



# The Grapevine

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

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## July/August 2010

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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,

The start of summer at St. Andrew's has been wonderfully busy with Vacation Bible School. This year's theme was high seas adventure. A large, enthusiastic, intergenerational "crew" led by Val Carey did a great job. Many parish children attended. We also had many children from the neighborhood and around the city who had not been to St. Andrew's before. The children learned about the Bible through exciting, fun stories, activities, songs, games, and crafts. The snacks were also a great hit. Putting on a program like this takes a lot of dedication and hard work, especially on very warm summer evenings

when parks, swimming pools, and air conditioned spaces make their siren call for us to be somewhere other than church. It's a real tribute to our VBS crew of deeply faithful and dedicated parishioners, and their friends who joined in to help, that so many children know more about God. Their work is truly living Jesus' words, "Let the children come unto me." And I could see they had a great time doing it.

Over the summer we'll be busy in many other ways. Work will soon start on repairing masonry near the office entrance and the pillars of the front fence. I will be working on some ideas and plans for Bible study for the upcoming year. If you have particular ideas or requests about Bible study, please let me know. We will also be working toward an event at the church on Sunday afternoon, September 26<sup>th</sup>: my Institution as new Rector now that you have called me to that role from being Priest-In-Charge. An Institution service is a worship service presided over by a bishop at which a new rector is officially installed in that position. Bishop Gayle Harris will preside at ours. Local clergy, both Episcopal and others, typically are invited. It's a joyous time of celebrating a new ministry. Please mark your calendars. Details will be available as we gather back from our summer pursuits early in September.

Meanwhile, I pray that summer is all you are hoping it will be. I hope to see you as the summer unfolds. As always, I keep you in my prayers.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe +

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

The Vestry recently met with Carol Kingston, our Diocesan coach, to set some goals. I'd like to share them with you now and invite your input.

1. Formalize a Mission Statement for St. Andrew's: The purpose of a mission statement is to guide the actions of the organization, spell out its overall goal, provide a sense of direction, and guide decision-making. You may work for a company that has a mission statement. Over the years, attempts have been made to formulate one for St. Andrew's. We're going to get serious about this now, officially adopt one and begin using it. You'll likely see it on our website, in the bulletin and around the church. We want everyone to become familiar with it!
2. Ministry Fair: In an effort to increase participation in our various ministries, we're going to put on a ministry fair. You may not understand the depth and breadth of all the good work we do here at St. Andrew's. This will be your chance to explore our ministries and hopefully find one that interests you. The Ministry Fair will likely be held in conjunction with our annual stewardship campaign in the fall, so watch for future announcements.
3. Follow up Protocol: We're going to develop a protocol for getting in touch with folks we haven't seen or heard from in a while. It may be as simple as a postcard. We want you to know that we miss you and that we're here if you need us.
4. Institution of Rev. Joe as our Rector: Now that we've wrapped up our discernment process and Bishop Tom has signed off on our contract with Rev. Joe, it's time to make this official and institute him as the next rector of St. Andrew's. Please watch for announcements on the date and join us for this very happy occasion.
5. General Housekeeping: We need to undertake a number of projects that fall under the category of General Housekeeping. We're going to begin creating some institutional memory by documenting Institutional information and better recordkeeping. We are

also going to update and organize our altar flower rota. Generally, we want to make it easy for the next generation of leaders here at St. Andrew's to step into the shoes of the current leaders.

6. Incorporating our newcomers: This past year, we made some strides in this area by developing and distributing our Welcome Packets to newcomers. We'd like to continue and expand upon this effort, so we're talking about a possible greeters program and various other ways we can be inviting. Your thoughts on this topic are welcome!
7. Christian Education: In recognition of the fact that our children are the future of St. Andrew's, we want to do all that we can to support, grow and develop our church school. We're also looking at ways to implement an adult education program. For example, do we have anyone who is interested in leading/participating in a book discussion group? That would be an easy way for us to get started.

As you can see, we once again have a full and busy agenda. The idea is to make intentional progress toward meeting our goals so much of this will be a work in progress over the next year and perhaps beyond (other than the institution of Rev. Joe as our rector which we will do in the very near future). As always, we welcome your participation!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 2	Zoe Ratcliffe
July 11	Harry Noorigian
July 11	Norma Lee
July 16	Betty MacKay
July 20	Mimi Falk
July 23	Irene Hoyle
July 26	Magdalene Kwakye
July 28	Michael Williams
August 5	Theodore Saindon
August 19	Betty Feugill
August 27	Madeleine McKeon
August 31	James Beagan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## VACATION SCHEDULE

Janet McDonald will be on vacation July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 30<sup>th</sup>.



## CAMERA DONATION

If anyone has a digital camera they would like to donate to the church/office, it would be put to great use for future events. Thank You!

## PRAYER SHAWLS

A big thank you from Betty Feugill for all of your kind notes, thoughts and prayers. Unfortunately, she is no longer able to make prayer shawls. If anyone is interested in filling her spot, please let us know. It would very much be appreciated.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP



The Sunday School children need your help. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with next year's program. Your time and talent could be used in almost any capacity, whether you wish to volunteer on a weekly basis or as an occasional substitute. Sunday School classes will begin on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms will be made available to you several weeks beforehand. We encourage you to talk to Rev. Joe or MaryEllen Briggs if you are interested in helping out or if you have questions about enrolling your child. Maryellen wishes you a safe and happy summer!



## FRIDAY NIGHT DANCES

The Friday Night Dance Group is looking for volunteers who would be able to help them by setting up tables and chairs at 5pm, taking them down at 9pm or simply assisting them during the dance. The process of setting up and taking down the tables and chairs takes about one half hour with four people and one hour with two people.

If anyone is available on the Fridays noted on the bulletin board schedule (generally the first and third Fridays of the month), Trudi and George Driscoll would be most grateful. You may contact Trudi or George at 978-682-8857 if you are able to offer them your service.



## SAVE THE DATE

An institution service will take place on **September 26<sup>th</sup>** where Reverend Joe will become Saint Andrew's new Rector. Bishop Gayle will preside at the service. Please make a note of this important day!

## 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.



*I thank You God for most  
 this amazing day;  
 for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
 and a blue true dream of sky;  
 and for everything which is natural  
 which is infinite  
 which is yes  
 e e cummings*



**MEMORIALS**

**Memorial Fund**  
 Walter G. Shirton

**Music Memorial Fund**  
 Janet L. Marquis  
 Walter G. Shirton



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Twenty five wonderful children and ten dedicated adult staff members enjoyed a successful (and on some days very warm) Vacation Bible School. Thank you to Val Carey and everyone involved!



The theme was the High Seas and there was a Bible lesson for each day of the camp:

- Day 1:** God's Word is true.
- Day 2:** God's Word is comforting.
- Day 3:** God's Word is surprising.
- Day 4:** God's Word is life-changing.
- Day 5:** God's Word is for everyone.

