



The Grapevine

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

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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 write this message on the day following the visit of Bishop Gayle Harris to our parish on Sunday, March 2nd. It was a happy day celebrating the joyful hope and anticipation we are beginning to feel about our future. Bishop Gayle met with the Sunday School Children and Confirmation Class before she celebrated the Eucharist. Her sermon was memorable for a story she told that brought home the truth that we are all connected, and depend on each other for support. This is as true in our families, communities, and workplaces, as it is in our parish, the broader church, and the world.

She asked us to discern, each for ourselves and all of us together as a parish, how this mutual dependency makes meaning for the way we live our lives, and the choices we make, as members of the body of Christ. During brunch, Bishop Gayle ate with the youth group, and then addressed the parish. She offered resources and ideas for evangelism, stewardship, and partnering with other parishes in mission and service. She took questions from parishioners. Then she met with vestry where there was further conversation about mission, outreach, evangelism, and stewardship. After vestry has a chance to consider these ideas, they will want to talk with the parish about them. Meanwhile, Bishop Gayle thanked all of us for the many ministries we do as a parish. She was delighted that we have been exceptionally dedicated and consistently successful.

Many people did a lot of work to prepare for Bishop Gayle's visit. The church space and all of our facilities sparkled. The food was bountiful and delicious. The service music was beautiful. Everyone did their usual St. Andrew's best as gracious hosts. I am honored as your priest to be at a parish that prepares so wonderfully for a bishop visit, and that offers so much for a bishop to be pleased about.

The months ahead will be busy ones. The St. Patrick's Day Dinner is Saturday March 15th. Palm Sunday (March 16th) and Easter (March 23rd) come very early this year. We will try to organize a Scout recognition Sunday on May 4th. On Sunday May 11th we will celebrate Pentecost, First Communion, and Mothers' Day on the one Sunday. We will host the Deanery Confirmation on Saturday June 7th. Fathers' Day Sunday is not far after that. Somewhere along the way we are trying to organize a youth service. Whew! But, I know we can do it. We work hard at St. Andrew's, but we find joy in it all by feeling God's presence with us in the work, and by finding appreciation for each other's many gifts in making it all happen.

God Bless you!

Rev. Joe

From our Senior Warden

As we all await the pushing up of daffodils and tulips, the greening of the grass and the first signs of spring, the Lenten season is upon us earlier than usual. It is a blessed way to break up the winter doldrums and to reflect upon our own opportunities of renewal.

It's also a very busy time at St. Andrew's. In addition to our numerous regular ministries, we have been visited by Bishop Gayle Harris, will shortly have the Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner, followed by Easter Day Breakfast. We also will be hosts for the Merrimack Valley Deanery Confirmation Class of 2008! Talk about St. Andrew's being a hopping place!

I am very proud of our collective dedication and determination in making a positive difference in the lives of our parishioners, our community and our personal relationships with God. Thanks to you all for your continued commitment to St. Andrew's and may your holiday season continue to be blessed.

In Christ,

Richard Falk
Sr. Warden

ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST MARCH 23RD

Free of Charge



The Vestry will be hosting our annual Easter Breakfast between the 8am and 9:30 am services. Last year's breakfast was outstanding and we hope you will stop by again this year!



Easter Week Schedule

Sunday, March 16th (Palm Sunday)

8:00 am Rite I

9:30 am Rite II with music.

Thursday, March 20th (Maundy Thursday)

7:30pm Eucharist/Washing of the Feet

Friday, March 21st (Good Friday)

Noon-3pm Church open for quiet reflection

7pm Way of the Cross/Communion from Reserved Sacrament

Sunday, March 23rd (Easter Sunday)

8am Rite I

9:30am Rite II with music

Sunday School birthdays



Alexis Wizboski	Jan. 14 th
Curtis Robarge	Jan. 22 nd
Kyleigh Cooley	Feb. 7 th
Robert Pauley	Feb. 7 th
Mally, Clive & Lars Falk	Feb. 16 th
Nicholas Wunderlich	Feb. 18 th
Meg Donegan	Mar. 1 st
Shauna Dalrymple	Apr. 2 nd
Jameson Falk	Apr. 4 th
Sarah Ratcliffe	Apr. 8 th
Leah O'Keefe	Apr. 28 th

Easter Memorial Flowers



Anyone wishing to have loved ones mentioned in the Easter bulletin should fill out one of the Easter Memorial Offering Envelopes. Envelopes are located on the tables at the entrances to the church or may be requested from the office. Please see someone on the Altar Guild or call Gloria in the office if you have questions.

Can you help our Sunday school ?



The Sunday School currently needs volunteers to fill the following positions:

PreSchool/Kindergarten Teacher -- We usually have one or more teenagers willing to help with this age group, but we need an adult to help with the overall supervision of the group. A typical Sunday might include a story, simple craft or video and we provide all materials. No advance class prep time is required and you don't need to commit to every week.

Substitute/Backup Team Teachers -- Our middle school and upper school groups do not currently have backup teachers. If you would be willing to join a teaching team for either age group, either by participating on a regular basis or by making yourself available on an on-call basis, please let us know.

We encourage folks who may be interested to stop by any Sunday morning to give us a try.

Wonder Love & Praise

Through the generosity of our church family and friends, we have raised funds to purchase over 90 new *Wonder Love & Praise* hymnals. The order is being placed as we go to press with this issue of the *Grapevine*, so please be keep an eye out for further information on the blessing of these hymnals as we receive them and begin putting them into use. Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project.

Food Pantry

Many thanks to everyone in the parish for your continuing support of the Arlington Neighborhood Food Pantry. We are happy to accept donations of food items or cash to purchase any of the items we give on a weekly basis (cereal, pasta and sauce, canned veggies, soup, tuna, peanut butter and jelly).

We'd also especially like to thank Robert Pauley who very generously asked the guests at his recent birthday party to donate canned goods to the Food Pantry instead of bringing gifts.

St. Patrick's Day



Save the date of March 15th for our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner! Once again, Paul Waites will be preparing a traditional corned beef dinner and entertainment will be provided by the Irish stepdancers. We will also have a gift basket raffle, so please let us know if you have any items which you'd like to donate to the raffle. Please see Len, Bev, Krista or Matt if you'd like to purchase either dinner or raffle tickets.

Reflections on a service project

Our confirmation class (Meg, Leah, Michelle, Amanda, Nicole, Shauna, Eric and James), along with Rev. Joe and a small group of chaperones, recently completed its group service project by participating in Common Cathedral which is Ecclesia Ministries' outdoor church for the homeless that gathers every Sunday afternoon, regardless of weather, at the Brewer Fountain on Boston Common. It was a lively service which included scripture reflection by the minister, as well as by the congregation, prayers, celebration of birthdays, the sharing of Eucharist, and lots of singing. After the service, our confirmands served a lunch, consisting of soup, sandwiches, fruit, cake, and hot chocolate, which they had prepared earlier that morning back at St. Andrew's. It was a powerfully moving experience, underscored by a cold, snowy January afternoon, which required our adults and teens to step out of our comfort zone both literally and figuratively. We couldn't help but be thankful for both the warmth and comfort of our homes and families, as well as the opportunity for having had our eyes and hearts opened to the lives of the homeless congregation on Boston Common.

Report From the Affordable Housing Committee

St. Andrew's continues to explore the possibility of developing affordable housing on our church property. As you may recall, last year we received a \$7500 grant from Episcopal City Missions to study this possibility. Thus far, we've been in contact with Brett Donham, an architect from Boston with significant experience in the rehabilitation of Henry Vaughn designed structures who has done some preliminary site sketches for us on a volunteer basis, and representatives from the City's community development agency and conservation commission. Now that we've received a positive response from the City, we're ready to engage Brett to do some more serious site planning work (and will use the proceeds of the \$7500 grant to do that) and move forward with a second grant request to Episcopal City Missions. The proceeds of the second grant will be used to engage a consultant who can help us answer questions about the marketability and financial feasibility of the project. Once our plans are a bit further along, we will invite Brett in to make a presentation to the church and answer any questions you may have on the particulars of the design and development. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to bring any questions you may have to our committee (Rev. Joe, Len, Laura and Janet). We'd also welcome anyone who may be interested in serving on this committee.

From the Treasurer

Many thanks to everyone who made an effort to pay their 2007 pledges in full. As you may know, our first floor rectory tenants unexpectedly abandoned their apartment. Until we can complete the repairs and renovations necessary to bring the apartment up to a "rentable" condition, we'll be without that additional source of income. Your pledge payments are especially important at this time!

Budgeted weekly pledges through 2/29:	8076
Actual weekly pledges through 2/29:	- <u>6483</u>
Pledge deficit through 2/29	(1593)

Thank you from Len and Bev

Len and I are very proud to be members of St. Andrew's Church. What a great turnout we had for the Bishop's visit! St. Andrew's should be proud. What a show of support and of the love and pride we have for Father Joe. Bishop Gayle presided over a lovely Eucharistic service. We gratefully appreciated the special music supplied by Cindy Sulesky, Bob Burke and Hugh Tones. The outpouring of support and enthusiasm for the luncheon was wonderful. Bishop Gayle commented on the Great Spirit that she felt coming from the church as a family, supportive of Father Joe and as a group looking toward the future. We personally wanted the day to go well to show the Bishop just how wonderful St. Andrew's is with our new leadership. We thank all who prepared food, helped in the kitchen and who came to make it the special day it truly was!!

Mark your calendars

March 15 th	St. Pat's Dinner
March 30 th	Worship Committee Meeting
May 4 th	Scout Sunday
May 11 th	First Communion
May 30 th	Youth Dinner with Rev. Jane's group from Biloxi
June 7 th	Confirmation at St. Andrew's

Communities Together News

Birthday in a Box. Communities Together (formerly known as Greater Lawrence Council of Churches), together with area churches, is sponsoring a monthly birthday party for the children at our Hancock Courts after-school and summer program, *Manos Felices ~ Happy Hands at Hancock*. Many of the children attending the *Manos Felices* program have never had a birthday party or birthday cake. One twelve-year-old earned tips at a grocery store parking lot in order to buy his own cake! CT is looking for 12 churches (or boards or groups within congregations) to choose one month in which to sponsor one birthday party for all the children born in that month. We are calling this project "Birthday in a Box." We are hoping that a group from St. Andrew's will agree to sponsor one of the open months.

The Kids' Underwear Drive. Communities Together is again sponsoring The Kids' Underwear Drive during

Lenten services. Our member churches will be collecting new children's underwear, diapers, pull-ups, footed pajamas, stretch suits and children's socks. Just one pair or one package will make a difference to a youngster who goes without. St. Andrew's collection basket is located in the upstairs parlor. If you wish to donate money to purchase items, checks can be made out to The Kids' Underwear Drive and sent to Communities Together. The articles will be distributed to children through Lazarus House, Bread and Roses, Neighbors in Need, Si Se Puede, Hancock Courts (Manos Felices), Women's Resource Center, The Pregnancy Center, The Salvation Army, The Red Cross Emergency Center, Centro de Adoracion (MAJES), Emmaus House & Family Services of Lawrence.

Elder Services

Program on Long Term Care Insurance. Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, a coalition of faith communities, social service agencies, and health organizations working together to serve elders and caregivers, will sponsor a Long Term Care Planning Workshop by Anne Allar, CLCT (Certified in Long Term Care). The program will be held at Saint Michael's Church Parish Hall, 196 Main Street, North Andover on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Join Anne Allar and learn why Long Term Care insurance is such a hot topic today, how policies and laws impacting Long Term Care have changed, what the consequences are for your family and your retirement portfolio if you live a long life, how to choose a Long Term Care insurance company or agent, and if Long Term Care insurance is appropriate for you. For more information call Jean Guyer at (978) 686-4050.

Eldercare Fair. Interfaith Caregivers will sponsor its 2nd Annual Eldercare Fair at Saint Michael's Church Parish Hall on Thursday, May 15, 2008, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. A variety of vendors and providers will help you make sense of the many services (and eligibility guidelines) available to your aging loved ones.

Drivers Still Needed. Have you ever thought about how difficult life would be if you were confined to your home without transportation? Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Lawrence, a coalition of faith communities, social service agencies, and health organizations, is looking for volunteers to drive elders to medical and "quality of life" appointments. Volunteers serve through the *Friends in Deed* program at Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley. Elder Services provides training and additional liability insurance for its drivers. Volunteers decide when they drive. To help, please call Elder

Services at 1-800-892-0890. Ask for Eileen at extension 1463 or Jerry at extension 1445 (and mention Interfaith Caregivers). Thank you from Interfaith Caregivers and the many elders who need the services of volunteer drivers to remain independent in their own homes.



Memorials

Memorial Fund

Robert Feugill
Eugenia Hancock

Building Preservation Fund

Frances M. Beeley
Dora S. Elliott
Francis J. Elliott
Robert Feugill
Eugenia Hancock
Rufus B. Price

Music Memorial Fund

Margaret J. Barnes
Doris E. Crowe
Rufus B. Price

Organ Memorial Fund

Robert Feugill
Eugenia Hancock
Niall R. Fleming
Rufus B. Price