



The Grapevine ~ October 2002

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

Dear Friends of St. Andrew's ~

I do so love the fall - especially at St. Andrew's. Suddenly the church is full of families again! We miss y'all over the summer and we're so glad to see you back. All in all, the chaos of last year seems to be behind us, and we've lots to look forward to in the coming months. I want to thank everyone for their efforts, their faith, and their support. I especially want to thank the Vestry for their commitment. Each Vestry member has selected a committee to chair - from Building and Grounds to Worship, and everything in-between that keeps St. Andrew's in operation. Each committee has a project that they're working on. Please see any Vestry member if you'd like to help out.

Plans are underway for the Flea Market and Rummage Sale on October 26th. I am so proud that we will be donating this year's proceeds to help our neighbors in the Arlington Neighborhood. We need help both before, after, and during the event, so if you have any time at all that you can donate, please contact Paula Campbell. And take a minute to go through the attic, basement, garage, or wherever you store the things you don't use. Your "junk" is someone else's treasure! Throw it in the trunk and bring it to church with you each week!

(See page 3 for full details)

Our ministry to provide food for the six families in the Arlington Neighborhood made it through the summer, but needs the help of EVERYONE at St. Andrew's. A can of tuna or bag carrots is only 50 cents. I know - the hardest part is remembering to bring it with you! Try writing a note on your stewardship envelopes - when you grab it Sunday morning, maybe it will remind you. It's not much to each of us, but the combined efforts mean a huge difference to the families that are depending on these groceries each week. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with this important effort over the past months! See Peggy Baker or Len Brown if you have any questions.

I hope everyone is adapting to the new service time. I think it's wonderful that John is willing to provide us with some adult education. If you have any ideas for topics of study or discussion, please talk to either Fr. John or Linda Pacheco. It's also been great to have the kids in church. They've been well behaved and seem to be getting accustomed to the service. If you have any ideas about how we can provide additional opportunities for them to be actively involved, please talk to Fr. John, Val Carey, or myself.

In Christ,
Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga, Senior Warden

"Second Hour" Children's Program Offered

Although children are very much encouraged to be in the "big church" for the 10 o'clock service, there is a program available for children pre-school through first grade in the usual Sunday School Classrooms. Please see Val Carey for placement.

In Memory of...

Memorial Fund

Leslie N. Eastman

Ocean Memorial Fund

Leslie N. Eastman

Ma Kozik

Gloria McGreevy

Three Thomas

Building Preservation Memorial Fund

John A. Crobble

Music Memorial Fund

Dennis Tice

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Visit St. Andrew's Church on line!
ClickGo to <http://www.StAndrewsMethuen.org>

Christmas Pageant Director Wanted!

Have you ever wanted to run the Christmas Pageant YOUR way? Now's your chance! Call, e-mail or verbalize your desire to Val Carey (all contact info on the last page) right away. If you don't want to LEAD...how about volunteering to help? We have many wonderful costumes, hats, ideas, and even several babies to choose from! Does your child have a burning yearning to be King Herod? Maybe an angel? How about a sheep? There are parts for everyone! Or...

Maybe this year the ADULTS in the congregation could perform the entire Christmas Pageant! WOW! We know some of you have great voices...we could SING the entire Christmas section of the "Messiah!" Maybe George, Peter and Hub could arrive as the Three Kings and each sing their own verse from "We Three Kings of Orient Are!"

What a great idea!

Now, if you don't want Cindy's wacky ideas to happen, all you need to do is ...

VOLUNTEER!

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed!

Please sign the sheet posted at the end of the coffee table.

To promote our church as a "welcoming" congregation, each family - whether singles, couples, or "married with children" - of St. Andrew are encouraged to sign up for one (or more) Coffee Hours. It is VERY welcoming to offer coffee and a little snack after church, rather than a dark and empty Parish Hall!

The Fall Flea Market and Rummage Sale will be held

Saturday, October 26th from 9:00 to 3:00. Help is needed!!! We need people to man the tables, people to help sort, and people for set and clean up. I will be sorting on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm and I can use everyone's help. Sign up sheets for the fair will be posted on the bulletin board. Your time does not have to be given all day. Even a couple of hours is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Len and Bev Brown and their crew for doing the Apple Pie Bake-Off again this year. Many thanks to the Mann Family (of Mann Orchards, Methuen) for donating all the apples!

Please Note Date Change:

St. Andrew's Church

Sunday School Retreat

Who: Any enrolled, participating student
Fourth grade and up (all Confirmation Students)

When: October 19-20, 2002

Where: Lake Ossipee Conference Center

Why: To have fun, learn, and experience
Our Lord in a different setting

Cost: \$45.00/per person

A Pattern for Prayer

This pattern of prayer is a Gift of God and discerned by spiritual masters: e.g. Ignatius Loyola, Thomas Merton, John of the Cross, Saint Julian of Norwich, etc. It has been recorded by Jerry and Judy Harby, and Paul Greenman, and rewritten by Cynthia Solinsky.

Recall that you are in the presence of the Living God.

Take a few moments to remember that God is with you regardless of where you go or what you do. Clear your mind of the ever-present list of things to do, just for now. Ask for the gift of prayer. Ask for the gift of intimacy with God. Perhaps just being quiet and being aware of your breath and your heart beating within you can help. Take time to allow God to BE with you.

Give thanks to God for Gifts received.

Pause to look away your life for the past day or so. Take stock of the smallest gifts (and the larger ones, too). Be very specific and concrete. Allow yourself to dwell inside gratitude and thank God for these concrete ways in which you have experienced God's love and presence.

Without condemnation and without complacency, ask for the Spirit's help to further explore the mystery of your heart and life with God.

It is the Spirit who enables us to look at ourselves with clarity and sober honesty. Here we can begin to grow into the fuller persons we are created by God to be.

Enter more deeply into your life during the day that has past.

Recall the events and the people the places and the things that you encountered over the last 24 hours. Ask yourself:

- "What is going on inside me? What am I feeling? Am I tired? Relaxed? Afloat? Happy? Sad? Up? Down? Appreciated? Neglected? Engrailed? Blah?"

- "What is going on around me? Where am I in my relationships with the people, places, events, or things of my life? Where am I with God?"

- Take time to let things settle. Get in touch with where you are and what's going on in an affective

level, not just in your head. Admit to yourself what's going on in you and in your life now. Give yourself to the Lord as you are, with all your feelings as they are. Be with yourself as you are, before the Lord. Invite the Lord to come be with you in the midst of whatever is going on. Pour out what is most in your heart and mind to the Lord, asking that the Lord be present to you in it. Stay here for as long as you feel moved to do so.

What is Jesus trying to do for me in all this?

With a willingness to wait and listen, ask the Lord "What are You trying to help me see in all this? Who are you desiring to be for me?" To enable your listening, ask yourself, "Where did I act freely in response to You in the situations of my day - or - where was I swept along without freedom?" "Where did I pause to receive Your influence, Lord, in my choice and behavior? Where did I resist your aid? Where am I blocked or stuck?" Remember that insights and answers come not only during the actual moment of our prayer, but all-day long as a result of our prayer.

Look upon yourself with compassion and love.

Having entered more deeply into the mystery of yourself, look upon yourself with compassion and love. Get in touch with your need for God and ask to experience God's love for you. Ask God to be who you need God to be for you. Allow yourself to feel sorrow or remorse where appropriate. Ask for forgiveness where you have resisted God's light. Give thanks for the times of special grace-for the times God breaks through to you to help you see-for the steps you took to responding.

Remain to be open to God in the day ahead.

Ask for the specific grace you need for the day ahead. Remain to be open and willing to receive that grace. Express your love for God. Give yourself and your day ahead to God.

Lastly, thank God for the gift of this time of prayer.

Welcome to our New African Family!

Peter Kwagya has finally been reunited with his family, and all are coming to Mt Zion around October 1st. Frank Worthy will be picking them up at the airport, and he, Fr. Tom and Joyce Kershaw have been instrumental in this happy and joyous event. I am hoping that there will be a larger celebration to be held at St. Andrew's in the very near future.

African churches are known around the world for welcoming the stranger in their midst. There is no fear of "overwhelming" a newcomer - only expressing the joy of being brothers and sisters in Christ together. I have known more than two dozen people who have visited Africa and all have said the same thing. Some of these families are the poorest in the world, and yet share what they have with visitors. Songs are sung, processions are danced, food is shared and the newcomers are **WARMLY** welcomed. We, who have such abundance - no matter how little - could surely do as much.

The previous page has the Fall Flea Market poster. Please post the flyer around town. Help us advertise for a hugely successful event!

Reminder:

The new church schedule is 8am for Rite I Holy Communion, and 9am for Christian Education Hour. The children meet in the downstairs classrooms, and the Adults meet in the church. At 10am, we begin the Rite II Holy Eucharist service - soon to be with music - and fellowship afterward in the Parish Hall.

All are welcome!

Continuing Community Involvement Opportunity! "Family Food"

We are continuing the ministry Christ has called us to - feed the hungry, clothe the poor... We need actual donations of

- Cereal (all kinds)
- Spaghetti / Pasta
- Jars/Cans of Spaghetti sauce
- Canned vegetables
- Canned soups
- Tuna

And in "cash" items

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

When these items are on sale, parishioners can buy in quantity and bring with us and when those 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 began 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.

*Come One Come All to the
Fall Flea Market and Rummage
Sale*

Saturday October 26th 9 AM to 3 PM

Come join the fun at and in

St. Andrews Church in

Methuen's Historic District

90 Broadway (Route 28, Next to Nevins Home)

*Proceeds to Benefit Working Families in Methuen's
Arlington Neighborhood*

*Table Rentals Available Upon Request. Call
(978) 689-0463 for further information.*

Flea Market!

Baked Goods!

Beautiful Gift Raffles!

Homemade Pies!

Moon Walk for Kids!

B-B-Q Hot & Fresh!