

"And when they prayed, the place in which they gathered together was shaken; and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness."

Acts 4:31

A Message From the Rector

SUMMER 2011

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Literary Quest

June is birthday time in our family. We're in the middle of planning a party for our daughter, and I find myself checking my email often in case more replies have come in. I'm so excited to see whether her friends will be able to attend, you'd think I was the one turning seven. It's just not a celebration without the party guests.

I feel some of that same anticipation on Sunday mornings. I like the quiet tasks of opening up the church, turning on the lights, and checking that everything is in its place. It doesn't feel like Sunday, though, until the first people show up for worship. I need you to turn the morning from routine work into joyful celebration. You get the party started.

The feast of Pentecost celebrates the birth of the Church. When the Spirit burst forth from the disciples with wind and flames, they were joined to each other and to all of Christ's followers. As they spoke, everyone heard them in his or her own native language, showing them how the Gospel would spread throughout the world and draw people together from every nation and every culture. Pentecost reminds us that all Christians are our brothers and sisters, born with us from the Holy Spirit.

The letter to the Hebrews calls all Christians "holy partners in a heavenly calling." It encourages us to take responsibility not just for our own relationship with God, but for building up the faith of our whole community.

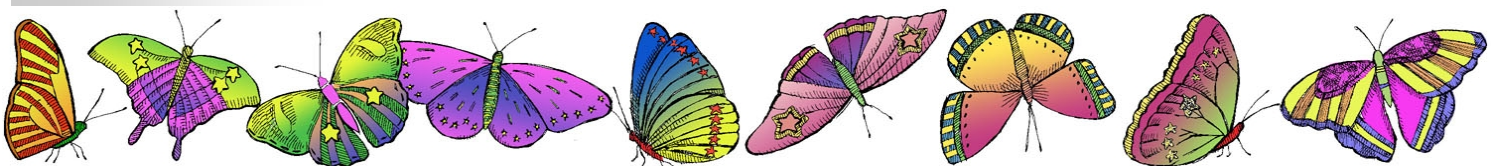
"Exhort one another every day," it proclaims, and "see to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God." Hebrews invites us to "consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds," and then points out that the best way to support each other is to gather together in the worship of God.

Many of us first came to church because there was something we were looking for. We were seeking a connection to God, a place to call home, people to support us. Thanks be to God, we found what we needed here. We stayed, though, because the church needed us. Our friendship and our prayers made a difference in somebody else's life. Our work made the world a little better. Our presence really mattered. Being able to give something to others changed our hearts, bringing us healing, hope and joy. And now we keep getting up and showing up, because this is a place where we have something to give.

This summer, we have a special opportunity to make a difference. Our partners at Saint Paul's Church in Peabody and Grace Church in Salem have invited us to join their worship. They will be excitedly waiting, hoping that we will come together to strengthen each other.

Each of us has the power to turn a quiet summer Sunday into a celebration of the Holy Spirit. We just have to show up for the party.

Hea+



CALENDAR for June

- June 5 - Service at 9:00 a.m. honoring our graduates
- June 12 - Pentecost service at 9:00 a.m./Vestry Meeting 10:30 a.m.
- June 19 - Perfect Paws Pet Ministry 5:00 p.m.
- June 21-Senior Luncheon 12:00 p.m.



From June 19 to July 10, we will worship at Saint Paul's Church in Peabody.

From July 17 to August 7, Saint Paul's and Grace will join us at Calvary.

From August 14 to September 4, we will worship at Grace Church in Salem.

Mark Englehardt, who serves as Music Director of Grace Church in Salem, will be joining us as guest organist during our four weeks of worship at Calvary this summer. The Vestry will begin making plans for the future of Calvary's music ministry at our meeting at 10:30 am on Sunday, June 12. All members of the parish are invited to take part in discussion.

Outreach News

By Melissa West

We continue to support local families in need with household items, clothing for both children and adults, and car seats thanks to the Danvers Police Department and Carole Germano. We continue to support the **Danvers People to People Food Pantry** who are in need of healthy snacks, cereal, juice boxes, bottled juice, crackers, cookies, white or brown rice, and white tuna. The **Life Bridge Salem Breakfast Teams** continue to provide a hot breakfast to 40-50 residents every third Saturday. This summer we will be collecting **back packs (gently used or new) and school supplies** for local students; please consider picking up pens, pencils, crayons, back pack, ruler, paper, or notebooks to help a child. All donations can be placed in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support!



O U T R E A C H

Garden Club

By Melissa West

Garden Club met on April 5 and cleaned up our gardens after a very long winter. Thank you to Linda Coddens, Marlene Norton, Bill & Judy Graves, Cindy Taplin, Priscilla Gerrard for all their hard work. Thank you also to Sally Symmes for donating all the pretty blue pansies that have been thriving during our cold wet spring and to Marlene Norton for nurturing our geraniums over the winter and donating new ones for our flower boxes. We will meet again **June 11, 1-3PM**. All are welcome to join our merry band of gardeners, no experience or green thumb necessary. I also want to send out a huge thank you to The **Murphy Brothers Tree Service** for donating time and equipment to remove dangerous dead branches from the large pine in the back corner of the Stepping Stones Preschool playground. We greatly appreciate their help keeping our students safe! Thank you to Bill Graves for contacting and following up with Kevin & Linus Murphy.



From the Kitchen of: Barbara French

Thank you for all your "feedback" and willingness to try some of the recipes. I've had many requests for Margaret Sue O'Neill's Vermicelli Pasta Salad and since we'll be into the warm weather, here it is. And for a totally different experience, try this method for Bean Hole Beans, created by the lumberjacks for when they are out working in the forests (this could be good for any of you campers).

Vermicelli Salad

1lb pkg Vermicelli Pasta	3 Tbsp Lemon Juice
1½ fine chopped Green Pepper	4 Tbsp Vegetable Oil
¾ cup fine chopped Onion	1 Tbsp Seasoned Salt
1 sm. can sliced Black Olives	1 ½ cups Mayonnaise
1 jar drained Pimentos	

*Night before serving: cook pasta; drain w/cold water. Mix in lemon juice, seasoned salt & vegetable oil. Chill overnight.

*Next day: add green pepper, onion, olives, pimentos and mayo. Ready to Serve.

Bean Hole Beans

Using your own baked bean recipe or Fay Voisine's, prepare up to cooking stage.

1 lb pkg Navy or Pea Beans	1/3 cup Molasses
¼ cup Salt Pork	1 tsp Salt
1 sm. Onion (chopped) Soda	½ tsp Baking
1 tsp Dry Mustard	¼ cup Ketchup
6 cups Water	¼ tsp Pepper

*Soak beans overnight in large saucepan in 6 cups water.

*In morning, add baking soda. Heat to boil & simmer 10 mins. Drain over large bowl, saving liquid.

*Place all ingredients in your beanpot with 1 cup of reserved liquid. Stir thoroughly; adding enough liquid to completely cover the ingredients.

*Cover pot.

(If not cooking in "the hole", bake @300 for 2hrs, Add remaining liquid, stirring again. Bake additional 1½ hrs or until beans are tender. Uncover/bake another ½ hr)

This method requires you to prepare the "hole & fire" one day ahead:

*Dig a hole 4' deep by 3' square (save the soil).

*Line & layer the "hole" with bricks, stones or sheet metal (to hold in the heat).

*Build a wood fire, in the "hole", a day ahead and keep feeding it until deep, hot ashes form (you'll need enough to cover your bean pot).

*Triple layer your prepared pot/lid with foil.

*Bury the foil-covered pot in the center of the hot ashes; and fill in the "oven" hole with the saved soil.

*Leave alone for about 8 hours. Uncover the hole and remove your beanpot and "Voila!" The beans are ready to serve

Divide the Labor; Double the Yum!

By Nancy Gilman

Ever feel like the toughest question you face on a daily basis is "What's for dinner?" I do! I hated it when I lived alone and cooking for one night after night seemed so joyless. Now that I have a family, after a long day's work, the challenge of putting something on the table everyone in my family can eat fast enough that the girls can finish their homework gets old, so old that I started looking for other alternatives. A friend of mine introduced me to the idea of cooking ahead and having my own homemade meals ready to go in the freezer. When I could do it this year, it made a huge difference. However with just me—it was hard to have enough variety with the time I had available.

So I started researching how to start a cooking Co-Op and I have found a wealth of information. The basic idea is for multiple people to band together to prepare more food than one could do alone and then to divide the meals. Those that prefer to work at the stove can work at the stove, those that prefer to chop can chop, those that prefer to wash dishes can wash, those that are good at packaging can divide the food into the containers, etc... All of us working together get to share the laughter and companionship that makes everything so much easier.

So, in looking to the fall, I would like to start a group that would use O'Neill Hall. By buying in bulk, we will be able to save a great deal over standard supermarket prices. My plan is to split the difference with Calvary; a win-win for those participating and Calvary. In the interest of keeping this article short, I have posted more details on the Calvary website. [http://www.calvaryepiscopal-danvers.org/html/cooking_coop.html] If you are interested, please contact me, either at nlbilman@mit.edu or 781-883-1678. I am hoping to get at least a small group together this summer to practice once in anticipation of more people joining in the fall.

Calvary's High School Graduates

Lindsay McCallum

I will be attending Northeastern University in the fall as an English major with the intentions of becoming a high school English teacher. Throughout my four years at Danvers High School, I have been class president, a member of the National Honor Society, World Language National Honor Society, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), and DECA, an association of marketing students, that has sent me around the country in competitions. Outside of the classroom, I've been an avid Girl Scout for 13 years, in the process of earning my Gold Award. I have also traveled abroad to Greece, Turkey, and Italy to learn ancient history and art and experience different cultures. Thank you to all members of the Calvary parish for all your love and friendship through the years!



Marisa Crosley

Next year, I am going to attend Fitchburg State University. My major is Computer Science. I plan on joining the dance team while I'm there, and maybe doing a couple of musicals, too. I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to do immediately after I graduate in four years, probably some programming work at a Google-like company.

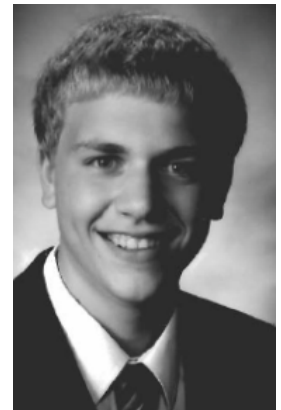
I thank my parents and brother for all their support getting me through high school, i.e. the best years of your life. High school, while being fun, was also a very difficult time for me, and it means so much to have people there for me. I also thank the church for being such a welcoming community and being there whenever I needed or wanted support. Of course I thank God, but that's a given!



James Cummings

I have been a member of Calvary since birth and have enjoyed my time while here. I have many memories from the Christmas pageants, youth group, and Sunday school. I have recently graduated from Saint John's Prep in Danvers. During my high school years I have participated in many extra curricular activities provided by the school. Some of these include L.U.N.A. (diversity club), Future Problem Solvers, homework tutor, National Honor Society, ultimate disk, and many intramural tournaments throughout each year. Over the summers I have been working with a boy, who lost his mother. He lives with his grandparents who adopted him, and for the past 3 years I have tried to be a good role model, while working with him.

Next school year I will be attending Saint Anselm in Manchester, New Hampshire. While at Saint Anselm I will be studying computer science and chemistry. I hope to get involved with the school community as I have with the Prep.



Jennifer Havens

I will be graduating from Danvers High with honors, after four years in the band and the last two years as section leader for the flute and piccolo section. I've spent all my time outside of school for the past four years focusing on the training and well being of young and rescue horses and plan to continue doing so in college. I will be entering Hampshire College, a small, private liberal arts school in Amherst MA in the fall, working towards a biology degree with a pre-vet focus. My long term goal is to improve the health, soundness, and lives of racehorses throughout the country.



Kellie MacDonald

I am graduating from Danvers High School on June 11th and will further my education at Williams College in Williamstown, MA. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity and look forward to September. I am also looking forward to being a member of the basketball team at Williams. As of right now I have not declared a major but I am interested in environmental economics.



Calvary Church Crafters' Fair

By Paul French

Save the date! We will be holding our annual Church Fair on Saturday, November 12th, from 9:00am-3:00pm. Of course, we are hoping to involve as many people as possible (there are many positions available from planning, setting up, cooking, breaking down). We know some of you will be able to stay for the entire day; but others will only be able to devote a few hours or less due to other commitments and responsibilities. Whatever time you can give, will be gratefully appreciated.

November seems a long way off; but, planning ahead is very important to ensure a successful fundraiser. We've begun lining up craft vendors; and some of you have already committed to a particular project. If you can let us know, early on, where and how you would like to participate, or if you have some ideas and/or suggestions you would like to share with us, please contact Paul French ([978-887-2830](tel:978-887-2830); pb french@verizon.net); or Sally Symmes ([978-777-3773](tel:978-777-3773); Symmes@comcast.net).

We will most likely coordinate the planning through e-mails or phone calls, and perhaps a few meetings as we approach the date of the fair.

I'll be the first to acknowledge that putting on the Fair requires a lot of hard work, and time; and, trust me when I say, nothing is taken for granted. Working together for the success of our parish will be rewarding and certainly gratifying. Thank you to each and every one for all you do for Calvary.

Bianca's Farewell

Dear Calvary Family,

It is after careful consideration and much prayer that I am choosing to leave Massachusetts and move to Ohio to be with my family. God is teaching me to Let Go, Trust, and have Faith, and this is truly a courageous step as I leave the East Coast and move to 'the Heart of it All'.

I would like to take this time to thank Rev. Thea, the Wardens, the Vestry, and all of you for your support over these last three years. My time here at Calvary has been such a wonderful opportunity to grow and develop my skills as a Music Minister. I have appreciated all of you and it has been a pleasure to serve you.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the choir, I will miss you. You all have allowed me to laugh, to relax, to follow my instincts, to have fun, and to go-with-the-flow. No matter what it looks like, no matter what it SOUNDS like, no matter what happens, you have taught me the JOY of music-making. What a Blessing, Thank you!

Until We Meet Again, May God hold You in the Palm of His Hand,

--Bianca

Stepping Stones Preschool

By Brenda Karolides

Stepping Stones Preschool would like to think Melissa West and volunteers for mulching the playground for the students at Stepping Stones to enjoy as well as a **special thank you to Bill Graves and Murphy Brothers Tree Service**

for trimming the big pine tree and removing the dead branches that were hanging over the playground.

Stepping Stones Preschool will be hosting a McDonald's Night on Thursday June 2 from 4:00-8:00PM. 15% of the sales for the evening will be donated to Stepping Stones Preschool.

Well it is hard to believe that another school year has come and gone. The children in the 3 day program at Stepping Stones will be graduating on Wednesday night June 15 and the 2 day class will be "Stepping-Up" on Thursday morning June 16. We would like to wish all of our Stepping Stones Graduates Good Luck in Kindergarten as well as years to come. Happy Summer Everyone!!!!



On Sunday, June 12, we will say farewell to our dear friend and Music Director, Bianca De Maria, as she leaves Massachusetts to be closer to her family. In her three years at Calvary, Bianca has given great energy and love to our music ministry. She brought with her a reverence for sacred worship, an intuitive ability to bring out the deeper meaning of the Scriptures and traditions of our faith, and the talent to present a variety of musical styles with skill and grace. She worked hard to choose the right music to support the gifts of our choir and respond to the spiritual needs of our congregation. She also offered her rich, beautiful voice to pieces for special occasions, including peace songs for the feast of Saint Francis and moving anthems for funerals. In everything she did, she tried to draw our whole community closer to the sweet peace and healing love of our God. We are deeply grateful for everything Bianca has given us, and wish her many blessings in the next part of her journey. — Rev. Thea

Your Talents Are Needed!

By Sally Symmes

Where would you enjoy putting your talents to work? Your church needs as many hands as possible to do our best work. The following are fun activities that always need help!

Altar Guild: Barbara Hooper; Ginna Coulson – misshoop@comcast.net

The Altar Guild takes care of the altar and the sanctuary to prepare for worship. The ladies in the Guild are the ones who wash and iron the linens, prepare the sacred vessels for the Eucharist, and beautify the sanctuary with colorful flowers. A commitment of once every 4 weeks is all that it takes. New members are always wanted and needed.

Book Club: Paula Noyes, Linda Coddens – paulaand-sam@aol.com

Club meets approximately five times during the year at the church on Thursday meetings. We read books chosen by the group and thoroughly discuss along with tons of fun.

Choir: Office 978-774-1150

Attend choir rehearsal on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm and arrive at 9:15 am to rehearse and provide music for Sunday service during the Fall, Winter and Early Spring months .

Church Fair: Paul French and Sally Symmes – symmes@comcast.net

Crafts, Plants, Food donations. Help make directional signs. Help set up and take down tables. Help on actual day in kitchen, on floor, etc.

Coffee Hour: Priscilla Gerrard – clanger-rard@verizon.net

Prepare coffee, provide and set out treats for Sunday Coffee Hour. Cleanup.

Garden Club: Melissa West – lissywest@yahoo.com

Planting planters and pots with seasonal flowers. Spring and Fall cleanups. Watering.

Lay Ministry: Thea Keith-Lucas office 978-774-1150/ revthea@gmail.com

Bringing communion to shut-ins and providing pastoral care.

Outreach: Melissa West – lissywest@yahoo.com

Danvers People to People Food Pantry: You can help with weekly donations of food for local residents in need, as well as Christmas presents for Danvers children in need.

Families in Need:

Calvary assists Social Worker Maria Silva Jimenez, Human Services Coordinator F.O.R. Families Program. We collect back packs and school supplies, warm winter

coats and Christmas presents for local families as well as maintain a supply of adult and children's clothing, bedding and household basics for family emergencies.

Lifebridge in Salem: Calvary has three teams which provide a hot breakfast every 3 weeks, (each team goes once every nine weeks) to approximately 50 residents of the shelter. Time commitment only an hour and a half every 9 weeks.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Nance Proctor – 978-887-3017

Fun talk and knitting providing shawls for anyone who is need of comfort held on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Church Parlor. Anyone that does not knit or crochet can be taught.

Senior Lunch: Calista Greenough – Office 978-774-1150

BYOBB (Bring your own brown bag) on the third Tuesday at noon and join in the Fellowship. Drinks, condiments and dessert provided.

Newsletter: Paula Noyes, Lauryn Pierre, Thea Keith-Lucas – paulaandsam@aol.com

Write newsworthy articles for *The Visitor*, our newsletter published 9 times a year, through the Fall, Winter and early Spring months.

Sunday jobs: Thea Keith-Lucas – Office 978-774-1150 – revthea@gmail.com

Sunday School Teachers

Help share the richness of our faith with Calvary's children. Assist with teaching or with making materials for the classroom.

Usher- Welcome people to church and help keep the service moving smoothly. Including, passing out bulletins, collecting offertory and assisting parishioners to participate in communion.

Lectors - Read the Scripture lesson and lead the Psalm.

Chalice Bearers- Lead the community in prayer and share the gift of communion.

Acolytes - Carry the cross and help at the altar. A great job for kids aged 10 and up - and grownups too!

BE A VOLUNTEER



The Perfect Paws Ministry Celebrates Its First Birthday

By Fran Weil

On Sunday, May 15, 2011, from 5 to 5:30, the Calvary Perfect Paws Pet Ministry (PPPM) celebrated its first anniversary. All were welcomed to attend with (or without) their animal friends. A special post-service gathering, with refreshments for humans and their pets, was part of the afternoon's festivities.

In fact, our regular PPPM attendees, Linda and Jim Juppe, who own those adorable Yorkies, Paulina and Maya, brought a special PPPM birthday cake to share for the festivities. Everyone was invited to bring something sweet to share.

"We haven't missed one service since the first one, a year ago in May," says Linda, "so we wanted to do something to help celebrate with everyone." The small after-party offered a wonderful opportunity for humans and their animal companions to meet and mingle.

Since its inaugural service a year ago on May 16, 2010, people faithfully make their way to the Perfect Paws Pet Ministry service, joined by their beloved animal companions, from the smallest Tea Cup Yorkies, to a decorated Marine war dog, Nibbles, wounded in the line of duty, and a giant, lumbering love of a Newfoundland dog named Cleo. And the numbers keep growing!

In a short year, those who attend Perfect Paws have come together to form a vibrant, spirit-filled and cohesive congregation that sings hymns together, prays, shares the Holy Eucharist, hears a brief reflection by Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, and enjoys fellowship with one another, celebrating the special, rewarding human-animal bond by renewing their covenant of care with all animals in their lives and in our world.

The Perfect Paws Pet Ministry has expanded to include the Circle of Healing Pet Loss Bereavement Peer Support Group, and also offers memorial services and emotional support for humans during their pets' surgery and euthanasia.

For more information visit us at on the [Web](#) or email calvarypetministry@gmail.com.

Perfect Paws' first anniversary made quite a splash in the media. One of our honored guests was Bella English, a veteran features reporter for the Boston Globe. Ms. English circulated around the room, meeting all the pets, and seemed quite taken with the service. On Monday, May 30, her article "Paws and Worship: Ministry embraces pet owners, animals" came out on the front page of the Globe. In an expansive profile of over 2,000 words, Ms. English captured the flavor of the service, the history of the ministry, the personalities of a variety of our members, and the spiritual meaning of our work. Congratulations and thank you to Fran Weil and all the Pet Ministry volunteers for your creative outreach!



North Shore Cancer Walk

By Neal Grasso

I will be running a 5K race on Sunday, June 26th, to support the North Shore Medical Center (NSMC) in its efforts to provide quality care to cancer patients and their families. I am running in memory of my father, Joseph Grasso, who lost his battle with cancer in 1995. Your support would be greatly appreciated. My goal is to reach at least 50 supporters. If you can pledge as little as \$1, I would greatly appreciate it!

Since its inception in 1991, the North Shore Cancer WALK has raised more than \$16 million and has attracted over 5,000 participants each year. Last year was the first year they held a simultaneous RUN which hosted 450 runners. This year, proceeds from the WALK/RUN will support the renovation of the in-patient oncology unit at NSMC Salem Hospital as well as wellness services and support programs for the Mass General/North Shore Cancer Center.

To support me, you can go to this website:
<http://nsmcgiving.partners.org/Page.aspx?pid=454&tab=3&erid=291844&frsid=2891>

Or you can make out a check to the North Shore Cancer Walk and either give it to me at church or mail it to me (31 Braman Street, Danvers MA 01923). Thank you very much for your support.

Nancy Moore: Musician Extraordinaire

By Paula Noyes

When our Music Director, Bianca De Maria had an injury Nancy Moore, Garvin's talented wife came to the rescue. She has served as Choir Director since Easter and we have been very blessed.

"I was born and raised in Wilmington, North Carolina and been involved in church music since elementary school. I played the piano at 12."

Nancy went to St. Andrew's College in North Carolina and New York University, New York to study music.

"I taught in Winston-Salem, North Carolina public schools for four years. I was in Europe for three years directing a recreation program for servicemen in the US Army. I married Garvin and had two children. Back in the United States I taught English as a second language at Middlesex Community College for 10 years and was a Music Director for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bedford, Massachusetts."

Garvin and Nancy Moore have lived in Brooksby Village for 3½ years.

North Shore Elder Services' Benefits Check-Up Program

By Diane Kessler

Do you need help paying for medical costs, meal programs or in-home services? These are just some of the benefits that may be due to you.

Since last October I have been working with North Shore Elder Services to provide a unique service to elders in Danvers, Middleton, Peabody, Salem and Marblehead. As one of four "Benefits Specialists" sponsored by the Massachusetts Commonwealth Corps volunteer program, I have helped elders with applications for MassHealth, food stamps, and fuel assistance. In addition, we help determine what other benefits they may be eligible for through a "Benefits Check-Up" designed by the National Council on Aging. This helpful Check-Up is something our own Calvary seniors – or someone they know – may wish to take. The service is free, strictly confidential, and available to seniors age 62+.

A Benefits Specialist meets with you in your home and uses a laptop, which he or she brings, to fill in a NCOA Check-Up questionnaire via the Internet. Once completed, a report is generated immediately to give you a listing of the programs for which you may qualify, and the agencies that are responsible for providing them. All of this information can be printed out for you for your use. As stated above, the entire process is strictly confidential.

For some of the benefits, a Benefits Specialist may be able to help you with the application process. Some benefits may be available through North Shore Elder Services.

The mission of North Shore Elder Services is to reach out and help seniors find the benefits they deserve. **So, to schedule an appointment for a Benefits Check-Up, call the Information Services department at 978-750-4540 at NSES.**



A Continuing Literary Quest

(originally printed in Danvers Patch)

By Paula C. Noyes

Andre Dubus III did a reading of his from his latest book, a memoir called 'Townie' at a session of the Newburyport Literary Festival in the Unitarian Universalist Church on Pleasant St. The church is a dazzling white affair with black shutters and the architectural clarity of a newly renovated 1700's building. The inside is separated into boxes with pews inside. I went to the front, nearest the altar and sat in an odd shaped box that had a musician's music stand in it. At the front middle of the church sat a waist high Masonite table with a neat pile of hymnals. An attractive, gray haired lady was adding to the pile of hymnals, testing that the microphone was the correct height for 'reading.'

It was a few minutes to the hour and Andre wasn't there yet. The church was nearly full. There were other seats in my pew and a wildly beautiful woman with black hair and an expensive camera was placed in the pew with me by the grey haired lady. We were in close quarters so we moved the music stand to the side.

"Are you part of the Press?" I said, indicating her camera.

"No, I'm his wife."

"Oh."

"He's always late."

"Is that him?" A man from the back of church was making his way forward.

"No, that's not him- he'd be a little neater. My name is Fontaine."

We shook hands

"My name is Paula."

"You know that one of the librarians that read the book, 'Townie', said it was the best book she had ever read. Not the best memoir, the best book," said Fontaine proudly.

Shortly, another woman arrived who was older with black hair, neatly dressed and beautiful, as well. It was Fontaine's mother, Andre's mother-in-law. I didn't get her name because the noise level went up appreciably as Andre had arrived. He was up front with his arm around the grey-haired lady, Vicki Hendrickson, the woman in charge of the Newburyport Literary Festival. All I heard from the mother-in-law was, 'It's a great book. I couldn't put it down for three days.'

I immediately loved these two women for their good humor and the intense loyalty to Andre was infectious.

Andre Dubus III is about 5'10" tall with medium brown hair in moderate brushed back look and side burns and deep set eyes. I would say he was about 50 years old. I'm not particularly good with ages; he said he was 50 years old. His face was pleasing and he smiled easily. He was dressed casually but neatly in jeans and blue shirt and a casual suit jacket – as neat as Fontaine had said. He was known for his book; 'House of Sand and Fog' which was picked by Oprah's Book Club and was made into a major motion picture. The movie was up for several Academy Awards and starred Jennifer Connelly

and Ben Kingsley. It was about a deeply depressed woman who lost her house for some minor tax issues and it was acquired by Ben Kingsley's character, a fiercely proud retired Iranian General. The book is about pride and cultural clashes and what a home means. It is very intense and remarkably well-done. I was a limp dish-rag when the film ended.

Fontaine retired to other areas of the church to take pictures. Then Andre read from, 'Townie', his newest book, a wrenching memoir of his life in Haverhill and along the Merrimac River as a young man. He read for a good half hour. There is nothing in my mind like an author reading from his own work.

The first time I had heard it and was impressed was when I heard Sebastian Junger read from, 'The Perfect Storm' on Book TV. I had shared this experience with Fontaine while we were waiting for Andre.

"But isn't Sebastian cute?" Fontaine added.

"Yes, cute", I agreed.

Andre's reading paused twice because he had a couple of swear words and he wanted to check if any children were in the crowd. In the question and answer session. I asked the only question I always ask a successful published writer because I have been trying to write a historical fiction novel for the last three years.

"How do you work?"

"I write longhand with a #2 Ticonderoga pencil on white paper and then the next day I type it up."

"So one day you are the artist, the writer and the next you are the editor."

"Are you a writer?"

"I have been working on a book for three years."

He continued, "I have a student who has to have every sentence perfect as she writes it. It's like having a baby and it's gooky and yucky and it's not all the way born and you don't even know the sex of the child and you are trying to comb it's hair and that's not the way to write. Just write and get it on paper then fix it up."

After the question and answer session I went to the back of the church in foyer and purchased 'Townie' and stood in line for an autograph. I gave him my card which says writer and my name and my pen name.

"Good pen name. What is your book?"

"I am not as brave as you – I am writing about family but in a historical fiction format."

"That's hard. There's a book by Doctorow called 'The March'. It's about the Civil War. Read that."

His autograph in the front of my book said, "Here's to you and your work. Warmly, Andre Dubus III. I walked to my car a little lighter and better informed.





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Tues., Wed. and Thurs. 9 - 4
Service Schedule: Holy Eucharist Sundays 8:00 & 10:00 am

REVEREND THEA KEITH-LUCAS, RECTOR

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VACATION
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