

The Grapevine

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

Dear Friends of St. Andrew's:

Spring is here, and there are signs of rebirth all around us. Even my crocuses have braved the recent snows to open their tiny faces to the sun. By the time this goes to press, we will have shared the joy of Easter and Christ's resurrection. This is truly a magical time of year!

Not only have we each individually experienced a rebirth in Jesus Christ, but St. Andrew's, as a church, is also going through an exciting period of rebirth and resurrection.

I see daily evidence that the winter is past for us, and we are on our way to great things in the name of our Lord. The Vestry is energized, a good number of people have been participating in our monthly Strategic Planning process to develop and articulate a mission and vision for St.

Andrew's; and I see hope on the faces around me. Faith, hope, love and charity. These will keep us strong and growing!

Some notes to bring you up to date:

Music Program: I am pleased to announce that the Diocese has given us an abatement on our annual Assessment for the express purpose of hiring an organist and reinstating our music program. Praise the Lord! While Elaine and Trudi will continue to volunteer when possible, I am hopeful that God will send us an organist soon. We have recently placed ads and are waiting for some response. If you know of anyone, or have any ideas, please see Trudi Driscoll.

Interim Rector Search: The Interviewing Committee has developed an interview protocol that provides us with a list of the specific skills and experience we seek, and questions that will identify whether the applicant has those gifts. We successfully used this protocol with a referral from the Diocese. Although the applicant was a lovely person with some great gifts, she was only available for a few months and the committee was in agreement that she did not have the specific skills and experience we need at this time of our church life and

development. We will continue in faith to work with the Diocese and hope to have more applicants to talk to soon!

Supply Scheduling: We are blessed to have Fr. David Barry continue with us for the first two weeks of April, after which he is taking some time off. After all, he IS supposed to be retired! But we thank him from the bottoms of our hearts for the extended time he has been with us as Supply Priest. His services have been wonderful, and many of us have enjoyed his interesting and spiritual sermons. And not to end on a sad note, I am happy to report that Fr. Bob Gollidge is back from his travels and willing to serve with us from April 21st through June 9th. The Lord is good to us! I know everyone will want to wish Fr. David well, and we look forward to welcoming Fr. Bob back among us.

Strategic Planning Meeting: The next all-parish meeting with Pat and Alden from the



April Birthdays

Date	Name
2	Ryan Carey
4	Jameson Folk
6	Leonard Mills
11	William McBride
18	Mary Dodson
19	Ella Miller
23	Alexander Wunderlich
25	Kassandra Mile
28	Leah O'Keefe

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Diocese is scheduled for Tuesday, April 22nd at 7PM. We have had a good level of enthusiastic participation at the last two meetings, and are making solid progress. I would love to see as much of the parish involved in this process as possible. We have only three more meetings scheduled. This month we will begin crafting our identity statement, or mission. Who are we? What is our purpose on this earth? Who do we serve? Please plan to join us for this very important work!

Faithfully yours,

LAUREL R.

Memorial Fund

Helen Baker
Mabel Dorin

Building Preservation Memorial Fund

Helen Baker
Bertha Frey
David L. Hall
Phyllis Taylor
David Walker

Garden Memorial Fund

Helen Baker

Music Memorial Fund

Helen Baker

Organ Memorial Fund

Helen Baker

At Last! Our Own Community Involvement Opportunity!

We believe that St. Andrew's needs to be more involved in our local neighborhood. We have talked to the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood group and find that there are 6 families in particular where the adults are working, but still need some assistance with food. This group (and others like them) are known as the "Working Poor".

We are going to start by helping them receive some help with food. We need actual donations of:

- Cereal
- Spaghetti / Pasta
- Jars/Cans of Spaghetti sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Canned soups
- Tuna

And in "cash" form:

- Bread (money to buy it fresh)
- Milk (money to buy fresh)

When these items are on sale, parishioners can buy in quantity and leave with us and when these items are needed we will distribute. This project will help people in our neighborhood who are trying to help themselves. This will give the church a NAME in our community. Please help us to support this project. Contact Peggy Baker, Len Brown, Tom Baker, or David Marsh.

Donations will start on April 1st.

Bring your Family Food to the kitchen and leave it on the center island (under the hanging pots and pans) each Sunday. The young adults of our church will be handling it from there. Sincerely,

Peggy Baker

Voicy/Community Outreach Team

A Profile of the Working Poor

In the last decade, hunger-related agencies have found that the greatest increase in hungry Americans has been among the working poor. Despite the strong economy and their own hard work, they cannot always make ends meet. And increasingly, they are turning to charities for hunger relief. Taken from recent studies, the following is a statistical snapshot of the working poor Americans seeking emergency food assistance from the local soup kitchens, food pantries, and emergency shelters served by America's Second Harvest food banks.

- 14.51 million people in the United States are members of working poor families.

- 39% of emergency food recipient households (those served in soup kitchens, food pantries, and emergency shelters) have at least one adult working.

- According to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, 37% of people requesting emergency food assistance in American cities are employed.

- Of the 23.3 million needy people seeking emergency food assistance, more than 9 million are children.

- 39% of poor families with children in the U.S. include a person who works.

- 8,658,000 children in the U.S. live in working poor families.

- Over the past two decades, the poverty rate among working families has increased by nearly 20%.

- According to recent Census estimates, two-thirds of parents with low earnings work in retail or service trades.

- Between 1979 and 1998, families headed by high school dropouts increased their annual work effort (hours worked) by nearly 12% and ended up with 8% less annual income.

- 21.2% of emergency food recipients have less than a high school diploma or the equivalent.

- According to the Census Bureau, average yearly earnings for high school graduates was \$22,154 in 1996.

- 67% of emergency food recipients have a high school diploma, compared to 84% of the general U.S. population.

- 41 million Americans have no health insurance, even in an emergency.

- Nearly half of all parents in working poor families lack health insurance.

- 84.8% of adult emergency food recipients have no private medical insurance.

- 26.7% of emergency food recipient households had to choose between paying for food or paying for medicine or medical care in the past 12 months.

Events in the Diocese:

"Growing your Congregation" April 28th

2-5pm at All Saints in Brookline, MA.
A FREE workshop to aid efforts to reduce pollution from religiously-affiliated buildings. More than simply recycling cans and bottles, this information includes buying electricity and fuel in earth-friendly ways.

This is the kind of event to attend if interested in "Earth Day" or Ecology-related information, in specific relation to St. Andrew's. There are many programs that the Diocese runs that would be wonderful for St. Andrew's to look into. If you are interested in bringing this kind of program to St. Andrew's, you are strongly urged to go and see, and come back and tell us!

Call Lars Hoke at 1-800-406-5374 before April 22 to register. Space is limited. Forum is through Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light.

Sustaining Creation

Saturday, May 11

8:30 - 10:30 am

Legislative Breakfast Forum, Co-Hosted by the Greater Lawrence Council of Churches and the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Guest Speakers

**Hon. Maura Heaton

US House of Representatives

**Rev. Dr. John Chryssostom

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

**Ms. Pam Dibiase

Environmental League of Massachusetts

Reminders:

On April 13-14, the Sunday School Teachers go on their Annual Retreat. There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday April 14th!

First Communion will be May 19th
(Pentecost)

Recognition Sunday is June 2. This is when we celebrate our church community and especially our leaders and teachers. This year's theme is Mardi Gras!

Errors to note:

The e-mail address for the Senior warden in the Sunday bulletins should NOT have a period after the at. Please correct your personal addressbooks to read swarden@standrewsmelhuern.org. The Junior warden does not have an email address.

It Must Be Said

Many, many thanks to Elaine Morrisette (Organist) and Trudi Driscoll (Choir Director) and all the members of the "Volunteer Choir" for their heartfelt and joyful music during Palm Sunday and Easter. The worship service was truly enhanced by all your efforts.

We also give praise and thanks for David Birney, our Christ-led supply priest, and for Donald Williamson who skillfully brought us through the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services.

And last, ALL the efforts of the behind-the-scene people are what make our church work so well. We appreciate all you do, and will have a bigger article in next month's GRAPEVINE!



April



2002

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 Brownies 6:00-8:00 p.m.	3 Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m.	4	5 Dance Group 7:00 p.m.	6
7 8:00 a.m. Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Service	8 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.	9 Brownies 6:00-8:00 p.m.	10 Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13 <i>Hall Rental</i> Sunday School Teachers Retreat
14 8:00 a.m. Service 9:30 a.m. Service NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	15	16 Brownies 6:00-8:00 p.m.	17 Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Dance Group 7:00 p.m.	20
21 8:00 a.m. Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Service	22	23 Brownies 6:00-8:00 p.m.	24 Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 8:00 a.m. Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Service	29	30 Brownies 6:00-8:00 p.m.				