



The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
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Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Joe or Janet 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.

event that changed everything forever, when God came to personally bring the light of salvation into a world living in the darkness of sin and death's rule. If God will do that, God will surely help us through times that are hard, but not nearly so dark as then. Together in prayer and reflection we can open ourselves to God's inspiration and guidance. God will help us see the path to better times, be it in our parish, families, communities, or personal lives. God will also show us ways to help our sisters and brothers who suffer in dangerous and calamitous places, like Haiti, the Middle East, and places mired in poverty and fear right here in our country. I invite us all to start with prayer for hope, strength, the relief of suffering, and for guidance and determination on how we can do our part in God's work. All we need is a little faith that it will be so, and to take a first step in some direction that might be new for us. Let us do all we can to be together, and help God help us along.

God bless you!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Reverend Joe

GREETINGS FROM THE REV. JOE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am very grateful for all of your prayers, cards, and messages of encouragement during my recovery from a heart attack. By the time you read this, I will be back at the church, where I hope to have thanked you personally. In any case, it has been deeply moving to experience myself the outpouring of love and support for which St. Andrew's is renowned. We are a special parish indeed.

It has been a tough end to 2009. For many of us, it has been a tough year. For some of us, it has been hard for several years. When New Year's Day was approaching, someone pointed out to me that it was not only a new year, but a new decade. There was a clear note of hope in this person's voice that it meant the possibility of a really fresh start and better times to come. That has truly been my prayer. I bet you join me in that prayer. With God, all things are possible. We have just celebrated Christmas, the

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear Friends,

I had planned to write what you would probably all think of as a traditional new year message for our first Grapevine of 2010, but as John Lennon once said "life is what happens while you're busy making other plans" and I am instead going to share with you some thoughts on Len Brown. As you all know, Len and I were the wardens here at St. Andrew's. What you may not know is that it was only because Len committed to yet another stint as our Junior Warden that I agreed to become the Senior Warden. Len was my friend, my mentor, my supporter, my inspiration, my collaborator, my Vestry colleague, a role model for my son and at the epicenter of our church family. Len and I shared a great love for St. Andrew's. We spent a lot of time together over the past few years, working on projects both big and small, as well as

brainstorming on how we might make this a better place. I was good at the big picture and he was even better at bringing the vision to life and attending to the smallest details that I, quite frankly, didn't even know existed. It didn't matter what I wanted or needed. If I put out the call, I knew he would answer -- teaching Sunday school last year when we were short of teachers, acting as a mentor for confirmands, remodeling the rectory, setting up a Halloween party, arranging flowers for my mom's funeral, or overseeing the exterior restoration of our church. During the week, we'd often be sitting around the office and I'd say to him "you know what we ought to do" or "wouldn't it be great if we could" or "why don't we" and before I knew it he'd be taking care of whatever I had on my mind. The Friday night before Len died we were here at the church helping to wrap gifts for children who live in the Arlington Neighborhood. We were about 3/4 of the way into the evening when I leaned over and said to him "we should have had our recycling bin out here tonight." Next thing I knew, out of the corner of my eye, I saw him bringing the bin into the hall. Two summers ago we were in the position of having an apartment on our hands that needed some extensive renovations to get it into tenant worthy condition. The church desperately needed the income that the apartment would generate, so I put out the call one Sunday morning in church and, predictably, Len and Bev were the first volunteers. Other volunteers floated in and out of the project, but Len and Bev and I stayed it through to the end. I often joked about how other people went to the Cape or Islands for summer vacation, but mine was spent at 7 Messer Ave with the Browns. What a gift it was to have spent that summer with them. Sometimes the projects were much simpler. We were doing a tea here one spring to raise money for our Diocese's mission work in the Gulf. I was struggling to hang little white lights in the windows in the hall when Len stopped in to see how he could help. He transformed my ineffective attempt at artistry into a twinkling, magical fairyland. He was literally a guy who could hang 99 cent plastic tablecloths in our windows and make them look like custom made draperies. We don't really know the extent to which Len handled things around here and, as a layleader, I'm almost afraid to go there. This much I do know though. Len would want us to continue to work on making our church, our neighborhood and our community a better, more beautiful place. So although life has gotten in the way and none of this is what we had planned, I will continue to work on all of things that were important to Len. I hope you will all consider doing the same. That's probably not such a bad thought for the new year after all.

Peace,

Janet

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010**

The Annual meeting of St. Andrew's Parish, Methuen, MA will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2010 after the 9:30 a.m. service.

The Business to be transacted at the meeting will be as follows:

The Election of the following:

- Clerk of the Annual Meeting
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Two Vestry positions available to serve 3 year term
- Delegates to the Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of MA

Delegates to Deanery

- Greater Lawrence Council of Churches
- Parish Historian

Other Business will include:

- The receipt of annual reports from all Parish organizations
- The receipt of annual financial reports
- A report on the adopted 2010 budget
- Any other business as may properly be brought before the Congregation for its consideration.

Your participation is crucial to our success. First, you'll likely remember from previous years that we need a quorum in order to proceed. That means we need parishioners to be present and sign in. We can't even get the meeting started if we don't have people willing to do that. Secondly, Vestry members, your representatives to the board that oversees the business of our church, are elected at this meeting. As of this writing, we have a number of positions that will need to be filled, including Junior Warden, two three-year seats on the Vestry, parish historian, delegates to the convention and representatives to Communities Together. If you'd like the job descriptions for any of these positions, please let us know. This annual meeting is a great opportunity to help St. Andrew's move forward into the next decade -- please consider how you can help make it a success!

COFFEE HOUR



We need more people to share in the coffee hour ministry. Please consider helping out with this time of fellowship after the 9:30 service by taking a turn to provide cookies or pastries. The sign up sheet is on the door connecting the downstairs parlor and kitchen.

PASTORAL CARE

Please notify the church office if you or someone in your family is ill or hospitalized. In addition to keeping you in our prayers, our Pastoral Care team would like to send one of its members to visit you and bring communion.

PRAYER LIST

We will soon be refreshing the prayer list which we publish in our weekly bulletin. Please contact the office (978.689.0463 or admin@standrewsmethuen.org) if you wish to remain on the list or add someone to the list.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge card. Your commitment is crucial to our financial planning for 2010, so we very much appreciate the prompt return of your cards. In the next issue of the Grapevine, we plan to formally thank those who have returned pledge cards by publishing a list of names.

For those of you who have not yet had an opportunity to return a card, we will gratefully receive it at any time. If you have any questions or wish to receive envelopes, please contact our pledge recorder, Elaine Morissette.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

By Laura Walta

GLC, the consultant who have studied affordable housing options for the City of Methuen, submitted its report outlining the feasibility of an affordable housing option at St. Andrew's. Rev. Joe, Len, Janet and I met to discuss next steps, and agreed that the members of the parish might not have enough information to make an informed decision. We agreed to a structured process of discernment that would, hopefully, answer questions and get us, as a church, to a point where we could make an informed decision as to the future of the project.

I met with Charlie Wibiralske from Episcopal City Mission (from whom we received the two grants to study feasibility) to enlist his assistance. We agreed to a process and timeline that might look like the following:

January- Planning meeting with Rev. Joe, Janet, Charlie and I; initial meeting with Bishop Tom to outline process so far

February- Meeting after 9:30 service to reflect on process and articulate questions that need to be answered; Local field trip after the 9:30 service to visit an affordable housing development (see it first hand) to be followed by parish wide discussion.

March- Presentation by a management company to hear about what is involved in being a neighbor and partner in a development and ask questions; Presentation from tenants of affordable housing to hear about why it is important and what kind of difference it has made in their life to be followed by parish wide discussion

April- Field trip to visit a church that is currently doing affordable housing to hear benefits, pitfalls, lessons learned; Meeting after 9:30 service to reflect on discernment process and determine whether questions have been answered

Mid May- Meeting after 9:30 service to take a Go/No Go vote of the parish

If "Go, " → June- Bring vote to the Standing Committee for their concurrence

Summer- Develop RFP to select developer → complete engineering studies → create plan → bring to Community Development and Zoning → present to Diocesan Standing Committee for approval

I hope this update is helpful. Please call Laura Walta with any questions you may have at 978-857-0624. Thank you

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

- 2 *Christy Lee*
- 12 *Derek Haidaczuk*
- 12 *Kristofer Wunderlich*
- 14 *Alexis Wizboski*
- 16 *Gary Hudson*
- 17 *Pauline Crosby*
- 22 *Curtis Robarge*
- 23 *Tom Durant*



February

- 1 *Huib Walta*
- 4 *Maureen Maccaro*
- 5 *Gail Ratcliffe*
- 7 *Kyleigh Cooley*
- 7 *Robert Pauley*
- 16 *Dorothy Archambault*
- 16 *Mally, Clive, and Lars Falk*
- 16 *Dorothy Archambault*
- 18 *Nicholas Wunderlich*
- 19 *Krista McLeod*
- 19 *Peter Kwakye, Sr.*

CONTEMPLATIVE EXERCISES

Read and reflect on Matthew 2:1-12. Consider the gift of your presence. In what ways can you offer this to God and to others?

Meditate on Psalm 139, verses 6 - 9 (below). Take time to wonder about God's love for you.

Where can I go then from your spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
If I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me,
And your right hand hold me fast.

DATES TO REMEMBER



- January 28th Simple Supper at 5:30pm
- February 7th Annual Meeting
- February 16th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 17th Ash Wednesday Service at 7pm
- March 13th Annual St. Pat's Day Dinner

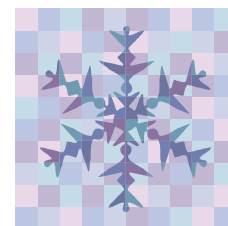
❄ WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS ❄

Throughout the winter season, we will change the voicemail greeting on the church phone to reflect cancellations or delays in Sunday services due to weather conditions.

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Gentle God, the tinsel falls, the year turns, the carols fade. The blessing of Bethlehem that touched all the gray in our lives with star-silver is past. In this turning season of long cold nights, we ask God's presence beyond our holidays into the wintering times of our lives, so that we can begin to grow and become strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God. Amen

From *An Improbable Gift of Blessing: Prayers and Affirmations to Nurture the Spirit*, by Maren C. Tirabassi & Joan Jordan Grant, United Church Press, 1998





Thanks to many of you, we again were able to give food to six families in the Arlington Neighborhood each

week. We have many faithful donors; it is such a help! As spring arrives, new needs will arise and we will strive to continue our weekly donations. As you shop, we ask you to remember these families and pick up one (or more) items on our list and bring it with you to church. It all adds up and is a great help!

Each week we give the following to each family: Tuna, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, green veggies, yellow veggies, soup, peanut butter, jelly or fluff. In addition we purchase milk and bread, so a monetary donation is also helpful.

Thank you for your continued help! Bev Brown



Our 2009 Advent Wreath

MEMORIALS



Memorial Fund

Wayne Atkinson
Leonard W. Brown, Jr.
Audrey Mahoney

Organ Memorial Fund

Wayne Atkinson
Leonard W. Brown Jr.
Ursula Calvert
Agnes Hohlfelden
Gladys Koza
Ella S. Miller
Cynthia Sulesky

Music Memorial Fund

Leonard W. Brown, Jr.
Gladys Koza
Norma Santone

Garden Memorial Fund

Leonard W. Brown, Jr.
Hazel Dennison
Mildred Gustin
Gladys Koza

Building Preservation Fund

Wayne Atkinson
Leonard W. Brown, Jr.
Warren Lodge
Ella S. Miller