

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

E-Mail Admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org

May/June 2010

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am–1:00pm M/W/F

Janet McDonald, *Parish Administrator* 978-689-0463

E-mail – admin@standrewsmethuen.org

Rev. Joseph Wilkes 617-957-2960

Janet Ratcliffe, *Senior Warden* 978-682-5606

E-mail - janetratcliffe@comcast.net

Laura Walta, *Junior Warden* 978-857-0624

Beth Regan, *Clerk of the Vestry* 978-687-1340

Jim Beagan, *Treasurer*

Vestry:

Betty MacKay Matt McKeon Bev Brown

Val Carey Huib Walta Patti Eldred

Elaine Morissette, *Pledge Clerk* 978-683-8841

E-mail – remor20@aol.com

Huib Walta, *Webmaster*

webmaster@standrewsmethuen.org

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We will be moving from the Easter Season into the Pentecost Season when we celebrate Pentecost on May 23rd. On that first Easter over two thousand years ago, Jesus overcame the power of sin and death once for all. He then appeared to his disciples several times to push them to get about the work of spreading this wonderful news. He wanted them, and the growing number of believers, to behave as if the promise of salvation makes a real difference in how a faithful life is lived. It is almost a question: "Through God's grace you now have this amazing gift, so what are you going to do about it?" It was a

call to evangelism through word and deed. It was call to tell out the good news of God's mercy and love, and to try to make salvation felt in each one's personal corner of the world, by living mercifully and lovingly. This is hard to do. It takes patience, courage, ideas and, yes, inspiration. At His ascension, Jesus well knew that the disciples needed all this to live the message, so he promised they would receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would keep prompting them with the "what are you going to do about it" question, and help them find the "how," while helping them to feel God's continual love and power urging them on. Pentecost, when they received the Holy Spirit, was all about getting on with it. It is for us too. And so many of you do. You tell me an abundance of stories about trying hard to share God's love in all the places you go. These are stories of inspiration and faithful living. They are also stories about the support you find from The Holy Spirit, so often acting through each other. My prayer is that each one of us can appreciate this as we go from Easter to Pentecost, and give thanks how truly blessed we are by the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost will be extra-special at St. Andrew's because it is our celebration of the preparation done by the children and teachers of the Communion Class. They will receive Communion as a group for the first time. Our children truly inspire me to confidence in our Church's future. Come celebrate with them and their families!

In the meantime, know that I keep you always in my prayers.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe +

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

The Vestry recently met with Carol Kingston, our Diocesan coach, to set some goals. I'd like to share them with you now and invite your input.

1. Formalize a Mission Statement for St. Andrew's: The purpose of a mission statement is to guide the actions of the organization, spell out its overall goal, provide a sense of direction, and guide decision-making. You may work for a company that has a mission statement. Over the years, attempts have been made to formulate one for St. Andrew's. We're going to get serious about this now, officially adopt one and begin using it. You'll likely see it on our website, in the bulletin and around the church. We want everyone to become familiar with it!
2. Ministry Fair: In an effort to increase participation in our various ministries, we're going to put on a ministry fair. You may not understand the depth and breadth of all the good work we do here at St. Andrew's. This will be your chance to explore our ministries and hopefully find one that interests you. The Ministry Fair will likely be held in conjunction with our annual stewardship campaign in the fall, so watch for future announcements.
3. Follow up Protocol: We're going to develop a protocol for getting in touch with folks we haven't seen or heard from in a while. It may be as simple as a postcard. We want you to know that we miss you and that we're here if you need us.
4. Institution of Rev. Joe as our Rector: Now that we've wrapped up our discernment process and Bishop Tom has signed off on our contract with Rev. Joe, it's time to make this official and institute him as the next rector of St. Andrew's. Please watch for announcements on the date and join us for this very happy occasion.
5. General Housekeeping: We need to undertake a number of projects that fall under the category of General Housekeeping. We're going to begin creating some institutional memory by documenting Institutional information and better recordkeeping. We are

also going to update and organize our altar flower rota. Generally, we want to make it easy for the next generation of leaders here at St. Andrew's to step into the shoes of the current leaders.

6. Incorporating our newcomers: This past year, we made some strides in this area by developing and distributing our Welcome Packets to newcomers. We'd like to continue and expand upon this effort, so we're talking about a possible greeters program and various other ways we can be inviting. Your thoughts on this topic are welcome!
7. Christian Education: In recognition of the fact that our children are the future of St. Andrew's, we want to do all that we can to support, grow and develop our church school. We're also looking at ways to implement an adult education program. For example, do we have anyone who is interested in leading/participating in a book discussion group? That would be an easy way for us to get started.

As you can see, we once again have a full and busy agenda. The idea is to make intentional progress toward meeting our goals so much of this will be a work in progress over the next year and perhaps beyond (other than the institution of Rev. Joe as our rector which we will do in the very near future). As always, we welcome your participation!

FROM THE TREASURER



From the Treasurer

Financial Report through April 2010:

Pledge 2010 – received to date: \$15,791 (102% of budgeted to date).

This represents 99% of pledged to date. Thank you for your continued support.

Income:	\$38,693	(105%	of	budget)
Expenses:	\$39,383	(107%	of	budget)
Shortfall:	\$ 690			

We are in a slight budgetary shortfall. This is expected, since our large fuel and plowing bills are at the start of the year. Our bills are current, and we have a good cushion in the checkbook for the summer. However, bills will start up in earnest in the fall, so please remember to keep up with your pledges during the summer.

The church's flood insurance has covered all the repairs for water damage that have been made so far to the undercroft area used by the kindergarten. It is anticipated that the remaining repairs will also all be covered by the settlement we received.

So far, none of the budgeted transfers from reserves have been needed this year. In fact, the vestry recently approved that maintenance funds budgeted, but not spent in a year be held aside for future maintenance needs. So the \$490 in budgeted maintenance for our organ, not spent in 2009, was moved outside of the 2010 budget to be held for anticipated work in the not too distant future. This came out of the 2010 budget as a reserve transfer. In future, any such hold-asides will be done at the end of the budget year and come from the appropriate budget item. There was no surplus in church or rectory maintenance last year, but any such surplus in the future will also be rolled over.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Beagan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

May 10	D.J. Ste. Marie
May 12	Denise Clooney
May 12	Laura Walta
May 19	Callie McGrail
May 23	Blanche Campbell
May 28	Hailey Wizboski
May 29	Kaylah Kelley
June 1	Amanda Clooney
June 4	Deborah Wunderlich
June 17	Bertha Rothwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SUMMER SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, June 13th, we will discontinue the 8am service and hold one service at 9:30am.

VACATION SCHEDULE

Reverend Joe will be on vacation from June 11 through June 21. Reverend Roy Benjamin will be the Supply Clergy while Reverend Joe is away.

REFUGEES ARRIVING

Do you have furniture you want to get rid of? The Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) informed Laura Walta this week that there is an Iraqi single adult man arriving May 4th and a family of 4 (daughters ages 4 and 2) arriving May 10th. The family will be moving to an apartment in Medford. The single man will have a room in Everett which is furnished but we will need to round up some basics like bedding for him. We need everything- big to small! Thanks so much for your support of this ministry! Please contact Laura Walta at 978-857-0624 if you have something to donate or that needs picking up.

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, May 16th for Recognition Sunday. This is the day we traditionally honor our Sunday school children and their teachers, as well as the many other tireless volunteers who make St. Andrew's a special place. Our annual parish cookout will follow. We'll supply hot dogs, hamburgers and cold drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

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. Your time and talent could be used in almost any capacity, whether you wish to volunteer or a weekly basis or as an occasional substitute.

Sunday School will begin on September 19th. Registration forms will be made available to you several weeks beforehand. We encourage you to talk to Rev. Joe or MaryEllen Briggs if you are interested in helping out or if you have questions about enrolling your child. Maryellen wishes you a safe and happy summer!



MEMORIALS

Building Preservation Memorial Fund

Frank Adamson

Organ Memorial Fund

June R. Brearley

Garden Memorial Fund

Claire L. Martin

Alice Pricer



Vacation Bible School

When: June 27 – July 1, 2010

What Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm

How Much: Free

Who: Children entering

We will once again be having our Vacation Bible School (camp)

Applications will be available by May 15, 2010.

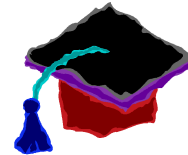
This is a week of fun that you don't want to miss!

It is a fast paced week of music, crafts, games, snack, movies, drama and silliness.

Please make sure you register early so you don't miss the fun!

Please see Valerie Carey or Mimi Falk with questions or to volunteer to help.

Preregistration is required!



Congratulations High School Graduates!

Curtis Bradley

Nathan Carey

Amy Kelley



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.