



The Anchor

May 2011

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Longmeadow MA

You're Invited ...

Jesus loved eating with others. He ate with his friends. He dined with strangers and those deemed problematic in the eyes of the religious leaders of his day. In the various gospel accounts, we find Jesus at a beachside breakfast with his disciples after his resurrection (John 21:9-14), light lunches such as the Feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6:30-37), and dinner parties such as the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-29). What Jesus loved more than merely eating with others was the impact the table fellowship had on those in attendance. These meals were used to advance God's mission in many ways:

- relationships were formed and deepened
- divisions among people ceased
- God's grace was revealed
- lives were transformed.

The power of breaking bread, whether at an altar or in the context of a regular meal, continued after Jesus' ascension. In fact, the earliest Christians made table fellowship an integral part of Christian identity and saw it as a way to practice the resurrection life. The Book of Acts reveals such a reality, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people" (2:46b-47a). The shared meals among the early Christians not only helped create community, but the common experience, infused with the Holy Spirit,



led them to be effective in growing spiritually and numerically (Acts 2:47b). God used these meals to form a people that would be passionate about bringing others to God's table.

In our own day, Christians still gather around altars and simple tables to be fed and transformed. During the Season of Easter (also known as the Great Fifty Days), those affiliated with the St. Andrew's community are invited to continue the resurrection practice of table fellowship in a special way. The newly assembled Transition Team is sponsoring a series of "Meet and Greets" – informal gatherings held in homes of parishioners. The purpose of these events is to give everyone an opportunity to interact with each other and me (Jamie too, when she isn't working) in a small group setting. You are encouraged to sign up for one of the Meet Greets. At each gathering, we will enjoy conversation, prayer and food (the food will vary based on the hosts' preferences and the time of day). Sign-up sheets will be made available in early May and will be located in the Narthex of the church.

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You're Invited ... *(continued from page 1)*

In addition to the Meet and Greets, the Transition Team will oversee multiple activities and events that will help St. Andrew's transition into a new chapter with a new rector. These include:

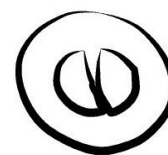
- a pictorial directory of current parishioners and newcomers to be displayed on a visible wall
- a collection of historical information and other important information
- the Fall Homecoming to be held in September
- the Celebration of New Ministry (Bishop Scruton will join us to celebrate our common ministry and to install me as your rector) to be held on October 16th.

The members of this short-term task force include Jan Brega, Aprile and Robert Brooks, Crystal Diamond, Philippa and Brice Englert, Rich and Maureen Lewis, Chip and Maggie MacElhiney, Judy Mish, Mike Morrow, Melissa Morrow and John Scanlon, Cindy O'Malley, Kristen Savaria, Betsy Scuderi, Lynne Skypeck, Dianne Tufts and Wende Wheeler. Thank you for your service to God and Christ's church!

I'm looking forward to getting to know you more over the coming months – please consider signing up for a Meet and Greet!

Fr. Derrick

Could you give a few hours to the Church Without Walls?



Every week, faithful members of our CWW Core Team carry out our ministry with homeless and marginalized people in downtown Springfield. They need some help from the rest of the parish. Could you give just a few hours between now and the end of June? CWW needs your help in two ways:

- **Sandwich Making:** We need volunteers (families, individuals, groups, committees, etc.) to be responsible for one weekend's sandwiches — we take 90 sandwiches to Court Square each Sunday. This may be done at home or church; reimbursement for sandwich materials is available.
- **Help in Court Square on a Sunday:** We need volunteers to assist Core Team members in taking CWW food and equipment to Springfield, setting up, serving lunch and packing up.

A sign-up sheet for weekends through June may be found in the Narthex. Or, you may contact CWW Coordinator Karen Gladwin at CWW@St-Andrews-Longmeadow.org for additional information or to volunteer for a weekend.

Adult Study & Fellowship Opportunities

God in America

We will continue watching and discussing episodes 3-6 of this award-winning PBS series which examines the intersection of religion and public life over 400 years in America. Come to one or all — each episode stands alone. May 10, 17, 24 and 31 — 7 p.m. in the St. Andrew's Room.

FYI — You can catch up with missed episodes at www.pbs.org/godinamerica/view

Coffee and Conversation with the Rector



Grab a cup of coffee and join Fr. Derrick for casual conversation about life, faith or whatever is on your mind. Sunday mornings in May at 9 a.m. in the Narthex.

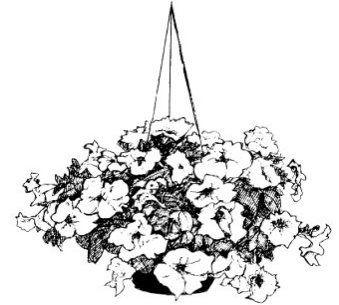
Watch for Meet and Greet information, dates and sign up sheets in your email and in the Narthex in the coming weeks!

Best Bloomin' Plant Sale

Saturday, May 7

*At the corner of Bliss
and Grassy Gutter by
Longmeadow High
School*

- A great selection of annuals in flats and hanging baskets.
- Just in time for Mothers' Day!
- Sale is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Supports our ministry plan budget for 2011.
- Volunteers needed for shifts between 6:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Sign up in the Narthex.



St. Andrew's Yard Sale

Saturday, May 14 8 a.m.-4 p.m. At the Church

Two options:

- ♦ Rent a table for \$5 and sell your own items. Set up begins at 7 a.m. You are responsible for your own cash-box, staffing your table and you must take away anything unsold at the end of the sale. No set-up or drop-off before Saturday. Please contact Sharlene Lape (contact info below) by Saturday, May 7 if you would like a table.
- ♦ Donate items to the St. Andrew's Table (proceeds to the church). No drop-offs before Saturday. -> Note: we are looking for volunteers to help staff the St. Andrew's Table.

Questions, table info, volunteers: contact Adam or Sharlene Lape at lovekids24@msn.com or 224-1263.

Long Meddowe Days: Saturday, May 21 & Sunday, May 22

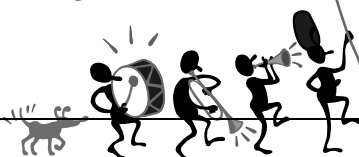
St. Andrew's Booth: Once again, the Missions Committee will sponsor our booth, where we sell popcorn and cotton candy. This year, the proceeds will support our J2A class pilgrimage, scheduled for Summer 2012.

We need volunteers to sign up for 2 hour shifts as well as to assist with set-up and take-down. Contact Betsy Scuderi to sign-up for a shift: BScuderi@millitech.com

Long Meddowe Days Parade—Sunday: This year, St. Andrew's will participate in the annual parade which will take place on Sunday morning after church. The Church School children will make a banner identify us.

Please plan to be a part of the parade! Wear your St. Andrew's gear if you have it, or navy blue if you don't. Let's show our parish spirit!

Watch for more information about gathering and other logistics.



Birthdays in May

1	Linnea Morrow
3	David Wolos
4	Andrew Douville Pat Wolos
5	Charlie MacElhiney
7	Grace Kimball
8	Mary Breyer Sarah MacDonald Robert Price
9	Luisa Gunn Melissa Scanlon Ty Peloquin
10	Rick Murray
12	Maureen Lewis Anya Morrow Philip Thomas
15	Lynn Molinaroli
16	Eric Kelly
17	John Sizer
18	Mary Rogeness
19	Brian Looney
20	William Bliven Kathleen Cordier Paul MacDonald Sean MacDonald
21	Susie Hutchins Dale Janes Chip MacElhiney Stacy Taylor Addison Thompson
22	Julia Ishak

23	Morgan Lape Wally Rodger
24	Michael Hepper
25	Garrett Kimball
29	Mike Scuderi
30	John Sopot Dotty Sullivan
31	Steven Dieterich Stuart Young

Anniversaries in May

3	Kathy & Fred Riess
11	Terry & Arnold Kurth
16	Jessica & Eric Kelly
25	Chandler & Stacy Taylor
26	Jeanne & Ed Butrick
27	Michelle & Christopher Parisan Tracy & James Stanek
28	Jeanne & Robert Mosebach
29	Paulette & Carey Lape

If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or does not appear, please contact the parish office.

Death

March 28
Sandra Gibson
mother of Karen Hotaling

Annual Mothers' Day Breakfast

Sponsored by the Men of St. Andrew's (SAMs).

Sunday, May 8 at 9 a.m. in the Undercroft.

To mark the end of our Church School year, don't miss our annual

Sundae Sunday

and

Carwash

to be held on June 12

Immediately following the 10 a.m. service.

**A Reminder: We are All Greeters!**

In the last several weeks, we have welcomed a number of visitors to St. Andrew's — this trend is likely to continue in the foreseeable future. We are blessed to have a group of Ushers and Greeters whose charge it is to be the "official" ambassadors of welcome to those visiting the parish. However, they aren't the only ones who are responsible for this ministry!

As members of the parish community, we are **all** called to reach out and make visitors feel welcome. Beyond the simple fact that offering hospitality to all is a central tenet of our Christian faith, a visitor's first impression is often a decisive factor in his or her choice of a parish. We are **all** responsible for nurturing the process of welcoming and incorporating those who come through our doors.

So ... the next time you see an unfamiliar face in the pew behind you, or standing hesitantly in the narthex, introduce yourself. You may find a newcomer to the area, or a fellow parishioner's visiting aunt, or even another parishioner who frequents a different service. No matter what, our community is strengthened by your simple act of greeting!

An Almost Perfect Prayer: A Meditation

The General Thanksgiving

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

(Book of Common Prayer, Morning Prayer, Rite II, page 101)

When the Eucharist replaced Morning Prayer as the principal liturgy on Sundays when the “new” (1979) Book of Common Prayer was adopted, our collective familiarity with The General Thanksgiving faded. Coming near the end of Morning Prayer, this prayer of thanksgiving has its roots in the early Anglican Church, and was probably written around the beginning of the 17th century.

What I have come to love about this prayer is that it so elegantly and concisely summarizes what our attitude ought to be, if we are who we say we are as Christians. It begins by acknowledging the truth that God is creator of all, and that we are grateful for “our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life ...” For each of us, the beginning of getting into right relationship with God is the recognition that indeed *all* that we are and *all* that we have is gift from God. It is foundational to our life of faith.

The prayer continues with the recognition that God’s greatest gift is in the “redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is the gift from love that is so great that it is beyond measure. Indeed, in an older version of the prayer, the phrase is not “immeasurable

love,” but “*inestimable love*” – love that is too large even to be estimated or fully appreciated. Those words never fail to make me feel showered, surrounded and completely encompassed by God’s grace, and humbled by the awe that we are so loved that our salvation, our redemption, our “hope of glory” is given to us in that part of God’s own self that walked among us here on earth.

How shall we respond to such gifts? We pray to be aware of God’s gifts and mercies. How easy is it to take so much of what we have for granted? Before we can be thankful, we must be aware of what we have been given, great and small. Then, with that awareness, we pray that with our “thankful hearts” we will turn ourselves to *live* our gratitude “not only with our lips, but in our lives.” This is conversion of life. But how can we not, once we are aware of what we have been given? In our gratitude, at least in the moments that we are being mindful and aware, how can we not desire to give our lives to God’s service?

Of course, the realities of life mean that we often forget what is given to us, and forget our gratitude and therefore the way we wish to respond. That’s why this prayer is a key element of Morning Prayer, a short service which is meant to be prayed daily, whether one is alone, or in a group. Whether it is a familiar old friend, or a new acquaintance, take some time with The General Thanksgiving. Savor its language*. Clip it out to pray it regularly. It is a lovely reminder of how we should respond to all we have been given by God.

Wende Wheeler

**For a further excursion in language, take a look at the older version from the 1928 Prayer Book, now found in Morning Prayer, Rite I, in the BCP on page 58.*

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

335 Longmeadow Street
Longmeadow, MA 01106

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E-mail: admin@st-andrews-longmeadow.org

On the web at: www.St-Andrews-Longmeadow.org



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Schedule

- Weekday Eucharist
Wednesdays at 7 a.m.
- Holy Eucharist -
Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sun-
days at 8 and 10 a.m.
- Parish Office will be
open 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday;
9 a.m. to 12 noon on
Friday.

***St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Staff and Contact Information***

The Rev. R. Derrick Fetz, Rector
Rector@St-Andrews-Longmeadow.org

Jan Brega, Parish Administrator
Admin@St-Andrews-Longmeadow.org

Sue Lussier, Director of Christian Formation
Formation@St-Andrews-Longmeadow.org

Karen McCarthy, Organist and Choir Director
Music@St-Andrews-Longmeadow.org