

The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
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Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 689-0463

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April/May 2007

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Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Joe or Richard at any time at the above numbers with pastoral emergencies. Be sure to inform them if you or anyone you know in the parish is ill and/or in the hospital.

Greetings from Rev. Joe

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I feel so renewed and refreshed on Easter morning when we sing out our praise for Jesus' victory over sin and death with the words, "Alleluia, Christ is risen; the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!" Lent was a time for our prayer and reflection as a community, and individually, about the wonderful gifts of forgiveness and eternal life that God offers us, and our call to turn to God and live in thanksgiving for these gifts. It was especially fitting in Lent to delve into what it

means, and the changes we are called to make, in order to live as a people in thanksgiving.

One thing we can do as people living our gratitude to God is to be even more intentional than usual in sharing our joy in the good news of salvation with people we invite to share in the joy with us. I find that I live much of my joy in relationship with God in what I experience with all of you in our church lives together. Many of you tell me that you find this in your church lives, too. My prayer for us is that we will find inspiration from God, and encouragement from each other, to invite and welcome new people to share experiences of God, and nourishment of faith, by discovering the many gifts we enjoy at St. Andrew's. So, please continue to invite people to worship with us or join us for fellowship events when you see them hungering for the very things you find in our parish. Our recent Invite A Friend to Church Sunday and our Saint Patrick's Day Dinner were terrific examples of our success in finding such opportunities. We can also bring joy to people who are unable to come to church by visiting them.

Meanwhile, let us celebrate the Easter Season by remembering our loved ones who have been called home by God ahead of us. The season of Jesus' Resurrection is an especially good time to pray for them. In addition, if you wish, you can celebrate their memory with a donation toward the church's Easter flowers. Easter Flower Envelopes were sent separately with my Easter message. You can also use them to make a donation for flower memorials for our regular Sunday worship after Easter if you didn't have a chance to send them by Easter. It's never too late! You can send any such memorials to the church at 90 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844.

I wish you many blessings during the Easter Season, a wish I hope to extend personally when we worship together. If you are unable to come to church, please let me know by leaving a message at 978-689-0463, and our pastoral care team and I will bring Communion to you during the Easter Season.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Joe +

From Our Senior Warden

The most exciting season for Christians everywhere is upon us: Holy Week. It is a time in which we are called to model our Savior by engaging in humility, reflection, sacrifice and penitence. Easter, the most blessed and joyous of all holidays, is our celebration at the resounding triumph of Jesus Christ over the grave. Having risen from the dead, Jesus not only fulfilled the prophecies of old, but also secured for all believers the eternal life that he had promised to all who accept his gift. By his blood shed at the cross, and by our acceptance of his suffering for our sins, we are able to enjoy that which Christ provides.

Please join us at St. Andrews in accepting his gift this holiday season.

Richard Falk

Holy Week Offerings



April 1st -- Palm Sunday services at 8am (Rite I) and 9:30 (Rite II with music)

April 5th -- Maundy Thursday at 7:30pm for Eucharist, foot washing, stripping of the altar and reservation of the Sacrament

April 6th -- Good Friday; quiet meditation from noon to 3pm; 7pm Eucharist from the reserved Sacrament and Way of the Cross

April 8th -- Easter Sunday services at 8am (Rite I) and 9:30 am (Rite II with music)

Vestry News

A copy of St. Andrew's Parish Safety Policy, as adopted by the Vestry at its March 2007 meeting, is included in this issue of the Grapevine. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Joe or any of the Vestry members.



Treasurer's Report

Expected Pledge Income through March 31st:
\$13,300.00

Actual Pledge Income through March 31st:
\$11,676.77

For the first three months of 2007, our pledge income ran behind by \$1223.23. Our heating expenses for February and March are high and we will be losing the rental income of the African congregation in the not-too-distant future, so it is especially important that we all try to stay current on our pledges. During the first quarter of 2007, we also received additional \$2,287.50 in 2006 pledge income. A special thanks to those folks who made the effort to catch up on their 2006 pledges after the first of the year.



Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt immediately following our 9:30 service on Easter Sunday. Anyone wishing to donate candy-filled plastic eggs (or candy and we will fill the eggs) can bring it as late as just prior to the start of the 9:30 service on Easter Sunday. The Easter Bunny thanks you in advance.



Easter Breakfast

Our annual Easter breakfast will be held this year between the 8:00 am and 9:30 am services. Please plan to join us for eggs scrambled by Richard and Jameson Falk.

St. Patrick's Day Wrap Up

Our St. Patrick's Day event was a huge success. It was an evening full of fun, fellowship and (good) food, all made possible by the hard work of our tireless volunteers. We are still working out the final numbers, but as of this writing, our total receipts for the evening were \$1,736.00. Net income (after we pay the related bills) will be contributed to our food pantry. If you've never attended one of our St. Pat's dinners, please plan to do so next year. It really is a lot of fun!

Spring Tea



The Spring Tea to benefit the Diocesan Gulf Coast Partnership will be held on April 22nd (see enclosed flyer for further details). We are looking for volunteers to host tables, make sandwiches and sweets, donate gift baskets, and assist with set up and tear down. If anyone has any tea sets, tea cups, tea carts or like items that we could borrow for the day, that will be helpful, too. Please look for sign up sheets at coffee hour or speak with Patti Eldred or Janet Ratcliffe for further information.

Sunday School News



- It's not too soon to start thinking about next year's Sunday school program. We're always looking for people who are willing to teach, whether it be every Sunday or as part of a teaching team or as an occasional substitute. If you have any special talents or interests in music, drama, arts and crafts or service projects that you'd like to share with the children on a short-term basis, that kind of help is welcome, too. We have a great bunch of enthusiastic kids and they've responded well to the few new things that we've tried this year. Be sure to take a good look at the kids when they join us in church this week -- these are the faces of our

future, both here at St. Andrew's and out in our community. Being a part of their Sunday school lives is a tangible way for you to help shape the future. See if there isn't some way you can help.



• April/May Birthdays

Jameson Falk	April 4 th
Sarah Ratcliffe	April 8 th
Leah O'Keefe	April 28 th
Patrick Donegan	May 20 th
Kaylah Kelly	May 29 th
Nicole Clooney	May 29 th

- Congratulations to Robert Pauley on recently being selected as a Donald P. Timony Grammar School Student of the Month.

First Communion



Sunday, May 27, 2007 at 9:30

Please join us in celebrating with the five young people who will be making their First Communion. A reception will follow the service. As has been our custom in the past, parents of children in last year's First Communion class are responsible for providing refreshments for the reception. Please contact Valerie Carey (978.682.6165) for what is needed.

Junior Youth Group

Because of conflicting schedules over school vacation week, the Junior Youth Group will be hold its April meeting on the 23rd (instead of the 3rd Monday as we usually do). At our March meeting, we ate pizza and then headed upstairs to dust and polish the church. The kids did a fabulous job!



Memorials

- April 9th Vestry 7 pm
- April 22nd Spring Tea 3-5 pm
- April 23rd Jr. Youth Group 5:45-7:45 pm
- April 29th Confirmation Class 11:30 am
- May 5th Methuen Town Cleanup at St. A's
- May 14th Vestry 7 pm
- May 20th Rehearsal--First Communion
- May 27th First Communion Sunday
- June 3rd Recognition Sunday
- June 24-28 Vacation Bible School
- Please return your UTO boxes on Easter Sunday.

Organ Memorial Fund

Raymond J. Bourassa
Mary I. Dodson
Richard B. Falk
Ruth Miller
Kenneth R. Morley, Jr.

Building Memorial Fund

Mary I. Dodson
Richard B. Falk
Miriam Livingston

Garden Memorial Fund

Mary I. Dodson

Memorial Fund

Mary I. Dodson

Coffee Hour



The coffee hour after the 9:30 service is a wonderful time for our parishioners to socialize with one another and to get to know new people in our congregation. We need your help to continue this tradition and are looking for people to sign up to host a coffee hour. The coffee is provided and made for you. Your responsibility is to provide cream, juice and pastry. There is always someone available to help. Please consider hosting one of the open dates below. The sign up sheet is located next to the coffee table in the gym. Thank you!

April 1 st	Falk Family
April 8 th	Easter Breakfast
April 15 th	Janet and Robert
April 22 nd	
April 29 th	
May 6 th	Dora and Ella
May 13 th	
May 20 th	
May 27 th	2006 First Communion Parents

From the Editor



To help balance the budget, we would like to trim printing and mailing costs by offering electronic copies of the Grapevine to parishioners by either email or download from our website. The success of this effort will depend largely on the willingness of parishioners who are able to participate. We will be collecting email addresses over the next few months with the hope of launching electronic distribution in the fall. Please look for sign up sheets at coffee hour, leave a note in Gloria's mailbox outside of the office or send an email indicating your willingness to participate to admin@standrewsmethuen.org. Paper copies will also be available in the church and can be mailed to the home of anyone.

Our next issue will be published during the first week of June and it will be our last until the fall. Please submit any information you would like us to publish to Gloria no later than May 25th.



Join us for a
Spring Tea
to benefit the
**Diocesan Gulf
Coast Partnership**

You are invited
Sunday, April 22, 2007
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
\$10.00 adult/\$5.00 child
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
90 Broadway, Methuen, MA

Tea, Savories, Sweets, Entertainment, Door Prize, Gift Basket Raffle and a visit with Rev. Jane Bearden, the Diocese's Priest-in-Residence in Biloxi.

Please return the attached response by April 18, 2007. Reservations may also be phoned into the church office at 978.689.0463 or to Janet Ratcliffe at 978.682.5606.

Name _____ Phone _____

Please reserve _____ adult tickets at \$10.00 each/ _____ children's tickets at \$5.00 each.

Tickets will be held at the door.

I will not be able to attend, but I am enclosing my tax deductible donation in the amount of \$_____ (make check payable to St. Andrew's Church and note Gulf Coast P-I-R in memo line) in support of the Diocesan Gulf Coast Partnership.

The Gulf Coast Partnership

Introduction

“The people of The Diocese of Massachusetts continue to be examples of the living Gospel of Christ Jesus by their responses of help to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Those in the Gulf Coast continue to be amazed by the Episcopalians in Massachusetts and the hours of ministry we are devoting to helping them reclaim their lives” says Eliza Ragsdale Trache, co-chair of the Task Force for Gulf Coast Partnership. “Our presence with the people of the Gulf Coast continues as a living bridge of hope, faith and care that is stronger than the winds of any storm.”

Many of our Diocesan efforts to date have focused on Biloxi, Mississippi and the Church of Our Redeemer. While its buildings were destroyed, the parish remains committed to serving the Biloxi community. To help with the long process of rebuilding we have been sending work crews, health care workers, supplies and direct financial aid.

Now, guided by the experiences of those who have completed these mission trips, the Diocesan Gulf Coast Partnership is sponsoring a new mission initiative: sending a full-time Priest-in-Residence from Massachusetts to live and work for at least a year in the Gulf Coast.

Why a Priest-in-Residence? Why Biloxi?

As our relationship with Redeemer has evolved, we realize there are needs for pastoral care which can only be tackled by those who have an ongoing, on-site, personal relationship with Redeemer. We can provide such a person.

In addition, as the work of the Diocesan Gulf Coast Partnership has expanded beyond its response to Redeemer, there is a need for our person “on the ground” to coordinate and support these many activities. All of these efforts can best be addressed by sending a priest to work in the Gulf Coast region for an extended period of months.

What is the job?

The Priest-in-Residence has two different sets of responsibilities. The first is to serve on the staff of Redeemer under the direction of its rector. The second is to serve the Diocese of Massachusetts as our presence in the Gulf Coast region and to guide and support our mission-focused activities. In principle, she will devote about half of her time to each. In practice, she will need to develop a strong trusting relationship with Redeemer and the greater community to be truly effective.

As part of her responsibilities, the Priest-in-Residence must also be in regular contact with the people of the Diocese of Massachusetts so that they too may be engaged contributors to the Gulf Coast Partnership. Towards this end, the Priest-in-Residence will be under the guidance and direction of Bishop Bud Cederholm.

Who is the Priest-in-Residence?

Bishop Cederholm has asked the Rev. Jane Bearden to serve as the Gulf Coast Partnership Priest-in-Residence. Jane grew up in the Gulf Coast region, attending an Episcopal high school in Mississippi and living in Jackson, Mississippi as an adult. In 1984 she moved to Massachusetts and was an active parishioner at Trinity, Topsfield as her children progressed through school.

Jane is a health care professional with more than twenty years experience as a hospital laboratory administrator. She has been active in community-based ministries, such as Ecclesia Ministry in Boston and My Brother's Table in Lynn. After her ordination as deacon in 2001, Jane served as chaplain in the World Trade Center temporary morgue in the aftermath of 9/11 and again in New Orleans after the catastrophic flooding of the city that took over a thousand lives. In June of 2006 Jane was ordained as a priest in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

"I have strong personal ties to both the Gulf Coast and Massachusetts" says Jane. "I love them both, and I have a perspective to see each other's strengths and stresses. Our Gulf Coast Partnership promises to be just that -- a real partnership in which we all are fed by each other, transformed by the Spirit, and continue to grow in faith and mission together."

What is the focus of the community work?

As an example, Jane will be working in the East Biloxi community on organizing around issues of affordable housing. While Katrina devastated all kinds of housing stock, efforts to rebuild affordable rental housing must overcome challenges presented by more restrictive zoning regulations and insurance guidelines, government funds allocated to other development projects, and rapidly rising prices.

Jane's community work is in partnership with the Diocese of Mississippi's Office of Economic and Community Development. Jane is working with the Rev. Carol Borne Stewart, Assistant to the Bishop for Economic and Community Development. This office is working on affordable housing, micro enterprise development and job creation as people along the Gulf Coast are piecing together their homes and livelihoods. Community partnerships are forming, and Jane and Carol -- who have known each other since college -- will have a vital role in the development of these relationships.

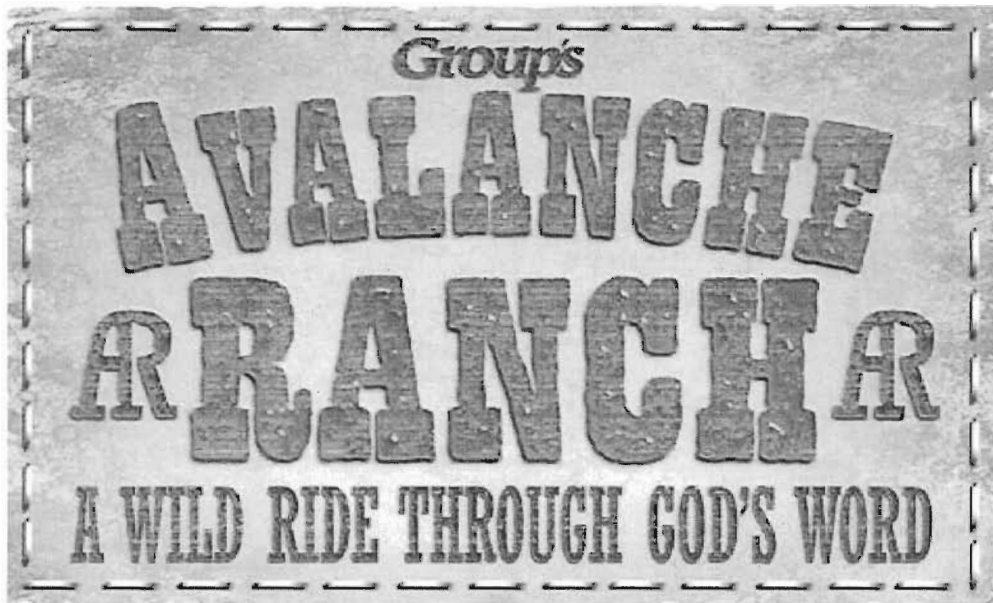
How is this position funded?

The main source of funding comes from parish and individual contributions, and pledges and grants totaling \$70,000 are already at hand. Our ongoing goal is to raise an additional \$100,000 in order to continue this ministry through 2008.

"It's important to build support for Jane's ministry at the parish level" says Jim Gammill, coordinator of the fundraising efforts. "Money is only one part of it. Jane will need a community -- a 'virtual parish' -- drawn from all parts of the Diocese to sustain her as she does her ministry 1500 miles away from us. In turn, we know that when we open ourselves to our Gulf Coast partners, we will be the ones fulfilled."

Contributions can be made to the "Episcopal Diocese of Mass." (note "Gulf Coast P-I-R" on memo line), and sent to: Stephen Silver, Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Don't miss this years Vacation Bible School



June 24-28, 2007

Come meet all our buddies!



We will be playing games, singing, watching movies, making crafts, eating snacks
experiencing the Bible first hand, and helping children in need!

PARISH SAFETY POLICY
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Methuen, Massachusetts

- It is the policy of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Methuen, to create a safe environment for everyone who enters our doors, especially children.
- Outside groups using parish facilities will be required to sign a statement satisfactory to the vestry indicating acceptance of liability in connection with their activities. Supervision by at least two adults on premises will be provided at all times by such groups.
- St. Andrew's adopts the safe church practices and guidelines as described by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts in "Safe Church Practices for Congregations" as updated from time to time by the diocese in response to changes in federal and state laws, and national church policies.
- Safe Church Training is required within one year of beginning service at St. Andrew's as a warden, vestry member, lay Eucharistic minister B, pastoral visitor, youth or acolyte leader, choir director, church school leader or teacher, volunteer working in the parish on a regular basis, and employees of the congregation; and clergy will orient them to "Safe Church Practices for Congregations" at the beginning of work in these roles. All clergy are mandated to take Safe Church Training.
- All applicants for paid positions will fill out a written application with references and be interviewed. Applicants for volunteer positions will be interviewed and recommendations sought from among members of the parish. Applicants are subject to background checks. Background checks may be waived at the concurrence of the priest and wardens in cases of volunteers who are well known to, and recommended by, members of the parish.
- It is the policy of St. Andrew's to employ practices on space, off-premises events, overnight events, audiovisual materials, and beverage services intended to create an atmosphere of care and safety for those involved.
- Parish mandated reporters of abuse will be informed by clergy or wardens of their responsibility and related processes.
- Appropriate boundaries in ministerial relationships will be supported through the use of the eleven guidelines for personal and professional health in ministry listed in "Safe Church Practices for Congregations."
- Copies of this policy will be distributed to members of the parish in the parish annual report, and "Safe Church Practices for Congregations" will be kept on file and available in the parish office for anyone who wishes more detail.
- The vestry of St. Andrew's will appoint a safety committee to oversee compliance with this policy. The committee will report to vestry with relevant observations and recommendations at least annually, and more often if needed. The vestry of St. Andrew's is responsible for implementing and communicating St. Andrew's safe church policy, and for amending it from time to time in response to changes in diocesan policy.