

# The Grapevine

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

*Dear friends and family of St. Andrew's,*

I just have to tell you how good I feel about St. Andrew's these days! What a wonderful showing of love and support for our church over the past month. Despite the hardships we face, there is a clear sense of hope and optimism about the future. I have a number of good tidings to report this month:

**State of the Parish:** There was a good turnout for the State of the Parish meeting on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. I shared all of the information from my February Grapevine letter. I appreciate the interest, the discussion, and especially the support of those people who volunteered for Vestry seats. We filled nine open positions- I was afraid it couldn't happen, but it did! Congratulations to St. Andrew's for having such caring members willing to take positions of leadership during these challenging times. And thank-yous to Elaine Morrisette and Trudi Driscoll for their volunteer work on the organ this past month.

**Candlemas:** We had a beautiful celebration of Candlemas at St. Andrew's on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a nice turnout from St. Andrew's and many people supplied refreshments. We were joined by our friends from St. Paul's in North Andover, Christ Church in Andover, and Grace Church in Lawrence. The combined choir was absolutely phenomenal- they sounded like professionals! And our organ sounded fabulous! I will be active in the Greater Lawrence Episcopal Church Linkage group and hope we will be able to do other things with our sister churches.

**Annual Meeting:** We had nearly fifty people for the Annual Meeting on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>- a great turnout! And I have to tell you how impressed Fr. Don Williamson and Pat Boyd were to see such energy and enthusiasm among our membership. We must be doing something right, because

it shows! The Annual Meeting went smoothly, with approval of reports, adoption of the budget, election of a FULL Vestry with all nine seats filled along with the four officers, and amendments to our bi-laws to keep them in line with the model recommended by the Diocese. Enormous thank-yous to Val Carey and all of our teen-age volunteers for keeping the youngsters happy and entertained during our meeting!



**March  
2002**

**Strategic Planning:** I will use this term to describe the work we are doing with the Diocesan consultants toward defining our mission and purpose in Methuen, and articulating an identity for ourselves. We had our first meeting with the Parish after the Annual Meeting Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Lloyd Campbell and Paul Waites for providing us with a lovely lunch, and to all the people who brought in pastries, salads, and desserts. Pat Boyd joined about 36 of us for an hour. We did some activities that helped us visualize the span of years present at St. Andrew's (we have members from 1922 to 2000!) and then broke into smaller groups of mixed ages to talk

about things we remember about St. Andrew's. Special people, events, and activities. The room was abuzz with chatter and laughter! Much of what we discussed can be seen on the Time Line in the Parish Hall. Please take a minute to look at it, and to add your own comments! Having looked at our past, we will next look at our present and then to our future. We will have monthly meetings through June to finish this work. The next meeting is **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM** in the Parish Hall. Please plan to join us! It is only when we can define ourselves as a church- who we are, our purpose here, and how the elements of our ministry tie together- that we will grow!

*Continued on next page*

**Vestry Committees:** The new Vestry met Feb 11<sup>th</sup> for a wonderful meeting of cooperation and camaraderie. I have great expectations of this terrific group! Each Vestry member has taken Chair responsibility for a different committee:

Community Service	Peggy Baker
Membership/Fellowship	Betty Fouglil
Communication	Karl Wamberlich
Finance and Budget	George Driscoll / Lloyd Campbell
Sewardship	Richard Falk
Worship	Bob Kruger
Building and Grounds	Dan Salovey / Jim Casey
Children Education	Linda Pacheco
Pastoral Care/Home Visits	Lois Brown
Strategic Planning	Laura Rainold-Laravage

Committee chairs have descriptions available.

Please see them for more information. (You will find their phone numbers and e-mail addresses (unless they have chosen not to have that info available) at the back of each issue of the Grapevine.)

There is a lot of work in keeping a church operational. As I said at the State of the Parish Meeting, and again at the Annual Meeting, we cannot do this work alone. Each committee needs at least three or four members to share the decision-making and the work. This is YOUR church, not the Vestry's, and I hope that EVERYONE will be involved with at least one committee.

## **Memorial Funds**

### **Building Memorial Fund**

George C. Abbott

### **Memorial Fund**

Albert B. Gordon

The Grapevine is published monthly by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 90 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844.

To contact the Grapevine for articles, please call 978-686-0840 or e-mail [Grapevine@StAndrewsMethuen.org](mailto:Grapevine@StAndrewsMethuen.org) or leave a message in the "Grapevine" folder on the Rector's door.

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Visit St. Andrew's Church on line! Go to <http://www.StAndrewsMethuen.org>. Webmaster is Herb Walks.

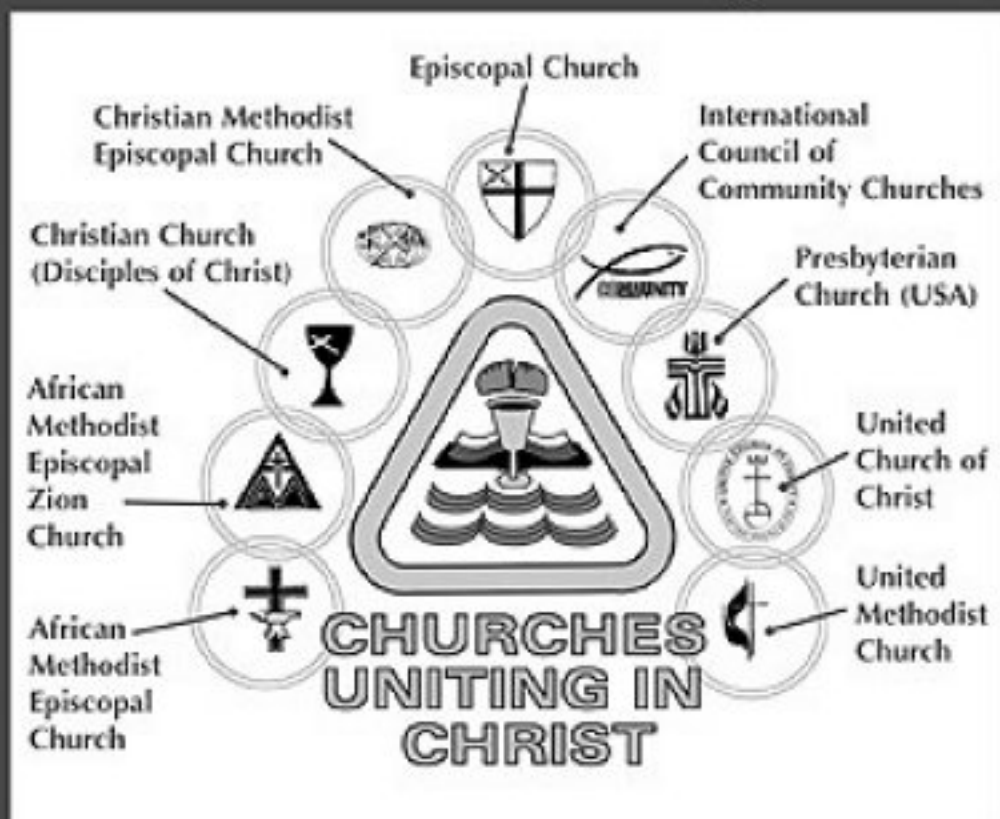
**Baptist:** We are still waiting on the Diocese to send us candidates for a full-time Interim Priest position. Apparently, there are not many in this neck of the woods. In the meantime, we have Supply scheduled through the middle of April. Many of you will remember Fr. David Barney, who was with us Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, and performed the Baptisms. He has agreed to worship with us through March and the Easter season. Please give him a warm welcome on Sunday!

I am happy to be able to report the good news of the past month, but we need to keep in mind that St. Andrew's is still in a very precarious condition. Our future is far from guaranteed. But I believe we are taking the right steps to prepare ourselves for growth. It is going to take a lot more work, on everyone's part. Remember, 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. I am seeing evidence of this already, and I heartily believe we can come through this stronger and healthier than ever!

May the peace of the Lord be with us all!

Your faithful servant,  
**Laura Rainold-Laravage**  
St. Warden

## Who are the Churches Uniting in Christ?



## Churches Uniting in Christ includes Episcopalians

After 40 years of study and prayer through the Consultation on Church Union (COCU), the nine churches in the graphic attached agreed to stop “consulting” and start living their unity in Christ more fully. On January 20, 2002, these churches inaugurated a new relationship that will be known as **Churches Uniting in Christ (CUIC)**.

Each communion will retain its own identity and decision-making structures, but each also will pledge before God to draw closer in sacred things – including regular sharing of the Lord’s Supper and communion mission, especially a mission to combat racism together. Each church will also commit itself to undertake an intensive dialogue toward the day when ministers are authorized to serve and lead worship, when invited, in each of the communions.

How our congregation can be involved:

- *Celebrate the inauguration of CUIC with other participating congregations in our area*
- *Take the initiative to promote activities together: worship, communion, mission projects, special events, adult education.*

Churches Uniting in Christ is a framework for showing to the world what we truly are: the one Body of Jesus Christ. More information can be found by going to [www.cuicinfo.org](http://www.cuicinfo.org).

## Happy Birthday to:

Meaghan Donegan  
Abigail Galloway-Burke  
Beverly Brown  
David Donegan  
Jared Weisenborn  
Catherine Tomeo  
Laurie Luther  
Christopher O’Keefe  
Nathan Storie

Please join us on March 9th at 6PM for St. Andrew’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner.

Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage  
O’Shea Chaplin School of Step Dancing  
Raffles & Singing

Tickets

\$8.50 for adults

\$5.50 for children 11 and under

free for children 2 and under

Call Betty Feugill @ (978) 682-9341.

Don’t take a chance, reserve your tickets now!



## St. Andrew's Church Sunday School Schedule through June 2002

March 3, 2002	Crafts after Sunday School: see News below	*
March 10, 2002	Sunday School Store	
March 17, 2002	St. Patrick's Day	*
March 24, 2002	Palm Sunday	
March 31, 2002	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. (Bring Mine Boxes) Easter Sunday	
April 7, 2002		*
April 14, 2002	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL. Sunday School Teachers Retreat	
April 21, 2002		*
April 28, 2002		*
May 5, 2002		*
May 12, 2002	Mother's Day & Sunday School Store	
May 19, 2002	Pentecost - First Communion	
May 26, 2002	Memorial Day	
June 2, 2002	Recognition Sunday - "Mardi Gras" theme	
June 9, 2002	Sunday School Wrap-up for Summer	
September 8, 2002	Sunday School Starts Again	

\* This is when the High School Class is scheduled to meet

### **Sunday School News**

**Sunday March 3, 2002** we will be having a craft day after church. Any adult or older child (5th grade and up) that would like to come and help make items to sell at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner is welcome. It will be held in the Sunday School rooms, as the gym will be in use.

The Youth of our Parish have been asked to help out at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner on **March 9**. Any youth in the 5th grade and up who would like to help on that day should speak to Valerie Carey. Any child who works the dinner will receive points towards their retreat costs.

The United Thank Offering Boxes (Mine Boxes) have been distributed to the Sunday

School children. There are extras in the back of the church for any one else that would like one. Please fill these with silver coins (no pennies please) and return them to the church on Easter Sunday **March 31\***, at the 9:30 AM service. Any child bringing their filled box in on that day will be asked to bring the box up to the wooden cross and receive a flower. Please do not just *take* a flower as the "extra" flowers are then given to our shut-ins.

Caring soon (April/May) there will be a meeting for all persons and their parents wishing to start the Confirmation Program next year. This date will be announced in the next Grapevine and Church Bulletins as soon as it is scheduled.

~ Val Carey