would find the box that

matched the name on each envelope, and insert the card in the space on the top. And, for some reason, to this day I can remember that some cards went in so easily, while others, possibly because of the way they were constructed, didn't receive the "Be My Valentine" message very easily at all. You needed to really push to get the message to its intended destination.

Oh, there is one more gift that February brings – although it is a quiet and subtle one. According to the Calendar of the Church, it falls on 27th of the month. It is the feast day of George Herbert. He was a priest and a poet, who lived his short life in the 17th century. He is known for his holiness, his generous service to his people, and his ability to capture spiritual things in simple words. These very qualities are revealed in one of his most famous poems. It is called "Love." I have spoken about this piece before, because I believe it captures so much of the nature of our God and our struggle to relate to this God. In the poem, George Herbert imagines himself being approached by Love. Love reaches out and tries to welcome him to a great feast, but the poet resists, protesting that he is not worthy. However, with each protest, Love draws closer – takes the poet's hand and smiles. That is the nature of Love: gentle, kind, and utterly relentless. Finally, worn down by Love's outreach, the poet surrenders and agrees to come to Love's table, but only to serve. Love, however, tenderly responds to this last attempt at resistance by inviting him to come to the table not as a servant who stands, but as a guest who sits and eats the feast of Love, the One who attends as both host and servant. And so the poet accepts this gracious invitation, taking his place at the table.

I am very fond of George Herbert's poem, and I find it so right that we remember him this particular month. It reminds me that Jesus – regardless of all the other names with which we honor him – is God's Valentine to us. And no matter how challenging it may be to insert that most compassionate Word into our lives, God never stops trying – gently, kindly, and relentlessly.

I wish you and all those you love a Happy February & Valentine's Day.

Dan

LOVE

by: George Herbert (1593-1632)

LOVE bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
 Love said, 'You shall be he.'

'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on Thee.'

Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
 'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.'

'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
 'My dear, then I will serve.'

'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
 So I did sit and eat.

In and about the Parish:

New: Letters to the Editor:

As mentioned in my Annual Report, we hope to hear from the members of the church during this coming year. Your letter may be a reflection of your life at St. Andrew's or the reason you love to attend this church. We are starting this year off with our first letter as follows:

*Thank you John, for being such a great Choir Director. We enjoy singing in the choir. We have learned a-lot from you.
Beverly and Dick*



Save the date!!

MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
FOLLOWING OUR 9 A.M. EUCHARIST

PARISH HALL

Parish Directory: If you missed our annual meeting, please see Fran LaSalle for your copy of the new directory. *Please* bring your OLD COPY to church for shredding. We have a placed a cardboard box on the front pew where you can leave them. If you have not completed a parish information sheet, please do so. We will add your information to our listing and give you a copy of the present directory.
Thank you!

Food Pantry News

The food pantry would appreciate donations of canned fruit, jams and jellies for the month of February. If you wish to donate cash, please check your envelope box for pledges, there are special ones included: or you may mark a plain white envelope and place it in the collection plate. We also wish to acknowledge the frequent

donations we receive from St. Peter's in Londonderry. As always, the volunteers thank the parishioners for their continued support.



The Birthday Corner
 For the month of February
Birthstone: Amethyst
Flower: Violet

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 3 | Alice M. Pickett-Hale | 4 | Ethel Blichmann |
| 5 | Jack Koller | 5 | Katelyn Riley |
| 10 | Jeff Riley | 11 | Alan MacKillop |
| 13 | Logan Gabriel | 14 | Irene Wageling |
| 17 | Monica Lajoie | 27 | Alexandra Carlton |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 12 | Dick & Bev Brown |
|----|------------------|

Wishing you all joyful celebrations

Reader and Eucharist Minister Schedule

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>FIRST READER</u> | <u>SECOND READER</u> | <u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Feb. 5 | Pat Koller | Alan MacKillop | Mariette Roux |
| Feb. 12 | Kara O'Connell | Bill Wilson | Bill Wilson |
| Feb. 19 | RP Hale | John Spring | Yvette Desindes |
| Feb. 26 | Norm Allard | Barbara Hickok | Jeanine Brady |

Please note: First Readers say the First Lesson and the Psalm. Second Readers say the Second Lesson and the Prayers of the People.

If you cannot make your turn in the schedule, please see Pat to make substitutions.



If you signed up for St. Andrew's Monarch's Hockey tickets for the February 26th 3pm game, please remember to give our Treasurer, Jack Koller your ticket money. Game tickets are \$15 each and must be paid for before game day.

Parish Prayer List:

We will begin a new listing for February, March & April. A listing is on the table at the front of the church or see Fr. Dan for additions as needed.

Vestry Meeting Highlights December 12, 2011

Present: The Rev. Dan Collier, Barbara Hickok, Jack Koller, George Lajoie, Fran LaSalle, Phil Petts, Mariette Roux, RP Hale and Jean Aspinwall

Absent: Kara O'Connell

The meeting opened with prayer offered by Barbara. Phil volunteered to supply the prayer for the January meeting.

The November meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Jack and seconded by Phil. All present approved.

~Treasurer's Report:

- Jack distributed the monthly reports and after review, a motion was made by Phil, seconded by Fran and approved by all to accept the reports as presented.
- Jack distributed the tentative upcoming budget for 2012. It was suggested that a line item be included for hospitality supplies.
- Discussion was held regarding the cost of the upcoming installation of a sound system in the church. It was suggested that the funds for this expenditure be designated to be withdrawn from the capital funds account and not the operating account. George made a motion for the proposal with a second from Barbara, all voted in favor.
- Fr. Dan's housing allowance was reviewed and whereas the Rev. Daniel Collier is employed as rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Manchester, NH which does not provide a residence for him, the vestry resolves that of the total compensation of \$39,390.00 to be paid to the Rev. Daniel Collier during 2012. Further, 80% be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of the term used in Section 107 of the IRS code of 1986. A motion was made by RP Hale to approve, seconded by George and all present were in favor.
- The final review of the budget will be addressed at the January 2012 meeting.

~Jr. Warden's Report:

George had no updates to report.

~Senior Warden's Report:

- Barbara reported that the sign up sheet for the upcoming Monarchs game is posted on the bulletin board and quite a few folks have signed up to attend.
- She also mentioned that the annual stewardship drive has resulted in 5% more pledges than last year.

~Priest's Report:

Dan announced that a request has been made for a baptism for a new parishioner. This event is scheduled for January 1, 2012.

~Annual Meeting:

- All annual reports from committee heads are to be given to Jack as soon as possible in order to be ready for the upcoming meeting. The meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2012 following the service. A snow date is scheduled for the following Sunday if needed.
- Kara and RP both announced that they will not seek reelection. Several church members were suggested for nomination.

~Parish Life/In-reach:

- Parish Oral History, Phil and George interviewed Ethel Blichmann and Diane Shultz delivered a questionnaire to Barbara Inglis so the feeling is that they are off to a good start on their way to completing this lengthy project.
- Transportation, there has been a new need for assistance for a few St. Andrew's members; they are newly unable to get to church. The hope is that there will be others who will step up and perhaps transport these folks, either on a regular or semi regular schedule. George has volunteered to mention this in church and perhaps join the people who need transportation with those that would volunteer to transport them. Dan will also contact The Rev. Bill Exner and The Rev. Sarah Rockwell for their input in this type of situation.

~Faith Education and Formation:

Dan has scheduled three brown bag lunch meeting for December. The subject will be ADVENT.

~Diocese:

Dan is in the process of updating the information needed for the Mission Resource Grant for 2012.

~Stewardship 2011

- The 2012 Stewardship pledge campaign has been completed.
- It was decided not to apply for the close-contact Stewardship Grant Award.

~Capital, Buildings, & Property:

- The estimate for repair the ramp has been sent to the insurance company of the person who damaged it.
- The church front doors have been decorated for the Christmas season with wreaths and greens by Joan Wilson (with a little help from Bill).
- Cleaning service is not working out. We will use the developed job description to hopefully find someone else to clean. Dan will contact the Sr. Center in the event they might have someone interested in the position.
- It was decided to proceed with installation of the sound system as soon as possible.
- Lisa Swank asked that a replacement sign be supplied for the Thrift Shop. Barbara offered to follow up on this request.
- The next scheduled meeting with representatives from the vestry and AA is planned for January 25, 2012.

~Calendar Review:

- Fran reviewed upcoming calendar events.
- The decision was made to offer the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper as a Sunday breakfast on February 19th, this will allow more people to attend.

~New Business:

- RP will be away from Dec. 29-Jan 25th. He has (Sunday Organ) coverage scheduled for that time frame.
- Vestry members donated funds for a poinsettia for the Christmas altar.

~Action Items:

- The current items listed were reviewed.
- The meeting adjourned with the saying of the Lords Prayer and the Night Prayer.

The next Vestry meeting is January 9, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jean Aspinwall, Clerk

VESTRY MEMBERS at the time of this meeting

Jean Aspinwall, Clerk to 2013
Barbara Hickok, Sr. Warden to 2013
Jack Koller, Treasurer to 2013
Fran LaSalle, Newsletter to 2014
Phil Petts to 2013

R. P. Hale to 2012
Kara O'Connell 2012
George Lajoie, Junior Warden 2014
Mariette Roux to 2014

NEW VESTERY MEMBERS as voted at Annual Meeting January 22, 2012

Jean Aspinwall, Clerk to 2013
Barbara Hickok, Sr. Warden to 2013
George Lajoie, Junior Warden 2014
Mariette Roux to 2014
Bill Wilson to 2015

Jeanine Brady 2015
Jack Koller, Treasurer to 2013
Fran LaSalle, Newsletter to 2014
Phil Petts to 2013

DELEGATES TO SO. CONVOCATION AS VOTED AT ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22, 2012

Delegates: Jack Koller, Pat Koller, Jackie Schorling
Alternate: Monica Lajoie
Terms expire January 2013

Thrift Shop at Conant St....

Spring is just around the corner and we high-end retailers are thinking of our spring lines. Actually our spring lines come out of many closets. Donations are the lifeblood of the shop and a sweater here and a "wish I had the nerve to wear this" article of clothing there can mean all the difference to the shop. Although we receive a lot of donations from outside the parish, the support from within the parish is what we count on. Please continue to talk to your friends and co-workers about the thrift shop. There are many people in the community who rely on the services we provide. I have the strong suspicion that for a few patrons, we are providing a social outlet. This is the attribute that I am most proud of.

Lisa

Closing thoughts...

Saturday, December 31st was a bleak morning. A drop in temperatures overnight led to freezing roads, and though the temperature warmed up a degree or two, the sky remained gray and overcast. Rain began falling and it was bone chilling. After having spent a week at home being quite ill, I was not looking forward to going out. If I could have rolled over and slept late, I would have. However, there would be a baptism at church on Sunday and the candles in the candelabra would have burned down to stubs after last weekend's three services. It was not a day that could be skipped.

I picked up Jackie, as is our Saturday morning routine and in a short while we drove into the parking lot at St. Andrews. It was deserted but for the two tenants' vehicles and that belonging to our Priest, Father Dan. Missing was the familiar red truck belonging to the Koller's, and no cars for the Thrift Shop. Dismal is the way that moment felt.

Dan greeted us at the door with his usual smile and as we entered, and he asked if he could ask a favor of us.he asked if we could offer a gift of the "ministry of imperfection". I asked if he remember who was talking to, and laughing, he acknowledged that he did. Dan had spent the morning not only performing his many chores he sets for himself on Saturdays, he had also completed setting up everything for the baptism, *and* he took the candles apart, boiled, cleaned and polished the followers then he put in new candles for the two candelabras behind the altar. They were beautiful, the new candles stood tall and proud. The brass was shining and looked wonderful, even more so because now Jackie and I didn't have to do them. Were they perfect, or rather – imperfect? From where I stood, they were *perfection personified!*

I'm sure Dan has not often been called to clean the wax from candle items, or had to polish brass on a regular basis...and what priest would find him or herself doing that today in any church? However in *this* case, he was needed; God whispered in his ear, and he replied in kind. Needless to say, I was very grateful and so was Jackie. How often do we find ourselves asked to serve God in way we never would imagine? This case in particular is testament to the fact, that if we just raise ourselves up a bit, it is amazing what we can accomplish.

Have you felt drawn to a ministry at St. Andrew's but feared you would not be up to the task? Have you felt everyone would judge you, including maybe even yourself? I can say that when I felt the call to be a Eucharistic Minister I questioned that. I have conducted many a meeting and/or training seminar in the business world. Had all the confidence I needed, knew my subject and had an agenda. There I was in control. Being up on the altar and serving God's people was a little different. I imagined that all eyes would be on me and would sense my nervousness. It was somewhat scary, yet I knew it was where God needed me to be and therefore He would be with me. Although there were some uncertainties that first time, I survived and so did those who came to the altar rail.

So I ask you, have you felt the need or desire to participate in our church life but have been fearful? Most ministries are a 'once in a while or monthly' obligation, not often a weekly one. That alone means your busy schedule may fit the ministry more than you know.

You have heard that saying...if God brings you to it He will bring you through it! One does not have to do something because they feel it is right or someone asks them to do it, but consider it instead because you feel it is God's choice for you. With that, I ask you to pray, think, talk with Father Dan and open your heart, your mind and your soul to the Lord who loves you unconditionally and answer His call.

Go in peace,
Fran

4 Kids & The Young at Heart

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| READ: Genesis 15: 1-18 | | | | | | | | | |
| ACROSS | | | | | DOWN | | | | |
| 1 God made a _____ to give Abram a son. | | | | | 3 Abram loved ____ and promised to serve him | | | | |
| 2 Abram had no _____ | | | | | 4 The many lights in the night sky | | | | |
| | | | | | 5 Abram was now an ____ man, not young | | | | |
| | | | | | 6 God would give Abram and Sara a ____. | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| All puzzles published created by Vickie Save | | | | | | | | | |