



January 2004 Issue

The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

90 Broadway

Methuen, MA 01844

(978) 689-0463

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**STATE OF THE PARISH MEETING
& POT LUCK LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 29th
AFTER THE 9:30 SERVICE**

**ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 14th AFTER THE 9:30 SERVICE**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO
ATTEND BOTH MEETINGS**

FROM THE SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDEN

A letter from your Wardens

Dear members and friends of St. Andrew's;

First, let us wish you all a very Happy New Year. We care deeply about each of you, and over the years, have enjoyed being a part of the family that is St. Andrew's. We wish you only the best. We hope 2004 brings you health, happiness and prosperity.

The Vestry has decided that the Annual Meeting will be held after the 9:30 service on March 14th. As usual, we will be holding elections for Officers and Vestry leadership.

As we learned during the 4 month discernment process over the summer and fall, St. Andrew's in a deep decline from the past, and has lost it's sense of identity and purpose. This is no one's fault; it is simply the normal cycle of any living organism. We are born, we grow, we produce, we age and we die. And so it is with our church. As Christ taught us, it is only through death that we can be re-born. There is hope in death.

It has been a difficult journey over the past three to four years. While the responsibilities of warden-ship have been daunting, it has also been a time of learning and spiritual growth. We feel we have been responsive to the needs of the church and its members, and have done all that we are able.

So it is that, after extensive prayer and self-evaluation, we have determined that we will not be running for Wardens this year. We want to share this in advance of the meeting, so that you can identify our replacements.

Our thanks to the Vestry and membership for their support. Many members have participated in a variety of activities, exercises, and discussions that have helped us move forward spiritually, and opened our minds to new possibilities. We are currently working with the Vestry to assemble information regarding the options that face St. Andrew's, and will share that information with you at the State of the Parish Meeting on February 29th. We do not know what the future holds, and what path St. Andrew's will take, but we wish each of you God's love and peace.

Please make it a point to attend the the State of the Parish Meeting on February 29th and the Annual Meeting on March 14th.

God bless,
Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga Walta, Sr. Warden
Len Brown, Jr. Warden

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

Happy Birthday

JANUARY



| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Bethanie Storie | 1/8 |
| Emily Samataro | 1/10 |
| David Marsh | 1/11 |
| Kristofer Wunderlich | 1/12 |
| Trudi Driscoll | 1/13 |
| Shalane Regan | 1/16 |
| Victoria Briggs | 1/17 |
| Elizabeth Boulier | 1/18 |
| Mary Durant | 1/23 |
| Jonathan Barbin | 1/29 |

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and
Classroom Aids needed

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!!

ST. ANDREW'S BITS & PEICES

PLEDGE REMINDER By Jim Elliot

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS, THEY ARE
CRITICAL FOR OUR CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2004.
IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A FORM, EXTRAS ARE
IN THE UPSTAIRS PARLOR OR YOU CAN ASK A
VESTRY MEMBER OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE
AT 978-689-0463.

WHERE ARE "WE ALL" HEADED???

By Dave Marsh

During the past few years I have sadly watched St. Andrew's slowly go down hill. It is not at the bottom yet but it is very close. The numbers are dwindling and some things thought to be happening are non-existent, however, a variety of problems have contributed to our troubles. Some pulled their pledge because they didn't like the minister. Some do not regularly attend church because they would rather fish or play golf, and some just choose not to go. Others say the old timers won't let

us do anything. The old say we have done it all these years and we don't want to do it any more.

What ever your excuse, we all have contributed in some small way to the problems. The excuses being used are, at most, just a ploy to take the blame off ourselves, something we all don't want to believe. Unless we all work together this church will close. Yes, for a church to survive and grow it needs active members and pledges. Yes, we all need to attend and support our church, but the bottom line is we all have to work hard to revive St. Andrew's and make it what it use to be. It's not just the minister, the old, the young; it's all of us, and the key words WE ALL can be the solution to revitalization.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For the Church: For Frank Griswald, our Presiding Bishop; Tom Shaw, our Diocesan Bishop; Bud Cedarholm and Gayle Harris, our Bishops Suffragan. For those of this parish, especially Jim Wagner, recovering from Heart Surgery; Helen Walther, recovering from a broken arm; Joann Moran; Arthur Poole; Agnes Gourdeau; Pickles Hargreaves. Noreen Roy, friend of Blanche & Lloyd Campbell; Lawrence Barnes, husband of Peggy Barnes; Laurie D'Addario, Betty Mac Kay's daughter; Anne Edwards, friend of Linda Pacheco; Niall Fleming, long-time member of Saint Andrew's; James Johnson, Dot & Tom's son; Jean McGurn, Tom Johnson's cousin; Paul McGuire, Ruth McGuire's father-in-law; Adolph Medelinskas, Carol Elliott's father; Al Willmore, Deb Wunderlich's father; Ted Clark, friend of the Falk family; Trudi & George Driscoll's daughter-in-law, Tracie Driscoll; John Hargreaves, Pickles Hargreaves' brother; Kylie McGurn, Susan Foster's cousin; Elizabeth Potter, Mary Marsh's brother Vincent Murphy; Aidan Yap, Great Nephew of Gloria Schwarz; Erin Feugill, Granddaughter of Betty Feugill; Sally Nangeroni, sister of Martha Briggs; Donna Gail DeSousa, daughter of Claire & Dick Fraser; Emma MacKinnon, sister-in-law of Mary I. Dodson; Neil Southwick, facing major surgery, son-in-law of Harriett Hebsch.

Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is an opportunity for companionship on one's spiritual journey. It is a time of exploring/learning how to discern and respond more fully to God's presence in one's life. Meeting with a director/companion is time when one can explore the movement of God in one's prayer, as well as finding support for different spiritual practices/disciplines.

Director and directee meet at a mutually agreed upon time in a one-to-one setting for approximately 45 minutes once a month. Spiritual direction is not crisis/counseling centered but spiritual growth centered. It is a resource for those desirous of deepening their awareness and relationship to God.

The Rev. Linda Ricketts, Associate at Christ Church, Andover and Spiritual Director is offering spiritual direction to those who are interested. Appointments will be held at Grace Church, Lawrence. This service is offered for free.

I will be at Grace Church on Wednesday, January 28 from 9:30 – 2:00. If you are interested in spiritual direction, please give me a call. 978-475-0529 ext. 18. (If you are interested in direction but Wednesdays are not convenient, or you would like more information, please contact me).

Blessings, The Rev. Linda Ricketts

*If you are submitting a name to be put on our prayer list, please include along with the name of the individual, the relation to you or parish family and your name.
Thank you*

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 Parish Hall)
- Donations for our food pantry (Len Brown)
- Altar Guild members (Elaine Morissette)
- Vestry members (Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga)
- Paint crew for the Parish Hall (Jim Carey)
- Teachers for Sunday School Classes (Valerie Carey)

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

ELEVATOR LIFT

Should you find it difficult to climb the stairs to the sanctuary or Parish Hall, the elevator/lift is available for your convenience. Please contact an usher or member of the vestry and they will assist you.

Welcome News!

The Acolytes of St. Andrew's are proud to announce the "raising up" of trainees Nathan Carey, Amy Kelley, Rebecca Kwakye and James Sulesky to Junior Acolyte status. They are also glad to welcome back Elizabeth Boulter to their ranks, who will be raised from Junior to Senior Acolyte status. The ceremony will be held during the 9:30 Sunday service on February 29. Please show your support of this wonderful service program by your attendance that day. With Christopher Carey, Ryan Carey, Sarah Regan and Bethany Storie, this brings our total acolyte number to 9!

The Acolytes also extend a warm invitation to youth members of the church to join them in this ministry to St. Andrew's. You must be at least 10 years old, able to negotiate the stairs, and handle medium-heavy objects. Your acceptance also depends on your personal maturity, which will be determined between your parents, your Sunday School teacher, the Director of Christian Education and the Acolyte Director.

The Acolytes will also be taking part in the Diocesan Acolyte Festival on March 7 at 4PM. Parents, siblings and friends of the Acolytes are warmly welcome to join us at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Note: Arrive early – there are at least 500 Acolytes from all over the Diocese of Massachusetts who take part in this event, in addition to their families and visitors! We will plan to carpool, so if you are interested in driving or in coming but NOT driving, please contact Acolyte Director Cynthia Sulesky before March 1 in person, or call 978-689-0463 to leave a message or email TheHappyEpiscopalian@yahoo.org any time.

NOTARY

Our Parish Administrator is a Notary and is offering her services free to Church members.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Signatures are to be signed in front of Notary.
- Picture identification and witness required.

Office hours are

Monday through Friday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

- Please call in advance

IN MEMORY OF:

ORGAN MEMORIAL FUND

Priscella L. Aro
Theresa Lane
Armand F. Morisette

BUILDING PRESERVATION
MEMORIAL FUND

Warreb W. Howlett
Morda (Mickey) Kelley
Armand F. Morisette
Laura (Feugill) Smith
Frank J. Worthy, Jr.

ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Canned Tuna Peanut Butter, Jelly Pasta
Spaghetti Sauce Canned Vegetables Boxed Cereal
Canned Fruit \$ Money \$ (to purchase perishables)

Vestry

Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga, Senior Warden 978-857-0624
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

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Leonard Brown, Junior Warden 978-686-7770
Richard Falk, Treasurer 978-794-0704
Paula Campbell, Clerk of the Vestry 978-794-1000

Building & Grounds Dan Sulesky 978-686-0840
 Jim Carey 978-682-6165

Membership & Fellowship Jim Wagner
Worship Beth Regan 978-687-1340

Communication Paula Campbell 978-794-1000
Pastoral Care Len Brown 978-686-7770

 Jim Beagan 978-688-0171

Education Linda Pacheco 978-688-4215
Music Elaine Morrisette 978-683-8841

 Trudi Driscoll 978-682-8857
Stewardship Jim Beagan 978-557-9007

Finance & Budget Richard Falk 978-794-0704
 Jim Elliot 603-893-6369

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Elaine Morisette, Pledge Clerk 978-683-8841

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Huib Walta, Webmaster 978-686-6824
Webmaster@StAndrewsMethuen.org



The Grapevine

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Methuen, MA 01844

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