



# The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church  
90 Broadway  
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(978) 689-0463

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September/October 2003 Issue

## First Communion Requirements

First Communion at Saint Andrew's Church is a full year Sunday School program meeting during the Sunday School hour. The class meets from 9:00-10:00 AM every Sunday during the school year. There is a 75% attendance requirement with a 50% church attendance requirement. Many Sundays we will go to church as a group. The students will have homework, prayer journals, and memorization of Bible passages, prayers, and other information most weeks. This program is open to all school age children from Second grade on. Your child must be baptized before the spring of next year to participate in the First Communion Service on Pentacost Sunday.

**Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and  
Classroom Aids needed  
Starting this September**

If you are interested please contact  
Valerie Carey  
At 978-682-6465

The Sunday School program is only as  
good as the people who volunteer!!

### **CONTACTING THE GRAPEVINE**

You can contact us in the following ways:

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

**Phone:** 978-689-0463 for our Parish  
Administrator Gloria Schwarz

**E-Mail:** [admin@standrewsmethuen.org](mailto:admin@standrewsmethuen.org)

### **HOME DEVOTIONS** By Betty Feugill

Home Devotions will continue to be sent to shut-ins and sick Church members.

Donations to help with expenses of mailing and yearly subscriptions are always welcome.



**Happy Birthday**

### SEPTEMBER

Elaine Morissette 9/9  
Holly Samataro 9/13

### OCTOBER

Molly Ratcliffe 10/2  
Thomas Durant 10/3  
Nancy Weisenborn 10/3  
Timothy Marsh 10/7  
Peggy Baker 10/9  
Arthur Poole 10/12  
Joshua Weisenborn 10/12  
Paul Sparta 10/15  
Richard Falk 10/18  
Alexander Cummings 10/20  
Adam Ste. Marie 10/28  
David Tomeo 10/29

### VESTRY MEETING

Because of Columbus Day, the meeting will be  
held on the third Monday, October 20th



### MAIL PAGE

### THE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

The Episcopal signs have been ordered and should arrive between October 18<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. Committee members are Paula Campbell, Karl Wunderlich, Cindy Sulesky, and Huib Walta.

Anyone interested in joining or have any ideas, please call Paula Campbell 978-794-1000.

**From the Senior Warden:**

Dear Friends of St. Andrew's,  
I want to take this opportunity to update you on a few things going on with the church.

**John's Departure**

Despite what you may have heard, the departure of John Bonell was initiated by John. He came to us as an Interim Priest and his job, by definition, was to assist us in the search for a new permanent rector. That is what he was trained to do. When it became clear that we were not ready to undergo such a search, John felt it was time to go. He is not trained in re-developing churches in decline, and his time with us was nearly up anyway. I spent a lot of time with John, and learned a lot from him. John left with my best wishes and heartfelt thanks for his work on our behalf. We both felt it had been a valuable experience. He asked us difficult questions, and made us take a hard look at where we were and where we wanted to go.

**Supply**

I hope everyone will welcome Rev. Ray Brockhill as he spends the month of October with us as supply. Please refer to the brief article elsewhere in this edition of the Grapevine for a short bio on Fr. Ray. I am still working on getting supply for November. If you need anything, or have an emergency, please don't hesitate to call me on my cell phone- 978-857-0624. Or you can reach Len at 978-686-7770. Local clergy from Andover, North Andover and Lawrence have promised to be available if we need them.

**Priest in Charge**

Many of you heard the Bishop talk about a Priest in Charge. We are in conversations with the Diocese, and they have a good picture of the kind of person we need. It may take a while to find him or her! We anticipate bringing this person in full-time. We can't afford it financially, but spiritually we can't afford not to! Although we may eventually want to hire this person as a permanent rector, it is not necessary to do so, and leaves us some flexibility as we step into the future.

**Pledge Drive**

The Pledge Drive will begin this month. Pledge cards should be mailed around the 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a critical year for St. Andrew's, and your pledge will be extremely important. To continue as we have been means certain death. Slowly, but surely. We need to support a full time priest if we are to be reborn as a growing and meaningful church. While occasional giving, or using envelopes is nice, it does not allow us to budget for that income. We need a formal pledge to create a budget for next year. Expect a call from a Vestry member, encouraging your pledge, and updating our membership database.

**Sunday Night Worship/Study**

The second installment of our discussions is elsewhere in this issue. Please take the time to read it. This is a record of our discussions, and has been shared with the Diocese as a kind of "parish profile" to assist in finding a Priest in Charge. We have now finished our discernment process, and the last installment will be in the next issue of the Grapevine. I want to thank those that participated in the process. It took us four months, but it was time well spent! Once the new priest is here, we will regroup to begin a strategic planning process for a new identity and purpose. Again, everyone will be invited to participate!

If you have any questions, please call me! My home number is 978-686-6824.

Peace, Laura

**The Merrimack Valley Deanery will be having its meeting at St. Andrew's Church**

on January 14, 2004. It's a Wednesday, and these run from about 5 or 6pm to 9 or 10pm, depending on the amount of business needed to be done, and OUR CHOICE of time to arrive. There are roughly 20-30 people at the regular meetings. What St. Andrew's commitment is:

? A well-plowed parking lot and shoveled/sanded walkways for safety (remember it's on a Wednesday evening in the middle of winter!)

? A light supper (idea: salad, bread, spaghetti with meatballs?) and shoppers, cooks, set up and clean up people.

You don't have to stay for the meeting, but you are VERY welcome to join. At each church that I have visited in the past few years for these Deanery meetings, about 50% of the Parish workers tend to stay and listen or ask questions or add comments. Please call me at 978-686-0840 and let me know which job you want! Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Sulesky, Deanery Representative

**Dear Friends and Supporters of Neighbors in Need**

For those of you that have not heard, Rejeanne Keely, founder of Neighbors in Need and Executive Director for the past 20 years, has decided to retire. Her last day in the office will be October 17<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Rejeanne has worked tirelessly and selflessly for the agency during this time and surely deserves a place in heaven for her many contributions to the needy citizens of Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, and North Andover. As the new Executive Director, I would like to thank Rejeanne for her outstanding ministry and for making it possible for me to follow in her footsteps. She is a wonderful person and a great asset to the community.

To say that I am in the awe of what has been accomplished here would be a gross understatement of the facts. I am working hard now just to absorb the key elements of this ministry. The job is huge and I will need your continuing support and assistance in order to continue to serve those that rely on us for help.

So, as we approach this transition period—and as we move forward into a new phase in the life and ministry of Neighbors in Need—allow me to humbly thank you for all the support you have given in the past—and to pray as well for your on-going help in the future. Please remember that your support is what sustains us and your support is what permits us to continue this ministry month after month and year after year. Thank you again.

Yours very truly,

Bill Anderson

7,819 LBS of Food taken in

17,670 LBS of Food given out

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Lawrence Reads promotes literacy among 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the city of Lawrence. We hope to recruit seniors aged 55 and above to work with the students two days a week after school. We would appreciate if you could announce this volunteer opportunity to your congregation and post the brochure in a visible area. Thank you for your cooperation in our effort to increase literacy in our community.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at the Merrimack Valley Community Service Corps by referring to the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Rodriguez and Ralecia Hamm  
Guy F. Kelley, Jr. Director  
Merrimack Valley Community Service Corps  
264 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA 01840  
978-686-9407

Sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**MEMORIAL FUND**

**Thomas N. MacKinnon  
Lucille Perrault  
Virginia Willett  
Ethel G. Dixon  
Linda S. Kennedy**

**ORGAN MEMORIAL FUND**

**Margaret Hassey  
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Ellen Roman  
John Simpson  
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**MUSIC MEMORIAL FUND**

**Linda S. Kennedy**

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

“The Bishops are asking congregations to send three additional leaders to the Diocesan Convention this year. The Bishops urge you to send persons who are leaders of vital ministries in your congregations. These persons will participate fully in workshops and discussions which will focus on our new Mission Goals, with emphasis on evangelism and stewardship, and provide practical tools to assist parish leaders in the development and implementation of these goals across the diocese.”

The above invitation is for anyone here at St. Andrews to join Cindy Sulesky and Chris Carey at the Convention this year, Friday around noon on Nov. 7 through Nov. 8, ending around 4pm, at the Park Plaza Hotel, Arlington St., Boston. Please **CALL CINDY** for reservations at (H) 978-686-0840 or (W) 978-682-8055 X24 or email ;

**CrossCurrents@neumc.org** Monday through Friday.

**Sunday Night Worship and Discernment  
Can Our Church Live?**

The Sunday Night Worship/Study Group continued to meet through the summer. The following is a summarized continuation of our discussions:

**July 13 cont.**

We sent this survey out in the Grapevine and received four responses. The group rated ourselves as a church on a scale of 1 (this doesn't describe us at all) to 6 (this describes us very well) according to the following “Characteristics of Growing Churches.”

**1. A clear and positive identity 1` 2**

The church conveys, in word and deed, a message that is truly “good news”. We are known and respected in our community for our genuine strengths.

We have an historic building

**2. Consistent focus on people who are not members**

**2 3**

While meeting members' needs, the church searches for ways to share faith within a changing world; to communicate with people not now active in our ministry; and to address real needs in our community through social action or social service. Both our pastor and our lay opinion leaders are outreach-oriented.

There is some individual focus, but no institutional commitment

**3. Congregational harmony 1` 2 3**

The way people interact with each other in this church lends credibility to our preaching and teaching. When differences arise, we address each other with openness and respect. We celebrate our shared life in many ways, and we are strong enough to face up to our failings as a community from time to time.

There are many cliques; some feel isolated from the most involved; Often the most involved are also the ones in dis-harmony!

**4. A positive dynamic between pastor and congregation**

**1 2**

*Our pastor brings real strengths to this church, and these are well-received by our congregation. We work to be clear and realistic about what we expect of each other. The relationship between pastor and congregation tends to foster trust and generate enthusiasm for ministry.*

There is no recent evidence of such- do we know how? We need someone to PARTNER with us.

**5. Small-group programming 2 3**

*We often form new small groups of different kinds, where people can know each other personally and relate their faith to daily life. We give special attention to the way such groups are formed, nurtured, and ended. We look for ways to involve in most of these groups people who are not currently members.*

There are some individually initiated programs, but no outreach to involve others.

**July 20**

We discussed some of the weaknesses that undermine the redevelopment effort. Although the Sunday School program is a great strength, we see a lack of commitment on both a personal level and to the church's future. There is a question as to what motivates people to attend. It seems there is a lack of faith, of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We see parents

dropping the kids off to Sunday School, but not modeling attendance to church as a norm. We see parents that won't bring the kids to church after Confirmation. Kids aren't getting the exposure to church that forms good habits and personal relationships with God. Many parents only attend while Sunday School is in session. There is also a question of control- Who's church is it anyway? We need to ask the question more often.

Finishing Chapter 2, we learned that for many congregations in severe decline, un-addressed grief and depression rank high among the forces that block creative ministry. It is hard to relinquish an era of community and church vitality, a tight-knit circle of friends, or a beloved spiritual leader. The signs of this depression include:

- Leaders taking undue responsibility to "keep the doors open" or "make people happy"
- Denial of the changed circumstances
- An attitude of grim endurance
- Seeking energy and unity through opposition to change

But how to exorcise these behaviors? The suggested solution is a powerful ritual to mark and mourn the many losses people have experienced. We discussed the questions for the evening:

**a. Among longer-tenured members of your congregation, what losses are still being mourned?**

Loss of full time leadership and spiritual energy; loss of Fr Argyle and Fr Phelps; loss of social groups, lost sense of "belonging" to something active;

**b. In what disguised forms does the grief express itself: stoic endurance, anger, depression, hopelessness, neglect of property, obsessive care of property, difficulty passing the mantle?**

We hold tightly to the past- memorials, flowers, envelope donations, etc. We are obsessive about keeping things the way they have always been; many are stoic and publicly resent the responsibilities they have taken on and the lack of help or appreciation.

**c. How might the losses be marked and mourned more overtly?**

Today's church is nothing related to the church formed in 1904, or the one that created St. Andrew's in the 40's. Regardless of how we move on in the future, we need to recognize the "death" of the old church before we can celebrate the birth of the new church we want to become. A funeral of sorts, with a eulogy and readings.

**d. What trusted figures have the spiritual authority to "pronounce" the death of a past era, and so enable the expression of grief?**

Not many. Maybe Fr Phelps would come down. Maybe Len Brown? Not the Bishop.

**July 27**

If congregations are born from a spark of creative interaction between faith and context, can that spark be rekindled? As we started Chapter 3, we looked at the characteristics of self-renewing systems:

- Exchange information freely to counteract entropy
- Change constantly
- Maintain a discernable consistent identity
- Show remarkable resilience
- Allow component parts a great deal of autonomy

Self-renewing systems stay radically open to new information and change their shape constantly in order to remain what they are.

To self-renew, we need to follow five disciplines:

Start learning together about the congregation and its environment

- 1) Let failing structures and styles collapse
- 2) Retell the congregation's faith story relentlessly until its essence becomes clear
- 3) Embrace risks, mistakes, disagreements and even disasters as opportunities to trust God and exercise your faith
- 4) Accept the fact that your congregation may die no matter what you do.

**1. What is your reaction to the five disciplines of self-renewing systems?**

Sound good but will be hard to implement

**2. Which one does your church do best?**

We do show resilience and make mistakes, or disagree. We are survivors. We try to communicate, but often only look inward and not outward.

**3. Which are most difficult for your congregation?**

We do not change constantly and find it hard to let failing things die. In fact, we are more likely to let the changes die. We do not have an identity or faith story

In early years, we were radically open to external information. The energy and direction of the environment affects the energy of the church.

**4. When your congregation was founded, would you say that it was "flowing with" or "fighting" the religious and social context? How?**

The working class was not accepted by Grace Church in Lawrence. We were with it- acknowledging the need to absorb the mill workers and providing Anglican worship for immigrants and their families. We provided the social outlet needed by children and adults.

When St. Andrew's was founded we were recognizing the need to unite All Saints with St. John's to get out of decline and move forward.

**5. What was true in the "glory days?"**

We flowed with the social context- people wanted and needed a place for worship and a social life

**6. What is happening today?**

Today there is no connection with context → no energy. The core needs a spiritual spark, meaning and purpose, inspiration.

**Aug 3**

Continuing in Chapter 3, we discussed Congregational Resources (people, money, energy) and Tolerance for Change. Resources start low, build at first, peak and then decline over time. Tolerance for change is almost exactly opposite- it starts high in the beginning, reaches an all-time low as the church achieves success, stays low for awhile, but starts to increase as people become tired of the decline. If you can imagine these two lines on the same graph, they cross over on the lower right side. Where they cross is called a crisis point. One road leads up- We called it Redevelopment Avenue. The other road goes down- we called it Death Row. We believe we are at a Crisis Point, where we expect a new pastor to "help the church grow" but "don't change anything and keep everyone happy." This creates both energy and conflict.

The symptoms of a crisis point include (St. Andrew's is currently exhibiting the bold ones):

- **Increased emotional tension**
- **One lay leader burdened by "save us"**
- Clergy becomes defensive
- Pastor resents new expectations
- Leaders are confused- sides form
- **Outside help is both desired and feared**

Some feelings expressed were: "I'm glad to know it's not MY fault- other churches are here too"; "It would be easy to stay here, but we can't- we must get better"; "I still have hope" and "We need commitment."

**1. Have you experienced one or more crisis points, where declining resources and expanding tolerance for change meet?**  
Yes.

**2. When and how? What precipitated it?**

When St. Andrew's was formed from the merger of two churches in decline; and now as we are about to ask for a priest in charge. Some people just aren't willing to keep going the way it's been for the past ten to fifteen years. We can no longer tolerate the decline and it's impact on the life of the church. We believe we need a rector who has a tenacious vision for the future but also skills in conflict management and pastoral care. We also believe s/he should speak Spanish- regardless of whether we expect the congregation to speak it, it will be an important part of the church's ministry.

### Aug 10

We finished Chapter 3 with a discussion of renewed identity and purpose. We thought again about the basic three questions we SHOULD be able to answer:

Who are we at a faith level?

What are we here for?

Who is our neighbor?

Alice Mann recommends obtaining outside help with the process of redevelopment. She suggests that refusing to seek outside help may be a pattern from the past that has gotten us into deep trouble before.

We then examined our Strengths and Weaknesses. The most crucial strengths are supposed to be the faith themes at the heart of our congregation's life. There are five typical faith stories:

1. Journey stories of ethnic-cultural congregations
2. Crisis stories of churches that struggle for survival
3. Rooted stories with a place for spiritual growth
4. Service stories of caring for people
5. Mission stories of vision for a better world.

**1. When you think about the overall shape of your congregation's history and ethos, which of the five story types fits your church best?**

It seemed that All Saints may have had a Cultural origin, in that the members were segregated from worshiping with the mill owners at Grace. Then All Saints and St. John's probably shared a Crisis story. St. Andrew's still seems stuck in a Crisis mode, and although we do have a history of caring for each other, we don't really provide any service to the community.

**2. How does that underlying narrative affect your church's thinking about redevelopment possibilities?**

It is our hope that we will become a Rooted story- a place for spiritual growth and focus on youth.

### 3. Take a moment to list some of your congregation's strengths:

#### a) **Central faith themes**

The Eucharist is central to our faith. We see a history of Nurturing and Forming Youth: Sunday School with a weak infrastructure (How long will we have Val?); Acolytes, First Communion and Confirmation preparation; Strong core of believers.

#### b) **Current competencies**

We have a strong Sunday School, a successful Friday Night dance program for developmentally delayed teens and adults, and a strong intergenerational level of honesty.

#### c) **Spiritual, material and human resources**

Len is our pastor. Laura, Trudi, Beth, Val all take on significant responsibilities. We have an historic building and organ, and plenty of land. Our funds are limited but have potential for use.

#### d) **Emerging or potential competencies (may grow from facing a weakness)**

A music program would have support if we could find and afford an organist. The Community Kindergarten has potential. The Vestry knows the talk- how things should/could be. We do have a small but growing involvement with the Arlington Neighborhood- a food pantry, after school activities for kids.

To identify Opportunities and Challenges, we were asked to:

#### **Define your Community:**

Not sure- include Salem and Dracut? Just Methuen? Just downtown/Arlington neighborhood? Maybe halfway between St. A's and the nearest Episcopal churches? Anchors would include the Music Hall, the Library, the Searle's Building, the Loop and the schools.

#### **Identify the People:**

St. Andrew's is mostly "old" Episcopalians, white, middle class, female, with a gap in the 45-60 age group. On a town level, there are three concentric half circles set on the Lawrence border. In the center are Hispanic, poor. Around them is the working class and the elderly- a move-up location for those that have succeeded in leaving Lawrence. Often ethnic or "old" Methuenites that grew up here or raised families here. Around them are the newcomers- more professionals, more money, bigger homes, more expensive lifestyles.

#### **Find the Invisible People:**

This group is more visible in Lawrence, where all the social services are located. But there are poor, immigrants, single mothers, uneducated, limited English speakers. There is also a growing Hispanic, Muslim, and African population.

#### **Analyze the Intangible Forces:**

Methuen has a history as a "move-up" community for the children of Lawrence immigrants. It still is seen as the "next step" by many immigrant families. It's predominantly a bedroom community- not much in the way of industry or commerce. There is an active Senior Center. Most people work. Sports are very active on Sundays. There are multiple alternatives for social interaction that don't involve church.

**Listen to your Community:**

Should talk to teenagers, neighbors, other churches, new people in town, the “un-churched”, young parents, economic development/town council.

We talked about getting a demographic profile of Methuen that would provide a snapshot of our community. The Diocese is ready to fiancé this for all the churches, so we’ll get on the top of the list for January. Part of the report details Lifestyle Segments and their expectations of a church. We’ll review this material when it’s available.

- 4. **What is our enduring faith task, and what fresh form could it take today?**
- 5. **What do we wish to be known for in our community?**
- 6. **To what size are we called to aspire now?**
- 7. **What is the quality of life we seek within the congregation?**
- 8. **What guiding story or image crystallizes our vocation?**

We found it difficult to answer these questions. We feel that we need more information, guidance, study, and discussion.

**THOUGHTS & VISIONS FOR ST. ANDREWS**

By James Beagan

Autumn is often a time for hibernating. After the initial burst of activity of getting settled in school, the colder weather and shorter days tell us it is time to start getting ready for winter.

Although the bare trees and dying plants make us think of a time of shutting down, any gardener knows that one must do some work now to prepare for the regeneration of spring.

So must Saint Andrew’s be active and planning. Bishop Cederholm visited in early October to help us focus on how to do that. The adult education meetings have been working on discerning what we want to become in the future. You will soon receive the pledge materials for the coming year; we are looking for returns by Thanksgiving, so we can plan our budget for 2004. As always, we appreciate your monetary gifts, and also encourage you to donate your time and talents to the activities and missions of the church. Share with each other and with the vestry your thoughts on your vision for Saint Andrews. Your involvement in all areas of the parish life will make us all conscious of what we have to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

**THE FUTURE OF ST.ANDREW’S** By Paula Campbell

I grew up in St. Andrew’s and I remember all the love and laughter that St. Andrew’s held. The pews were full and the church was full of life. Looking around on Sunday, Fr. John’s last day, I wondered were it all had gone. The pews were empty, we had no music, and a reception for the minister was planned five days prior in a supermarket. The church has gone through many part time minister’s leaving vestry members and parishioners to run the parish. The vestry of St. Andrew’s wants to hire a full time priest in charge hoping that person can bring back the life that has gone out of our parish. I being a vestry member for many years and knowing how the people of St. Andrew’s work wonder if they can give up their leadership and take the direction the new priest in charge wants us to follow. Change is very hard, but it is vital for the survival of St. Andrew’s that we take the direction that we are given.

**OPEN VESTRY SEAT**

**THERE REMAINS ONE 3 YEAR VESTRY SEAT  
IF YOU OR ANYONE WOULD LIKE MORE  
INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
LAURA RUIZDELUZURIAGA  
AT 978-686-682**

Submitted by Cindy Sulesky

Traveling YO! Show makes its way around Merrimack Valley. Forty teens and 10 adults from six churches in the Merrimack Valley Deanery gathered on March 22 at Trinity Church in Haverhill for a deanery youth day and dance. Participating with Trinity Church were St. James’s Church in Amesbury, St. James’s Church in Groveland, St. Paul’s Church in Newburyport, St. Andrew’s Church in Methuen and All Saints’ Church in Chelmsford. All the activities were planned and run by the youth and included Bible discussion, a church scavenger hunt, a youth-led service of Eucharist, dinner and a dance.

The program was such a success that more deanery youth events are being organized under the name of the Traveling YO! Show, or TYS (named by Cynthia Sulesky of St. Andrews) after Trinity Church’s Youth Organization. In April, St. Andrew’s Church in Methuen sponsored a pizza planning party. In June, St. Paul’s Church in Newburyport hosted a cook-out. During the summer, the TYS held two car washes in Plaistow to collect funds for the Episcopal Relief Fund. The Merrimack Valley youth are considering a retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center and other joint activities devoted to fellowship, fun and service.

“The adults of the deanery are so impressed with our young people. The energy and spirit they produce together is inspirational,” reports adult leader Maureen Dadekian Eckel of Trinity Church in Haverhill.

**BUILDING COMMITTEE** By Jim Carey

A meeting was held 9/22/03 and several areas of concern was addressed. It was decided to search for three contractors to bid on the handicap bathroom and to look at costs to re-panel and re-paint the Gym walls.

Fall grounds clean up will be held November 1, 2003 at 8:00 am to completion. Coffee will be supplied. Volunteers are needed to help make the workload quicker and easier. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Gym.

The rider mower and snow blower is in dire need of repair, and will be picked up 9/31/03 for refurbishing.

# Vestry

Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga, Senior Warden 978-857-0624  
[srwarden@StAndrewsMethuen.org](mailto:srwarden@StAndrewsMethuen.org)

*Please do not hesitate to call Laura at any time at the above number, especially with pastoral emergencies. Be sure to inform her if you or anyone you know in the parish is ill and/or in the hospital.*

Gloria Schwarz, Parish Administrator 978-689-0463  
[admin@standrewsmethuen.org](mailto:admin@standrewsmethuen.org)  
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## St. Andrew's Church 2003 Goals

GOAL	COMMITTEE	CHAIR LIAISON
<b>GOAL #1: An inviting and nurturing environment that supports the spiritual health and development of members and attracts new members to the parish. (Inviting and Forming)</b>	Building & Grounds  Membership & Fellowship  Worship  Communication  Pastoral Care	Dan Sulesky & Jim Carey  Jim Wagner  Beth Regan & Chris Maynard  Paula Campbell  Len Brown & Jim Beagan
GOAL #2: A variety of activities that involve and serve youth (Forming)	Education  Worship  Membership & Fellowship  Also related to Goal #3	Linda Pacheco  Beth Regan &  Jim Wagner
GOAL #3: A music ministry that involves members and invites guests (Inviting)	Worship  (also Music) Also related to Goal #2	Beth Regan &  (Trudi Driscoll & Elaine Morrissette)
GOAL #4: St. Andrew's is an important element in the life of our community (Serving)	Community Service  Pastoral Care  Membership & Fellowship  Communication	Open (Peggy Baker)  Len Brown & Jim Beagan  Jim Wagner  Paula Campbell
GOAL #5: Keep St. Andrew's operating and in sound condition, managing its financial situation/needs	Stewardship  Finance & Budget  Buildings & Grounds	Jim Beagan  Richard Falk & Jim Elliot  Dan Sulesky & Jim Carey
2003 Beth Regan Jim Elliot Jim Carey	2004 Linda Pacheco Dan Sulesky	2005 Jim Beagan Jim Wagner

## **THE EPISCOPAL GENERAL CONVENTION**

Submitted by Cindy Sulesky

The Episcopal General Convention meets every 3 years to discuss and vote on many issues that come up in the course of developing our best responses to God's call. This year, the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church was held for 10 days in Minneapolis, Minnesota, beginning on July 29. Although overshadowed by the controversial ratification of New Hampshire's Bishop-elect, Gene Robinson, the General Convention made many other decisions and changes. Here are a few of those:

**Convention Makes Important Decisions on Ministry and Other Issues** by Richelle Thompson

Beyond issues of sexuality, the deputies and bishops at the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention made significant decisions that will affect ministry, administration, social justice, and outreach programs.

Based on the idea that ministry is grounded in the baptismal covenant, the House of Bishops and House of Deputies passed a series of changes to Title III canons, which govern lay and ordained ministry. The Standing Commission on Ministry Development (SCMD) offered more sweeping changes in its original motion, including the direct ordination of priests. But the elimination of the transitional diaconate was struck down in earlier debate.

The bishops supported 12 amendments designed to streamline discernment, candidacy, and ordination as well as to promote the importance of ministry and formation of all baptized members. Deputies later voted overwhelmingly to concur.

The revised Title III also expands the discrimination clause, dictating that "no person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry." The measure creates a single canon for ordination to the priesthood. While what had been known as "Canon Nine" priesthood was eliminated, in the House of Deputies, Ministry Committee Chair Canon Anne Robbins of Southern Ohio emphasized that "there was no attempt to get rid of locally ordained people." Under the new Canon Eight, she said, there remains flexibility for both locally formed and seminary-trained priests.

Other canonical changes include the clarification that all members of this church who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year are considered communicants. Those communicants 16 and older are considered "adult communicants."

In response to an effort in the House of Deputies to recommit the Title III changes back to committee for more review, Nigel Renton of California urged approval. "This resolution has been worked on for many months very carefully by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development. It has been further adjusted and improved through the wonderful committee work," he said. "If we don't pass it just because 5 percent is not right, that will be a mistake. We will have three years to work with it, and if there are minor glitches we can correct them at the next convention."

### **Social issues**

The national church will continue dialogue on racism, with the convention reaffirming its commitment to eradicating the sin of racism. The measure also requires the completion of anti-racism training within a year for all people seeking election of appointment to several standing commissions, other committees of Executive Council, related boards, and auxiliary organizations. Other legislation calls for the development of a

program to combat racial profiling and to push for the repeal of mandatory federal sentencing guidelines.

A measure to continue dialogue on the ordination of women failed. The original resolution requested \$50,000 to conduct a national conversation on women's ordination focusing on a report by the Task Force on Women's Ordination, which visited the three dioceses of the Episcopal Church whose bishops do not ordain women -- Fort Worth, San Joaquin and Quincy. A watered-down resolution gave thanks "for the work of the Holy Spirit within our communion through the life-giving ministry of ordained women."

### **Scientific concerns**

The convention grappled with the ethics of the emerging science of genetics. They commended the study, "A Christian Response to the New Genetics," and called upon provinces and dioceses to encourage local education and discussion of biomedical ethics. The convention also acknowledged the potential benefits of genetic testing while affirming that it is not morally acceptable to engage in reproductive cloning.

### **Ecumenical matters**

The convention authorized continuing dialogue with the Moravian Church in America, which could lead to full communion. It also called for continued and strengthened dialogue between Christians and Muslims. The Standing Commission on Ecumenical Relations is to study and present the Reuilly Accord of 1998 signed by the French Reformed Church, the French Lutheran Church, and the Church of England and report back to the 75th General Convention in 2006.

Both houses agreed to encourage members of the church to develop a personal discipline of daily prayer and study, weekly corporate prayer and the habit of tithing. The convention also passed a measure urging congregations to adopt a method of 50/50 sharing - that half of their time and money be directed outside of the congregation.

### **Ad campaign approved**

In communications, the convention approved the launch of a \$1.5 million national ad campaign. It also directed the national Church Center to prepare materials in other languages, including Spanish and French, and to provide closed captioning for the deaf.

The deputies and bishops approved the selection of Columbus, Ohio, for the gathering in 2006 of the 75th General Convention.

## **CANCELLATION**

October 26, 2003 Diocesan Acolyte Festival CANCELLED

Postponed date Sunday, March 7, 2004, at 4:00 pm.

Stay tuned for more information after the New Year

## **THE FALL DELEGATES MEETING**

Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 396 Main Street, North Andover.

**“AN IDEA TO START ADVENT”** By Cindy Sulesky  
Let’s plan a pageant or something sooner than the 1<sup>st</sup> week in Advent.....

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS RESOURCE FAIR -  
OCTOBER 18, 2003**

For anyone who works in religious education. This workshop will review new materials for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Reviews will include studies, devotionals materials, intergenerational celebrations, pageants, advent calendars, crèches and any other materials used during these church seasons. If possible please e-mail one week in advance, or bring a one-to two paragraph idea that has worked in your church around Advent and Christmas to share with the group.

**LOCATION:**

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Main Offices  
138 Tremont Street,  
Boston, MA 02111-1318, Tel. # 617-482-4826

**“ANOTHER INTERIM PASTOR MOVES ON”**

By Jim Elliott

At the September 8<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting our Interim Pastor, Reverend John Bonell, expressed his desire to terminate his contract with St. Andrew’s Church, effective September 30, 2003. John explained to the Vestry that he believed that in his role as Interim Pastor he could give no further guidance beyond that which he has already given to the Vestry to aid them in their search for a new Rector and for inspiring the revitalization of St. Andrews. After a lengthy discussion the Vestry accepted his resignation. Given that the Interim Pastor’s position is part time John has done an exceptional job in carrying out the ministry of St. Andre’s Church and providing guidance and direction to its Vestry.

John’s last Morning Prayer Service was at 9:30 am on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>. If you were present you noticed that there was no Choir to sing the Hymns, no Organist to play the music, and no Publicity in the Sunday Bulletin indicating John’s departure. This is certainly the outward sign of the decline of St. Andrew’s and dynamics that John (and the Vestry) had to deal with week to week. To make this situation even worse we forgot our manners by not thanking John publicly during the announcements for his service to St. Andrew’s Parish over the last 18 months.

Reverend John’s Sermon reflected on the Readings for this Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Readings were from Numbers 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 4: 7-12, (13-5:6); Mark 9:38-43, 45-47-48:

A coarse interpretation of what was read and touched on by John might be summed up as follows: Those that blame, undermine, say bad things, boycott and judge the efforts and good work of others to satisfy their own selfish wants are committing sin (and contributing greatly to the demise of St. Andrew’s Church). Some individuals, cliques and/or groups get so hung-up in this turmoil that it recycles and perpetuates for years creating an environment that no one wishes to deal with. Therefore, parishioners move on to other churches and the clergy, in many cases, is wrongfully blamed for doing a bad job.

After the service members of the congregation met with John and his wife Nancy in the Parish Hall for coffee and pastry and to say goodbye.

**BULLETIN BLOOPERS FROM  
“CHURCH SECRETARY TODAY”**

The following are actual bloopers taken from church publications.

*In conjunction with a generous member, the [Board] acquired an electric chair for use by anyone who would benefit . . . It is our hope that it will assist individuals and create for them a more comfortable worship experience.*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Senior Citizens group meeting:  
Chicken and dumpings with all the trimmings!*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Saturday: Bridal Kitchen and Panty Party at 2 pm.*

**VOLUNTEERS**

It seems as though the list of requests for volunteers is steadily growing. As with all organizations volunteers are extremely important to help keep the many projects running smoothly. So again we ask for help for the following projects:

- Sunday Coffee Hour (Bulletin Board in Gym)
- Donations for our food pantry (Len Brown)
- Altar Guild members (Elaine Morissette)
- Vestry members (Laura RuizdeLu zuriaga)
- Paint crew for the Gym (Jim Carey)
- Teachers for Sunday School Classes (Valerie Carey)
- Fall grounds clean up (Jim Carey)

Should any of the above requests for help is of interest to you please speak with the above listed members.



**HAVE A SAFE  
AND  
HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN**