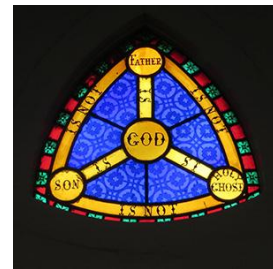


# St. John's Episcopal Church

Ashfield, Massachusetts  
Corner of Main and South Streets



November 2014



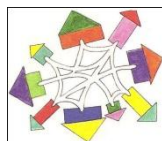
## Don't Forget to Turn Your Clocks Back an Hour on November 2<sup>nd</sup>!

### Blessing of the animals

On October 5<sup>th</sup> St. John's remembered St. Francis of Assisi with a blessing the animals. Members of St. John's brought 5 of their animal companions; 3 dogs and 2 sheep.



### The Hilltown Village Partners with St Johns Church in Ashfield



We are thrilled to announce that St John's Episcopal Church in Ashfield has agreed to serve as our fiscal sponsor for the upcoming year. St John's has supported our Mothers Group since its beginning and we feel grateful to have such a warm and welcoming sponsor to partner with as we move forward in serving families living in the Hilltowns.

### Fall Festival Up-Date!

October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> was the 45<sup>th</sup> Ashfield Fall Festival and St. John's Blueberry Cobbler has become a favorite treat for veteran and new attendees. This year St. John's made 90 trays of blueberry cobbler for 900 total servings. Around 2:30 pm on Sunday Jim Wagener put up the "sold out" signs! We keep making more cobbler and we still sell out in the early afternoon! After the cobbler sold out we sold about 100 warm blueberry muffins with whipped cream on top. Our gross income for the weekend was over \$5000! We would truly like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this year's fall festival a success. We would like to thank Jane Wagener & Sue Craft for organizing everything and make the weekend go so smoothly, all the volunteers who made jam, muffins and cobbler and especially Double Edge Theater, who volunteered all weekend and made it possible for us to get the cobbler to the customers.

### American Harmony comes to Ashfield Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

Step back in time on Friday, Nov. 14, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., as costumed singers from western Massachusetts -- "American Harmony" -- present the songs that stirred the soul of early America. The concert takes place in the historic St. John's Episcopal Church on Route 116 in Ashfield center. The program includes rarely heard fusing tunes as well as some of the most popular sacred songs of the time. In tribute to the season, the chorus will sing songs with texts about the Nativity. The singers are directed by music historian Nym Cooke, who has been leading choruses, choirs and community sings in New England for almost 30 years. He is the author of a new book coming out in 2015 titled "American Harmony." Admission to the concert is by donation, with contributions benefiting St. John's Episcopal Church of Ashfield. For more information, call Chris Harris at [413-834-2469](tel:413-834-2469) or email [chrisharriswriter@comcast.net](mailto:chrisharriswriter@comcast.net).

# A Statement from Heads of Churches in Support of Ballot Question 3

October 28, 2014 [Springfield, Mass.]— Bishop Fisher is among the signatories of the following document:

We, the undersigned leaders of communities of faith from across Massachusetts, are united in our support of the effort to repeal the 2011 expanded gambling legislation which would allow for three casinos and a slots parlor in the state. We urge all voters to vote Yes on Question 3.

Our faith traditions offer a message of Good News for humankind. We are called to love our neighbor and show compassion for the less fortunate among us. We believe casinos, in contrast, are bad news for the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters and damage our communities.

By enacting the 2011 legislation, our state government has created a policy which cheats and exploits people and perpetuates inequality and unfairness in society. Our government should be protecting us from the very thing they are promoting.

We concur with the conclusion of the 2013 report from the Council on Casinos, an independent, nonpartisan group of scholars and leaders, which states:

*Evidence from the health and social sciences suggests that the new American casinos are associated with a range of negative health, economic, political, intellectual, and social outcomes. For this reason, we view state sponsorship of casino gambling as a regressive and damaging policy.*

The research and evidence we have seen leads us to believe that all people of compassion — whether they are from a faith tradition or not — would come to the same conclusion.

While the casino industry suggests that it will provide much needed jobs, we know that the citizens of Massachusetts have wise and imaginative leaders

who can solve employment issues without falling for the illusion of casino prosperity.

Recent events in the regional casino industry such as massive layoffs in Connecticut and the closing of four casinos in Atlantic City indicate that casinos will not bring new money to our state's economy. Discretionary income that now goes to locally owned retail businesses will be diverted and will negatively impact other areas of our economy.

Research shows that proximity to casinos increases the chance of pathological gambling by 90 percent<sup>[1]</sup> resulting in increased strains on family budgets, bankruptcy, and theft.

It is not in keeping with our rich and varied history to be the 40<sup>th</sup> state in the country to introduce casinos as a form of revenue enhancement. We lead the country on issues of social justice, community health, and equality. We can lead again by being the first state to repeal a law that allows for expanded gambling and introduces an industry that has already brought its corrupt culture into Massachusetts.

We urge people to vote Yes on Question 3 to Repeal the Casino Mess.

**The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal**, Minister and President, MA Conference, United Church of Christ

**The Rev. T.J. DeMarco**, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Boston

**Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar**, New England Conference, United Methodist Church

**The Rev. Laura Everett**, Massachusetts Council of Churches

**Bishop Doug Fisher**, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

**Bishop Alan Gates**, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

**Bishop James Hazelwood**, New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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[1] Study Ties Risk Of Problem Gambling With Proximity To Casinos And Other Gambling Opportunities, Science Daily (June 29, 2005)

You don't have a soul.  
You are a Soul.  
You have a body.  
~C. S. Lewis

## Stewardship Ingathering

At the beginning of this month we will be mailing pledge cards to the congregation. While you are filling out your pledge for 2015 remember the multiple missions that your pledge helps sponsor: Hilltown Churches Food Pantry, Community Action Fuel Assistance, Franklin County Home Care, Five Talents International, Thresholds, New England Learning Center for Women in Transition, National Episcopal Relief and Development, Ashfield Preschool, Shelburne Senior Center, Food Bank of Western Mass, MotherWoman, United Thank Offering and Sharing Christmas. Without your support we would not be able to sponsor all of these missions. So, look for your pledge card the Stewardship Ingathering will be on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

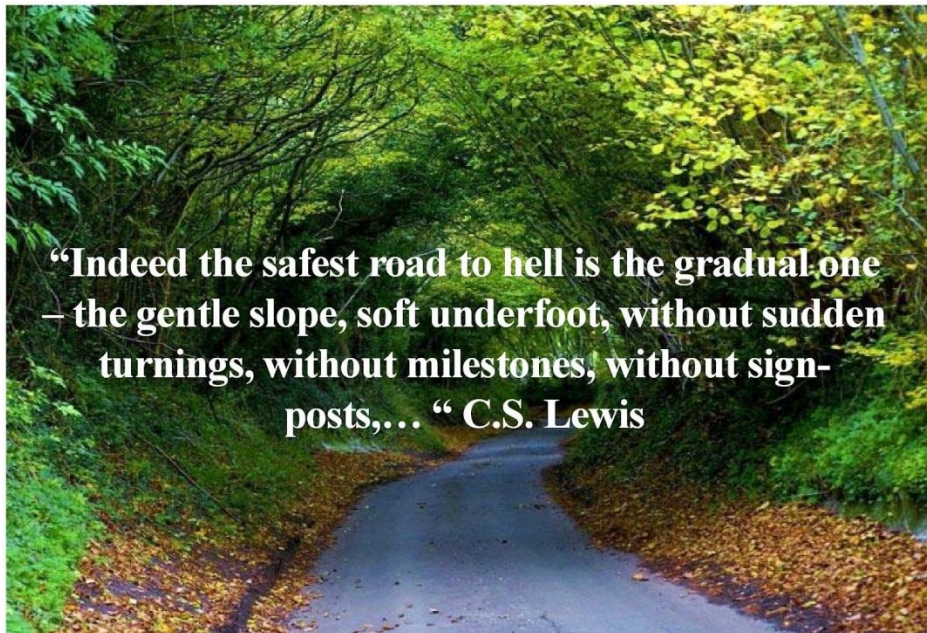
## Sharing Christmas

Sharing Christmas is looking for people interested in sponsoring a family or making donations to help support the program. Sharing Christmas provides holiday gifts for children of the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. Our goal is to provide each child with two articles of clothing and two toys/fun things. Children 16 and younger are eligible to participate. There are many families using the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. You can help this holiday season by sponsoring a family or making a donation to "Sharing Christmas." Donations can be mailed to P. O. Box 68, Ashfield, MA 01330. If you are interested in sponsoring a family or would like more information contact the coordinator, Bonnie Coleman at (413)628-3230 or email her at [crazylegscx@yahoo.com](mailto:crazylegscx@yahoo.com). If you are not able to sponsor a family there are many other ways to help and volunteer!

## Lessons and Carols

December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Service

The regular 10:00 a.m. service on December 28<sup>th</sup> will be a service of Lessons and Carols. The Service of Lessons and Carols is composed of 9 different readings with accompanying hymns. We would love to find 9 volunteers to read. A sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the sanctuary.



**“Indeed the safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without sign-posts,...” C.S. Lewis**

*- The Screwtape Letters*

## The Creator of Narnia

Many of us have probably read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first book in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series; as a child it is a wonderful fantasy story about three children and the lion Aslan. If you were to read it again as an adult you might find the subtle Christian ideals within the story. *The Chronicles of Narnia* were written by C. S. Lewis, who is celebrated by the Episcopal Church on November 22.

While Clive Staples Lewis was writing his many essays & novels, both fictional and non-fictional, he was a tutor and lecturer at Oxford University and became Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English Literature at Cambridge University. He was raised in the Church of Ireland and like many of us turned away from religion as a teenager; it wasn't until he was an adult that he returned to church and became a member of the Church of England.

C. S. Lewis is best known for his fictional novels such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*. *Surprised by Joy*, published in 1955, told about Lewis' spiritual journey to Christianity. He also wrote many Christian apologetic books and essays that tried to explain and defend Christian theology. Many Christian denominations enjoy his writings, he focused his writing on the beliefs that they hold in common and avoided points of dispute.



O God of searing truth and surpassing beauty, we give you thanks for Clive Staples Lewis whose sanctified imagination lights fires of faith in young and old alike; Surprise us also with your joy and draw us into that new and abundant life which is ours in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

-Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2006

## A Bishop's Pilgrimage – Walking Together on Sacred Ground



Bishop Douglas Fisher, IX bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, is walking 60 miles of Worcester County in four days -October 28-31.

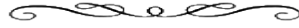
In ancient days bishops walked their territories - staff in hand -as a visible sign of the universal Church embodied in its leader. The Bishop continues to be that witness of presence and the bridge between local congregations and the larger Church. Although Bishop Fisher has visited each of the 61 congregations at least once in the past two years, he is setting out on foot to:

- ✚ LISTEN to the experiences and hopes of the people he meets
- ✚ TALK about the Gospel informally
- ✚ PRAY with people where they are -beyond church walls
- ✚ BLESS all who serve the poor, the imprisoned, the sick, the homeless and all who seek his prayers

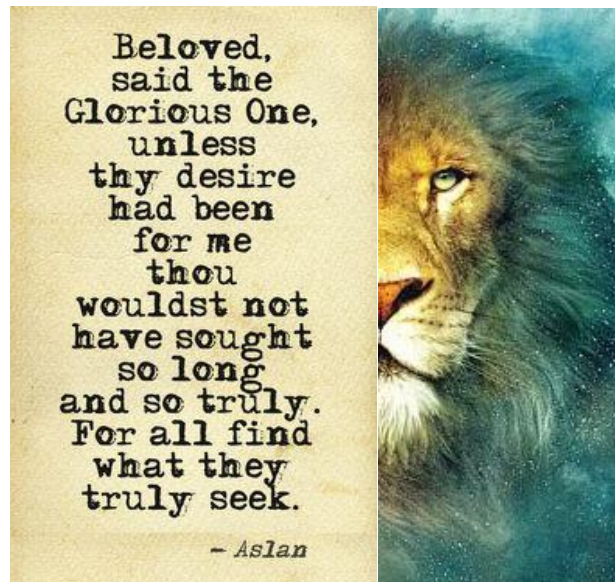
This is the first of three sixty-mile walks. Bishop Fisher will walk the Pioneer Valley corridor just after Easter and the Berkshire corridor in late May or June. His pilgrimage will be supported by staff and Episcopal contacts throughout the Worcester corridor. The four-day route has been downloaded into his iPhone and the bishop will be tracked through a popular walking app on our diocesan website.

Bishop Fisher will walk with members of local congregations who wish to join him along the way but he will walk most of this journey alone. It is a contemplative endeavor as well as an opportunity for ministry. His journey will begin and end in Episcopal churches, but all the stops in between reflect his desire to meet people where they are -especially those engaged in the mission of the Gospel.

# Serving Schedule



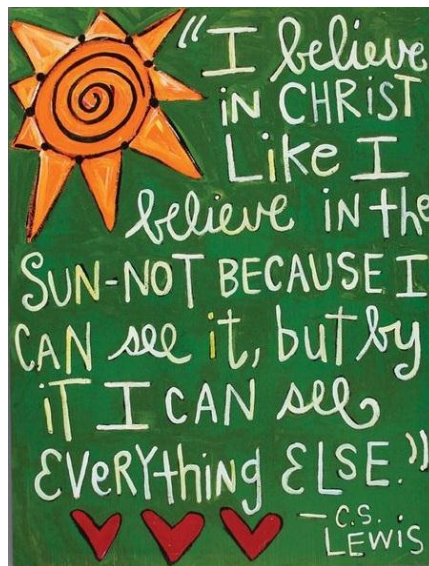
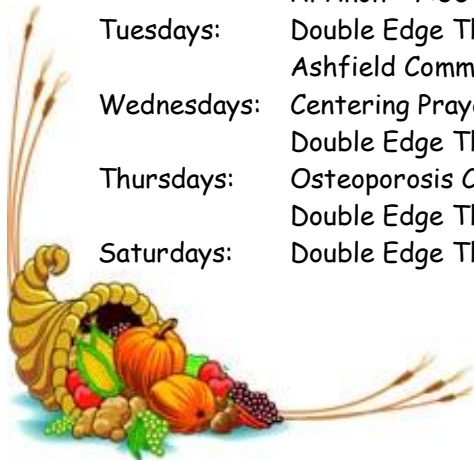
<i>Date</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Coffee Hour</i>
November 2 	All Saints Day 	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Hetty Startup	Jane Wagener	Clarence West
November 9	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Jim Wagener	Jane Wagener	Herb Libby
November 16	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Clarence West	Susan Todd	Sue Craft
November 23 	Last Sunday after Pentecost Christ the King	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Mariel Kinsey	Susan Todd	Susan Todd
November 30 	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Lynnette Sievert	Sue Craft	Susan Todd
December 7 	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Arianna Monds-Burch	Arianna Monds-Burch	Artisan Showcase
December 14 	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Susan Todd	Arianna Monds-Burch	Addison Hall
December 21 	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	Jennifer Walters	Jennifer Walters	Kristen Wickline	Arianna Monds-Burch	Bambi Phillips "Greening of the Church"
December 24 4:00 pm	Christmas Eve	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	Sue Craft	Arianna Monds-Burch	-----
December 24 10:00 pm	Christmas Eve	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss			-----
December 28 	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas	Eliot Moss	Eliot Moss	9 Volunteers	Arianna Monds-Burch	Monds-Burch Family



# November Calendar

1	9:00 am	Double Edge Theater Appreciation Breakfast	St. John's Corner
2		FALL BACK!!	
	10:00 am	Eucharist Service	
	12:00 pm	Autumn Clean-up & PIZZA	
4	2:30 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry	Congregational Church
6	10:30 am	Senior Center Outreach	St. John's Corner
9	10:00 am	Healing & Eucharist Service	
14	7:00 pm	American Harmony	St. John's Church
16	10:00 am	Eucharist Service	
	12:00 pm	Vestry Meeting	St. John's Corner
18	2:30 pm	Hilltown Churches Food Pantry	Congregational Church
23	10:00 am	Eucharist Service	
27		Thanksgiving Day	
30		1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	
	10:00 am	Eucharist Service	

Sundays:	Eucharist - 10:00 am	St. John's Church
Mondays:	MotherWoman - 11:00 am	St. John's Corner
	Al Anon - 7:30 pm	St. John's Corner
Tuesdays:	Double Edge Theater Studying - 8:30 am - 10:00 am	
	Ashfield Community Playgroup - 9:30 am	St. John's Corner
Wednesdays:	Centering Prayer - 5:30 pm	St. John's Corner
	Double Edge Theater Studying - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	St. John's Corner
Thursdays:	Osteoporosis Class - 9:30 am	St. John's Corner
	Double Edge Theater Studying - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	St. John's Corner
Saturdays:	Double Edge Theater Studying - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	St. John's Corner





# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

"CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE"

## November

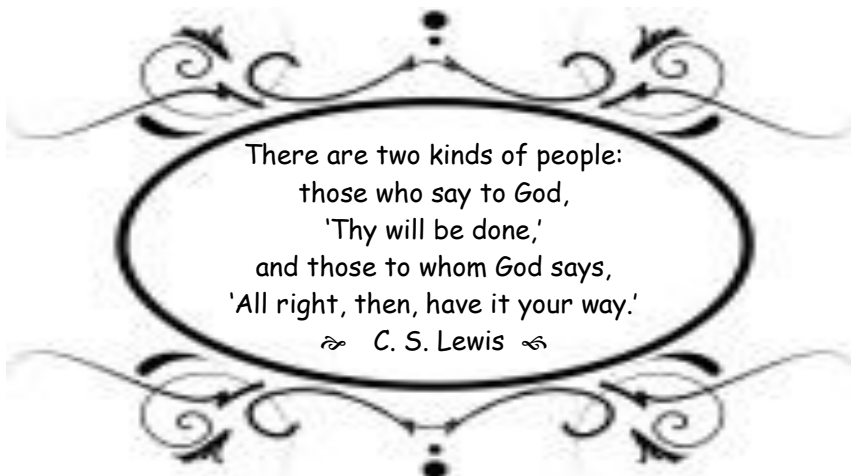
### Diocesan Ministries

1. The Rt Rev. Douglas and Betsy Fisher
2. Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield - The Very Rev. James Munroe, Canon Tom Callard, The Rev. Bill Dwyer
3. Diocesan Support Staff  
Cozette Haggerty
4. Diocesan Council
5. All Saints' Church of the Berkshires, North Adams - The Revs. Stephen White, and Bruce Duncan
6. The Human Resources Committee
7. St. Mark's, Worcester - The Rev. Donald Chamberlain
8. Franklin-Hampshire Deanery - The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Dean
9. St. John's, Northampton - The Revs. Catherine Munz, Jennifer Walters, Dcn. Eric Elley
10. Trinity, Shelburne Falls, The Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
11. Spiritual Formation and Leadership Development
12. Budget and Financial Planning Committee
13. St. Andrew's Church, Turners Falls - The Rev. Marnie Keator
14. Trinity Church, Ware - Canon Samir Habiby
15. Berkshire Deanery - The Rev. Annie Ryder, Dean
16. Spouses of deceased clergy

### Wider Mission

1. The Alban Institute, Inc.
2. Repose for the soul of The Rt. Rev. William Appleton Lawrence, III Bishop of Western Massachusetts Diocese
3. The Episcopal Ministry in Higher Education
4. Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission
5. The National Assoc. of Episcopal Schools, Inc.
6. Bible Reading Fellowship
7. Office of Government Relations
8. Church Periodical Club
9. St. Paul's, Otis – summer chapel
10. Episcopal Camps & Conference Centers, Inc. (ECCC)
11. Cursillo
12. CREDO
13. The Episcopal Church Foundation
14. Episcopal Church Missionary Community
15. Repose for the soul of The Rt. Rev. Thomas Frederick Davies, II. Bishop of Western Massachusetts
16. Episcopal Peace Fellowship

17. St. Andrew's Chapel, North Adams
18. Youth in our Diocese
19. Grace Church, Dalton – The Rev. Daina Salnitis
20. For repose of the soul of The Rt. Rev. Robert Denig - VII Bishop of Western Massachusetts
21. Episcopal Church Women
22. East & South Worcester Deanery - The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann, Dean
23. Ecumenical Relations
24. St. Andrew's, North Grafton - The Revs. Laura Goodwin and Richard K. Clarke
25. Diocesan College Scholarship Committee
26. Church of the Nativity, Northborough - The Revs Len Cowan and Michael Cheney
27. The Rt. Rev. Gordon P. and Rebecca Scruton, VIII Bishop of Western Massachusetts
28. St. Stephen's, Westborough, The Rev. Jesse Abell
29. Social Justice
30. The Rev. Jenny Gregg, Dir., Berkshire Servant Leadership Ctr.
31. Daughters of the King - Ms. Phyllis Larson, Mariana Bauman, and Susan Crampton
17. Episcopal Media Services
18. Third Order of Franciscans
19. Episcopal Women's Caucus
20. Education for Ministry - Joan Gilchrist, Coordinator
21. Evangelical Education Society  
Faith Alive
22. National Episcopal Health Ministries
24. Historical Society of the Episcopal Church
25. Episcopal Book Club
26. National Cathedral Association
27. Friendship Covenant with Diocese of Kumasi, Ghana
28. Chinese Ministry, Boston
29. Church Publishing, Inc.
30. Girls' Friendly Society
31. Fellowship of the Way of the Cross



Contact Information

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St. John's Corner Address:  
459 Main St.

Church Web Page:  
[www.stjohnsashfield.org](http://www.stjohnsashfield.org)

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Vicar: The Reverend Eliot Moss  
(413) 253-9242 (home)  
(413) 695-4226 (cell)  
[moss@cs.umass.edu](mailto:moss@cs.umass.edu)

Assisting Vicar:  
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Walters  
[jwalters@smith.edu](mailto:jwalters@smith.edu)

Organist: Marilyn Berthelette  
(413) 774-6748  
[myberthelette@gmail.com](mailto:myberthelette@gmail.com)

Senior Warden: Sue Craft  
(413) 628-0289 (home)

Parish Nurse: Jane Wagener  
(413) 625-2111 (home)

*“As Long as you are proud you cannot know  
God. A proud man is always looking down on  
things and people; and of course, as long as you  
are looking down, you cannot see something that  
is above you.”*

*- C.S. Lewis*



*St. John's Episcopal Church  
P. O. Box 253  
Ashfield, MA 01330-0253*

God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.

- C. S. Lewis