



The Grapevine

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

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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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It's snowing! It's Sunday October 18th and it's really snowing! Maybe I should be upset about this, with winter trying to get an early grip on me. But I love Advent and Christmas. So the weather is just helping me get in the mood sooner. And there is so much else to make me happy right now that the weather can't possibly bother me.

I spent this Sunday morning in the Sunday School with our children and their teachers. We had a wonderful time learning to sing a song about teaching peace. The children will soon do this song in church. Then I spent time with the older children working on our accompanying peace banner that will be displayed outside to our neighborhood. Next, I joined

another class that was learning about ways God communicates to us. There was a lot happening thanks to the dedication of our teachers and the diligence of our children. I am grateful to have had the chance to join them, thanks to Len and Bev Brown leading the first part of our service in the Liturgy of the Word as Eucharistic Ministers. I will join the Sunday School every third Sunday on this same basis, with Eucharistic Ministers leading the first part of the service. I will then join you with the children and teachers at the Peace to celebrate Eucharist. I encourage more of you to take a turn helping in Sunday School. Our enthusiastic and inquisitive children deserve our faith-filled attention, and our teachers do need more help.

I am also delighted to report that our music committee had its first meeting today. Turnout was great and the collaboration on our music was impressive, particularly for a first meeting. This is going to be very helpful to Hugh and me on the music, both the familiar and new, and it creates a fun pathway for more people to get involved in planning our worship life. We invite more people to get involved. The next meeting will be Sunday November 15th after church. No music expertise is needed, but I think you'll find that you really do know a lot more about church music than you might realize.

If that is not enough good news, I'm happy to say that the discernment committee has received a tremendous amount of valuable input about peoples' insights and wishes for St. Andrew's. Janet Ratcliffe has summarized this information elsewhere in bulletins and other communications. We will soon be able to discuss your thoughts, and mine, about the future in a way that addresses our call and response as a Christian community. Thank you for all your work.

And there's even more. The outside restoration and painting is just about complete. It looks great!

We can be very proud of our beautiful, inspiring, and historically significant church. We can also be confident about the important symbol that a well-kept edifice represents: St. Andrew's is fully present, and here for the long haul, as witness and worker for God in our community. Believe me, people notice.

Meanwhile, work on Stewardship, Advent and Christmas is in full swing. We have a Stewardship Committee that is urging each of us to prayerfully decide what reach we will make to support St. Andrew's Christian witness and action. Let us honor their work by a truly soul-searching and prayerful response. To prepare for Christmas we will green the church after the 9:30 AM service on Sunday December 6th, the Second Sunday of Advent. There will be a breakfast between the services that day. On Christmas Eve we will have services at 6:30 PM and 10:45 PM, with caroling at the start. Christmas morning will see a quiet service at 9:00 AM. Our old and new traditions thus come together to celebrate our Savior's birth.

I ask your prayers for our committees, volunteers, vestry, organist and me as we prepare for this busy season. Please know that we keep you in our prayers, that God grant you what you most need, and that more of you jump in and help us out!

Peace,

Rev. Joe



James Suleksy	Nov. 3rd
Michael Wizboski	Nov. 13 th
Karl Wunderlich	Nov. 19 th
Chelsey Blanchette	Nov. 24 th
Matt McKeon	Nov. 25 th
Justice McGrail	Nov. 26 th
Quentin Bethune	Nov. 27 th
James Lee	Dec. 8 th
Dora Atkinson	Dec. 11 th
Rev. Joe Wilkes	Dec. 31 st
Eric Dalrymple	Dec. 31 st

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The consultants have completed their reports. A presentation has been made. We know that an affordable housing project at St. Andrew's is physically feasible. You might think it's time to make a decision on whether or not to find a developer and get the show on the road. But wait!

The next step in making an informed decision is a process of discernment. Just because can be done doesn't mean it should be done. It's time to start looking at the ministry of affordable housing and what it means to us and to our community. We all have questions. Why affordable housing? What does it look like? Who lives in affordable housing? What could go wrong? What could go right?

Rev. Joe and our wardens, Janet and Len, have agreed that we should take the time to answer these questions and others you might have. We will begin the discernment process in January with a series of activities and conversations that will prepare us to make an informed decision by next May. Watch for details after the holidays!

Blessings,

Laura Walta

This Senior Warden's Message normally found here is located within our Stewardship Report. We will return to our usual format in the next issue.

FROM THE TREASURER

KITCHEN WISH LIST

Our kitchen has almost completely run out of supplies. If you are interested in helping restock our shelves with some of the basics we use to prepare for and clean up after coffee hour and some of our other events, please pick up any one of the items on the list below and place it in the donation box in the kitchen.

Dish Detergent
Paper Towels
Napkins
Sponges
Dish Towels
Handiwipes Reusable Cloths
Cleaning Solutions
Plastic Forks, Knives and Spoons
Serving Utensils
Paper cups (for coffee and juice)
Paper plates
Plastic Wrap
Tin Foil
Sugar/Artificial Sweetener Packets
Mini Moo Creamers
Ground Coffee

TEEN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

As you may know, Communities Together ("CT" which is formerly The Greater Lawrence Council of Churches) runs an after-school and summer program called Manos Felices (Happy Hands) at the Hancock Courts Housing Project in Lawrence. In 2007, CT began a "**Visiting Teen Reader**" program at Manos Felices. For this program, CT invite teens from supporting congregations to visit their site with a chaperone and read to the children one day a week. In the 2007-08 school year, two to three 8th grade boys from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in North Andover were reading to 1st and 2nd graders. This past school year, three 8th grade girls from St. Augustine Church in Andover and Christ Church Andover were reading one day a week to 1st and 2nd graders. One 8th grade

girl from North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in North Andover was reading 3rd and 4th grade books another day each week. Given the fact that many of the older children at Hancock Courts have significant difficulty reading at an appropriate level, this program is very important to these young children.

Communities Together is currently looking for teens (generally 8th graders because high school students tend to be very busy) to visit Manos Felices one day a week, preferably on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, to read to the younger children. The teens must be chaperoned by a parent or adult from their church. We are looking for readers who will make a minimum commitment to read one day a week for 45 minutes (from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.) each visit now through January 1, 2010. (A commitment through the end of the school year would be appreciated but is not required.)

Previous teen readers in this program have been interviewed in the past by a reporter for *The Eagle-Tribune*. The teens come to understand that the children at Hancock Courts must struggle with poverty and language barriers they haven't had to experience. "We are shown the world outside the quiet North Andover suburbs," one teen said. "It has opened my eyes." (from "Teens Give the Gift of Reading" by Drake Lucas, *The Eagle-Tribune*, Tuesday, June 10, 2008, pp. 1-2.). CT hopes that the Teen Reader program would be a good service project for some of the teens in our congregation. For more information or to sign up for the Visiting Teen Reader Program, please call Communities Together at 978-686-4012.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS



Christmas Memorial Flower offerings are due by _____. Anyone wishing to have loved ones mentioned in the Christmas bulletin should fill out one of the Christmas Memorial Offering Envelopes. Envelopes are located on the tables at the entrances to the church or may be requested from the office. For those people receiving a paper copy of *The Grapevine* in the mail, we are enclosing an envelope for your

use. Please see someone on the Altar Guild if you have questions

SIMPLE SUPPERS

A group of about 20 parishioners, ranging in age from our youngest to oldest, gathered on October 14th for our first Simple Supper of soup, sandwiches and a few games of bingo. As is the custom at St. Andrew's, the food was delicious and the fellowship warm and friendly. The evening was so successful that we have scheduled another Simple Supper for November _____. If you are interested in helping with the food or program for that evening, please speak with Paula Campbell, Patti Eldred or Janet Ratcliffe

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FLEA MARKET

Many thanks to our chairwomen, Paula Campbell and Patti Eldred, and the many volunteers who helped make this year's flea market a big success. A special thanks also go to Richard Falk and Gordon Campbell who grilled burgers, hot dogs and sausage with onions and peppers between the rain drops. Despite the weather, we had a large turnout and sales were brisk. We even had the great good fortune of meeting several folks were who interested in joining our parish. The event added over \$1100 to our general budget. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

Do you have any **used but sturdy** wooden dining or kitchen chairs collecting dust in your attic or basement? If so, the Sunday school is taking donations for an art project which we'll work on later next spring. We can even arrange to pick up your donation. Mix and match is good; the chairs just need to be suitable for painting. Please speak to Maryellen Briggs or any of the Sunday school teachers if you have a chair to donate or any questions about the project.



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 6th

Hanging of the Greens follows the 9:30 service

Thursday, Dec. 24th (Christmas Eve)

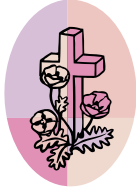
6:30pm Family Service with music

10:45 pm Eucharist with music (a carol sing precedes the service)

Friday, Dec. 25th (Christmas)

9am Rite II without music

MEMORIALS



Building Preservation Memorial Fund

Cynthia J. Sulesky
Maurice Vermette
Carl Woekel

Organ Memorial Fund

Cynthia J. Sulesky

Garden Memorial Fund

Mildren Gustin

Music Memorial Fund

Cynthia J. Sulesky

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS
DEC. 6TH

**PLEASE BRING YOUR SIGNED
PLEDGE CARD TO CHURCH ON
DEC. 6TH AND JOIN US FOR
BREAKFAST BETWEEN THE 8AM
AND 9:30 SERVICES.**

**The next issue of the Grapevine is
scheduled for publication during the
first week of January 2010. Please
drop off anything you wish to have
published in the office or send it to us
via email at
admin@standrewsmethuen.org.**