

June 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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LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

My Dear Friends,

Sometime ago I volunteered to write a note to all who call St. Andrew's their spiritual home. I have been privileged to worship with you for nearly six months. Sally and I have been fed by the experience of worship each Sunday that we have been with you. We find St. Andrew's, although small, to be filled with many dedicated parishioners who not only love God but also are willing to do the many tasks necessary to keep this Parish operating. All of you must be aware that St. Andrew's is in transition and the future of this Parish is uncertain. There is a wonderful prayer that begins with the words, "revive the church" which I am sure is the hope of so many of you. Sometimes we forget the rest of the first line of the prayer is "Lord revive the church beginning with me". Yes my brothers and sisters in Christ the future of St. Andrew's depends upon YOU! As St. Paul has told us there are a variety of gifts and each of us has gifts to offer to the community we call St. Andrew's. None of us can say I have no gifts to offer, for in all honesty St. Andrew's is blessed with an abundance of gifts. St. Paul reminds us that even when we think our gift is insignificant, God can create miracles with them. I am confident that St. Andrew's will survive and continue to fulfill a vital role in the lives of the parishioners of St. Andrew's.

Over the past several months I have been meeting with your Wardens Laura and Len. Both are dedicated to this Parish and you should thank God that they are willing to give their stewardship to the Parish of their time, talent and treasure. In our meetings they continue to ask me what is my vision of the "Church"? It is hard to articulate but during my forty years of being rector of parishes what I have learned is that many of us focus on the wrong things. We believe a successful Parish must have many programs and when a Parish is in decline we attempt to find ways to make our programs stronger. Programs are important but I do not believe they are the

primary concern of God. The primary purpose of any church is to provide a place to worship almighty God and for us to be fed by God through word and sacraments. St. Andrew's should be a place where we experience forgiveness and we are loved in spite of our sins. The power of renewal of any Parish begins with the worship of almighty God. You may be wondrously surprised by what God can do for St. Andrew's if we worship him and have faith in what God can do for this Parish.

When you receive this letter we will be starting our summer worship schedule. Summer is my favorite time to worship because the services are done with simplicity and beauty. I hope to make the services shorter so that we can enjoy the beauty of God's creation outside the church. However, I realize I have a spiritual hunger that needs to be fed regularly by God. I invite you to come to church as a family and break bread with me as we celebrate the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst. I pray you have a wonderful and restful summer.

Sincerely and faithfully
Roy A. Benjamin

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

HOME DEVOTION SHEETS & DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS

If you would like to have Home Devotions sent to a loved one or friend contact Betty Feugill at 978-682-9341 or leave information in the office. Home Devotion copies and Day by Day booklets are available at the back of the Nave.

MUSIC MINISTRY - With God all things are possible! Enjoy singing? We are rebuilding our choral ministry and welcome your participation. St. Andrew's needs men and women to share their love of singing during the 9:30 worship service. We have selections, which can be sung by soloists, duets, or small groups. If you play an instrument: Share your talents and ideas! There are many ways to celebrate God's love and the blessing He gives us. Instrumental music is welcome during our worship services. Help us grow our music ministry! Talk to Jody Bowes, Sue Foster, or Elaine Morissette after church, or call Jody at 978-683-7525



MAY

Tyler McGarry 5/6
 Jennifer Pacheco 5/14
 Jonathan Storie 5/28
 Rene Morissette 5/30

JUNE

Nathan Carey 6/2
 Danielle McGarry 6/4
 Howard Bevin 6/15
 Xavier Briggs 6/20
 Ryan Storie 6/26
 Leonard Brown 6/27
 Jonathon Freeman 6/28

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For For the Church: For Frank Griswold, our Presiding Bishop; Tom Shaw, our Diocesan Bishop; Bud Cederholm and Gayle Harris, our Bishops Suffragan. For those of this parish, especially Rene Morissette; Dick & Sue Lorenz; Joann Moran; Arthur Poole; Dick Fraser; Agnes Gourdeau; 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, Susan Foster's brother; Jean McGurn, Tom

Johnson's cousin; Adolph Medelinskas, Carol Elliott's father; Al Willmore, Deb Wunderlich's father; Ted Clark, friend of the Falk family; Kylie McGurn, Susan Foster's cousin; Erin Feugill, Granddaughter of Betty Feugill; Donna Gail DeSousa, daughter of Claire & Dick Fraser; 6 week old baby Nicholas Gayhete, great-grandson of Harriet Hebsch; Tony Imondi, (cancer) neighbor of Dora Atkinson; Robert Roy & Marion Allen, friends of Blanch & Lloyd Campbell.

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: (Gail Ratcliffe & Blanche Campbell)
- 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.

MEMORIAL FUNDS

IN MEMORY OF:

ORGAN MEMORIAL FUND

Deacon John D. Harrison, Sr.
 George Smith
 Laura Feugill Smith

BUILDING PRESERVATION MEMORIAL FUND

Pickles Hargreaves

MEMORIAL FUND

Lois White

MUSIC MEMORIAL FUND

Pickles Hargreaves

ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH



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

ST. ANDREW'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PLEDGE FOR THE PANTRY

During the upcoming Summer Season with vacations the Food Pantry for the Arlkington Neighborhood really gets depleted. Would you be willing to pledge \$12.00 or 12 one dollar items of food from the super market, i.e.:

- 12 cans tuna @ \$1.00 each
- 12 jars jelly @ \$1.00 each
- 12 cans vegetables @ \$1.00 each
- 12 jars of spaghetti sauce @ \$1.00 each

If every family participated with a pledge, we would have enough food for the summer. I would only need to purchase the 6 gallons of milk each week and six loaves of bread from our mission account.

Thank you Len Brown

SPECIAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

13 MARCH 2004

On a beautiful Saturday morning in March Jody Bowes and I had the privilege of attending the Special Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts which was held at the campus of Boston University in Boston Massachusetts. Jody represented and attended as the liaison from the Music Committee and myself as the alternate delegate to convention.

The focus of the day was on music: music as a tool for evangelism, music as a way to deepen and form our faith, music as a way to enrich and enliven and expand our parish and diocesan worship. The keynote speaker was Dr. Horace Boyer, editor of the 'Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal, who in his testament to music's impact on church life –with an energy, spirituality and rhythm led us, and taught us as we sang a number of hymns and service music from that hymnal. Never before have we sung 'Lift every voice and sing' or known of its history as the 'other' National anthem. (Ask us we'll be happy to explain further).

The business of the day – in the afternoon session – was one resolution. Bishop Cederholm introduced the resolution and precluded the discussion period by

reminding us of our connectedness to one another and the importance of listening with care to one another. After discussion and some proposed amendments that were voted down, an overwhelming majority passed the original resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION ON SUPPORT OF SAME SEX CIVIL MARRIAGE
Resolved, that this Special Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts join with its Bishops in affirming its commitment to civil rights by recording its support of the Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court's holding in Goodridge v The Department of Public Health, that to deny same-sex couples the right of civil marriage is unconstitutional in their Commonwealth; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be communicated by letter to the Governor's Office, the President of the Massachusetts Senate and the Speaker of the Massachusetts House; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be announced in a press release; and be it further

Resolved, that the press release be delivered with a cover letter to each Massachusetts senator and representative.

For additional information –see the Diocesan web site (www.diomass.org) or information contact Shirin McArthur in the Diocesan Office at 617-482-4826 extension 406, or via e-mail at smcarthur@diomass.org
Respectfully submitted

(Mrs) Trudi (Gertrude) Driscoll, Alternate delegate 2004 to Diocesan Convention

(Ms) Jody (Joanna) Bowes, Music Committee

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



St. Andrew's Church will be offering Vacation Bible School this summer. (Information and registration elsewhere in this Newsletter). I will be leaving Registration open to parishioners until May 31, 2004. At that time I will open registration to the public. All paid registrations after that date will be a first come first serve basis. We can only serve a limited number of youth so register early to ensure your child's place.

Eagle Boy Scout Project



The project I have proposed to complete to earn My Eagle Rank in Boy Scouts is to extend, refurbish, and clean up The Reverend Argyle Memorial Garden in the front of Saint Andrew's Church. I will be adding many new plants, a birdbath, benches, and extending

the walkways. With the help of Scouts, parishioners, friends, and family I will also be refurbishing the soil, repairing and replacing edging, patching and reseeding the grass. The purpose is to make the garden the memorial it was meant to be as well as provide a serene place for parishioners to sit. I have a base amount to start the project but in order to create the garden in my vision, the project will need additional funding. Anyone interested in providing funding should make the checks out to St. Andrew's Church with a notation in the memo section of "Eagle Project". I will be posting the work dates and times in the church bulletin for anyone wanting to help with this project. Anyone wanting more information about this project can contact me at 978/682-6165 or after church on Sunday

Respectfully Yours,
Christopher Carey

VESTRY INFORMATION

Annual Meeting 2004

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

Following are newly elected Vestry Officers March 21, 2004:

Senior Warden, Laura RuizdeLuzuriaga
Junior Warden, Leonard Brown
Treasurer, open
Clerk, Paula Campbell
Vestry:
Beth Regan (3 years)

Matt McKeon (3 years)
Richard Falk (2 years)
Jim Elliott (1 year)
The rest of the Vestry members remains the same

Delegates to Convention – Matt McKeon...
Alternate Jody Bowes

Delegate to Deanery – Patti Eldred & Jim Beagan
Greater Lawrence council of churches – Len Brown,
Bev Brown, Betty Feugill
Parish Historian – Trudi Driscoll, David Marsh,
Len Brown

For those that did not attend the meeting, copies can be obtained at the office.

Music – Elaine Morissette, Jody Bowes, Sue Foster
Religious Education - Valerie Carey, Director
Sexton – David Marsh
Pledge Clerk – Elaine Morissette
Webmaster - Huib Walta

GREATER LAW. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES UPDATE

"The Greater Lawrence Council of Churches is one of the agencies in the area through which St. Andrew's Episcopal Church maintains an active and very effective mission presence. The services, which the Council maintains on a continuing basis, are multiple. In 2003 these included:

- ❖ A Summer Vacation Bible School (regarded as the largest ecumenical VBS in the country) with nearly 1300 participants;
- ❖ Over 9,000 bedside visits at the Caritas Holy Family and Lawrence General Hospitals by the Council's three chaplains;
- ❖ The very remarkable and celebrated ministry of Betty Smith to the large neighborhood of children at Hancock Courts in Lawrence;
- ❖ Regular visits to ten area nursing homes by the Council's Spiritual Care Chaplain; ecumenical worship services each Wednesday during Lent;
- ❖ The collection of thousands of diapers and children's underwear for distribution through various agencies;
- ❖ A growing program of networking with area service agencies to better serve Seniors;
- ❖ Numerous ecumenical events highlighting the common spiritual mission of the Council's member churches, both Protestant and Catholic.

We thank you for your continued generous support and the privilege of allowing us to work with you in our outreach to greater Lawrence."

Please refer any questions to David Edwards, Council of Churches, 978-686-4012



First Communion

June 6, 2004
9:30AM Service

Please come and worship with the four children and their families that will be celebrating their First Communion. We will have a small reception during coffee hour to honor these hard working youth. Anyone willing to bring food or help set up should contact Valerie Carey or Laurie Firth.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Victoria Milo Magdalene Kwakye
Kaylah Kelly Emily Samataro

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 12th

POT LUCK LUNCHEON FOLLOWING 9:30 AM
SERVICE

CALL PAULA CAMPBELL AT
978-794-1000

TO VOLUNTEER HELP AND TO DONATE A
FOOD DISH

Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your wonderful donation of a large amount of food.

As the weather turns warmer (thank God!) our minds and hearts are lighter. You have the added joy of knowing that your goodness has made the minds and hearts of our guests lighter and more joyful. What an enormous gift for people whose

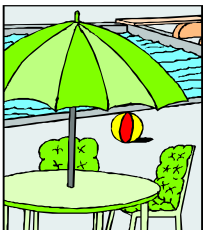
lives are so bleak and who see no way out of the depressing cycle of poverty!

Please realize the just how significant your donation is in the lives of so many, too many women, men and children who did not have the same good fortune we have had. Your goodness brings hope, care and a future – all the very best Spring represents.

Thank you again for helping them “Spring forward”! God bless you.

H. Bridget Shaheen, Executive Director

God bless your generosity to those in need among us. We are so very grateful!



SUMMER SERVICE

June 13th through September 5th
Services will be held at

8:00 am & 9:00 am

Dear Friends and family of St. Andrew’s;

Spring started out cold and gray, and there was hardly a sign of life in sight. It’s easy to feel just as gray and hopeless as the weather. But sure enough, recent weeks have brought forth the promise of renewed life, as trees have flowered and leafed, the grass has turned green again, and gentler breezes blow. Praise the Lord for his promise of this eternal life, even here on earth!

I want to congratulate all of you who stuck by St. Andrew’s through the winter phase of her life. I was just as depressed as many of you. But there’s been a change over the past few months, and I see many happier faces, hear less complaining, and feel the spiritual joy coming from the congregation on Sunday. St. Andrew’s is on its way to become a place of joyous worship and loving fellowship- a place we can each be fed and nourished. Life holds promise again. It’s a wonderful thing! And amazingly enough, the church is surviving. Things are getting done, people are being cared for, and people are volunteering to help out.

As we continue our journey to find a Priest in Charge, or PIC as we call it on the Vestry, we are faced with some tough questions. Because the success of our next rector, and the future of St. Andrew’s, all lie in our hands. We can make it work, or we can ensure its failure.

There seems to be agreement that we need some stability and nurturing in order to get to a point where we can focus outside ourselves and develop a purpose and outside ministry. It's going to take time to do that. Clearly Fr. Roy Benjamin has represented the kind of pastor we need, as he has shepherded us through the cold winter of our lives and into the sunshine of real worship and spiritual nourishment.

Fr. Roy is willing to stick with us as supply, but that is not a long-term solution for St. Andrew’s. I think that most of you would like to see a more permanent “solution.” But each of us should let him know how much we appreciate his presence with us, and obvious love he feels for St. Andrew’s, as it continues its progress toward that “solution.”

We can afford a part-time priest, and can even afford a couple years of a full-time priest, but it will take a while to find one. And when we do find someone willing to join us on our spiritual journey, there is a very real risk that we'll blow it. As a church we have a terrible history of burying the priest with all of the responsibilities we have individually shouldered, and with the challenge of a vast array of high expectations. Like many other churches of our size, we want to pretend that the priest can and will do everything, and we can pick and choose when or even if we will get involved. Remember, WE are St. Andrew's, not the priest, and the future of St. Andrew's is in our hands. Please take the time to celebrate the gifts the Lord has bestowed on YOU, and look for ways to use them to His glory, and to the life of St. Andrew's.

Again, thank you to those that have stepped up to the task. Keep up the good work. And to those who have not, please take some time to find a functioning place in our congregation. As a leader, or a participant, we need you.

Blessings,
Laura

“THE GREATER LAWRENCE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES is one of the agencies in the area through which St. Andrew's Episcopal Church maintains an active and very effective mission presence. The services, which the Council maintains on a continuing basis, are multiple. In 2003 these included a Summer Vacation Bible School (regarded as the largest ecumenical VBS in the country) with nearly 1300 participants; over 9,000 bedside visits at the Caritas Holy Family and Lawrence General Hospitals by the Council's three chaplains; the very remarkable and celebrated ministry of Betty Smith to the large neighborhood of children at Hancock Courts in Lawrence; regular visits to ten area nursing homes by the Council's Spiritual Care Chaplain; ecumenical worship services each Wednesday during Lent; the collection of thousands of diapers and children's underwear for distribution through various agencies; a growing program of networking with area service agencies to better serve Seniors and numerous ecumenical events highlighting the common spiritual mission of the Council's member churches, both Protestant and Catholic.

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Please refer any questions to David Edwards, Council of Churches at 978-686-4012.

NEW BATHROOM CONSTRUCTION

All bathrooms will be under construction starting in August. The two existing bathrooms will be redesigned and a new handicap bathroom will be installed. Completion is expected by the end of August.

LOST GLASSES???

Are you missing a pair of glasses? One pair in a black case – Left in pew three weeks ago. They are in the office – See Len Brown

SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY'S OF:

Betty MacKay on the death of her brother Bill Kelley, May 23rd; Dick and Claire Fraser on the death of their daughter, Gail DeSousa, May 20th; and Sue Foster's father-in-law, Ralph Foster, Sr.

2004 CONFIRMANDS

Elizabeth Boulier	Ryan Carey
Eric Eldred	Erin Kennedy
Daniel Sulesky	Joshua Weisenborn
Sarah Weisenborn	

Recognition Sunday & All Parish Cookout

Was held May 23rd, once again recognizing our youth, teachers, etc. during the service. A cookout was held after the service with hotdogs, hamburgs, drinks, etc. Fun activities for children of all ages was enjoyed by all.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 20th



The Grapevine

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90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S.
POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 151
Lawrence, MA



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