



The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 689-0463

E-Mail Admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org

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**OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am–1:00pm Monday–Wednesday
9:00am–12:00 noon Thursday**

Gloria Schwarz, *Parish Administrator* 978-689-0463

E-mail – admin@standrewsmethuen.org

Fax – 978-689-0463

Rev. Joseph Wilkes 617-957-2960

Janet Ratcliffe, *Senior Warden* 978-682-5606

E-mail - janetratcliffe@comcast.net

Len Brown, *Junior Warden*

Beth Regan, *Clerk of the Vestry* 978-687-1340

Vestry:

Betty MacKay Matt McKeon Bev Brown

Paula Campbell Charlie Currie Patti Eldred

Jim Beagan

Elaine Morissette, *Pledge Clerk* 978-683-8841

E-mail – remor20@aol.com

Huib Walta, webmaster@standrewsmethuen.org

Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Joe or Janet 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

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! With our acclamation on Easter, and throughout the Easter season, we declare the truth that in Jesus Christ our God is a God of fresh starts and renewal. We hope and pray that we will feel this truth in the face of what we experience in our world, especially in times that are hard for so many of us. My prayer is that you are being sustained by a very blessed Easter.

Easter Sunday was wonderful at St. Andrew's. We enjoyed a very strong attendance. In addition to our regular attendees, it was truly delightful to reunite with parishioners whose lives are so busy that they have difficulty making it to church regularly on Sunday. If you were present I hope that you had a time as joyous as I did. If you were not, I encourage you to join in on a Sunday soon in the Easter season. I know from my many years of pre-ordination life experience how difficult this can be

given the competing realities of life that affect Sunday mornings more and more. Neither I, nor any one of us at St. Andrew's, judge anyone about the tough choices they make. So, if you haven't been in a while, don't worry. Just come. We'd really love to worship with you! If you can't make it to church and would like a visit, please call the church office (978-689-0463).

As reported throughout this newsletter, parish activities abound in both mission and fellowship. And, there is a lot of property work planned. We plan to remove the damaged rear portion of the rectory and repair its rear wall. We also plan to apply for a local grant to help fund a process of restoring the exterior of our church. It will make all of us happy to see the outside look as beautiful as our sanctuary inside.

Another busy aspect of the year will be the work of discerning if I am the right person to continue as your priest, or if you need someone with different gifts for the next phase of your parish life. I was appointed priest-in-charge in January 2007. A priest-in-charge appointment is for three years. During this year, our third year together, it is customary to work with a diocesan facilitator to prayerfully decide if we are called to continue on our faith journey together. There will be more on this later in the year as your vestry and I learn more about the process. Rest assured that everyone will have the opportunity to express their views.

In the meantime, I wish you a warm and brightening spring. Please know that I keep you in my prayers. Please keep me in yours.

Peace,
Rev. Joe

FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Friends,
Happy Spring! And Belated Happy Earth Day! This year's Earth Day on April 22nd marked the 39th anniversary of the largest international non-secular holiday celebration in the world connecting people of various faiths and socio-economic backgrounds around the central theme of our

environment. Across this great country, folks are changing the way they live and do business to become better stewards of God's creation. The changes run the gamut from changing light bulbs, to recycling, to drinking fair trade coffee to greening our churches, homes and offices. We are pleased to announce that St. Andrew's is plunging into the world of "Going Green." Our first steps are baby ones and likely ones that you have already undertaken in your homes.

We're starting by changing out our light bulbs to energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs. Our sexton, Jeff Coholan, has begun installing the new light bulbs in our sanctuary and the effort will continue throughout our building. Did you know that just one of these compact fluorescent bulbs will save about \$30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about 6 months? It will also use 75 percent less energy and last about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb. This change is not only environmentally friendly, but in the end will also prove to be budget friendly.

We are also in the process of joining a community-based paper-recycling program, which will result in the installation of a large green and yellow bin in our parking lot. You may have seen these bins in some of the schoolyards around town. The bin comes at no charge to St. Andrew's and will serve as a collection point for paper recyclables (see elsewhere in this issue for a list of accepted materials). We will then receive a small stipend based on the amount of paper deposited in the bin. Once we are up and running, in addition to being used by the Church and our tenants, our friends and parishioners will also be encouraged to bring their paper recyclables to church to deposit in the bin. More details will follow as we get closer to the installation date, but you may direct any questions you have in the meantime to Len or Bev Brown. You may also visit the company's website at www.paperretriever.com for more information.

We are continuing our efforts to reduce our paper mailings by developing an email list. Accepting electronic delivery of items such as the Grapevine not only saves paper and stamps but the peoplepower and energy required to copy and collate. Since we began this effort over a year ago, we have reduced the number of copies of the Grapevine that we print and mail by 33%. If you have an email address and have not already done so, please consider adding your name to our list. Our Webmaster, Huib Walta, also puts the Grapevine up on our website almost simultaneously with the publication of the paper copy, so you may also access a copy through our website if your mailbox has trouble accommodating large files like the Grapevine.

This is just the beginning of the greening of St. Andrew's and we welcome and value your input, comments and

assistance. Let's jump in, roll up our sleeves and join what Fr. Thomas Berry, the great eco-theologian, calls the "great work" of our time. It is joyous work
Peace,
Janet Ratcliffe
Sr. Warden

CAN YOU HELP OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL?

The Sunday School children need your help. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with next year's program. We can use your time and talent in almost any capacity, whether you wish to volunteer on a weekly basis, as an occasional substitute, or for special projects, so we encourage you to talk to Rev. Joe or MaryEllen Briggs if you are interested.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|
| May | 10 | DJ Ste, Marie | |
| | 12 | Laura Walta | |
| | 12 | Denise Clooney | |
| | 19 | Callie McGrail | |
| | 23 | Blanche Campbell | |
| | 28 | Hailey Wizboski | |
| | 29 | Nicole Clooney | |
| | 30 | Kaylah Kelley | |
| | June | 1 | Amanda Clooney |
| | | 4 | Deborah Wunderlich |
| 17 | | Bertha Rothwell | |
| 27 | | Leonard Brown | |



**AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE
FROM LAURA WALTA**

St. Andrew's has been designated by the City as one of three sites to be studied for a possible future affordable housing development. A contract between the City of Methuen, the State and GLC, the consultant who will be doing the study, has finally been signed and GLC is beginning its work. They have been in touch with Brett Donham, the architect who prepared the initial drawings we presented at a recent parish meeting, and has a copy of our Market Feasibility Study. Laura also attended a meeting of Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Inc., GLC and Karen Sawyer, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City on Tuesday, April 14th and will be filling us in on the details in the near future.

ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

The Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner with the O'Shea-Chaplin Dancers was again a very successful social event. Paul Waites and his daughter, Bev, cooked a delicious meal. We thank all of you who donated the vegetables. We thank all who helped serve, most especially the youth group. Our recuperating Krista McLeod rallied to sell

raffle tickets and be the MC for the evening. Krista and Matt donated a wonderful flat screen TV for the door prize which everyone wished to win. The lucky winner was Robert Murgia of Andover. See you again next year! Len, Bev, Krista & Matt.

OUR THANKS TO....

- Thank you for all the contributions to the Communities Together diaper drive. They have been delivered and are being distributed by all local servicing agencies.
- Thank you to all who came to clean up the Church for the City Clean-Up Day. We all had fun while we worked to clean up the yard.
- Many thanks to Richard Falk and his kitchen crew, Jameson Falk, Gordon and Paula Campbell, Beth Regan and Charlie Currie, for organizing, preparing, and serving yet another delicious Easter breakfast at St. Andrew's. We had a large crowd join us for scrambled eggs, home fries, French Toast, sausage, baked beans, and toast between the 8am and 9:30am services. Outstanding job!

FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL DANCES

On April 17th Senator Baddour was a surprise visitor to the Friday Night Special Dance. He wanted to thank St. Andrew's for giving the time and space required so that these mentally challenged adults can enjoy an evening of fun and sociability. He thanked those who volunteer to run these dances. Please speak to Beth Regan or Betty MacKay if you'd be interested in helping out at one of these dances.

EASTER

The preparations leading up to the day led to wonderful occasion. The Altar Guild was busy cleaning and decorating the Altar, our annual Easter breakfast was served between the services and Rev. Joe prepared us all by holding several Holy week services. Everyone's preparation led to a joyous celebration of the risen Lord! Alleluia!

BULLETINS

The Bulletins for our at home members will be sent out every two weeks to help in order to save on the mailing.

PRAYER SHAWLS

St. Andrew's Church is still working with the Shawl Ministry if anyone would like to invest some time in learning how to make a shawl or add fringe (materials are provided). If you know of anyone who would like to

receive a blessed shawl or can help in any way, please see Betty Feugill.

FROM THE TREASURER

Financial Report through April 2009:

Pledge 2009 – received to date: \$15,478.50 (97% of budgeted to date). We made up significant ground during March and April, thank you! But because of the rough economy, we budgeted less than was actually pledged, so this represents 90% of the amount pledged. We appreciate your keeping your pledges up in difficult times.

Heating fund donations - \$370 in 2009 and \$1516 for the entire heating season – thank you. You helped us get through the end of the season. We should pay our final bills in May.

Income: \$28,479 (76% of budget)
Expenses: \$36,484 (83% of budget)
Shortfall: \$ 8,005

No transfers from reserves have yet been made to the account this year. The entire shortfall has come from the checking account balance left at the end of last year. The deficit is slightly larger than last reported. In March, we had a large unplanned expense for the elevator inspection, for which we will have to budget in the future. In April, we brought our payments for payroll taxes and for the assessment up to date.

On a good note, many of you saw the listing in the paper for unclaimed funds at the State Treasurer's office. We are taking the necessary steps to recover it, and when we get it, it will amount to a small windfall of about \$6,000. Unfortunately, even though it is 'found money', technically it does come out of the reserves, and our obligations already claim a good portion of it.

COFFEE HOUR

We need more people to share in the coffee hour ministry. Please consider helping out with this time of fellowship after the 9:30 service by taking a turn to provide cookies or pastries. The sign up sheet is on the door connecting the downstairs parlor and the kitchen.

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Our annual Recognition Sunday will be held this year on Sunday, May 17th. In addition to celebrating the completion of another Sunday school year by our children, we will be taking this opportunity to honor all of the tireless volunteers whose time and talent make St. Andrew's the special place that it is. Our annual cookout will immediately follow the service. Please be sure to join us for this important celebration.

MEMORIALS



Building Preservation Memorial Fund

Mary Bennett
William Bourque

Organ Memorial Fund

Ethel Arsenault

Garden Memorial Fund

David R, Bergeron

FOR OUR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Rather than take your youngsters out of church during those times when they become restless in the pews, you can retreat to the Cozy Corner we have begun setting up in the back of the church. We're trying to create a comfy spot with some quiet toys to distract the children while the parents are still within earshot of and able to participate in our service. Right now, we have a love seat and some baskets of small toys, stuffed animals, books and coloring materials. We'd like to add a rocking chair and perhaps some floor pillows. Please let us know if you are able to donate any of these items to our new Cozy Corner.

SPRUCING UP THE RECTORY

Sometime in the next few weeks, a contractor will begin removing the tired and worn out rear section (former garage and shed addition) of the rectory. The remaining area will be filled and graded and the siding will be replaced on the back of the building. We are hopeful that this project will result in a drastic improvement in the appearance of our church grounds. Please bear with us during the construction period and forgive any minor inconveniences, which may occur.

GRAPEVINE ARTICLES FOR JULY/AUGUST MAILING

The next issue of the Grapevine will be published during the first week of July. Please submit all articles to the office by June 14th. Thank you Gloria

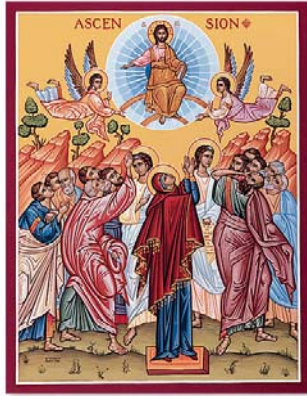
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CONFIRMATION OR FIRST COMMUNION?

As we begin planning for next year's Sunday school program, we are trying to get a handle on whether we have children who might be interested in either First Communion or Confirmation. Our First Communion program is usually for children who are in 2nd grade and above. The children follow a special curriculum through the year and the First Communion service is held in the spring. For Confirmation, the Diocese is now recommending that children be 16 years of age at the time of their Confirmation. Generally, if you are entering 9th grade this coming fall or will turn 16 by the Spring of 2011, you would likely be eligible to begin our two-year program in the fall. In order to make the process as convenient as possible for our older teens and their families, we are going to change the format we have previously followed and anticipate that Confirmation classes would meet once per month on Sunday evenings. Please let us know if you have a child who is interested in either of these programs by leaving a message in the church office, or by speaking with Rev. Joe.

INTRODUCING ONE OF OUR NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

At our annual meeting in February, Betty Mackay was elected to fill an open seat on Vestry. Betty, a widow and retired RN who has 7 children, 24 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren, also belongs to the Altar Guild and helps with the special needs dances held at St. Andrew's twice a month. Betty is active in Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Salem Post 8546 and is a member of the Salem Senior Singers. Thank you, Betty, for adding Vestry to your already busy life.





Merrimack Valley Deanery

Ascension Day Service

(Service will be outdoors weather permitting)

&

Deanery Assembly

Celebrating our Diversity

Thursday, May 21, 2009

St. Anne's Church, 8 Kirk Street, Lowell

6:30 PM Cookout & Short Meeting

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able

7:30 PM Festival Eucharist service

All Welcome





What Goes in the Paper Retriever® Bin

Yes, Please.....

Newspaper and Inserts – New newsprint can be made from 100% recycled paper. No virgin fiber has to be added when using this type of process.

Magazines/catalogs – Our Retriever program is happy to take magazines and catalogs, all slick paper. We can use all this high quality/high fiber paper with the exception of any paper coated in wax.

Office/School papers – These types of paper are highly recyclable. Because of the proliferation of paper created by offices and schools, please use the Retriever bin to recycle all that you can. We are able to accept window envelopes, paperback books, workbooks and staples without a problem. Shredded paper is acceptable but please bag the shreds before putting them in the Retriever bin. However, please do not recycle colored paper, wrapping or tissue paper, carbon paper or sticky notes.

Mail – Most direct mail is printed on high quality recyclable paper. Please recycle the mail that you feel comfortable putting in our recycling bin.

No, Thanks.....

No Cardboard – We do not accept cardboard in any of our Retriever bins. We supply our mills with the recycled fiber we collect through the Retriever program to create new newsprint. Cardboard should not be used in making newsprint due to the excessive bleaching required.

However, cardboard is a valuable recycling commodity and should be recycled. Please research cardboard recycling options in your area.

No food boxes, fiberboard or chipboard. Cereal boxes, soda boxes and other paper food containers should be recycled with your cardboard. Please do not put these in the Retriever bin.

No textbooks or hard cover books. We do not have the equipment to modify these types of recyclables in the Retriever system. Please research other options for recycling these items.

No Phone Books – We do not accept phone books in our Retriever bins. We supply our mills with the recycled fiber we collect through the Retriever program to create new newsprint. Phone Books cannot be used in making newsprint. The fibers in the pages of the phone book are in their smallest form and do not contribute to the fiber needed for newsprint. Also, it is very hard to remove the ink from a phone book page.

However, phone books are a valuable recycling commodity and should be recycled in the proper capacity. Please research phone book recycling options in your area.

St. Patricks 2009 Dinner

