

The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
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June/July/August 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

The disciples' experience on that first Pentecost almost two thousand years ago must have been amazing. Imagine them sitting together in an upstairs room, focused inward on their group uncertainties and anxieties about the future, and what they should do. The world seemed hostile and dangerous to them now that Jesus had returned to heaven. Suddenly, tongues of fire settled on their heads, and the Good News of the Gospel poured from their mouths in many languages! God sent the Holy Spirit to break them out of their isolation and hesitancy, equip them to take up their call of preaching and baptizing, and give them in an instant the push they needed to get out there. They probably were still a bit

daunted, but now had the clarity to know, and the courage to take up, their part in God's mission. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have that clarity and courage? Wouldn't it be wonderful if it all came in an instant?

Many of us experience our call differently. It takes time for most of us to get even a glimpse of it. And then, it's not always crystal clear. We grapple with our anxiety as we stumble trying to live into our call as best we can, while simultaneously discovering more about it by trial and error as we go along. Often, we find we need to change course along the way. It helps to pray, and to be in conversation with each other about our experiences. We can pray that the "noise" we hear in our lives might lessen enough to perceive the Spirit guiding us, and that our perception might be sharpened. Being in conversation about our experiences, listening closely, and telling back what we hear each other saying, also helps us notice the guidance of the Spirit in our lives, and the gifts we have. It helps us imagine how we can join God's mission. This praying and sharing, with our senses turned toward listening for the Spirit, is the process of discernment. Sometimes we have an epiphany moment like the disciples at Pentecost, but usually it is a process that takes time. We have God's sure promise that God is with us through it all. So we don't need to be afraid of it.

The process of discernment applies to each of us as regards our individual participation in God's mission, and to entire communities of people, like our parish, for participation by a whole group. It is both of these. I encourage each of us to actively listen as we talk about our lives and our parish so we can point out guideposts for our discernment at both levels. One way we'll be working on our discernment as a parish is to do a feasibility study to see if we are called to the ministry of providing affordable housing on our property. And, if we are, can we actually do it? We have received a \$7,500 feasibility study grant from Episcopal City Mission to cover the cost of expert professional help in the area of affordable housing so that we can do this discernment. This will be an open,

transparent, and prayerful process that will involve all of our neighborhood, our city, and us. It will take time and result in no hasty decision. This is very exciting because, whatever we ultimately decide, discernment will take us to new depths of faith and spirituality, both individually and as a parish. And, it helps us get “out there.” God is with us. We don’t need to be afraid.

An affordable housing feasibility study committee has gathered, initially consisting of Len Brown, Laura Walta, Janet Ratcliffe, Matt McKeon, and me. We are responsible to St. Andrew’s vestry, your elected parish leadership. Charlie Wriblaske from Episcopal City Mission supports us. There will be periodic updates. Pray for us, and get involved if you have curiosity and/or special knowledge about affordable housing, and want to work on the feasibility study. Let any of us know of your interest.

Meanwhile, as summer approaches and many of you focus on summer rest and refreshment, please remember that St. Andrew’s is also here to nourish you. And please know that I keep you in my prayers that you might feel God’s love and power always with you.

Faithfully Yours in Christ, Joe+

From Our Senior Warden

As we move into the summer season, I can’t help but be awed and proud at the beehive of activity that has infested our community here at St. Andrews. Let me just mention a few of the activities that marked our parish life since the ordination of our Pastor Joe early in January: A busload of parishioners from both St. Andrew’s and Trinity Church joined Joe at his beautiful ordination at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Boston; children are regularly meeting on Mondays for fun, games and fellowship; a series of Lenten bible study sessions were conducted; Susan Foster has enthusiastically engaged our children with splendid singing on Sundays; once again we raised over \$1000 dollars for our Arlington Neighborhood Food Pantry mission with a St. Patrick’s feast; another \$1000 dollars was raised for Reverend Jane and her Mississippi mission with a very elegant tea; the acolytes are regularly gathering before and after church to refine their skills in serving at the altar; Betty Feugill is continuing to lead the shawl ministry; handfuls of Baptismal Sacraments have welcomed new children and their families to our community in Christ; our Sunday school continues to thrive as demonstrated by new volunteers having been added to the ranks and a skit having been performed on Palm Sunday; Elaine Morissette and Scott Sykes expanded our music program to include guest singers and musicians for our Easter services; an Easter Breakfast was prepared by volunteers; the Grapevine has gone virtual with an electronic version now available; the “parlor” has been

vacated and will soon be restored to allow meetings and post service fellowship in a more intimate setting; we have applied for and will be receiving a grant to study the future viability of our property; a score of volunteers sacrificed a beautiful May morning to clean up the inside and outside of our parish. Oh, lest we forget, a certain gentleman by the name of Joseph W. Wilkes. Reverend Joe has been a gift from God to our community and please let us not forget to include him in our prayers, thanks and praise to God.

I am sure I am forgetting many other wonderful gifts that have been offered by our gracious and giving parishioners. Without you, there would be no St. Andrew’s. So as we enter the busy summer season, please continue to keep St. Andrew’s an active part of your life. We’ll be open and here for you all summer.

In Christ, Richard Falk, Senior Warden

Treasurer’s Update



The summer months are a time when our pledge income typically falls off because of vacations and other summer activities. Even though the weather is nice and the beaches and golf courses are beckoning, we still have bills to pay. We’ll gratefully accept your pledge envelopes anyway you can get them to us, whether by mail, in the Sunday collection plate or by payment in advance.

Summer Clergy Hours

Beginning June 25th and extending through September 3rd Labor Day weekend, Rev. Joe will be in the parish on Sundays for the 8:00 AM (Rite I) and 9:30 AM (Rite II) services. He will be in the office from 9 AM till noon on Mondays, and from 9 AM till 11 AM on Thursdays. He will be available Sunday afternoons till 3 PM and Monday nights from 5 PM to 8 PM for pastoral visits or other meetings, as needed, by prior appointment. He invites you to call him at 617-957-2960 to set up a time. He is also available for pastoral emergencies at other times. The church office can also be called to arrange a visit by one of the members of our pastoral care team: Len Brown, Bev Brown, Jim Beagan and Krista McLeod. Pastoral needs can also be communicated to your senior warden, Richard Falk.

Clergy Summer Vacation

Rev. Joe will be away from June 9th through June 16th. On Sunday, June 10th, Rev. Roy Benjamin will be here for the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM services. He has also agreed to be available for emergencies requiring clergy during that week.

News from the Vestry

As many of you have probably heard, after many years of service, Dave Marsh recently retired as our sexton. Many thanks to Dave for his years of dedicated service. Dave leaves tough shoes to fill, but the Vestry is in the process of looking to hire a part-time sexton. In the interim, we will appreciate your patience and understanding if things don't appear to be running as smoothly as they once did.

Fall Festival

We will be holding a Rummage Sale/Flea Market on Saturday, September 29th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Weather permitting, it will be held outside; if there is rain, it will be held in the gym. Paula Campbell is the lead contact for this event and can be reached at (978) 794-1000. We have limited storage space available over the summer, but items dropped off will go on the right hand side stage (through the door on the floor of the gym). Please let Paula know if you are bringing or dropping off any items or if you have big items that need to be picked up. There are a lot of things that need to be done for this event, such as pricing and set up, running tables, games, snack bar, grilling, and clean up. Vestry has decided that the proceeds of this event will go to St. Andrew's building preservation.

Sunday School News

We are hoping to launch a new Sunday school program next year based on the Workshop Rotation Model. Rather than sit in a traditional classroom, the children will learn bible stories over a period of 4 or 5 weeks while rotating through a series of audio-visual workshops like art, drama, storytelling, cooking, and puppetry. Part of the program entails creating a warm, welcoming environment for our children that lets them know St. Andrew's cares about them. For anyone who has experienced our VBS in prior years, this will seem very familiar. This format creates many exciting new volunteer opportunities for people who may have been overwhelmed at the prospect of taking on a full year of Sunday school in the traditional format. Please think about whether you have special gifts or interests you would like to share, whether it be drama, music, cooking or art. Or maybe you have a special interest in a particular bible story. Or maybe you'd be willing to sign up for just one rotation. We have a great bunch of enthusiastic kids and they've responded well to the few new things that we've tried this year, so I promise you that they will love this. And you will, too! Come join the fun.



• Summer Birthdays

Zoe Ratcliffe July 2nd

Maggie Kwakye July 26th

Madeleine McKeon August 27th



• Canobie Lake Outing



The Sunday school will have an end-of-year outing to Canobie Lake on Monday, June 18th, from 5 to 9pm. The cost is \$5 per person. Please let us know if you are interested in coming along, would like to chaperone, or can provide transportation.

• Teachers Meeting

The Sunday school teachers will meet with Rev. Joe immediately following our 9:30 service on Sunday, June 24th. We'd like your input on the year that we've just wrapped up, as well as our plans for the future. If you are interested in helping with next year's program, we'd love for you to join us, too.



• Our 8th Grade Graduates

Congratulations to Leah O'Keefe and Meg Donegan who will be graduating from 8th grade this month. In the fall, Leah will be attending Presentation of Mary and Meg will be heading off to Central Catholic.



June 24th - June 28th Vacation Bible School
June 21st ECM Meeting from 9-12
September 29th Fall Festival/Rummage Sale



Coffee Hour

We have lots of open dates for coffee hour over the summer months. Please check the sign up sheet in the gym and see if you can't find a date that would be convenient for you to bring goodies to share during this time of fellowship.

Memorials

Memorial Fund

*William Arsenault
Mary I. Dodson*

Building Memorial Fund

Bruce Snow

Garden Memorial Fund

Ruth Miller

Organ Memorial Fund

*William Arsenault
Ruth Miller*

Music Memorial Fund

*William Arsenault
Mary I Dodson
Richard Falk Sr.
Richard Fraser
Ruth Miller*

Methuen Arlington Neighborhood Food Pantry

I would like to thank everyone in the parish for all the food that has been donated this year, and also the checks and cash donations that have been received. The summer is here and we will be taking vacations during the summer, however the Food Pantry continues all summer. It would be greatly appreciated if before you go on your vacation you could bring in any one of the items we give every week. Cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, canned veggies, canned soup, canned tuna, jelly or peanut butter. Thank you for making this ministry so successful
Len and Bev

V.B.S.

Don't miss this year's VBS program (see insert in this addition of the *Grapevine*) It promises to be "a wild ride through God's Word" and has a Colorado Ranch theme. We are still looking for adult volunteers, food donations (see list below), and people to help set up, decorate, and clean up. Please see Mimi Falk or Valerie Carey if you can help in any way.

Food Donations needed for VBS

To help reduce the cost of Vacation Bible School we are Requesting donations of the following food items:

Frosted wheat cereal
Red licorice bits
Chocolate candy bars (plain Hershey)
Pepperoni slices
Cheese squares (sliced Cheddar cheese)
Vanilla ice cream cups (Hoodsies)
Brown sugar
Cream Cheese
Graham crackers

From the Editor

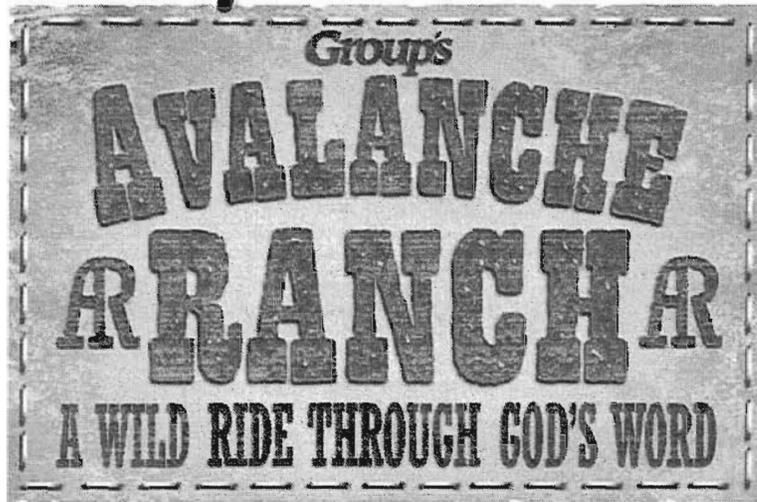


As was previously announced, we would like to trim printing and mailing costs by offering electronic copies of the *Grapevine* to parishioners by either email or download from our website. Now that first class postage has gone up to \$0.41, it is imperative that we put this initiative into effect. The success of this effort will depend largely on the willingness to participate of those parishioners who have computer access and we thank those of you who have already responded. Please continue to submit your email addresses by signing the sheet posted at coffee hour, leaving a note in Gloria's mailbox outside of the office or sending an email to admin@standrewsmethuen.com. Paper copies will also be available in the church and can be mailed to the home of anyone who needs one.

We hope to print our next edition during the first week of September, so we will appreciate receiving any news you would like to print by September 4th.

In prior years, parishioners have been given the opportunity to sponsor an edition of the *Grapevine* in memory of friends and loved ones or even a special occasion. The cost is \$40.00 and helps defray the expenses associated with printing and circulation. Please let Janet know if you would be interested in sponsoring an upcoming issue.

Don't miss this years Vacation Bible School



June 24-28, 2007

6:00-8:45 PM

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!

Fee \$25.00 first child, each additional child in family \$15.00 (with a \$55.00 family cap)

Financial Assistance is available. Please call the church office at 978/689-0463

For more information or to register call

978/689-0463 weekday mornings or 978/682-6165 evenings

For Children entering Kindergarten through Sixth Grade

St. Andrew's Church

90 Broadway

Methuen, MA 01844



May 24, 2007

Attn: Gloria
St. Andrew's Church
90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844

Dear Gloria:

The 2007 Walk for Hunger was our second consecutive record-breaking year. More than 43,000 participants joined together to raise more than \$3.3 million in one day. Thank you so much for promoting The Walk for Hunger in your office. In doing so, you contributed to our success on Sunday, May 6th. We couldn't have done it without you!

Your help enables Project Bread to respond to the needs of thousands of families and individuals who are unable to put food on their tables. We help these people provide for their own families by providing grants to 400 emergency food programs. These programs, in turn, provide hot meals and bags of groceries that are nothing short of life saving.

By promoting the Walk, you provide sustenance to those who are hungry and who, in finding relief from hunger, are restored to health and hope. As a memento of our gratitude, please accept this Walk Certificate. For your caring, and all you've done to make this year's Walk a success, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Ellen Parker
Executive Director

Eric Monty
Campaign Associate



A workshop on CENTERING PRAYER

Presented by **FR. BILL SHEEHAN,**
O.M.I.

**Author, teacher, retreat facilitator on centering prayer and
contemplative outreach**

**Centering prayer is a method of prayer, which prepares us to receive the
gift of God's presence...**
(www.contemplativeoutreach.org)

**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 MAIN STREET
AMESBURY, MA 01913**

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 2007, noon-5pm, \$10.00

The workshop will be followed by a centering prayer worship service
by Fr. Sheehan at 5pm (no charge or free will donation)

All welcome!!! call 978-388-0030 or visit us at
www.stjamesamesbury.net

Bring a bag lunch for a welcoming collation at noon

Beverages and dessert provided by our st. elizabeth's guild