

The Grapevine

A Publication of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

February 2002

Dear friends and family of St. Andrew's,

In preparation for the **Annual Meeting on February 10th (Please note date change!)**, I want to bring everyone up-to-date with the current status of St. Andrew's. For those that attended the State of the Parish Meeting on January 27th, this may not be news, but I think it is important that everyone know what is going on.

Pledge Drive: We received only 48 signed pledges, far below my expectations. Almost half had increased their pledge- THANK YOU for recognizing how important your commitment to the church is! A good number of people are using envelopes, and it is my hope that they will sign a pledge. It is difficult to budget based on occasional giving. We really need a commitment that we know we can count on! I have asked the Vestry to call every member of our parish and

either thank them for their pledge or ask them for a pledge. So don't be surprised if you get a call.

Rector: We have amended the budget to come up with the \$30,000 required by the Diocese to send us a half-time interim priest. As this is the most important item in the budget, it was funded first. In the meantime, we will have Supply while Fr. Bob is on vacation this month. I am hoping that we will soon have a candidate from the Diocese that is willing to take the part-time position and work with us. It may take a couple of months. Please let me know if you would like to be involved with the interview process.

Budget: The Vestry has put together a budget based on the income we know we have to work with. Unfortunately, the decline in the stock market last year resulted in almost no income from our investments. Along with the low level of anticipated pledge income, and the need to fund a part-time rector, we

have had to make some severe decisions. Among them:

✱ There is currently no money for a music program. We do not have the \$9,000 necessary to hire an organist. Trudi and Elaine will VOLUNTEER to play once a month, for as long as they can, so we will have organ music on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month for the next couple of months. I am currently working with the Diocese to save the music program, but cannot make any promises. I'll keep you informed!

✱ We have had to cut the Secretary to quarter time. The office will be open from 9 to 12 on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

✱ We have had to cut the Sexton to quarter time. This means that much of the general maintenance and small repairs of the building will need to be done by workgroups each month. Please be ready to volunteer a couple of hours to this effort.

This issue of
the Grapevine
is completely funded
by

*St. Andrew's
Church*

Contacting
The Grapevine

You can contact us in the
following ways:

Mail to: *Grapevine*, c/o
St. Andrews Church, 90
Broadway, Methuen, MA
01844.

Drop a note into the ap-
propriate folder on the
Rector's door at church.

Phone 978-689-0463 for
Dee Henry or 978-682-
8055 ext. 24 for Cindy
Sulesky at work.

Fax 978-682-8227 marked
for Cindy.

E-mail: *Grapevine*

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Please visit the Web Site:

www.standrewsmethuen.org

Deadline Information: Please be
aware that the deadline for any
material for a particular *Grapevine*
issue must be received at least **one
week prior** to the publication date.
For dated events, you should notify
the *Grapevine* **1 month** prior to the
event. The deadlines are usually on
the **Third Monday** of each month, and
is not printed in July. We regret any
inconvenience this may cause.

Service of Evensong; Feb 3 at 4 PM Please Note Time Change (and Bring a Candle!)

This next Sunday afternoon, St. Andrew's Church is proud to host "Candlemas", a beautiful service of EVENSONG, with the combined choirs of the Episcopal churches of the Merrimack Valley, to be held at St. Andrew's at 4:00 PM on February 3rd, 2002.

This is a combined service of Episcopal worship and music by Christ Church Andover, St. Paul's North Andover, Grace Church Lawrence, and St. Andrew's Methuen, with the respective clergy officiating.

Choirs within their parishes have begun re-hearsing the music for this service. A single combined rehearsal under the direction of Organists and Directors - Paulette Grendine (Christ Church Andover) and Steven R Hermes (St. Paul's No Andover) will be held at 10:00 am Saturday, February 2nd at St. Andrew's. All choir members and/or any parishioner who would like to sing are invited to participate with the choir.

Since St. Andrew's is the host parish for this service - coffee, tea and refreshments are our responsibility. Please call Trudi Driscoll at 978-682-8857 or Cindy Sulesky at 978-686-0840 for participation, information or to volunteer for social hour to follow the service.

TO DATE:

There is an appalling lack of interest to either be a host parish member, and volunteer to help "feed and water" the other church choirs or even to come and hear. Will you not come and show your support to St. Andrew's and your little 8-person choir?

Vestry Members: We need to elect EIGHT people to Vestry this year at the annual meeting. We need a Clerk, a Junior Warden, one 1-year seat, two 2-year seats, and three 3-year seats. I made an announcement to this effect in church, and so far am happy to report that I have volunteers for Jr. Warden, the 1-year seat, and two of the 3-year seats. PLEASE let me know if you are willing to run for clerk or one of the three remaining seats. Vestry is the leadership of the church and as such, needs a constant flow of new blood and ideas. Please consider running for a term and working with us during this exciting period of our parish journey. If we cannot fill the open positions, we have two options:

- 1) I will need to inform the Diocese that we are unable to govern ourselves, and leave our future in their hands. I don't think anyone wants that! OR
- 2) We can vote to amend the By-Laws and elect only SIX seats (two per year) plus the four officers.

Committees: Unfortunately, only a couple of people used the Parish Survey to check off a committee with which they would be willing to work. As a result, we have several committees with only one or two members. As members of St. Andrew's, I would expect that EVERYONE would be involved with at least one committee. I have descriptions available. Please call me or a vestry member for more information. There is a lot of work in keeping a church operational. The more people involved, the less required of each individual.

Time-Line: As part of our work in developing a mission and purpose for St. Andrew's, we're starting with a Time-Line in the parish hall that traces the history of St. Andrew's over the past 100 years. We invite EVERYONE to add their information- when your family joined the church, memorable events, births

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and deaths, that kind of thing. Bring in pictures to add. It will be an ongoing effort, but I hope it will give everyone a sense of our life together as a family, and remind us of traditions and ministries that we may have forgotten about and would like to bring back into our parish life. Consultants from the Diocese will join us in February to help us start to define ourselves as a church- who we are, our purpose here, and how the elements of our ministry tie together.

This is a difficult time for St. Andrew's, and it is only by coming together that we will prevail. Adversity can cause discord among members, but we cannot let this happen. We need to go the extra mile:

- ✳ Think before speaking- "Am I saying this in a kind and loving way?"
- ✳ Think before reacting- "Did he/she really mean what I think I heard?"
- ✳ Volunteer to help with the ministry of the Church, whether through teaching Sunday School, working with the Alter Guild or Ushers, singing in the Choir, donating food for the hungry.
- ✳ Volunteer to help with the operation of the Church - certainly there is one committee for which you could give an hour or two per month.

It is desperately important that through this period we are united in our love for Christ, our love for the church, and our love for one another. We can come through this stronger and healthier than ever!

Please feel free to call me if you want to discuss any of these issues, or have any ideas. I hope to see everyone at the Annual Meeting on February 10th after the 9:30 service.

May the peace of the Lord be with us all!

Your faithful servant,
Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga, Sr. Warden
978-686-6824

**St. Andrew's Church
Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws
At the Annual Meeting
February 10th, 2002**

The Standing Committee of the Diocese has made seven changes to the Model By-Laws. These changes must be approved by the Membership in order to bring the By-Laws of St. Andrew's into conformity with those of the Diocese.

A description of the proposed changes will be provided at the annual meeting. Changes are proposed for the following sections:

- 1) Article II Membership
- 2) Article III Delegates and Elections, Sec. 3 Elections
- 3) Article IV Nominations
- 4) Article VI the Rector, Sec. 1 Elections
- 5) Note 1
- 6) Note 2
- 7) Note 12

A quorum will be required for the vote to pass. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on February 10th in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 service.

Please Note:

**Sunday School will not meet on
Easter, March 31 nor Teachers
Retreat Weekend, April 14.**

1st Communion will be May 19.

**Recognition / Cook Out Sunday
will be June 2, and Sunday
School will end on June 9.**

To Sponsor the Grapevine:

If you wish to "sponsor" the Grapevine please send the person(s) to be dedicated, your name and the month wanted with a check (\$40) payable to St. Andrew's Church. FYI - This covers less than one-quarter of the cost of the Grapevine for 1 month.

**Please note: Due to the current
need for cost-conserving
measures, the Grapevine will
not be accepting miscellaneous
articles for print.
But please *always* share what is
important for the parish to
know.**

Building Preservation Fund

William T. Atkinson
Eva M. Gray
The Rev. Dennis Jarry,
Rector of Christ Church, Andover

Organ Memorial Fund

Cecile Blais

General Memorial Fund

Robert D. Cornwell

There have been only 2 responses received from the Local Church Accessibility Survey.

Visit www.standrewsmethuen.org