

The Grapevine

A Publication of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Methuen, MA

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Summer 2008

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Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Joe or Richard at any time at the above numbers with pastoral emergencies. Be sure to inform them if you or anyone you know in the parish is ill and/or in the hospital.

GREETINGS FROM REV. JOE

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I'm truly delighted to write this early summer message, excited as I am about the wonderful year we have had at St. Andrew's. It has been very busy, but the excitement has been palpable as we worked hard together on so many worthwhile activities. Just a few include our local ministries, service projects, Christian education activities, maintenance and repair, fellowship events, and hosting many neighboring Episcopal parishes for the deanery workshops last fall and confirmation this spring. I

know that each of you has worked directly in these activities, or has prayed for those who have, or both. You have done this in the context of lives that I know are very full and busy in so many different ways. I deeply appreciate this, and am grateful for your encouragement and support.

Busy lives bring to mind the need for Sabbath time. The need for rest from labor is natural for everyone, including God who rested on the seventh day in the Genesis creation story. All too often, God's lesson to us by example gets lost in our busy lives. We tend to say that we'll rest eventually, but never really get around to it. Sabbath time is not limited to Sunday, our traditional Sabbath day. Sabbath time is any time we take for rest and refreshment. It includes time to appreciate what we have done, and recharge ourselves for future endeavors. Without such time, we risk exhaustion. With such time, it is amazing how effective we can be. And if it's OK for God to rest and recharge, it's OK for us. I pray that the warm weather ahead will offer days that invite you to sabbath time, and that you'll say yes. I know that I plan to!

Meanwhile, please let us know if there are ways we can help you over the summer. And please join us for worship. We will continue the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM services throughout the summer. Also, if you get ideas for worship, music, and Christian education activities for the coming year, let me know. Summer is the season to plan these things. Please also know that I keep you always in my prayers.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Rev. Joe

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Now that the summer season has suddenly arrived, St. Andrew's has closed out the "school year" with our First Communion, Confirmation, a visit from Reverend Jane and Bishop Gayle, a top to bottom clean-up of the Church and the property and Methuen Community Kindergarten is winding down. Things are getting kind of quiet as vacations are taken, gardens are tended to, grills are grillin' and school's out for summer.

I hope you all have a safe and blessed summer and to use an old hackneyed expression: "Don't forget we'll still be open for summer!"

If you find that you're overloaded with plans, with travel or with all the things that we can do during the summer (that we can't do while snowed in for 5 months a year), keep a slot open for St. Andrew's. Try joining us at the 8:00 AM Rite I service. There's a steady group of regular participants that listen to Reverend Joe, pray, meditate, contemplate and be back home before the morning dew has burned off the lawn. It's a great way to begin your Sunday.

Even though Sunday school is out until the Fall, I hope to see some children at St. Andrew's during the summer (even mine!). Perhaps we can coordinate together and plan dates so our kids can run around together after the 9:30 service. Have your kids call my kids: 978-794-0704 and they'll make it so. St. Andrew's welcomes all children!

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their continued support, both in all the work you do to keep the church running and for keeping your pledges current during the summer months. By the way, if you have any of your "Economic Stimulus" tax rebate check left over (after filling your fuel oil and gas tanks!), keep St. Andrew's in mind. I plan on sharing a piece of what's leftover and I hope you might too!

Peace,
Richard Falk
Sr. Warden

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPRING/SUMMER BIRTHDAYS



DJ Ste. Marie	May 10 th
Callie McGrail	May 19 th
Patrick Donegan	May 20 th
Kaylay Kelley	May 29 th
Nicole Clooney	May 29 th
Amanda Clooney	June 1 st
Zoe Ratcliffe	July 2 nd
Maggie Kwakye	July 26 th
Madeleine McKeon	August 27 th

CAN YOU HELP OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL?



The Sunday School needs your help. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with next year's program. Based on this year's enrollment, we are planning on three classes for next year (juniors, middlers and seniors) plus a nursery to accommodate our growing number of infants and toddlers. Many hands make light work, so we'd like enough volunteers to establish a teaching team consisting of two teachers plus a designated backup for each of the three regular classes. We're also planning to continue the 1st Sunday of the Month group wide project that we started this year, so please let us know if you have any special talents in the areas of art, music or drama that you would like to share with the kids. For the nursery, we are looking for the parents of our infant/toddler group (as well as anyone else who may be interested) to volunteer on a week-by-week basis. We can use your time and talent in almost any capacity, so we encourage you to talk to Rev. Joe or Janet if you are interested. Sign up sheets are located in the hall next to the coffee table and a meeting is planned for all volunteers who are able to attend on Aug. 17th immediately following the 9:30am service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

On June 7th, St. Andrew's hosted the Merrimack Valley Deanery's confirmation service. Congratulations to our eight young people who were confirmed by Bishop Gayle Harris that day:

Meaghan Donegan
Amanda Clooney
Nicole Clooney
Michelle Stehm
Leah O'Keefe
Shauna Dalrymple
Eric Dalrymple
James Sulesky

A lot of hard work went into making this day as special as it was.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



On May 11th at our 9:30 service, eight of our girls and boys received their First Communion:

Derek James Haidaczuk
Peter Kwaykye
Alexis Wizboski
Francis Joseph Wizboski, Jr.
Hailey Wizboski
Johanna Claire Carrol Wizboski
John William Wizboski
Michael Wizboski

Congratulations to all of you for your hard work and a thank you to Val Carey for preparing the boys and girls for their big day!



WONDER LOVE & PRAISE

Over 90 copies of our new *Wonder Love & Praise* hymnals were blessed and commissioned during our 9:30 service on May 17th. We have already had the opportunity to use the new hymnals on several occasions, including the Deanery confirmation held at St. Andrew's on June 7th. Please see the list of memorial donations to this project included elsewhere in this issue. Many thanks to all who participated in this very worthwhile project.

A VISIT FROM REV. JANE

On Friday evening, May 30th, we had a terrific turnout of about 40 parishioners join us for the spaghetti dinner we hosted for Rev. Jane and her group of 28 young people and their adult chaperones from Biloxi. The group had traveled by bus from Mississippi to do some mission work in Massachusetts, including painting and the planting of a garden at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence. (You may have seen the article about the group's mission work in the May 31st edition of the *Eagle Tribune*.) It was a fun evening of catching up with our old friend, Rev. Jane, as well as an opportunity to meet some new friends from Biloxi. Many thanks to all who participated in this evening of fellowship, whether by donating food, helping to prepare it, setting up the hall, cleaning up afterwards, or joining us for dinner.

FALL FESTIVAL



It's not too early to start thinking about our Fall Festival and Rummage Sale which has been *tentatively* scheduled for Saturday, September 13th. Please keep the rummage sale in mind as you are doing your spring and summer cleaning. Watch for more details and, in the meantime, contact Patti Eldred or Paula Campbell if you are interested in helping or if you have items to donate.

FOOD PANTRY

Many thanks to everyone in the parish for your continuing support of the Arlington Neighborhood Food Pantry. We continue to feed our six Arlington Neighborhood families during the summer months and are happy to accept donations of food items or cash to purchase any of the items we give on a weekly basis (cereal, pasta and sauce, canned fruit and veggies, soup, tuna, peanut butter and jelly).

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

Earlier this spring, the *Lawrence Eagle Tribune* had an article about possible affordable housing on the St. Andrew's property. Your Vestry and its Affordable Housing Study Committee thought it would be helpful to include an update on the status of the affordable housing study.

The most important point to make is that the study committee is still in the early stages of investigating whether affordable housing might be feasible and appropriate as a ministry for our parish. No decision has been made for an affordable housing project. Any such decision would have to be made by Vestry after discussion and prayer by the parish community. That will not happen until the members of the parish have ample opportunity for information, discussion, and prayer.

The Vestry formed an Affordable Housing Study Committee to look into affordable housing and report back to vestry about it. The vestry will then discuss that report with the parish. The members of the Study Committee are Laura Walta (chair), Janet Ratcliffe, Len Brown, Matt McKeon, and Rev. Joe. St. Andrew's received two small grants from Episcopal City Mission to pay for expert consultants to help the Study Committee look at a variety of issues involved in affordable housing. The issues include the local need for affordable housing, zoning, environmental impact, site requirements, architectural possibilities, financing, and, very importantly, impact on the parish. Both the Vestry and Study Committee believe that affordable housing makes sense for St. Andrew's only if it is a viable ministry and has a positive impact on parish life and finances.

Thus far, the Study Committee has been working with consultants and with staff at Episcopal City Mission to look at architectural possibilities and to sound out local officials and possible large granting agencies. The Study Committee is now looking for a consultant to help look at affordable housing's viability as a business proposition. As information is developed, it will be reported to Vestry. When Vestry and the Study Committee have a complete assessment of affordable housing's feasibility, there will be parish meeting to review the study's report, discuss and pray. Discussion and prayer might take some time before the Vestry can get a sense of the best way to go.

Meanwhile, members of the committee are happy to talk with parishioners about this. Rev. Joe and Laura will field inquiries that might come from outside the parish.

FROM THE TREASURER

The Good News. Thank you to everyone who has made the effort to keep his or her pledge current. Our pledge income is running very close to what was projected in the budget presented by the Vestry at our annual meeting. We are now into the summer season when attendance drops and pledges lag, so we'll appreciate your continuing efforts to stay current.

The Bad News. The expenses of running our church (salaries, heat, light, insurance, office, janitorial, maintenance and worship) continue to significantly outweigh our income (offering and rental). Through May 31st, our average weekly income and expenses (these numbers are only averages and do not reflect adjustments for seasonal considerations such as the cost of heating fuel) were as follows:

Income (Offering and Rental)		1875
Offering	1185	
Rental	690	
Expenses		2452
Salaries	989	
Office*	73	
Church**	892	
Rectory**	233	
Diocese***	218	
Misc****	47	

Average Weekly Deficit***** (553)

*Includes cost of supplies, telephone, postage and copier.

**Includes cost of heating fuel, electric, gas, water, sewer, insurance, alarm, insurance and maintenance.

***Loan payments and assessment due to the Diocese

****Includes church school expenses and yellow page advertising.

*****Deficits are currently being funded out of investments and savings, but that is **NOT** something we can continue on a long-term basis.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Aug. 17 th	Meeting for Sunday School Volunteers immediately following the 9:30 service
Sept. 13 th	Fall Festival (<i>tentative</i>)
Sept. 14 th	Welcome Back Sunday

FROM THE EDITOR

Did you know that last year's effort to build an electronic mailing list resulted in our being able to

reduce our Grapevine printing by 50 copies (not to mention the cost of the stamps to mail those 50 copies)? We'd like to continue to expand our electronic distribution list when possible, so please continue to forward your contact information to the office. The Grapevine is also available for viewing on our website at www.standrewsmethuen.org.



MEMORIALS

Memorial Fund

Niall R. Fleming
Rufus B. Price

Building Preservation Fund

Katherine Briggs
Adolph Medelinskas
Rufus B. Price

Music Memorial Fund

William Hewson
Leonita A. Klier

Organ Memorial Fund

Scott Bamford
Katherine Briggs
Adolph G. Medelinskas
Rufus B. Price
Elizabeth A. Roberts
Pauline Windemiller

Garden Memorial Fund

Evelyn Pickering
Helen Travers

General Fund - Memorial

Rufus B. Price

ST. ANDREW'S IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS MADE BY
OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF OUR NEW
HYMNALS, *WONDER LOVE AND PRAISE*.

GIVEN BY

Norma and Natasha Lee

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Hargreaves

Leonard W. Brown Jr. and Beverly Brown

Lillian Hasbany Newcomb

Bertha Rothwell

The Feugill Family

Dick and Gail Ratcliffe

Nancy Ratcliffe Blase

Evelyn Ratcliffe

Janet Ratcliffe

Robert Pauley

Walter E. Fleming

IN MEMORY OF

Marjorie Blandino, Norma's mother and
Natasha's great grandmother, who passed away
February 3, 2008

Mrs. Arthur Quance

Bessie and Nathaniel Torrey
Clarence and Phoebe Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hasbany
Eugenia Hasbany Hancock
George Hasbany
Lauris Hasbany
Elias Hasbany
Alex Hasbany, Jr.
Lydia Hasbany Cambell
Wilfred Hasbany

In Loving Memory of Rothwell and Morley
Family Members

John H. Feugill, Jr.
Robert W. Feugill

Harry and Evelyn Balfour
John and Vera Ratcliffe

Margaret J. Barnes
Janet D. Hill

Margaret J. Barnes

Margaret J. Barnes
Janet D. Hill
John and Vera Ratcliffe
Robert and Margaret Hill

Grammy Peg Barnes

Nelly A. Fleming
John O. and Bertha Fleming
John J. and Muriel Fleming
Thomas E. and Dothotey Fleming

	Nimey and Agnes Bistany Edward and Joana Bistany David Fleming
Pauline S. Crosbie	John A. Crosbie Ernest E. and Helen L. Jackson Fred and Leslie N. Eastman
Dot and Bill Haney	Ruth Dahms
Blanche and Lloyd Campbell	Walter H. Wilson and Kathryn Ann Wilson
Irene R. Hoyle	Frederic E. Hoyle, Sr.
Judy and Jerry Ouellette	Walter and Winifred Stuart
James and E. Shirton, Sr.	Martha and George Shirton
Joe Madden	Eva Madden James Madden, Sr. James Madden, Jr. Virginia Madden
Patti Eldred	In Loving Memory of George T. Searles, who loved church and loved to sing
Pam Hayes	Unspecified
Cynthia Jayne Sulesky	Grandmother Alice Higginbottom Wenzel
William McBride	Doris R. and Romeo Perusse Mr. and Mrs. George Morley Ruth and Robert Thesse Robert Mimms John D. Follansbee Doris and Philip Follansbee
Claire Cavanaugh	Linda Kennedy 5/2/53-8/23/03
Mr. and Mrs. James Elliott	Mrs. Bertha Medelinskas Mr. Adolph Medelinskas
Glenn Morissette and Family	Mary and Ernest Dearden
Elaine M. Morissette and Family	Rene J. Morissette
Dora Atkinson	In Loving Memory of William T. Atkinson
Don, Sharon and Erik Chase	Henry Wunderlich

The Clooney Family

Roland J. Roy

Elizabeth MacKay

Robert Gensel

The Fraser Family

For Happy Memories of Donna Gail Fraser
Desousa

For Happy Memories of Ivor D. Fraser

Dane and Beverly Kimball

Gladys M. Akam

Walter Akam

James and Valerie Carey

Elliot James Carey

Joseph, Beth, Shalane and Sarah Regan

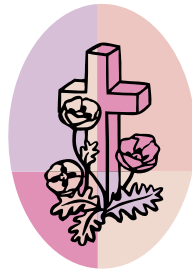
Frederick Cummings

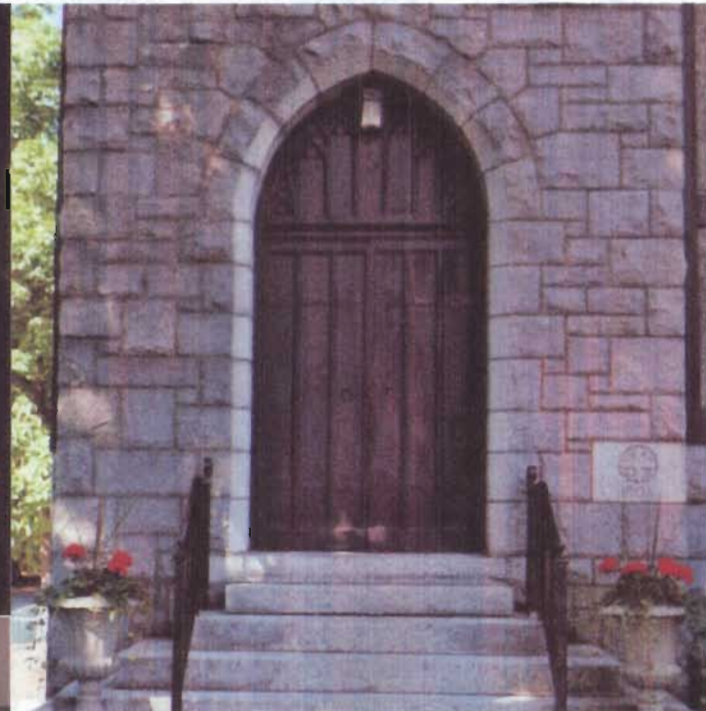
Harry Noorigian

Alice Noorigian

Joanne and Ted McCraw

Ruth and Fred McCraw





RECENT PICTURES FROM AROUND ST. ANDREW'S INCLUDING CONFIRMATION AND REV. JANE'S VISIT