

Parish Calendar

December 13	Girls' Brigade Formal Luncheon
December 24	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
December 31	New Year's Eve Midnight Mass
January 2	Parish Post-New Year's Ball
January 10	Children's Christmas Party
January 11	Thanksgiving Service @ Christ Church Cathedral for Archbishop Gomez
January 13	Annual Clergy Retreat
February 8	Enthronement of Bishop Boyd

WELCOME from Fr. Shazzabazzar A. Turnquest



Fr. Turnquest was ordained to the sacred priesthood November 2004 and has served as Priest-in-Charge of St. Margaret's and St. Mary Magdalene (North Andros) since June 2007.

Dear Readers,

Happy New Year!!!

I say this because on November 30th, 2008 marked the beginning of Advent, which is also the beginning of our church's new year. On that day, the Diocese of the Bahamas also observed Commitment Sunday, a time when members we encouraged to recommit themselves to the church and it's work. We are excited to see how many persons take their commitment serious (be it via giving more of their time, talents or treasures.

work of the Anglican Church Men's " Anglican Church Men of The West Indies Conference". It was quite an enjoyable time for those who represented the parish.

In my reflections this month I focus on the music of Advent. I look forward to your comments.

We also welcome highlight the work of our newest youth organization – Girls' Brigade. We thank those working with the girls and hope that they will be formally enrolled in early 2009.

This month we highlight the

St. Margaret's & St. Mary Magdalene Welcome Girls' Brigade



On Saturday, November 8th, 2008 the Girls' of both St. Margeret's Nicholl's Town and St. Mary Madgaldene Mastic Point gathered together to form the first Girls' Brigade Company in North Andros. The Girls' focus on for key areas each week – spiritual, educational, physical and service. The motto of Girls' Brigade is to 'Seek, Serve and Follow Christ' and it is hoped that this company in the North Andros community will help to nurture its young girls into responsible, mannerly Christian young ladies that everyone can be proud of. At present the enrollment stands at 19 girls ranging from 5-16 years old. Leaders are Candice Turnquest, Joan McKinney, Coral Bowleg, Michelle Bowleg.

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Advent Musing – by Fr. Shazz Turnquest

*Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding;
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say,
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."*

Words: Unknown

Music: William Monk 1850

I love the season of Advent the most, simply because all of the hymns are so beautiful. It is hard for me to pick my favourite and I am sure that you have a special place in your heart for one if not more of them (A&M Advent Hymns) as well. The music of our church is very rich. All of the hymns tell a story of some sort. They are arranged in order of the church seasons and you can find something in it somewhere to suit any occasion. The modern detractors of Hymns Ancient and Modern are so passé. Their common complaint is that we sing the same hymns over and over and over again. "It's so boring!" is their cry. Funnily enough though while stationed elsewhere we tended to sing the same 'Modern', 'Revivalist' songs over and over and over again. So therein lies the question..."What's the difference?"

I am happy that many of our churches are taking the time out and seeing it fit to embrace the richness of our church heritage by investing in their musical instruments. As an amateur organist I have a special love for the music of the king of instruments. The pipe organ and even these days its modern derivative the electronic church organ are centrepieces of many of our Anglican churches. Some are historic, powerful beasts while others are more sedate contemplative animals. Just recently the parish of St. Anne Fox Hill installed a brand new Wicks two manual pipe specifically designed for the temple on the holy hill. Though I have yet to hear it or play it I am sure that daily it is lending to the beauty of worship in that space. St. Mary

the Virgin too has installed a wonderful 'combo' again from the Wicks family that incorporates traditional pipe and electronic components. The church of St. Mary Magdalene West End has installed a full electronic Wicks, and having had the opportunity to play it just two weeks ago I am full of praise for the richness of the Wicks instruments.

There are historic organs as well in our Diocese. The organ at Holy Trinity is a beautifully reconditioned Moeller, St. Barnabas houses a magnificent EM Skinner, Christ Church Cathedral is home to a monster 32 rank German Oberlinger as well as a small chapel organ by the same company. St. Matthew too has an Oberlinger. St. Agnes and Christ the King have for their musical accompaniment organs built by the English Walker company. In St. Patrick's Governor's Harbour there is a rare gem in the loft with a delicate instrument, still playable, dating from the 1800's shipped to the Bahamas from an organ works in Finsbury Park, London. Pipe organs are built to last a lifetime.

While in England at seminary in Cambridge I was fortunate to live in a university town so rich in culture, music, academia and tradition that it was easy to get used to the talent on offer on a daily basis in any one of the university chapels. At the legendary King's College Chapel (probably, as a friend commented while waiting for the service to begin, 'this must be the only place where people line up to go to church') there is a service held once a year, that has always been sold out, at least while I was there. The Procession for Advent is a mystical experience. The choir chants from a vestibule off to one side to start the service. You can hear them but you can't see them. Then at various stations they advance to their stalls while performing things old and new for the enjoyment and spiritual reinforcement of the enraptured

crowd. I can see them now, four angels blowing golden trumpets one at each corner of the magnificent Harrison and Harrison organ case on top of the rood screen of the world famous Kings College Chapel. The original organs dates back to the early 1600's but subsequent additions, repairs, overhauls, tweakings and tunings have made it the glorious machine (if I dare call it that) that it is today.

I am proud to be an Anglican. I love our music. I wouldn't change it for anything else in the whole world. William Monk who wrote the words of Hymn 47 'Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding' was in fact the first musical editor of Hymns Ancient and Modern, a best seller in its own rank, with over 60 million copies sold in its lifetime and still selling!! Thomas Hardy, the great English novelist wrote of William Henry Monk (a coincidental parallel in nomenclature to William Henry Sweeting 'the apostle of Andros?') in his role as music editor:

Stripped of some of your vesture

*By Monk or another. Now you wore no frill,
And at first you startled me. But I know you still,
Though I missed the minim's waver
And the dotted quaver.*

So, beloved, when you sing the glorious Advent hymns at the beginning of yet another new church year, remember the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 33:1-3:

*Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous;
It is good for the just to sing praises.
Praise the Lord with the harp;
Play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.
Sing for him a new song;
Sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.*

Anglican Church Men – Men of the West Indies Conference



Pictured are: Colin Hilliman (Guyana National and ACM Vice President) and James 'Killer' Smith (ACM President)

At the end of November two members of the Parish attended the Anglican Men of West Indies Conference in Nassau. The ACM Branch President Mr. James 'Killer' Smith and the ACM Branch Vice President Mr. Colin Hilliman were the two delegates representing the parish. Once again, St. Margaret and St. Mary Magdalene was the only Family Island parish represented. James and Colin spent one day at the Parish of St. Gregory the Great on Carmichael Road and shared fellowship with Anglican Church Men from all over the Caribbean. Delegates from Jamaica, Guyana, Barbados and the Bahamas all shared their concerns in conference with regard to the work and witness of men in the Anglican Church. At the conference, delegates were given copies of a new prayer book for children patterned on our existing Book of Common Prayer. The Diocese of Jamaica is spearheading the initiative to make children more a part of our worship service through the use of their own illustrated Prayer Book.

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