

# The Grapevine

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

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church  
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## March/April 2010

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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.*

### GREETINGS FROM REV. JOE

Lent 2010

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write to you during Lent, I am aware that it is a very difficult season of the Church year for many people. We sacrifice things we enjoy, we become penitent for our sins, and we try our best to sing church music much more solemn than many of us would prefer. Many people feel sorrow and sadness. We yearn for Easter. Yet I don't think of Lent as a season primarily for sorrow and sadness. I invite you to join me in a Lent made Holy by discovery and action in finding a deeper, more intentional

relationship with God. We have Jesus, God's Son and our Savior, to guide us.

In the Gospel passage from the First Sunday of Lent this year, we heard about Jesus' temptation by the devil to abandon His Father and His own self. The devil wanted Jesus to worship him instead. He tempted Jesus with worldly possessions, riches, power, and acclaim. Jesus, however, held fast to the One he really was, the Son of God, created and loved by God the Father for a very special life. Jesus never succumbed to the temptation to forget who he was, so the devil could get no power over Him. The worldly powers tempt us the same way all the time. When they want us to abandon God and our own true selves, and give ourselves over and follow them, they are evil. When this happens they try to get us to forget who we are: brothers and sisters of Jesus, also children of God, created and loved by Him for very special lives God uniquely gives each of us. None of us are Jesus, so sometimes we do stray, and forget. This is sin. We can't avoid the world live in, but we must not let it define us. When, during Lent, we sacrifice worldly things we like, we are trying to make an intentional effort to be mindful of the world's temptations, our tendency to stray, and the need to focus instead on whose we really are: God's. There is even joy to find in Lent when we realize that no matter how strong the temptations, or threatening the world can be, or how much we stray, God has promised through His only Son, Jesus Christ, that salvation awaits all who strive to repent and keep faithful. There is joy to be found in remembering that God is always there with all the power necessary to help us in our striving. We can get deeper into relationship with God through prayer, reflection on scripture, worship, and prayerful companionship with each other. In Lent, we can take the time to try to shed some of the world's temptations and help each other remember that, really, all we are, all we have,

and all we do comes from, and depends on, God, who is infinitely dependable. In Lent, we can resolve to take God's tireless invitation to be better at remembering this, strive for faithfulness, and live lives of grateful action.

May you have a holy Lent. God bless you!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe +

### FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Your new Vestry officially began its work at our first meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We welcome our new additions: Laura Walta as Junior Warden and Huib Walta and Val Carey as Vestry members. We've also had some new faces volunteer to be our delegates to the annual convention and Deanery -- Betty MacKay, Molly Ratcliffe, Gail Ratcliffe and Krista McLeod. It promises to be yet another busy and exciting year here at St. Andrew's and I'm personally grateful for your willingness to participate. Participation (and ways to increase it) will be a recurring theme over the next year. As the Vestry begins these discussions, we welcome and encourage your input. Vestry will be meeting with Carol Kingston, our Diocesan coach, in April to set goals for the current term. I'm sure that increased participation will be at the top of the list, so don't be surprised if someone taps you on the shoulder and asks for your help with one of our ministries or special events. In advance of that though, maybe you could consider some of the small but significant ways in which you can contribute. How about hosting a coffee hour? Or perhaps sitting on the music committee or singing in the choir? Or volunteering to help with the St. Pat's dinner? There are many ways to be involved and active at St. Andrew's and we look forward to your participation.

### FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Hello dear friends of St. Andrew's!

You know, I have always been a big girl. At 5"9" I was the tallest in my sixth grade class. I wear a size 10 shoe. I have never, in my life, felt small.

That is, until I took on the responsibilities of Junior Warden, and tried to fill Len's shoes. Yikes! I feel so inadequate!

But I will try, with God's help, to meet the needs and responsibilities of the job. It is my goal that we will have a building we can be proud of, and to address each and every problem presented to me. I want everyone to feel proud of St. Andrew's and its rich traditions. So if you see anything, think of anything, that you feel needs my attention, PLEASE let me know.

Together, we WILL make a difference!

In His service,

Laura Walta

### REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED AT 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

**SENIOR WARDEN:** Janet Ratcliffe

**JUNIOR WARDEN:** Laura Walta

**TREASURER:** Jim Beagan

**CLERK:** Beth Regan

**VESTRY:** Huib Walta and Val Carey

**DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION:** Gail Ratcliffe and Krista McLeod

**DELEGATES TO DEANERY:** Betty MacKay and Molly Ratcliffe

**COMMUNITIES TOGETHER:** Janet Ratcliffe, Krista McLeod and Bev Brown

**HISTORIAN:** Matt McKeon

FROM THE TREASURER



Financial Report through Feb 2010:

Pledge 2010 – received to date: \$8,163 (114% of budgeted to date, 102% of pledged to date).. Thank you, we appreciate your keeping your pledges up in difficult times. If you find it necessary to adjust your pledge, please let the pledge recorder know by putting a note in your envelope. It will help in our planning.

Heating fund donations - \$50 in 2010.

Income: \$22,456 (123% of budget)  
Expenses: \$19,242 (106% of budget)  
overage: \$ 3,214

There are still outstanding bills of approximately \$1200 from the end of the month, to be paid in March. In addition, we have not yet been billed for this year’s assessment, rector’s pension, or insurance. These would require an additional \$2500 to be set aside. This means we are slightly in a deficit situation. Of course, hopefully the biggest hits for heat and plowing are past us, but we must be more realistic than optimistic.

Jim Beagan

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER  
LENT 2010 SCHEDULE  
(REMAINING SERVICES)

- 3/10** First Baptist Church, Methuen
- 3/17** Kurth Auditorium at Lawrence General Hospital
- 3/24** South Church, Andover

All services begin at 12 Noon followed by a light lunch.

HOLY WEEK OFFERINGS

**March 28th** -- Palm Sunday services at 8am (Rite I) and 9:30 (Rite II with music)

**April 1st** -- Maundy Thursday at 7:30pm for Eucharist, foot washing, stripping of the altar and reservation of the Sacrament

**April 2nd** -- Good Friday; quiet meditation from noon to 3pm; 7pm Eucharist from the reserved Sacrament and Way of the Cross

**April 4th** -- Easter Sunday services at 8am (Rite I) and 9:30 am (Rite II with music)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 29	Peter Maccaro
April 2	Shauna Dalrymple
April 4	Jameson Falk
April 5	Beverly Brown
April 8	Sarah Ratcliffe
April 9	Charles Currie
April 23	Alex Wunderlich
April 24	Lloyd Campbell
April 25	Kassandra Milo

FESTIVAL OF TREES UPDATE



As many of you have likely heard by now, last fall the Festival of Trees organization awarded St. Andrew’s a matching grant of almost \$10,000 toward the cost of the restoration work on the exterior of the church. In mid-January, we approached representatives of the Festival to see if any additional funding would be available for St. Andrew’s. We’re very pleased to let you know that our award has been increased to a total of \$28,000. Needless to say, this is a significant

contribution and it will go a long way toward replenishing the savings account that we drained to preserve the exterior of our church. We are very grateful.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



### PARISH MAILINGS

Due to the rising costs of supplies and postage, we are unable to continue sending all of our parish mailings to our very lengthy mailing list. We will continue to make publications such as the Grapevine available electronically by posting it on our website and sending it via email to those who have submitted an email address. We'll also make a limited number of paper copies available for pickup at the church. We will continue to send paper copies to our homebound parishioners and others who may not be able to come to church. Please contact Janet McDonald, our parish secretary, at 978.689.0463 or by email at [admin@standrewsmethuen.org](mailto:admin@standrewsmethuen.org) if you would like to be added to either our homebound list or our email list. We expect to implement this change on May 1st so that everyone will have adequate time to send in their addresses.

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We will soon be refreshing the weekly prayer list included in the weekly bulletin. Please contact the office (978)689-0463 or [admin@standrewsmethuen.org](mailto:admin@standrewsmethuen.org) if you wish to remain on the list, add to or omit someone from the list. *Thank you*

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### FUNDRAISING

Thank you to Dave Marsh for coordinating some recent fundraising activities on behalf of the food pantry. Dave held a Super Bowl party, the entrance fee for which was canned goods. Great idea! He also held a golf tournament on the ice at Forest Lake and charged an entrance fee. All proceeds

were donated to the Arlington Neighborhood Food Pantry.

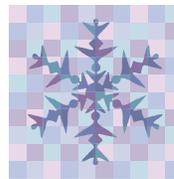


### COFFEE HOUR

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 the kitchen.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Sunday School children need your help. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with next year's program. We can use your time and talent in almost any capacity, whether you wish to volunteer or a weekly basis or as an occasional substitute, so we encourage you to talk to Rev. Joe or MaryEllen Briggs if you are interested



### SNOW CANCELLATIONS

The message on our voicemail will be changed to reflect the cancellation of our services, Sunday school and other events. If you are in doubt, please call the church number and listen to the message before venturing out on the roads.

### ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST

Please join us for our annual Easter Breakfast between the 8am and 9:30am services on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome. Please call the office if you need additional information.

### EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL

Those wishing to give to the flower memorial fund in memory of a loved one, please have information for Gail Ratcliffe by March 28th.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE  
BY LAURA WALTA

Hello!

As promised, I've tried to work out a schedule of activities to help us discern if affordable housing is the right direction for St. Andrew's. The goal here is to provide everyone with enough information to make an informed decision before the summer break. To move forward, or not, is totally in the hands of the congregation as a whole. I am but a servant- pulling together the information you ask for. The process has begun with a meeting Sunday February 28th: Questions discussed included: Exactly what kind of information are we missing? What would people still like to know? How could we feel more confident about how we feel about this project? So far, people have indicated that they would be interested in learning more about the following topics:

1. March 21, 2010 – What are the implications of having responsibility for an affordable housing project? We will have a presentation by a management company to learn about what is involved with being a neighbor and a partner in an affordable housing development.

2. March 28, 2010 – What does affordable housing look like? We will visit a local affordable housing community development that is comparable to the type of housing development contemplated at St. Andrew's.

3. April 18, 2010 – Who lives in affordable housing? Why? Why is it important to have this resource? We will have a presentation by tenants of a nearby affordable housing development to hear their story about why subsidized housing is important and has made a difference in their lives.

4. May 2, 2010 – What other churches are doing this? Why? What has been their experience? We will take a trip to another church that currently owns affordable housing to learn about benefits, pitfalls, and lesson learned.

5. May 16, 2010 – We will have a conversation about what has been learned, followed by a vote of the congregation on whether to proceed or not

If you were not able to attend the meeting on February 28, and have questions or concerns, please let us know with a letter, phone call, email, or grab me in church!

Peace, Laura Walta

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner**



**March 13, 2010 5:00 P.M.**

**\$12.00/Adults \$6.00/Child 5-12 years**

**Gift Basket Raffle, 50/50 Raffle, Irish Sing-along  
and Irish Stepdancers**

**Please contact the church office for further  
information.**

## A LENTEN PRAYER

Gentle God, we thank you for this Lenten hour of worship.  
Deepen our prayer.  
Teach us to understand ourselves,  
to be reconciled with one another and  
to love you with profound joy.  
Lead us into such simplicity of faith and honesty of spirit that, as individual Christians and as congregations,  
  
we may be strengthened in temptation  
and renewed in grace. 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*

## TIME CAPSULE FROM MAY 18, 1980

We found a time capsule left by Sunday School children, their teachers, and Rev. John Phelps back in 1980. It was their intention that it be opened in 2000. It was so securely hidden, however, that we did not find it until Sunday February 7, 2010, while we were looking for the supply of ashes for Ash Wednesday. The time capsule contains many newspaper articles and advertisements from 1980, and some artwork and messages from the Sunday School children of that year. We are working to decide how best to display the contents for your perusal. The time capsule also contained the following letter from Rev. Phelps, whom some of you might remember:

May 15, 1980  
Ascension Day

Dear Reader,

As I contemplate your reading of this letter twenty (20) years from this Sunday, the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Sunday after Ascension Day, I am trying to visualize what your world may be like. Certainly many of you may have been members of our Church School when the capsule was sealed. I would imagine that no matter the magnitude of the number of changes around you as you look at your world, the

“hectic pace” of our life will not have vanished by the year 2000, in fact the trend of having children exposed to more of “life” at an earlier age will most likely continue.

That which I’d like to leave with you is an awareness of what lasts rather than contemplating what might change. The infinite value you have as an individual – the person you are. This has lasting effect upon all whom you meet and with whom you work and live. God above all else wanted us to realize two things and for this reason sent us His Son. First that we were created by Him for a very special role in His eternal plan. Second, that He who created us loves us as His own. We are God’s children, His sons and daughters through adoption made possible by Jesus Christ. This is why Christ taught us to pray “Our Father ...” rather than “Dear God in heaven....” No matter what the future brings it can never alter this fact. We are His, put here for a very unique reason..., and we are loved by Him with a love that passes understanding. Finally, if we are so special, then, obviously, our neighbor --- husband, wife, friend, employer, and all “those other people out there” are also very special in the eyes of God..... For they are our Brothers and Sisters! This truth abides.

Yours faithfully,  
(The Rev.) John Phelps  
Rector

Amen!



## MEMORIALS

### **Building Preservation Memorial Fund**

Leonard W. Brown, Jr.  
Catherine "Midge" Harvey

### **Organ Memorial Fund**

Catherine "Midge" Harvey  
Agnes Hohlfelder  
Ella Miller

### **Garden Memorial Fund**

George Max III

WITH THANKS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN OUR ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

We gratefully acknowledge those parishioners who have pledged their financial support to St. Andrew's for the 2010 calendar year. Not only is your financial support critical to our well-being, your willingness to return your pledge card has been extremely important for planning and budgeting for 2010. This list will be updated to the extent any additional pledges are received. In the meantime, please contact Elaine Morissette if you have any questions on your pledge.

Dorothy L. Archambault ♦ Dora Atkinson ♦ James Beagan  
Joyce Brearley ♦ Mary-Ellen Briggs ♦ Beverly Brown  
Blanche and Lloyd Campbell ♦ Paula Campbell ♦ Valerie and James Carey  
Claire Cavanaugh ♦ Sharon Chase ♦ Carol Collopy  
Charles Currie ♦ Deb Donegan ♦ George and Trudi Driscoll  
Patti Eldred ♦ Jim and Carol Elliott ♦ Elizabeth E. Feugill  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Falk ♦ Susan Foster ♦ Mr. and Mrs. William Haney  
Mr. and Mrs. George Hargreaves ♦ Barbara and Lawrence Richard Hill  
The Kelley Family ♦ Norma Lee ♦ Elizabeth E. MacKay  
Joseph W. Madden ♦ John and Joanne Markavitch ♦ David S. Marsh  
William McBride ♦ Joanne and Fred McCraw ♦ Matt McKeon and Krista McLeod  
Elaine M. Morissette ♦ Lillian Hasbany Newcomb ♦ Harry Noorigian  
Evelyn Ratcliffe ♦ Gail Ratcliffe ♦ Janet Ratcliffe  
Molly Ratcliffe ♦ Beth Regan ♦ Bertha Rothwell  
James D. Shirton ♦ Paul and Joyce Sparta ♦ Lisa Storie  
Laura and Huib Walta ♦ Reggie and Nancy Weisenborn  
Reverend Joseph W. Wilkes ♦ Amanda Wonsey and Scott Amoral  
Frank J. Worthy ♦ Doryce Wunderlich ♦ Karl and Deb Wunderlich

