



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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September/October 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,

The seasons of the year bring varied experiences to each of us. We hope for joy and renewal. We often find these. We also sometimes encounter setbacks and loss. Many of you have stayed in touch with me this summer. Each of us in our own way has encountered the things life has brought us. I have been keeping all of you in my prayers: prayers of thanksgiving for blessings received, and prayers for courage and strength to face the problems that reflect the truth that we are not able to control our lives as we might like. The more powerful truth is, though, that no matter what happens, God stands with us through it all. In prayer and meditation we can

begin to feel God's love in our times of joy and sorrow, knowing that in the end God makes all things new, and heals all troubles. It's hard to wait because we can't know when that will happen. In the words of the psalm we often find ourselves saying, "How long, O Lord?" But in the resurrection of Jesus we can be confident that the promise is real. And our confidence grows as we share our experiences of life and our experiences of God when we gather in community. I am so looking forward to worshipping with you and serving God with you when we gather again on our Welcome Back Sunday, September 16th. My prayer for us is that, in gathering to share another liturgical year in praise and worship of God we will be able to deepen our faith and be sustained in our current lives by God's saving promise.

We will have a busy and fulfilling year. I call your attention to the many activities described in this issue of The Grapevine. I would like to emphasize a couple in which we at St. Andrew's will be deepening our service to our broader Church. On October 20th from 8 AM to noon we will be hosting the Merrimack Valley Deanery in its annual workshops on evangelism, mission, worship and congregational development. Please plan to join your sister and brother Episcopalians that day to share the learning in these workshops, and/or to host by being here to help with coffee and light breakfast, and to help our visitors find their way around our building. On June 8th, 2008, we will be hosting the deanery Confirmation. Our diocese has given us a wonderful gift by asking us to host this major event at which five of our teens will be confirmed along with many others from across the Merrimack Valley. We'll have more information about this as the year goes on, but please make a note to mark your 2008 calendars when you get them.

In the meantime, our many lay ministries have been going strong, and will gather strength in the fall. I ask your prayers for them, and for all of us that we might have a year that builds on the joyful hope and anticipation of great things to come that we have found together.

Faithfully Yours in Christ, Reverend Joe

St. Andrew's Fall Festival

We will be holding a Rummage Sale/Flea Market on Saturday, September 29th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. It will be held outside and if there is rain it will be held in the gym. Paula Campbell is the lead contact for this event (978) 794-1000. Items dropped off will go on the stage. Please let Paula know that you are bringing or dropping off any items or if you have big items that need to be picked up. We are looking for many volunteers. There is a lot of things that need to be done for this event. Some of them are pricing, set up, during the event we need people to man the tables, games, snack bar-grilling, and clean up. Vestry has decided that the proceeds of this event will go to St. Andrew's



Coffee Hour

We have lots of open dates for coffee hour. 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In order to provide our Sunday School teachers with the opportunity to attend a full worship service once each month, we are looking for volunteers who are willing to supervise special once-a-month group-wide activities we have planned for the children. We will organize the activity and provide necessary materials and instruction; all you will need to do is supervise, assist the kids as necessary and help clean up afterwards. This is an easy and fun way to participate in the Christian education of our children without committing yourself to the role of full-time Sunday school teacher. Please take a look at the schedule below and let Janet or Val know if there is a Sunday/special event which might be of interest to you.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
October 7 th	Banners
November 4 th	Prayer Beads
December 2 nd	Advent Wreaths
January 6 th	Bible Bingo
February 3 rd	Candy making
March 2 nd	Easter craft
April 6 th	Seder meal
May 4 th	Mother's Day Craft

Welcome Back Sunday

Welcome Back Sunday is scheduled for September 16th. Sunday school registrations will be held beginning at 9am at which time children and parents will have an opportunity to meet the teachers and learn about this year's program. Immediately following, there will be a special group-wide activity for the children. As is our custom at St. Andrew's, children will join the already in-progress worship service at about 10am. Regular Sunday school classes will begin at 9am on September 23rd. One noteworthy change will be made in this year's First Communion program. Instead of a year long program, children interested in First Communion will be integrated into a regular age-appropriate Sunday school class. In the months leading up to First Communion Sunday (the date is still to be determined but it will be in late Spring 2008), there will be a handful of special sessions on Communion specific topics for the children (and sometimes their parents) with Val and Rev. Joe. First Communion Sunday itself, an experience traditionally enjoyed by our entire church family, will proceed as it always has. We hope this new format will make better use of our teaching resources, as well as insure that, for the most part, our children are with their respective peer groups during their Sunday school experience. Generally, First Communion is for children in 2nd grade and above, but please speak with Val, Rev. Joe or myself if you have any questions.

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 almost over, however the Food Pantry continued all summer. The Fall is fast approaching and it would be greatly appreciated if you could again 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

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 depends largely on the willingness to participate of those parishioners who have computer access so please continue to forward your email addresses to the

office at admin@standrewsmethuen.com. Paper copies will also be available in the church and can be mailed to the home of anyone who needs one.

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.

Memorials

Memorial Fund

Ruth E. Dahms

John G. Buckley

Building Preservation Fund

Ruth E. Dahms

Frederick Cummings, Jr.

Alfred R. Willmore

Garden Memorial Fund

Ruth Miller

Organ Memorial Fund

Ruth E. Dahms

Blanche Mahoney

Parlor Renovations

As of this writing, our parlor renovations are nearly complete and we plan for the finishing touches to be in place in time for *Welcome Back Sunday*. The walls and trim have been freshly painted and chair rail installed, new carpeting has been purchased, window valances have been sewn and the furniture arranged into a warm and inviting gathering space for meetings, fellowship, quiet conversation, and Christian education. Please stop by to take a look. This truly was a team effort and symbol of the renewed energy and enthusiasm which abounds at St. Andrew's. Many thanks to all who participated!

Fall Schedule

SEPTEMBER 15th Saturday 8:30am – 3:30pm
Safe Church training. St. Andrew's, Marblehead.
Fee \$40.00, covered by the church. Bring a brown bag lunch. Info: www.diomass.org and click on "Safe Church". Registration forms in Parish office.

SEPTEMBER 16th Sunday. Welcome back Sunday at St. Andrew's! More information to follow.

SEPTEMBER 22nd Saturday, Resource Day for Congregational Development. Evangelism, Church growth, Parish business systems, spirituality and

leadership, stewardship, communications, ministry with families and children, and more. FEE: \$20.00 include lunch. Registration deadline: September 18th. Infor: Helen Netos at hnetos@diomass.org.

SEPTEMBER 25th Fourth Annual Prayer Shawl Tea. Tuesday 2:00-3:30pm at First Calvary Baptist Church, 586 Massachusetts Avenue, No Andover.

SEPTEMBER 29th Fall Festival, 9:00am – 3:00pm

OCTOBER 4th Thursday 7:00pm, St. Francis Day, blessing of the animals at our Parish.

OCTOBER 15th Monday 7:00 - 9:00pm. Trinity Church, 124 River Road, Topsfield. Forum for Delegates to Diocesan Convention.

OCTOBER 20th Saturday, 8:30am – 12:30pm. St. Andrew's, Methuen. We will host the Merrimack Valley Deanery "Workshops for Parish Action". Free. Please see the notice on our bulletin board and sign up to attend some of the workshops and/or help with hosting that day.

NOVEMBER 2nd 3rd, Diocesan Convention at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Fitchburg. Deadline to submit resolutions or nominations, or constitutional amendments is Friday, September 7th no later than 5:00pm at the Diocesan office. Please see Rev. Joe for information.

PLEASE SEE THE PUBLICATION "F.Y.I." FROM THE DIOCESAN POSTED ON OUR BULLETIN BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EVENTS.

Mass Alzheimers Association

Len and I would like to participate in the Memory Walk on Saturday, September 15th. This walk benefits the Mass Alzheimer's Association. We would be part of a team from Academy Manor. Academy Manor is the largest Alzheimer's caregiver in the Merrimack Valley. Eugenia Hancock has been a resident there recently for rehabilitation therapy. We see she has received great care and we receive wonderful support. We would like to do something to help out. Any donation you feel you could make would truly help. Please see us at coffee hour.

Len & Bev Brown

Friday night specials 2007 – 2008 Dance Schedule

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When: 1st/3rd Fridays (Sept 7 2007/June 6 2008) Officially 7-9pm

Where: St Andrew's Church Hall 90 Broadway Methuen

Off street parking / ADA wheelchair accessible

Cost: \$2.00 Donation includes 8pm refreshments

Questions? : Trudy /George 978-682-8857 Jim Fraas 978-258-5341

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We play an eclectic variety of songs from oldies to current hits! This will include some rap and other newer songs you may not have heard before so we do not play just the same 20-30 songs.

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September 7 Welcome back!

September 21 -

October 5 Mystery Dance

October 19 - Halloween Party at Knights of Columbus! (LIMITED SEATING!)

Wear Costumes! Win prizes!

November 2rd

November 16th Start voting at <http://www.musicradio77.com>

THREE WEEKS before next dance

December 7st - **Bring your OWN CD** No burned or stickered CDs please.

December 21th - Christmas Dance featuring GIFT exchange. (Male - Female)

January 4th 2008 - Songs from Musicradio77.com Top 77 of 2007!

January 18th

February 1st - **Bring your OWN CD** No burned or stickered CDs please.

February 15th - Valentine's Dance THREE weeks before next dance

March 7th - St Pats with Irish music : THREE weeks before next dance - Good Friday!

March 28th - **FOURTH Friday!** NEXT DANCE WILL BE NEXT WEEK!

April 4th - **Mystery Dance**

April 18th - Prom reservations NOW being taken. (LIMITED SEATING for Prom)

May 2nd Happy Birthday to ALL of US! Come Celebrate YOU!

May 16th Last dance before the prom. (Have you signed up?)

June 6th - **The Prom! Dinner 615 pm Music 730-10pm**

Jim's TWENTIETH season begins September 5th.

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

Sunday School Registration Form

Parents: _____

Street Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

Child's Full Name	DOB	Grade	Year in St. Andrew's Pin Program	Have you made 1st Communion? If so, when and where?

Our children need your help.

We are looking for volunteers to help supervise a group-wide activity during regular Sunday school hours on the first Sunday of each month. This will permit our regular teachers to enjoy a full worship service on a somewhat regular basis. We will provide all necessary supplies and instruction; you will only need to supervise and help clean up afterwards. Please check the preliminary schedule of activities on the reverse side and indicate on which Sundays you would be willing to help.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Name</i>
October 7 th	Banners	
November 4 th	Prayer Beads	
December 2 nd	Advent Wreaths	
January 6 th	Bible Bingo	
February 3 rd	Candy making	
March 2 nd	Easter craft	
April 6 th	Seder meal	
May 4 th	Mother's Day Craft	



Caregivers of Greater Lawrence

Older Adult & Caregiver Education
Series

Legal Concerns
of Older Adults & Caregivers:
Getting Your Affairs in Order

Ramsey Bahrawy,
Estate Planning & Elder Law
Attorney

Thursday, September 20, 2007
from 5 – 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION CHANGED TO:
Saint Michael School, Maple Street Hall
196 Main Street, North Andover

Topics of Discussion

Power of Attorney
Health Care Proxy
Wills and Trusts
Guardianship
Estate Planning

This program is sponsored by Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, a coalition of people from local faith communities, organizations, and institutions who work collaboratively to pool and expand resources to foster the highest quality of life for elders and others in need in our communities.

All programs are free of charge and open to the public. For more information, please contact Jean Guyer at (978) 686-4050.



Caregivers of Greater Lawrence

cordially invites you to the
Fourth Annual Prayer Shawl Tea

on

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

2:00-3:30 p.m.

at

First-Calvary Baptist Church

586 Massachusetts Avenue
North Andover, Massachusetts

Please join us for tea and pastry as we celebrate the Prayer Shawl Ministry,* offer shawls for a blessing by clergy, honor knitting groups, and share stories of how the ministry touches lives. Knitters, crocheters, clergy, shawl recipients, supporters, and those interested in learning more about the ministry are all welcome. Invite a friend or neighbor to share in this event.

Please RSVP by Thursday morning, September 20, to Barbara at the Greater Lawrence Council of Churches at (978) 686-4012 or email Barbara at barbarapayson@conversent.net.

*Janet Bristow and Victoria Cole-Galo, graduates of the Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary, created this ministry in 1998. Visit their website at www.shawlministry.com.

Interfaith Caregivers is a coalition of faith communities, social service agencies, and other organizations working to pool resources and expand services to foster the highest quality of life for elders, the homebound, others with special needs, and their caregivers.
