

GRAPEVINE

OFFICE HOURS:

M & TH 8:30 am-12:30 and
W 9 am – 1 pm

Parish Administrator

Janet McDonald

Office Phone and Fax:

978-689-0463

E-mail: admin@standrewsmethuen.org

Reverend Joseph Wilkes

617-957-2960

Senior Warden

Janet Ratcliffe

978-682-5606

E-mail: janetratcliffe@comcast.net

Clerk of the Vestry

Molly Ratcliffe

603-860-4331

Vestry Members

James Beagan, Paula Campbell,
Val Carey, Charlie Currie, Patti
Eldred, Janet Ratcliffe, Molly
Ratcliffe, Beth Regan, Lisa Storie,
and Huib Walta

Religious Education

Mary-Ellen Briggs

978-208-8809

Pledge Clerk

Elaine Morissette

978-683-8841

E-mail: remor20@aol.com

Computer/Web

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in
Christ,

I am grateful for all your expressions of support and encouragement during Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. This took many forms: faithful participation in worship by so many of us, children led by our parent and Sunday school volunteers to give us a wonderful pageant, amazing music for our Lessons and Carols service as well as Christmas Eve, a church sparkingly cleaned, meticulously liturgically prepared for worship, and beautifully greened. It also took the form of a completely subscribed response to the Arlington Street Neighborhood children's Christmas Gift Drive, generous responses to both a stewardship drive and capital campaign drive, and faithful attention to our many ongoing ministries to those who depend on our church, and to the running of our church itself. These are gifts in abundance. Thank you. It is good to pause and take this all in. And yet there is more to do.

The parish Annual Meeting is on Sunday February 5th. It is crucial that you attend. More than needing a quorum, we need you there for important



business. There are leadership vacancies to fill. Patti Eldred and Lisa Storie are completing terms on Vestry. Charlie Currie and Jim Beagan are completing terms as Junior Warden and Treasurer, respectively. Take the time to thank these sisters and brothers for their service. Offering oneself for leadership is a tremendous gift. And it is less daunting if we have a full slate of leaders to take up the work next year. So, after you thank Patti, Lisa, Charlie and Jim, think about running for election for one of these roles. Please let me or Janet Ratcliffe know of your interest, or suggestions for good candidates.

Bishop Gayle Harris will visit us at 1:30 PM on Sunday, February 12th. Afternoon visits are not easy for parishes or bish-

ops. While we will have a said service at 9:30 that morning, the service led by Bishop Gayle at 2 PM that day will be our main Sunday service. Please mark your calendars. We need a good turnout.

February 22nd is Ash Wednesday. We will have a service of Holy Eucharist with imposition of ashes at 7:30 that evening. And then, we're in Lent! Let us keep each other in our prayers at this time to so many transitions in our life as a parish. Prayer is powerful, and through it we will find God's inspiration. God Bless You,

Faithfully,

Rev. Joe

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

Happy New Year to my St. Andrew's family! We have just concluded an extraordinarily busy fall full of hard work here at St. Andrew's -

our annual pledge drive and the collaborative capital campaign topped off by a full slate of Advent and Christmas services and programs. Al-

though those projects are now behind us, the hard work continues into the new year and it is time to think about ways that you can help get our new



*Please welcome
Lilyanna Riley Egan,
baptized on
December 23rd, 2011,
and her family,
to Saint Andrew's.*

SENIOR WARDEN MESSAGE (CONT.)

year off on the right foot.

Annual Meeting - Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a notice about the upcoming annual meeting on Feb. 5th. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We can not even get started with the meeting if we do not have a quorum of parishioners who sign in. Can you spare one hour of your time to participate in this once-a-year meeting?

Elected Representatives - You'll also note that the agenda for the annual meeting includes the election of parish leadership. Those positions include the wardens, clerk, treasurer, two 3-year Vestry seats, as well as delegates to the convention, dean-

ery and Communities Together. Charlie Currie and Jim Beagan have announced that they are stepping down as Junior Warden and Treasurer, respectively. Please consider taking on one of these important positions. The time commitment runs the gamut from attendance at one meeting per year all the way to the hands on administration of our church affairs. Job descriptions are available to anyone who is interested.

Various Committees, Guilds and Organizations - Choir, Altar Guild, Sunday School, Ushers, Fellowship, Building and Grounds ... you name your special interest and we have a volunteer opportunity for you.

Going Green - As a result of the energy audit that was conducted at St. Andrew's last fall by Mass. Interfaith Power and Light, we have a list of recommendations that we should now implement. Some of them are easy fixes and others require some long-range planning. It would be great if we could organize a service day. Would anyone be willing to organize such an event?

There are many opportunities for participation at St. Andrew's and, quite frankly, we need your help. Pick something that interests you and join the fun. You won't be disappointed. May the new year bring us many blessings!

Peace,
Janet

SAINT ANDREW'S ORGAN

The organ at St. Andrew's was built in 1905 by the Methuen Organ Company, a company that was financed by Edward Searles. The organ is completely contained in a large chamber on the right side of the chancel. It is as deep as the sanctuary, from the rood screen to the altar rail, and as wide as the chapel, from the chancel to the hallway. There are 56 gold-colored pipes aesthetically arranged in the casework of the organ, and 1402 pipes inside the chamber.

This organ has two manuals (keyboards) of 61 notes, and a pedal board of 30 notes. The lower manual is called the Great, and controls pipes on the Great chest, which is immediately behind the case. The upper manual is called the Swell, and controls pipes on the Swell chest, which is at

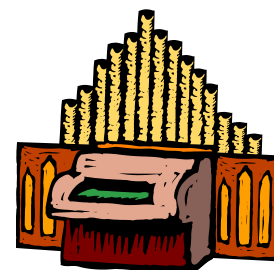
the back of the chamber, and enclosed inside the Swell box. These pipes are arranged by stops. Each stop has a particular tone color, similar to different instruments in an orchestra, and has one pipe for each note. The stops are controlled by draw knobs on the right and left sides of the console. There are 9 draw knobs for the Great, 11 for the Swell and 2 for the Pedal.

It is a great pleasure for me to play this historic instrument every week. I am absolutely delighted that funds are being raised to replace some of the worn parts of the organ. Even though the organ is over a century old, it is still in excellent playing condition. There are a few issues which will be addressed over the next few years. Some of the internal workings are made of leather, which has dried out over the

past century, and needs to be replaced. And other parts have slipped out of adjustment. But I expect that this organ will be able to continue serving this church for another century and more. If you are interested in knowing more about the organ and the scheduled projects, please feel free to ask me.

Respectfully submitted by
Craig Seaman,

Organist and Music Director



PLEDGE UPDATE

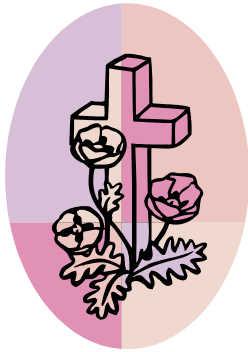
Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge card. Your commitment is crucial to our financial planning for 2012, so we very much appreciate the prompt return of your cards. As of January 8th, we had received 54

pledges for a total of \$53,254 (including 4 new pledges).

In the next issue of the Grapevine, we plan to formally thank those who have returned pledge cards by publishing a list of names. For those of you who have

not yet had an opportunity to return a card, we will gratefully receive it at any time. If you have any questions or wish to receive envelopes, please contact Elaine Morissette.

MEMORIALS



*Building Preservation
Memorial Fund*

Ryan Johnson

Garden Memorial Fund

Ryan Johnson

Organ Memorial Fund

Michele Smeester

*If anyone would like to join the **Altar Guild**, we would love to have you. We need your help. Please see Gail Ratcliffe if you are interested and she will be glad to give more information.*

THREE WISE WOMEN



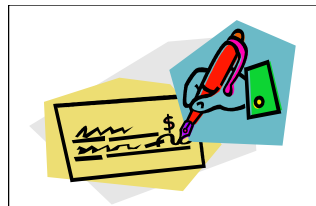
If there had been three wise women, would the Epiphany story have been different? You bet it would! They would have asked for directions, arrived early, delivered the baby, cleaned the stable, cooked the dinner, and brought practical gifts. God bless wise women!

-adapted from the Internet

DID YOU KNOW?...

That it's possible to make electronic donations to Saint Andrew's? It's as easy as using the bill pay feature that most banks now offer free of charge to their checking account customers. You simply set up Saint Andrew's as a payee with our

name and address and then schedule payments in the amounts and at the



times you desire. Be sure to direct the payment to the attention of our pledge recorder and include your envelope number in the account number field.

If you have any questions, please speak with Jim Beagan or Janet Ratcliffe.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 2 - Christy Lee

January 12 - Derek Haidaczuk

January 12 - Kristofer Wunderlich

January 14 - Alexis Wizboski

January 16 - Gary Hudson

January 17 - Pauline Crosbie

January 22 - Curtis Robarge

January 23 - Tom Durant

February 1- Huib Walta

February 4 - Maureen Maccaro

February 5 - Gail Ratcliffe

February 6 - Brenda McKenney

February 7 - Kyleigh Cooley

February 7 - Robert Pauley

February 16 - Dorothy

Archambault

February 16 - Mally, Clive, and Lars Falk



February 18 - Nicholas Wunderlich

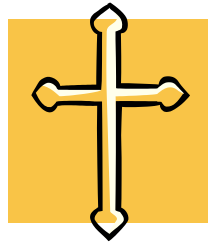
February 19 - Krista McLeod

February 19 - Peter Kwakye, Sr.

PASTORAL CARE AND PRAYER LIST

Please notify the church office if you or someone in your family is ill or hospitalized.

In addition to keeping you in our prayers, our Pastoral Care team would like to send one of its members to visit you and bring communion.



We refresh the prayer list quarterly. Please contact the office 978-689-0463 or admin@standrewsmethuen.org if you wish keep someone on the list or add someone new.

THE FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to many of you, we again were able to give food to six families in the Arlington Neighborhood each week. We have many faithful donors; it is such a help!

As spring arrives, new needs will arise and we will



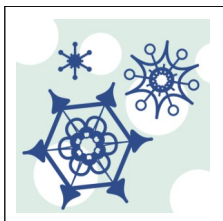
strive to continue our weekly donations. As you shop, we ask you to remember these families and pick up one (or more) items on our list and bring it with you to church. It all adds up and is a great help!

Each week we give the following to each family:

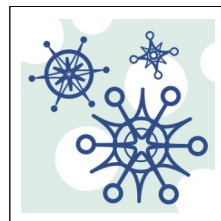
Tuna, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, green veggies, yellow veggies, soup, peanut butter, jelly or fluff. In addition we purchase milk and bread, so a monetary donation is also helpful.

Thank you for your continued help! Bev Brown

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



Throughout the winter season, we will change the voicemail greeting on the church phone to reflect cancellations or delays in Sunday services due to weather conditions.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, 2012

Saint Andrew's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2012.

- Any other business as may properly be brought before the Congregation for its consideration

The Election of the following:

- Clerk of the Annual Meeting
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Two Vestry positions available to serve 3-year term
- Delegates to the Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of MA

Delegates to Deanery:

- Greater Lawrence Council of Churches
- Parish Historian

Other Business will include:

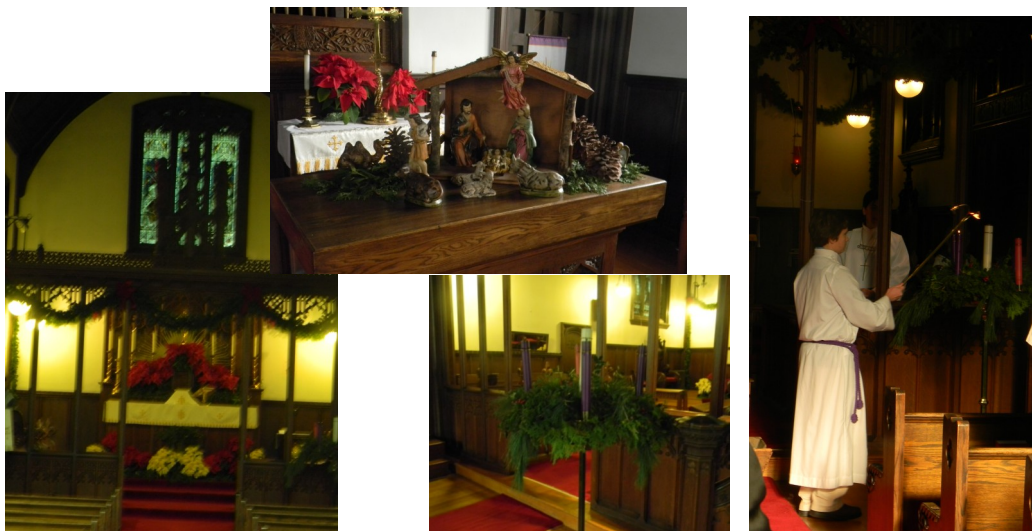
- The receipt of annual reports from all Parish organizations
- The receipt of annual financial reports
- A report on the adopted 2012 budget

Your participation is crucial to our success. First, you'll likely remember from previous years that we need a quorum in order to proceed. That means we need parishioners to be present and sign in. We can't even get the meeting started if we don't have people willing to do that.

Secondly, Vestry members, your representatives to the board that oversee the business of our church, are elected at this meeting. As of this writing, we have a number of positions that will need to be filled, including Junior Warden, two three-year seats on the Vestry, parish historian, delegates to the convention and representatives to Communities Together.

If you'd like the job descriptions for any of these positions, please let us know. This annual meeting is a great opportunity to help St. Andrew's move forward -- please consider how you can help make it a success!

THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS



Attention all Committee Chairs:

Now that the holidays are over, annual meeting time is fast approaching. Please submit your write up for the annual report to Janet McDonald no later than January 29th.

JUNIOR WARDEN JOB DESCRIPTION

A Junior Warden is the Vestry officer who has overall care of the church buildings and property, subject to the Rector being in overall charge. In practical terms, the day-to-day care of the property is done by a Sexton, hired as a parish staff member. We are blessed with an excellent Sexton at St. Andrew's. Paul takes meticulous care of the premises. He is proactive in identifying problems, recommending solutions to the Junior Warden and Vestry, and then implementing those solutions. He is also adept at identifying bidders for contract work, meeting contractors, getting bids, and recom-

mending contractors to the Junior Warden and Vestry. He supervises contractor work. He also is available and responds timely to building emergencies, although there have been very few of these with him on the job. Thus, the Junior Warden position is much more do-able than in the past. It does not require being on-site during the week. The main Junior Warden role involves staying in touch with the Sexton on a weekly basis, monitoring the use of budgeted funds for building maintenance/repair, approving within pre-established limits occasional unanticipated building expenses, bringing

unanticipated building expenses to Vestry, and ensuring good communication between the Sexton and Vestry on building issues. Other than needing to be at monthly Vestry meetings, much of the work between meetings can be done with phone/email contact with the Sexton, and email contact with Vestry and the Rector. It is also useful to stop by perhaps monthly and go around with Paul to look at things. He is very flexible scheduling these visits. If you would be willing to try this role, please let Janet Ratcliffe or Rev. Joe know. You would be well-supported by an excellent Sexton.

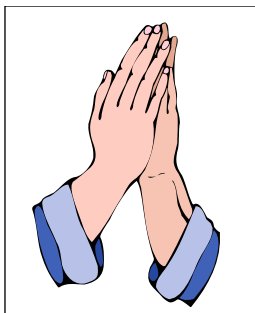
TREASURER JOB DESCRIPTION

The Treasurer is the Vestry officer who oversees the parish's finances. The duties include receiving and disbursing funds, keeping records of receipts and disbursements and to present statements of the parish's financial condition at annual meetings and regular Vestry meetings. We

recognize that is a daunting task and are in the process of hiring a part-time bookkeeper to report to the Treasurer and assist with payroll, paying the bills, balancing the checkbook, and preparing taxes and financial reports. The assistance and support of a professional bookkeeper will

make the job easier for a volunteer who assumes the role of Treasurer. If you would be willing to try this role, please let Janet Ratcliffe or Rev. Joe know.

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF THE EPIPHANY

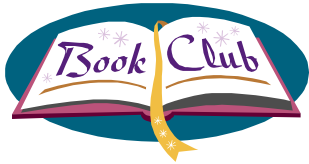


Gentle God, the tinsel falls, the year turns, the carols fade. The blessing of Bethlehem that touched all the gray in our lives with star-silver is past. In this turning season of long cold nights, we ask God's pres-

ence beyond our holidays into the wintering times of our lives, so that we can begin to grow and become strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God.

Amen

ST. ANDREW'S BOOK CLUB



We read fiction and non-fiction. We seek books that enlighten and enrich our spiritual journey. We seek books that tell stories or have characters to which we can compare and contrast our own faith journeys. We seek books that challenge our no-

tions of God, conventional religion, heaven, and good and evil. We seek books that challenge us to think about the human family and our relationship to our world and our history. We seek books about comparative religions and alternative faiths. We select books that will create discussion and make us think!

Our next read is Same Kind of Different as Me and we'll

meet on Feb. 29th to discuss. Please let Krista McLeod know if you need help obtaining a copy of the book. We have about a dozen people in our group and more are always welcome.

Saint Patrick's Day Dinner



March 17, 2012 5:00 p.m.

Gift Basket Raffle, 50/50 Raffle,
Irish Sing-along and Irish Step dancers

Please contact the church office for
further information.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SNAPSHOTS



Please consider helping out with the coffee hour ministry and take a turn providing cookies or pastries.

The sign up sheet is on the door connecting the downstairs parlor and kitchen.

A special THANK YOU to Val Carey, the Sunday school teachers and our kids for organizing and performing this year's Christmas pageant, "Follow the Star". Check out our website (www.standrewsmethuen.org) for some more great pictures!

**ST. ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844


Phone/Fax: 978.689.0463
E-mail:
admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org

*If you have an email
address and are not
currently on our email
distribution list, please
contact the office.
Distributing the
Grapevine via email is
a tremendous cost
savings for us.*

Thank you!

MARK THE DATE



- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>February 5th</u> | St. Andrew's Annual Meeting |
| <u>February 12th</u> | Bishop Harris visit, 2:00 - 6:00 pm |
| <u>February 22nd</u> | Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30pm |
| <u>March 17th</u> | Annual St. Patrick's Dinner  |