



ST. ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

St. Andrew's Church, Hopkinton

WINTER 2011

# The Network

*A place to belong ~ A place to learn ~ A place to serve ~ A place to find God*

The Reverend  
Kevin Nichols  
Rector

Ms. Katie H. Solter  
Assistant to the Rector

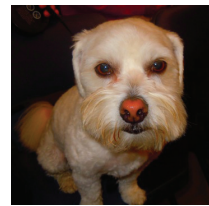
Worship  
Sunday at 8:00 am  
Holy Eucharist (Rite I)

Sunday at 10:00 am  
Holy Eucharist (Rite II)

Wednesday at 6:00 pm  
Holy Eucharist

Visit our worship page  
online at  
[standrewshopkinton.org](http://standrewshopkinton.org)

## Pet Parade and Pageant on St. Francis Day



On Sunday, October 2, in recognition of St. Francis of Assisi Day, St. Andrew's upheld its annual tradition of inviting our beloved pets to take part in our worship. A parade of people, canines, felines, and various other animal friends made its way up Main Street to the great hall, where a blessing was bestowed on the pets of our parish family, and a bevy of Sunday school kids presented their first-ever St. Francis Day pageant.

To see some of The Concord Monitor's terrific photos from the day, go to <http://cmonitor.mycapture.com/mycapture/folder.asp?event=1335098&CategoryID=15617>.

## First Youth Group Outing



In early September, St. Andrew's youth took a trip to Blackwater Bluff, the Reverend Canon Charles LaFond's home and studio, for an afternoon of outdoor games, pottery making, fellowship, and a meal.

354 Main Street  
Hopkinton, NH 03229  
(603) 746-3415  
[standrewshopkinton.org](http://standrewshopkinton.org)

# St. Andrew's Chosen for National Clergy Renewal Program Grant

As part of its National Clergy Renewal Program, the Lilly Endowment, a private philanthropic foundation, has awarded a grant to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. This grant will support a three-month sabbatical for the Reverend Kevin Nichols, as well as our parish's yet-to-be-determined mission project.

## **Q: Congratulations, Kevin. Tell us more about how the Lilly grant will support a new mission project.**

As you know, our Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) found that our parishioners are looking for a single parish-wide mission outreach project – that's the "Serve" component of our three MMR goals. It will be up to the mission team to figure out how to use these grant funds, but the grant money can go towards identifying the mission project, paying for team members' travel to potential mission sites, as well as congregational events such as bringing in speakers to lead mission outreach forums. The mission team and I envision this process unfolding over the next six to 12 months.

## **Q: The Lilly grant also covers a three-month sabbatical for you. You intend to study authority within the church. How did you come to this subject?**

My own interest and passion around authority have to do with the particular and diverse understandings of authority in the Anglican and Roman traditions. As someone who was trained in the Roman church but lived most of my priestly ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire, I am often struck by how each tradition speaks to and can learn from the other. By authority I am referring to how Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience affect the way we uniquely live as Christians in community. Significant changes in the Church over the centuries have always been about authority – the question of where the church will look for wisdom and guidance as we discover our future mission and ministry is exciting and daunting. I so look forward to this journey.

## **Q: You'll be traveling to meet and interview scholars. Where will you go?**

I hope to talk to a number of scholars in New Hampshire and around the country, as well as in England (mostly Anglican scholars) and Rome (mostly Roman Catholic scholars). So we'll spend some time traveling in England and Italy. I hope to listen

### **About the St. Andrew's Grant**

<b>Grant Awarded</b>	<b>\$ 36,775</b>
Rector's sabbatical Travel	\$ 24,575
Service Coverage	\$ 4,700
Mission Outreach Project	\$ 7,500
All costs associated with the Rector's sabbatical including service coverage are covered under the grant.	

## **About the Lilly Endowment and the National Clergy Renewal Program**

St. Andrew's is one of 158 congregations chosen for the National Clergy Renewal Program this year. This program offers grants of up to \$50,000 to Christian congregations to support periods of reflection and renewal for their ministers, and accompanying renewal activities for congregations.

The congregations chosen for grants this year are affiliated with 23 denominations, plus one nondenominational group and one bi-denominational group, and they represent 40 states.

Based in Indianapolis, the Lilly Endowment supports the causes of religion, education, and community development. Here's a little information about the Lilly Endowment's own mission: "The Endowment has long had an interest in the role and purpose of religion in American life and strives to create opportunities across the country to learn more about the subject through research, to encourage the development of a new generation of talented ministers, nurture the excellent ministers who practice their faith every day, and build healthy and vibrant congregations." (from Lilly website)

to these scholars, and seek to understand the best of both the Anglican and the Roman traditions. I hope this research project will result in a paper, or a forum presentation.

In making these grants, the Lilly Fund also emphasizes renewal and reflection, and I hope that this period of study and travel will be renewing and refreshing for me and my family. Along the same lines, I hope that identifying and beginning our mission outreach project will bring a sense of renewal to our parish.

## **Q. As to the sabbatical, you'll be away from St. Andrew's for about three months. What can parishioners expect while you're on sabbatical?**

I'll be away from late May until Labor Day. I'd like to post regularly on a blog while I'm absent. Our Assistant to the Rector Katie Solter will provide pastoral care, and we are funded to bring in other clergy as needed. The vestry will continue its work, as usual.

# Reflections on St. Andrew's Youth

by Katie Solter

"Faith is caught, not taught" – this is a popular phrase in youth ministry. As we reflect on the upcoming season of Advent, let us ask ourselves how we reflect our faith to the youth among us. During our recent Senior Saints celebration, we had more than a dozen of our youth volunteer to help serve lunch to the senior saints of our parish. As they dutifully served these men and women, I noticed a wonderful interchange between youth and seniors, recognizing how rare it is to have three generations in our society gathered together in fellowship. The stories we heard from our saints have inspired more stories of witness, service, and gratitude and the familiar phrase from youth ministry came back to me again – faith is truly caught, not taught. As we are present to each other, share our sacred stories, and serve others, we model what it means to have faith and to bring about God's kingdom.

As we approach this season of Advent, our youth will begin a mission project with The Friends Emergency Shelter in Concord, serving homeless children and families. Our big project will be a literacy initiative – children should have 1,000 books read to them by kindergarten – and our youth will read to children whose families may not have time or resources to read each night. We will be distributing a book list, requested by the shelter, of specific books that will help in this initiative. On Friday, Dec. 9, we will host an open-mike coffee house, selling baked goods, coffee, and books to support this mission project at the shelter. All are welcome to perform at the coffee house!!

## Senior Saints Luncheon



On Sunday, November 6, St. Andrew's parishioners gathered in the great hall for a lunch honoring our parish's senior members – our own senior saints. Head chef Mike Barwell and his kitchen crew (Josh Walker, Larsen Burack, Ed Fairfield, and Dave Young) created a gourmet meal, while 12 members of our youth group served our senior members. Tom Burack entertained the crowd of young and old as he gave an account of our senior members' reflections and colorful memories. There was much laughter and some tears as our seniors shared what their St. Andrew's experiences have meant to them.

## Update: 2011 Stewardship Campaign for Fiscal Year 2012

The goal? \$240,000. How close are we? \$182,832 pledged so far, from 75 pledgers. Bring in your pledge, and let the good work of our church go forward!

### Did you know...

- Only pledge dollars create St. Andrew's budget.
- This October, your stewardship committee reached out to the parish with a pledge telethon.
- Everything we count on at St. Andrew's – dedicated clergy and staff, men's and women's groups, youth groups and Sunday school, historic building maintenance, chronic illness support group, adult education, music ministry, community outreach, blood drive, Friendly Kitchen, acolytes, new member programs, and much more – supports us because they're in the budget!

If you have not participated yet this year by pledging, please consider joining your fellow parishioners in doing so. We can achieve our goals by working together!



ST. ANDREW'S  
E P I S C O P A L  
C H U R C H

354 MAIN STREET  
HOPKINTON, NH  
03229

Non Profit Org  
US Postage PAID  
Contoocook, NH  
03229  
Permit No. 9

## A Nichols' Worth

by The Reverend Kevin Nichols

*"So let's spend a few minutes reflecting on the scriptures  
we have just heard by asking ourselves:*

*What is God up to? What does it mean to put God's mission first?"*

These guiding questions framed the opening of Bishop Ian Douglas' sermon at the annual Convention of the Diocese of Connecticut last month. Bishop Douglas spoke of our vocations as inextricably linked to mission: *"Our vocation as Christians, by virtue of our baptism, is to participate with God in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation in the world; to heal the brokenness, division and alienation in the world around us, seeking right relation with God and each other in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. In short, our baptismal work is to restore all people, and all creation, to unity with God and each other in Christ."*

Having spent the last few months in conversation – with parishioners, at Vestry meetings, and recently with members of our newly formed Serve Mission team – I have come to believe a discussion about mission outreach at St. Andrew's must first take root in our hearts and in prayerful reflection. I am left with three questions each of us must ask ourselves. From them, I am convinced a communal response will take root.

What would you say God is up to in the world?  
What needs to change in my life to put God's mission first?  
How am I called to participate with God in God's mission?

As you may have read elsewhere in this newsletter, St. Andrew's has received a remarkable gift from the Lilly Endowment. The *Parish Renewal Project* grant provides funds for us to discern and design a long term, parish-wide outreach mission. The hope is this effort will lead to a permanent outreach mission project for the parish. Additionally, I will embark on a study and research project entitled "Authority, Leadership, and Accountability – Lessons from Rome, Canterbury, and New Hampshire." Interviews, travel in the United States, England and Italy, and a period of reflection and rest will form the core of my sabbatical time from May 23, 2012, to September 4, 2012. It is with profound gratitude to God that I dare to say I believe these opportunities will lead us to a deeper understanding of "what God is up to" and "how we are called to participate with God in God's mission."

This is a Nichols' Worth.  
Kevin+