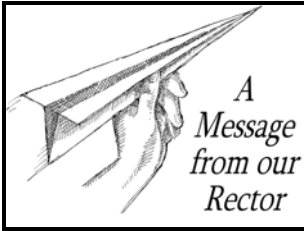


E-Portion – October 2008



Twenty-four years ago this week—on October 4, 1984—the Rt. Rev. Andrew Wissemann was at St. Francis Church to join the parish in celebrating the feast of St. Francis. On that day, Bishop Wissemann consecrated the Memorial Garden as a cemetery, and since then the ashes of twenty-seven parishioners, friends, and family members have been interred in that hallowed ground.

This year we'll extend the Feast of St. Francis to all three services over the weekend of October 4 and 5. We'll commission confirmations at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service and we'll have the "Blessing of the Animals" service in the Memorial Garden at 3 p.m. that Sunday afternoon. At all three weekend services we'll re-dedicate the Garden following this summer's extensive landscaping improvements. I encourage you to come and be a part of those celebrations, and also to make a point of offering your personal thanks to the committee that worked with Busy Bee Nursery to both create a vision and then implement that vision this past year: Kathleen O'Connor, Doug Turner, Jo-Anne Crystoff, Jen Stanovich, and Bryan Diehl.

The improvements to the Garden come about a year after the interior improvements made to our worship space. All of this work is part of our ongoing Capital Campaign to "Refresh, Renew, Rejoice" – a journey we embarked on roughly two years ago. At the time we set out to raise \$334,500—and as of this date have passed the \$307,000 mark in pledges over a three-year period.

Given the economic challenges we face as a society, this truly testifies to the generosity of this parish; and it has been a shared effort. Elsewhere in this issue of *The Little Portion* you will find a more detailed summary of both the work that has been done to date and the work that remains before us. I commend that to all of you but will briefly provide an overview here: our hope is to update the bathrooms in the church in the not-too-distant future and then in the Spring 2009 to finish the work we set out to do on St. Clare House.

It has been an ambitious undertaking—and we are almost there! I believe that over the course of this next year, as we complete this work, we can and will raise the final \$25,000 needed to achieve our goals. Most but not all members of our parish made pledges or gifts when we began. If you did not, I encourage you to reconsider now; even if you are only able to contribute a small amount. I want us to be able to look back twenty-five years from now and truly be able to say that WE did this together. Others of you perhaps made a cautious pledge to begin with, and you may find yourself in a position to make an additional gift at this time. That would, of course, be greatly appreciated.

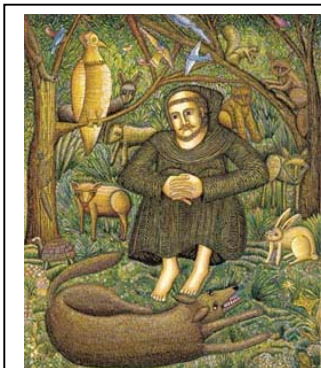
Finally, I am also aware that since this campaign began new members have joined us. I hope that as you continue to make St. Francis your spiritual home that you, too, will consider a gift that helps us to do the work God calls us to do as we move forward. While you may not have been here when this vision emerged I hope that you already share with us the excitement of what this means for us as we move forward together as God's people.

I am fully aware as I write these words that *next* month we will be talking about our annual budget and our pledges to the ongoing work God calls us to. And that the price of oil and an economy in recession add anxiety to many of our discussions about money. The last thing I want to do is to contribute to anxiety or guilt for anyone.

But what I do see as rector of this parish is the extraordinary generosity and faithfulness of God's people week after week. As we approach our patronal feast day and our service of re-dedication, I give thanks for all that we have achieved together, and trust that this good work will continue as we seek and serve Christ in this time and place.

God bless.

Rich



*It is no use walking
anywhere to preach
unless our walking
is our preaching."*

- St. Francis of Assisi

*We celebrate our patronal feast October
4th & 5th
and Re-dedicate the Memorial Garden at
all three liturgies.*

Saturday ~ 5:00 p.m. ~ Holy Eucharist

*Sunday ~ 8:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist*

and

Commissioning of

2009 Confirmands

3:00 p.m. ~ Blessing of the Animals



Students in grades 3 and up: Dig out those Bibles!!

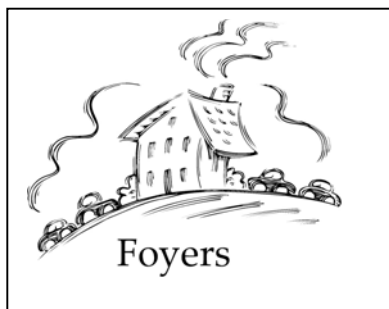
Every year the children who enter 3rd grade in Church School receive a Bible. Although Bibles are used even with the younger children, the expectation is that students in Grade 3 and up will begin to learn more about finding passages in their Bibles: distinguishing Old from New Testament, understanding how to find chapter and verse, etc. But there is also a purpose beyond the more "academic" ones. The bookplate inside tells that the Bible is a gift from their St. Francis community and it marks the Bible with the child's name. The deeper hope is that the students will identify with their Bibles as their own.

Perhaps they'll make notes inside or underline texts that are important to them. We want their Bibles to be more than just the textbook they use in Church School. We want them to begin to see their Bible as their own personal source for God's word throughout their lives (or until they come to own a hardcover copy!!)

Our teachers try to encourage this by offering rewards for bringing Bibles. We certainly never penalize a child for *not* bringing their Bible, and we have extras available in the rooms for children who forget them. However, we would like to appeal to parents for your help in reminding your children to bring their Bibles every week. Search those bedrooms – dig them out! Bring them to Church and use them at home. If your child has lost his/her Bible and would like to replace it, contact Susan Bastardo (Church School Coordinator).

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Dt 11:19

St. Francis Foyers Group



Are you a parish "newcomer"? An "old-timer"? Somewhere in between? Are you searching for opportunities for adult fellowship to meet others on a personal level in our ever-changing St Francis community? If so, then participating in a "Foyers group" is for you. Foyers are small informal groups, usually up to eight members, that meet in the comfort of peoples' homes for social fellowship around a simple meal. The only intent of a Foyers group is that we build a stronger parish community by first building closer individual social relationships with each other. The groups are randomly selected so that you have exposure to all our

varied parish members.

We are now planning our next schedule of Foyers groups. They are intended to meet three times over a six-month period. All parish adults are welcome to participate. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Dick Delorme at 508-829-2301.



As you have read in the Rector's notes, I will be talking to you about making your annual pledge in November. Please take some time this month to pray and talk with your family about your pledge for 2009.

Thanks, Laura Caswell - Stewardship Chair



...Notes from your Mission Team

It is even beginning to feel like autumn. We are well on our way into the parish's program year, and your Mission Committee is active again!

The annual **Crop Walk** steps off on **October 19** at 1:00 PM. The route takes the walkers from St. Mary's Church in Jefferson to St. Francis and return. Please think about walking and pledging. Kathy Diehl and Mary Jude Pigsley are co-chairing the event.

Another October project is our **collection of hats, gloves, and mittens for kids** in the area who might otherwise be pretty chilly later on this fall. If you are buying them for your own kids or grandkids or just walking by the counter, please think about picking up a set. There will be a place to deposit them in the narthex. They will be distributed by parishioners who work or volunteer with kids who will need them.

The **Church Mouse Fair** is scheduled for **October 25**. While separate from the Mission Committee the Fair supports the Mustard Seed project, a critical part of our outreach. Donna Alarie is the person behind the Church Mouse Fair.

The annual **UTO** (United Thank Offering) will be coming up on the weekend of **October 11/12**. Bev Giarusso is the coordinator.

You have enabled us to do a number of additional very good things.

- A 3rd installment of \$3,000 has been sent to Fundacion Cristosal towards the agricultural project in the Bajo Lempe region of El Salvador. Planning is underway for a second trip to El Salvador in February. Kathy Diehl is heading up the effort.
- A check for \$1,000 has been sent to the Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund to assist residents of Holden in making ends meet in anticipation of high heating costs this winter. The Committee anticipates contributing the annual Christmas collection to the fund, as well. These donations are part of a cooperative initiative of the Town of Holden, the Holden Senior Center, and the Holden Clergy Association.

- Episcopal Relief and Development will receive \$1,000 for their hurricane relief in Haiti, the poorest nation in the northern hemisphere and struck by four killer storms this summer and fall.

AND, more to come throughout the year.

For the Mission Team ~ Jim Bourque, Chairperson 508-829-9275 jbourque66@verizon.net

PUT ON YOUR WALKING SHOES!



Crop Walk 2008 will be on Sunday, October 19th, and the weather will be great. The route this year is from St. Mary's to St. Francis and back to St. Mary's. We are still the halfway point, and will need volunteers to set up in Fellowship Hall, and bakers to provide sustenance for the walkers. And we need walkers, of course, and people to sponsor them. Look for sign up and sponsoring information after services starting the weekend of September 20th, or, if you just can't wait to pledge, log on to www.cropwalkonlineorg/goto/st.francis to make a secure on-line donation with a credit card (all major types accepted). Last year our

28 walkers raised over \$1200 to help fight poverty. Please see Kathy Diehl if you have any questions.

United Thank Offering



UTO envelopes will be in bulletins and on the Mission table on the weekend of September 27/28. The Ingathering will be held on the weekend of October 11/12. The collection will be taken to the Diocesan Convention on October 17/18.

Don't forget to reuse your offering box. If you don't have one, they are available on the Mission table.

Items that are always needed at the Food Pantry:



- macaroni and cheese
- 100% juice
- canned meals—spaghetti, baked beans,
- ravioli, stew, etc.
- cereal



Church Mouse Fair

**THE CHURCH-MOUSE FAIR IS THIS MONTH:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH FROM 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Please save this date on your calendar and in your "busy schedule."**

"I could tell where the lamplighter was by the trail he left behind him," wrote Harry Lauder. The "trail" that the people of St. Francis Church "leave behind them" is one of Christian love, caring, good humor, kindness, compassion and courage. You see that "trail" everywhere in the life of our

Parish Family. Each year we come together at **Church Mouse Fair** time in an effort to minister to the needs of those who are hungry in Worcester County and Beyond. For many years, "Feeding the Hungry" has been the purpose and outreach of The Church Mouse Fair.

MAY WE COUNT ON YOU TO HELP US "LEAVE A TRAIL" OF HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY~~ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD?

Most parishioners already "know the drill" of all the combined efforts that come together on the morning of **The Church Mouse Fair**. People begin lining up outside the doors long before those doors are opened. They have already "mapped out" their route to the treasures they seek. **And, just where are they going? They rushing to: THE ATTIC TREASURES ROOM.....THE BAKERY TABLES.....THE JEWELRY TABLE...THE ADULT AND CHILDRENS' BOOKS, C-D's AND VIDEO TAPES/GAMES ROOM.....THE CHILDRENS' TOYS ROOM.....THE BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CRAFTS TABLES.....AND, ALWAYS, TO THE "MOUSE CAFE" staffed by our GREAT YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR ADVISORS. BUT, NONE OF THIS CAN HAPPEN WITHOUT YOUR HELP!!! AND, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW!!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL DONNA ALARIE AT 508-886-6031 (home phone) OR 508-847-8574 (cell phone)...or...you may e-mail DONNA AT donnachesspals@aol.com No effort is too small to be offered. Sign-up Sheets will be appearing in the Church Narthex in early October. We'd love to see YOUR NAME THERE. THANK YOU!!!

Memorial Garden Planting Day

On Saturday, September 13th over 30 parishioners gathered with trowels and gloves and shovels to spread mulch and to plant 2400 tiny Vinca plants in the burial area and reserved burial area of the garden. We had helpers of all ages to participate in this holy work of providing a beautiful and sacred space for burials and for the peaceful enjoyment of all. Before each two-hour "shift" we prayed for the saints buried in the garden and their families as well as our parish family. This was truly the work we are called to do as a parish community. Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to the wonderful folks at Busy Bee Nursery who went the extra mile to make this happen! Check out the photos in Fellowship Hall.

Planting Day Prayer

Lord, thank you for calling us together to plant in this space and to use the gifts of your creation to nurture and beautify this holy ground...

We remember and pray for those who are buried here and know that they rest in your care...

We pray for their families and hope that they may find peace and solace in coming to this place, and in the knowledge that their loved ones are remembered and their remains cared for...

We pray for our parish family, that the love and caring that binds us today may continue through the generations. Amen.

The deadline for the next Little Portion is
Thursday, October 16

Please have all information to the office by this date. You can leave it in the Office mailbox or email it to stfran@verizon.net.

The Little Portion will be mailed on Thursday, October 30th.



Refresh...

our properties for use in worship and ministry

Renew...

our commitment to mission

Rejoice...

in our life together as a community of Christ

Capital Campaign Accomplishments List

Thanks to the generous pledges of so many parishioners and friends we have made great strides in meeting our campaign goals and carrying forward with the several purposes of the campaign.

Of our goal of \$334,500 we have received pledges and other donations of \$307,500, leaving only **\$27,000** remaining to meet our goal and complete the projects anticipated. If you have not yet pledged please do so this month by completing a pledge sheet found in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. If you would like to make a first or additional pledge or gift designated to the Memorial Garden restoration in memory or honor of someone who has blessed your life there are also forms for this purpose.

Church

- Renovated worship space
 - o Refurbished pews
 - o Accessibility design (areas for wheelchairs)
 - o New choir area with new seating
 - o New Altar
- New roof (North side – south side was previously done)
- New energy efficient windows
- New flooring/carpet – we did experience some problems with the wood flooring but it will be replaced with a more suitable material at no additional cost
- Repaired windows in Fellowship Hall
- New floor in kitchen and financial offices (to the right of the kitchen)
- Bell repaired/ now functional
- Sanctuary completely repainted

Still to do: Bathrooms

St. Clare House

- New Roof
- Replaced the cast iron drain pipes
- Repaired plumbing coming from the furnace
- Installed hot water heater to reduce fuel oil demand.

Still to do:

- Siding/painting
- Windows

Rectory

- New Roof
- Painting –the exterior of the entire house, including porches
- Gutters replaced
- Electrical - replaced the light on the back deck

Still to do: Kitchen counters.

Memorial Garden/Grounds

- Re-designed Memorial Garden
- New landscaping, new plants, walk ways etc. new trees, ground plantings, old diseased tree replaced
- Bluestone capped sitting area
- New entrance from the Sanctuary now wheel chair accessible from the Sanctuary
- Fixed the drainage issue -
- Landscaped the back of the property including a new retaining wall
- New walkway from the parking lot through the back all the way to the Sanctuary entrance
- Addressed the drainage problems behind Fellowship Hall
- New gutters
- Completely painted/stained outside of the church and the small fuel building

Music

- Grand Piano

Mission/Tithe

- Relationship with Fundacion Cristosal
 - o Hands on visit
 - o Funding over a period of time

Long Term Property Fund

- Seed Fund from the Campaign

Many thanks to all those who have already pledged/donated to our Capital Campaign!

Donna Alarie
Melanie & Stephen
Amaral
Mary Jane Anderson
Melinda & Mark Apholt
Joan Balkus
Susan & Michael
Bastardo
Allen Beck
Barbara Beck
Roger Benoit
Chris & Judy Berglund
William & Eleanor Bird
Robert & Ann Bleakney
Tom & Shirley Blehar
Hanya Bluestone & Ann
Scannell
Jim & Gail Bourque
Cindy & Paul Boyan
Kitty Bradshaw
Jerry & Ginny Brink
Nancy & Gene Brunelle
Ken & Robin Carlo
Alice Carr
Beth Ann & Stephen
Carrigan
Ralph & Norma
Castriotta
Laura Caswell
Peter Caswell
Budd and Carrie Catlin
Tom and Jean Catlin
Michael & Tracy
Caubergh-Schmidt
Thomas & Amy
Chisholm
Phil & Lori Churchill
Donna & Jonathan
Clayfield
Peter Clemente
Harriet Connor
Joanne Crystoff
Sam & Shirley
Davenport
Betsy Davidson
Dick Davis
William and Diane Davis
Dick & Susan Delorme
Maron Deranian
Bryan & Kathy Diehl
David & Jeanette Dill
Maryann DiPinto
Steven Donkin
Janith Dorsey
David & Beth Dunn

Russ & Jane Dye
Lewis Evangelidis & Mary Jude
Pigsley
Scott & Lori Farrar
Michael & Sharon Foust
Jim Geneva & Dorothy Granger
Dave & Kay Geoffroy
Beverly & Vincent Giarusso
Peter & Roz Glanville
Eric & Carrie Grinstead
Norma Deranian Grove
David & Nancy Gunderson
Brian & Kathy Halloran
Persis Hamilton
Beverly Handy
Paul Harges
Ted & Deborah Harris
Mark Hatch
Christine and Paul Hague
Art & Elisa Heinricher
Dick & June Henderson
Dick & Lorraine Hennigar
Elizabeth Hofstra
Edward & Sally Holden
Jane Howell
Darrell & Bunny Huddleston
Roger & Chrisy Jones
Phillips & Priscilla Kerr
Doug & Sandy Kimball
James & Laurie Knight
William & Donna Lasher
Linda Letourneau
Fred & Cheryl Lonardo
Ryan & Rosemary Luddy
Chuck & Diane Manero
Julie Mankowsky & Janetta
Perkins
PJ & Donna Mann
Marty & Rita Martel
John & Patrice Mavricos
Cynthia & Paul McIntyre
Nancy & John McLaughlin
Jonathan & Christina Melzar
Linda Mercier
Thomas & Rebecca Miller
Craig Miller & Christine Newman
Charles & Denise Miller
Janet & Daniel Moran
Paul & Judith Morrisette
Kathleen Nicoll
Kathleen O'Connor & Tom
Ritacco
Kevin O'Connor
Robert & Sharlene O'Connor
Nancy & Andy Olesin

Joseph & Laura
Papandrea
Russell & Nicole Parker
Rebecca & Donald
Petersen
Herbert Peterson
Jonathan Phelps
Ann & Gino Polletta
Nancy & Peter Pope
Arthur & Joan Powell
Doug & Linda Rayworth
Joseph & Donna
Reynolds
Joe & Sarah Ribeiro
Ted & Linda Robbins
Brian & Dawn Rooke
Julie & Mark Russell
Laurie & Octavio
Sanchez
David Sargeant
James & Robyn Scalley
Carolyn & Randy Lee
Schmidt
Jeanne & Richard
Schutte
Janice Schuyler
Gordon & Rebecca
Scruton
David & Nancy Simmons
Rich & Hathy Simpson
George Sherrill
Craig & Jennifer
Stanovich
Mark Stewart & Beverly
Erickson
Philip & Nancy Styffe
Dan & Dianne Thibeault
Ann Tripp & Dale
Perkins
Bill & Pennie Turgeon
Al & Helen Vandemark
Katherine-Ann and
Robert Vogel
Jean Whenman
Steven & Clare White
Mark & Jane Williams
Mary Jane Wilson
Roger & Jan Wilson
Elizabeth Zlody
Maura Zlody
Michael Zlody
Audrey Zook
Christopher Zook