



## The Co-Rectors Ramble



**T**here is no end to the wonderful activities of Advent and Christmas around All Saints'! We hope you will find time to come join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest to the world. He is the reason for the season and the best gift of all. Merry Christmas to you and yours.

### DECEMBER 2006 Schedule:

Hanging of the Greens	December 9 <sup>th</sup>	
Gift Bag distribution to Seniors and Shut-ins	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Parish Hall–Potluck Supper	December 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm
Children's Christmas Pageant	December 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am service
Longest Night Service	December 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm
<i>Christmas Eve Services</i>	<i>December 24<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>8:00am</i>
		<i>5:00pm Family service</i>
		<i>7:00pm</i>
		<i>11:00pm Midnight Mass</i>
Morning Prayer Rite II	December 31 <sup>st</sup>	
Epiphany- Eveningsong	January 6 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm

### The Gift Submitted by Don Sherman

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible.

(Continued on page 3)



## *Parish Information...*

### **All Saints' Parish Service**

#### **Schedule:**

*Note the Holiday schedule as outlined in Co-Rector's Ramble.*

Sunday:

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II,  
no music

9:30am Holy Eucharist Rite II,  
traditional hymns, as  
well as contemporary  
music.

Sunday School: ages 0-  
18

Wednesday:

12:00noon: Holy Eucharist Rite II,  
healing service

6:30pm Holy Eucharist Rite II,  
healing service

### **Prayer Line**

Kathye Foster for quite some time has maintained a strong Prayer Line. It is through this ministry that prayers and concerns can be lifted up by many persons that participate. If anyone wishes to add a name or concern to the prayer list, or if anyone wishes to join in the praying and would like e-mail copies of the names and concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Kathye **(508) 378-4818**, or through E-Mail at *fosterJK@juno.com*. Take advantage of this powerful Ministry!

### **Officers of the Church**

Co-Rectors: Revs. Doug & Patti Hale

Wardens:

(Sr.) Chad Wohlers, (Jr.) Dave Frazier

Treasurer: Steve Verrill

Asst. Treasurer: Ernest Morgan

Clerk: Richard Tingblad

Saints' Alive Writer/Editor/Publisher:

Dave Frazier  
(daveartfrazier@aol.com)

### **Your Vestry:**

Dorrie Bazan (Greene)  
Cheryl Belcher  
Marsha Corliss-Beaulieu  
Jack Foster  
Maureen Mahoney  
Ted Putur  
Louise Quilty  
Louise Tingblad  
Dotty Wilhelm

### **Sexton**

Dot Peterson

### **Church Office Hours**

*(781)-447-6106*

*unless preempted by another  
obligation:*

Tues & Fri. 9am-12noon

Weds. 9am-10:30am

### **Senior Youthgroup Leaders**

Dave and Sue Frazier

### **Junior Youthgroup Leaders**

Maureen Mahoney  
Chip and Jolene Durant



### *The Rectors Ramble...continued*

Angrily, he raised his voice at his father and said, "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" And stormed out of the house, leaving the holy book.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and a wonderful family, but realized his father was very old, and thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. But, before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him that his father had died and had willed all of his possessions to his son. He was instructed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search his father's important papers and found the still new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. As he read, a car key dropped from an envelope taped behind the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... PAID IN FULL.

In this Christmas season as we go about the business of giving and receiving gifts we must ask ourselves if we miss God's many gifts and blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?

### **50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH HALL**

*Submitted by Dick Tingblad*

Matteson Memorial Parish Hall was completed and dedicated at a Parish dinner fifty years ago on **December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1956**. In honor of this anniversary, and on the exact date, we will have a pot luck supper in the hall. This will be **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 5 p.m.** We'll listen to some old Christmas records, sing along, and play a game or two. There's no charge, but as this is a pot-luck style dinner, please bring a hot or cold dish to share, according the first letter of your last name (A-H: salad, I-P: main dish, Q-Z: dessert). Calories don't count!

Come along and celebrate the Parish Hall, and some good fellowship and food. See you there.

### **GIFT BAGS FOR THE SHUT-INS**

There is a collection box for the items to be gift-bagged and delivered to the elderly and shut-ins by the Youth Group. Have a look at the signup sheet hanging near it, and if inclined, put your name down for something listed. This is a great ministry that the Junior Youth Group conducts every Christmas season. Help them out by donating an item or two. Thanks.



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### THE PEARL

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” (Matt. 13:45)

All of us are pearl merchants, looking for the pearl of great price, looking for the kingdom, looking for heaven. One way to translate that is we’re looking for love, peace, joy, security, fulfillment – all of those things, and those things equate in our mind and possibly in the Lord’s mind to the kingdom, and I’d be surprised if they didn’t.

We are pearl merchants in search of that pearl of great price. Then one day, let’s say, we come into a store and see on display some pearls, and in the middle of them is a pearl like we have never seen – just unbelievable in its beauty. So you look at that and you think, “Well, I’m a pearl merchant and I know something about pearls, and I know I’ve never seen anything like that – never!” And the owner is standing there, and you say, “Well I want to thank you for letting me see that and just sharing that with us. I’m sure it’s not for sale.”

“*Oh, yes, it’s for sale.*” “No, no, no, I can’t believe that, I mean, I know pearls and you could not sell that. There’s not enough money.” “*Oh, yes, it’s for sale.*” “How much is it?” “*It costs everything you have.*” “I . . . I don’t understand.” “*Well, whatever you have, that’s what it costs. If you have twenty million dollars, it costs twenty million dollars. If you have two cents, it costs two cents.*” “Well, that sounds like maybe that’s a pretty good deal. Everything I have– and I can have the pearl?” “*That’s right.*” “I think I’ll buy it.”

“*Okay then, give me everything you have.*” “Well, let’s see, I have fifteen hundred dollars in a savings account.” “*That’s pretty good. I’ll take that. What else?*” “That’s all I have.” “*Have any money in your pocket?*” “Well, I have a little change.” “*Don’t count it, just hand it to me. What else?*” “I . . . I don’t have anything else.”

“*Where do you live?*” “Well, I have a house.” “*You have a house?*” “I have a house.” “*I’ll take the house.*” “All of it?” “Yes.” “Well maybe . . . maybe I’ll have to live in my . . . my, ah, weekend cottage.” “*You have a weekend cottage?*” “Yes.” “*I’ll take that, too.*” “Well, I, ah, maybe I’ll have to sleep in my car.” “*You have a car?*” “Yeah.” “*I’ll take the car.*” “Huh, now I really don’t have anything. I’ve given you everything I own.”

“*Are you married?*” “Yes.” “*I’ll take your wife.*” “My wife?” “*Yes, your wife. Do you have any children?*” “Yes, I have two.” “*I’ll take them also.*” “Wow, now I have nothing left but myself.” “*Okay, now that you’ve given up everything else, the pearl is yours.*” “Thank you! Ah, I didn’t realize it was so big, you know, it’s, it’s very nice, you know . . . very nice.”

“*I’ll tell you what I’m going to do, now that you’ve found the kingdom. You remember your wife?*” “Yes, I remember my wife.” “*I’m going to let her be your wife.*” “Oh thanks you very much.” “*But, with a difference.*” “Yes?” “*You will live according to what I say, not according to what the world says.*” “Oh, all right.”

“*And the children?*” “Yes, I remember my children.” “*They’re not your children. They’re mine.*” “Yes.” “*I will let you keep them. But you must raise them the way I say.*” “I . . . I’m not sure I understand the difference between before and now.” “*The difference is do what I say.*” “Ah hah, oh yes, okay.”

“*Now, the money.*” “Yes, the money.” “*I’m going to let you have some of that money.*” “Thank you . . . Thank you very much.”

“*Done, and the car?*” “Yes, I remember the car.” “*Yes, I’m going to let you have the car but now remember it’s my car.*” “Yes, it’s your car.” “*And I may need it sometime. I may have to take somebody to the hospital, or some poor person may*



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

*have to go somewhere who can't afford, you know . . . transportation and you must use the car."* "Yes, yes, I understand."

*"Your house?"* "Yes, I remember my house." *"Well, I'm going to let you live in your house."* "Thank you very much."  
*"And, I want you to remember that it's my house, and I may need a bedroom in it sometimes, you know, somebody may need a place to stay, I may have a whole family. Do you understand what I've been trying to tell you?"* "Yes, I understand, it's your house."

*"The weekend cottage?"* "Yeah, I remember that." *"I'm gonna let you use that, but maybe some weekend, at some times, you know, there may be a somebody who needs to be away for rest for a while. I may just come and use it."* "Yes, yes."

*"Now the money. Well, I'm going to give you that money."* "Oh, thank you very much!" *"However, now, you have to remember that I, ah, I may sometimes come to you and say I need 10%. Okay? And then sometimes I may come and say I need thirty percent and you must give it to me."* "Yes." *"And then sometimes I may . . . I may come and say I need it all."* "Yes." *"And one other thing. Before you buy any big item, check with me first. Check with me."* "Okay." *"Do you understand?"* "Yes, I understand."

DO YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT'S THE QUESTION – DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

11/06

## Birthdays!

### December

- 3 Ray Morse, Debbie Szwyd
- 11 Mark Mahoney
- 12 Sharon Dunn, Brianne Walsh
- 13 Dottie Wilhelm
- 14 Sara Doyle
- 15 Marie Trickett
- 19 Gloria McCabe
- 23 Doug Hale
- 26 Helen Brown, Shawn Casieri
- 28 David Wight
- 30 Krista Dailey, Elizabeth Wheatley-Dyson

### January

- 2 Paul Spink
- 6 Dick Corkum
- 8 Mildred Inglis
- 10 Pan Nawrocki
- 11 Hanna Brown
- 12 Charles Lucas
- 14 Mike Fuller
- 20 Matthew Buner
- 23 Kathye Foster
- 26 Marilyn Inglis, Rose Spink



## THE ALPHA CORNER...

*Submitted by Jack Foster*



As of this writing, we're completing the fall Alpha course. The last meeting is **Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>**, when we see the video "What About the Church?" and talk about the importance of regular worship and fellowship as we grow in our Christian lives. If you'd like to learn more about Alpha, plan to come to the next Celebration Dinner, scheduled for **January 21<sup>st</sup>**. We'll see a video "Christianity: Boring, Untrue, & Irrelevant?" and share our plans for the winter Alpha course.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

*Submitted by Jack Foster*

### Initial Pledge Report

We've received a very positive initial response in our pledge drive for 2007. Many parishioners are following the vestry lead to increased giving. As of **Sunday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>**, there are **44 pledges for a total of \$75,953, just over 80% of our goal of \$94,530**. Vestry members are now contacting parishioners who haven't yet made their pledge for 2007. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge, please place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office as soon as possible. The vestry will begin to develop the 2007 budget at their meeting on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Here are the pledge details to date:

- 33 increased amount
- 2 decreased amount
- 4 same amount
- 5 new pledges

### Year-end Financial Status

As we approach the end of the year, the vestry is reviewing our financial status to be sure the parish can fulfill its financial obligations. Below is the status of some key income items **as of the end of October**. Currently we're behind in each of these areas. We know fund raising will fall short because the craft fair was cancelled. Each of us can help by keeping our pledges up to date each week. Any additional contributions you're able to make as an open offering or faith offering in December will be helpful and greatly appreciated. These steps will insure that we can pay Doug & Patti on time at the end of the year. Thanks.

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Diff.</u>
Pledges	\$63,979	\$56,908	\$7071
Faith Offering	\$1667	\$1377	\$290
Open Offering	\$4167	\$3690	\$477
Fund Raising	\$7000	\$5387	\$1613



## *The Fish Net*

*Submitted by Dave Frazier 11-2006*

I was talking with someone at a recent coffee hour. She had just lost a good friend, and it was still weighing quite heavily upon her heart. She talked of her friend, intimating to me some things about her. Her lifelong battle with Cerebral Palsy. Her need for independence in getting her own apartment, despite her ailment. And of how she missed her now that she was gone. I didn't try to muddy the conversation with unnecessary comments—I really didn't know what to say to ease her pain. But I longed to comfort her.

She talked around these details, but something else was on her mind. She suddenly said to me, and I'm paraphrasing as I don't remember her exact words, "I wonder if she really is in Heaven, if there really is Heaven..." Her voice trailed off as she stared at me with a trace of tears at the corner of her eyes. I found myself feeling weak and inadequate to say something of relevance, something to ease her worry for her friend.

I am no theologian, in fact I am quite unprepared in matters of educated Biblical interpretation. When I was much younger I was in the habit of trying to "understand" God with my head. I thought I was quite the intellectual in religious matters. But this tact proved to be quite sterile a relationship, for the more I thought I understood God, the further I drifted from Him. For me, it was only when I learned how to "let God into my heart" did I start to realize the power of God's love in a person's life.

In my moment of weakness, I looked to my heart when I quietly said to her that I have faith that God loves us, and that He wouldn't promise us a Heaven if it didn't exist. I told her that it was my faith that helped me to believe that her friend ran free in God's glorious presence, unencumbered by the chains of this world that held her fast. I told her that I had faith in God because of the things I consistently see amongst the Christian family I have come to know on this earth. Because of the love I see from these people, at times the purest acts of love that any human could have, I have grown convinced of God's love for us. How could we hold fast to one another in all of our weakness, if it were not for His love for us to strengthen us? It would be so easy for us to only see the human side of ourselves, and turn away from each other. But despite all of the human troubles we live with, the Christian community I have come to know consistently tries to act out of love. I have seen people in this community, myself included, stumble through the human weakness, until finally they find the path back to the love that God has placed in their hearts. I told her that, to me, this was why I had faith that God loved us. He has empowered us with a Christ-like love in our hearts that we can draw on to see past our moments of weakness, and draw ourselves closer to Him.

I said that, to me, I had faith in God's word because, as weak and poor a Christian example as I felt to be at times, these people still loved me in all of my ugliness. And then as innocently as a lamb she said, again I'm paraphrasing, "I think you're a very strong Christian..." It was at that moment that God showed me His love for me. Despite that her heart ached over the loss of her friend, and despite that I tried to say something to ease that aching, she still said what she said to lift me up. It kind of floored me in that way that God can floor a person...out of the blue He touches your heart.

I really hoped that I had eased her pain somewhat, or at least listened to her as she needed, allowing her to grieve without messing it up with a bunch of useless comments. That small moment during coffee hour stuck with me, and I think of her at times and ask God to show her His love.



## *Junior Warden's Corner*

### **FRONT STEPS REPAIRED**

Through the efforts of Mark Mahoney, the entry steps to the Sanctuary have been repaired. Over the years, more and more of the bricks had become loose and moss had found its way into some of the cracks. Although the steps were not completely falling apart, they certainly were on their way to becoming unsafe. Mark took the task upon himself and did a great job in making them solid and safe. With the myriad of tasks before me, I am so grateful when someone volunteers to take one from me. I thank Mark for his devotion to the church and its Parishioners.

### **FRONT YARD TREE / MAIN SIGN UPDATE**



As the two pictures above clearly show, there really is a church back there. This is the view, before and after, from the end of Hayden Drive. No more hiding our beautiful church building! The next change that will be seen is the addition of the long-awaited sign assembly to the left side of the walkway leading to the Sanctuary steps.

The readerboard assembly has arrived and is currently stored away, awaiting installation. The main placard components are ready for pick-up in New Hampshire by me. By the time this goes to print, I should have gotten the check from Steve (treasurer) and picked up the parts. As soon as I have them, I plan to prime and paint all pieces, and then assemble into the finished sign. In conjunction with those tasks, the stone structure base for these components should be underway on the front lawn. This sounds somewhat overly-optimistic, but I still intend to have the project completed before Christmas. Feel free to talk to me if you have any comments or questions.

### **MISC. HAPPENINGS...**

- Mal Gurney has given the Sanctuary's wooden floor a thorough cleaning under the pews.
- Mal and myself have rearranged the refrigerator area in the kitchen for neatness and accessibility of the mops and brooms kept there.
- Jack Foster has installed a small handrail at the inside entry door near the office.
- Jack has also spruced up some of the outside window trim with new paint.
- Seven more memorial bricks are to be added to the garden as soon as they are ready for me to pick up.