



## *The Co-Rectors Ramble*

Over Christmas vacation, I have been reading an older book someone gave to me, Athanasius the Hero by Lynn Harold Hough. It is a book about bishop Athanasius of Alexandria, Egypt, who served as bishop at the time of the writing of the Nicene Creed, which we use to proclaim our common faith nearly every Sunday in worship. It is a story of his unwillingness to compromise the faith the creed expresses even under the pressure of imperial power, multiple exiles or just plain weariness. While there is much to comment upon in this book, I was caught by the very first words he wrote in his Prefatory Note: "The days when men could be ruled by formal and lifeless dogma [doctrines] have passed. The days when all dogma is looked upon with suspicion are passing....The days of a living dogma, thrilling with creative energy, and claiming no authority but its own vitality, are approaching."

These are amazing words: "Living...creative energy...it's own vitality...." Would we use these words to describe what we believe about Jesus? To what extent does our faith resemble this description and to what extent is our faith "formal and lifeless" or suspicious of any doctrine? As optimistic as Prof. Hough is that such days are past, I see such things still very much alive among us.

As Paul wrote in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is THE POWER OF GOD....We preach Christ crucified, to Jews A STUMBLING BLOCK, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ THE POWER OF GOD and the wisdom of God." (I Cor. 1:18,23-24) It is that "power of God" that is the difficulty. The power of God tends to disrupt things in our lives when it is active. Things change and even if it is for the good, we grow weary of change, or we are not convinced that it is for the good. So we seek to tame the work of God in our lives. We formalize it so that we know exactly what to expect. Or we even deny that it is of God, that God would act in this way among us.

As Paul wrote in his Second Letter to Timothy, "You must understand this, that in the last days distressing times will come. For people will be....holding to the outward form of godliness but DENYING ITS POWER." (II Tim. 3:1,2,5) It is the power of God that is critical to our relationship with Christ.

It was critical even as John the Baptist was trying to come to terms with who Jesus was. "When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'God and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is anyone who keeps from STUMBLING over me.'" (Matthew 11:2-6) Jesus did not haul out a personal statement of faith. He did not point to his respectful

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## 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

God hears our petitions to Him! Let your concerns be lifted up to Him through the Prayer Line. Anyone wishing to add a name or concern to the list, or anyone wishing to be added to the Prayer Line should not hesitate to get in touch with Kathye **(508)378-4818**, or through E-Mail at *fosterJK@juno.com*.

#### *Please keep in Prayer:*

- Pray for the upcoming Men's Cursillo in March. Keep the team and candidates lifted to Him.
- Pray for the Church, that we may find a way to be One Body.
- Pray for All Saints' Attleboro, as they undergo a difficult time of restructuring.
- I ask your prayers for Happening, the teen equivalent of Cursillo. The program is being stressed by numerous obstacles. Pray that God empowers them with a new sense of ministry.

### Officers of the Church

Co-Rectors: Revs. Doug & Patti Hale

Wardens:

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

Treasurer: Steve Verrill

Asst. Treasurer: Ernie Morgan

Clerk: Richard Tingblad

Saints' Alive Writer/Editor/Publisher:

Dave Frazier  
(daveartfrazier@aol.com)

### Your Vestry:

Dorrie Bazan (Greene)  
Cheryl Belcher  
Marsha Corliss-Beaulieu  
Chip Durant  
Maureen Mahoney  
Ernie Morgan  
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*

participation in the life of the synagogue in Nazareth or his proper form of worship in the Temple in Jerusalem. He pointed to how God was at work through him. It is the power, the vitality and energy, that witness to it as the work of God. But even then Jesus knew that people would stumble over this power working in and through him. The blessing of God upon them would depend upon whether or not they could embrace the power of God.

I don't know what Prof. Hough was seeing in the church when he wrote his book in 1906. I would guess that if he lived much longer he would have come to realize that there was far less evidence for his optimism. From the beginning of the church, as we see in Paul and even between Jesus and John, the importance of the power of God has had to be pointed out. It is a point that must be examined in every age and in every life. It is the power of God active in our lives that determines whether or not we have a living faith. Are people among us being healed? Are people among us being transformed by the power of God? Do we actively look for the Spirit of God to lead us? Have we come to the point where we know that we truly need the work of Christ on the cross to set us free from the power of sin in our lives? To what extent do we realize that in order to really live we must live our lives in the power of God? Or to what extent do we want to have a tamed faith? To what extent do we shape our faith by what our present world considers wisdom? If we are going to have a living faith, "thrilling with creative energy, and claiming no authority but its own vitality," then we must risk our control over our lives and bravely face the powerful winds of God blowing through our lives.

Fr. Doug

## **Calendar Happenings...**

<i>Feb 4<sup>th</sup></i>	Men's Super Bowl Party
<i>Feb 8<sup>th</sup></i>	Vestry
<i>Feb 19<sup>th</sup></i>	Pre-Lenten Pancake Supper (6pm?)
<i>Feb 21<sup>st</sup></i>	Ash Wednesday Services: Noon and 7pm
<i>Feb 25<sup>th</sup></i>	Pancake Breakfast before the 9:30 service
<i>Mar 10<sup>th</sup></i>	Special Diocesan Convention
<i>Mar 11<sup>th</sup></i>	Food For the Poor Preacher in Worship
<i>Mar 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup></i>	Men's Cursillo Weekend

### **Priest Schedule for February and March**

Patti will be with us during February, except for **February 4<sup>th</sup>** when she will be at the Washington National Cathedral for the College of Preachers. Doug will be with us in March and through Easter, except for **March 18<sup>th</sup>** when he will be on the Men's Cursillo Weekend.



## Annual Meeting Highlights...

The Parish's Annual Meeting was held January 28th, after the 9:30am service. The minutes are too exhaustive to include verbatim; instead I will mention some of the highlights.

Related to the Treasurer's Report:

- The Pledge estimate for 2006 was a bit optimistic and was not met.
- The Craft Fair was not held, and so Fundraising was underfunded.
- Diocesan Assessment has not been paid.
- Ministry to Others \$1,200 Outreach funds was voted at January Vestry Meeting to go to [South Shore Habitat for Humanity](#).
- Gas Heating was under budget due to a mild winter in 2005-2006 and November-December of the 2006-2007 season.
- Fundraising in 2006 included (in order of amount raised): Service Auction, Plant Sale, Craft Table (instead of Craft Fair), Chocolate Sales, Classical Guitar Concert, yard Sale, Home Entertainment Center Raffle, Corned Beef Super, Breakfasts, Penny Jar, Tonic Machine, EBay Sale.
- Barbara Wight will assist Treasurer Steve Verrill as Investments Manager, this will include clarifying uses and restrictions on Investment Funds .
- Papers were at last passed last week on the Land Sale (the process began April 8, 2004). This was worth \$27,000, of which All Saints received \$26,126.88. This will be shown on the 2007 Treasurer's Reports. \$11,000 will be used for the 2007 Budget, the balance will be placed in the Money Market Fund.
- The Budget for 2007 will be balanced after several years of severe deficits.
- The Pledge figure is believed to be a very realistic amount at \$89,298.
- Expenses include a 6% raise for the Co-Rectors, which will increase the Pension. They have declined raises for the past 3 years.
- Health Insurance is going up in March.
- Electricity and Water, which have been one line item, will be separated henceforth.

Related to the Budget:

- There is no remaining capital to use for the deficit. It was all used over the past several years (not including the Land Sale)
- Doug and Patti have not had a raise in 3 years
- Vestry raised their Pledges by 20% and challenged the Parish to do the same.
- \$11,000 from the Land Sale was set aside over and above that to balance the Budget.
- At the January Vestry Meeting, the known Pledge figure was \$89,298, which is therefore the Budget figure for 2007. However, an additional Pledge came in after that, making the Pledge total \$90,516.
- Keeping weekly Pledges up to date, paying monthly Pledges at the beginning of each month, and paying yearly Pledges at least before the end of the year will be vital, as we are running on a cash basis.



## Annual Meeting Highlights...continued

- The Median Pledge for 2006 was \$18 per week, and for 2007 it is \$19.60 – a 20% increase
- Bringing the Parish to financial health will be a 2-3 year process
- Faith Offering is a thanks for unexpected blessings
- Fundraising must go up dramatically. Plans for a Public Auction were announced, and Chad offered to sell books on EBay for anyone who wishes to raise funds that way.

Related to the Junior Warden:

- The Memorial Garden was completed, including 66 memorial bricks installed by Dave. The plantings will be rearranged somewhat in the spring.
- The basswood and Scotch pine to the left of the walk were removed to make way for the new sign.
- The covering of the LaFarge Windows was found to be adequate.
- The cement and cinderblock base has been built by Dave, and he is awaiting warmer weather to finish the stonework and complete the upper portions.
- Dave installed a solar light on the porch and new lamps at the Church door and Rector's Office door.
- There are plans to backlight the LaFarge windows and polish and light the roof Cross.
- The Fire Alarm System is currently being updated.
- The Kitchen Roof needs replacing/redesigning.
- The back stairway needs a covering/roof
- Dave asked for ideas to beautify the Church

Rev. Douglas Hale stated that we need to celebrate what we have done. The Parish has really come through on their pledges. This is the first step to deal with our financial situation. The Budget is not sustainable under the present conditions. We need to be a Church that is “in the mode of growth.” We need to bring in and welcome new people to be part of the life of this congregation.

Rev. Doug noted that Directional Signs will be put up around Town. These will lead people to All Saints. We have received those that were made on special order, but curiously, the standard models have yet to arrive. Different sizes were required by Town regulations.

### ELECTIONS:

#### Officers:

Senior Warden	Chad Wohlers (2 <sup>nd</sup> term 2 <sup>nd</sup> year)
Junior Warden	Dave Frazier (2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 1 <sup>st</sup> year)
Clerk	Richard Tingblad
Treasurer	Steve Verrill

#### Vestry:



## Annual Meeting Highlights...*continued*

2007	Dotty Wilhelm	(2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
	Maureen Mahoney	(2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
	Marsha Corliss	(1 <sup>st</sup> term)
2008	Dorrie Greene	(2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
	Cheryl Belcher	(2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
	Louisa Tingblad	(1 <sup>st</sup> term)
2009	Louise Quilty	(2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
	Chip Durant	(1 <sup>st</sup> term)
	Ernie Morgan	(1 <sup>st</sup> term)

### Delegates:

Diocesan	Jack Foster Dave Wight
Deanery	Chad Wohlers Jack Foster Kenny Belcher Dot Peterson Sharon Dunn

There being no nominations from the floor, the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for all the nominees.

Jack Foster and Ted Putur were applauded for 6 years of service on the Vestry.

Those newly elected and re-elected were commissioned by Rev. Doug Hale with prayer.

Rev. Hale offered a long list of Non-elected Leaders/Servants of the Parish, which was warmly welcomed as a great idea.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



*Amazing Freedom—Women of Faith*

Boston Banknorth Garden

July 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

See poster on bulletin board in Hall for sign-up information or talk to Sue Frazier (781) 447-1258

**Birthdays!**

February

- 1 Warren Phillips, Ann Pye
- 3 Liz Putur
- 5 Nancy Bunar
- 7 Jillian Adamson
- 10 Cheryl Belcher
- 16 Audrieanna Casieri
- 19 Marsha Corliss
- 20 Ellen Stillman, Jeff Phillips
- 23 Keith Fuller
- 25 Norma Gardner, Bill Veazie
- 27 Erin Dyson



March

- 2 Eddie Maloney, Jeff Nawrocki, Zachary Brown
- 3 Ernie Morgan
- 9 Christopher Veazie
- 10 Tim Nawrocki
- 12 Dave Dyson
- 13 Matt Delaney
- 14 David Frazier
- 15 Pat Eunice
- 16 Eleanor Dunbar, Anne Bezio
- 18 Brittany Peterson
- 21 Kelsey Birk
- 22 Lauren Frazier, Pat Delaney
- 23 Bob Bezio
- 24 Tim Norment
- 25 Richard Tingblad
- 26 Al Dunn
- 30 Tom Rudolph
- 31 Marge Groves, Carol Casieri



## THE ALPHA CORNER...

*Submitted by Jack Foster*

Have you ever wondered about the basic teachings of the Christian faith . . . what's essential . . . what's optional . . . or what life is all about? If so, Alpha may be the course for you! Our winter Alpha course starts on **Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>**, and you're invited to join us. See Jack Foster or Sue Frazier to sign up.

All Saints' sponsors two Alpha courses each year, one in the winter and one in the fall. This ten week course explains basic Christian teachings in an informal and relaxed atmosphere. Each meeting includes a meal, a video on the topic for the evening, and small group discussion. Participants share their life experiences and their notions about God. At Alpha no question is too simple or inappropriate. No one tries to change your mind, but by learning and sharing we develop deeper understandings of our lives and faith.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

*Submitted by Jack Foster*

*Many thanks to all our members who are supporting All Saints' with a pledge for 2007!*

We had a very positive response to the fall stewardship campaign. As of the Annual Meeting, there were **66 pledges for a total of \$90,516**. *We reached 95.8% of our goal of \$94,530.* This brings us way up from last year's pledge total of \$76,775. Many parishioners have been able to respond to the vestry challenge for increased giving, and we have a good number of new pledges. 39 pledges are increases from last year, and 13 are members pledging for the first time!

If you'd like to make a pledge for the coming year but haven't yet, you can pick up a pledge card at the back of the church, or call the church office (781-447-6106). Several months ago, Bishop Shaw challenged the vestry with the comment that a parish which is spiritually strong is also financially stable. Thanks be to God we are moving in that direction.



## *Junior Warden's Corner*

### **THANK YOU...**

I want to thank all of you for your ideas, feedback, and overall support as I tackled numerous projects this past year. I ask that you continue to support me as I undertake the new year as your Junior Warden. I ask especially for your prayerful support as I complete the main sign project, as well as formulate a plan to continue the beautification and improvement of our Parish building.

### **UPCOMING PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

Some of the ideas being kicked around for the upcoming year:

- Continued landscaping improvements related to the main sign, and the front of the building. Some ideas include an ornamental miniature tree, such as a cherry tree, to complement the sign's décor, different hedges adjacent the steps to the Sanctuary, and other plantings to complement the front.
- Polishing and backlighting the cross atop the roof peak.
- Backlighting the LaFarge windows.
- Addressing the downstairs classroom flooding with an attached overhang that ties into the Hall's roof.
- A complete renovation of the downstairs bathrooms, including new lighting and new fixtures.
- A continuation of the exterior lighting project that had begun earlier this past year.
- An improvement to the landscaping around the Memorial Garden.

I am currently studying the possibilities and realities of implementing these improvements and others. As always, I welcome any ideas or discussions. With a concerted effort we can truly beautify our Parish to the glory of God!

### **MAIN SIGN UPDATE**

After completing the footer, main platform base, and bottom cinderblock portions of the sign stonework, I've come to a bit of a stall because of the weather. I'm optimistically awaiting a window of opportunity to be able to finish the base. After the vertical post portion is complete, I will be able to install an ornamental veneer stone that complements the Sanctuary's foundation. I will install underground wiring to provide power to the sign, as well as a GFC outlet (at the sign base). At this point, I could install the message board assembly and main placard, completing the project. I would be happy to discuss the project with anyone wanting to know more, or perhaps address any concerns Parishioners may have. Please feel free to ask.