

GRAPEVINE

OFFICE HOURS:

M & TH 8:30 am-12:30 and

W 9 am-1 pm

Parish Administrator

Janet McDonald

Office Phone and Fax:

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Reverend Joseph Wilkes

617-957-2960

Senior Warden

Janet Ratcliffe

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Clerk of the Vestry

Molly Ratcliffe

Vestry Members

Charlie Currie, James Beagan, Lisa Storey, Val Carey, Patti Eldred, Beth Regan, Huib Walta, Paula Campbell

Religious Education

Mary-Ellen Briggs

978-208-8809

Pledge Clerk

Elaine Morissette

978-683-8841

E-mail - remor20@aol.com

Computer/Web

Huib Walta

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,

I'm still basking in the glow of Easter. It was a wonderful Sunday at Saint Andrew's. Then, at today's Third Sunday of Easter service, we welcomed three new sisters and one brother in Christ through Baptism. So the joy of the season continues to be abundant. Maybe you need that just as much as I do. We experience so many hard things in the world, and seem to ride a roller coaster of mixed emotions about them, that it helps to have reminders in our midst that the promise of redemption and resurrection is real. It's palpable in all our joyous moments when we gather for nourishment in word and sacrament, fortifying ourselves to hold fast to our faith as we live the realities of our lives as individuals, families, neighbors, and a nation.

On Sunday May 22nd we will continue to celebrate by recognizing with deep appreciation all that our Sunday School children and their teachers have

accomplished this year. We will have our Recognition Sunday outdoors at Greycourt Park, behind city hall, with our Sunday service there at 9:30 AM, followed by a picnic. Please plan to attend. We had our blessing of the animals service there last fall. It's a wonderful place for worship and fellowship. Bring a folding chair. If it is really inclement, there will be a message on the church answering machine (978-689-0463) by 7:30 that morning redirecting you to the church.

On Easter, I preached about the importance of being present for each other. I learned through my experience as a lay

person that coming to church is not only edifying for oneself. It's surprising how important your presence is to someone else. Sometimes, it's someone you hardly know, or haven't yet really met, who sees you in church. Yet, seeing you there in worship with them makes a real difference for their experience of church. Please join us as often as you can, to be nourished, and to nourish.

God Bless You!

Faithfully Yours In Christ,
Rev. Joe



MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

Over the last few weeks I've had conversations with many of you regarding my curiosity over what moves folks who do not regularly attend church to come on holidays like Easter and Christmas. After all those conversations, though, God chose another way to reveal the an-

swer and in a much more meaningful way.

Now that spring has finally sprung, like many of you, I'm sure, I'm finding that my yard needs some serious help to overcome the ravages of a long, cold winter. Given that

my time is short, I decided to hire a landscaper and started calling around to get some estimates. One fellow, who seemed very pleasant and I felt a connection with on the phone, came by to look at my yard. We had been chatting for a few minutes when

SENIOR WARDEN MESSAGE (CONT.)

*Congratulations to
Dave and Mary Marsh
and family on the
arrival of their new
grandson,
Andrew Teagan Marsh,
born April 10, 2011.*

Robert came out to join us. The fellow immediately recognized Robert and said, "Now I know where I know you from. We go to the same church." I'm afraid that the look on my face must have given away the fact that he really didn't look familiar to me because he went on to explain who he was. I then realized he was the father of one of our recent baptism babies. We both stood there looking sheepishly at each other.....me because here I am in church nearly every Sunday, considering myself an active participant and feeling a little embarrassed at not recognizing someone who considers himself a member of St. Andrew's and him because he realized just how infrequently he comes to church. What might have been an otherwise awkward moment turned into a great conversation. We took a few minutes to get to know each other. I learned some things about him and his family...that he is finishing up school and that his wife works nights. I

learned that he hesitated to come to church on Easter Sunday because he worried about being viewed as an Easter/Christmas only Christian. He actually told me that he felt Rev. Joe was speaking directly to him as he preached his sermon about how we all bring something to the worship experience every time we walk through the door. I was able to tell him that we really do understand how difficult it is for parents of babies and young children to get to church on Sunday morning and that we've all been through it. He was relieved to hear that what we really hope for is that these baptism families return to us and become active members of our church family once their babies are able to join the Sunday school. In the end, we chatted more about church than we did landscaping and I feel like I made a real connection. When he was leaving, he jokingly said something along the lines of "see you in church" to which I responded "yes, hopefully sometime before Christmas (wink wink)."

For me, the real take away here is not that everyone has his/her own reason for why they do or do not come to church. I already knew that. What I have realized is that perhaps I am not as friendly and welcoming to newcomers as I should be. I should have spent a few minutes getting to know this fellow and his family before he wandered, completely by chance, onto my front lawn. Welcoming folks to St. Andrew's takes more than pointing them to the correct page in the prayer book or extending an invite to coffee hour. I encourage you all to consider how you might make St. Andrew's more welcoming to the newcomers who walk through our doors.

Peace,
Janet

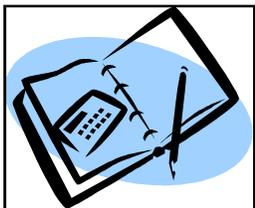
JOIN US AT GREYCOURT PARK



This year we will hold our annual Recognition Sunday/Church Picnic on Sunday, **May 22nd** at Greycourt Park in Methuen (behind City Hall). The festivities will begin with our 9:30 worship service and will be followed by a picnic lunch and special activities planned by the Sunday School. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided by the

church. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Anyone who joined us at the park last October for Creation Care Sunday will attest to what a beautiful setting it is for a worship service. In the case of inclement weather, please do be sure to call the church voicemail (978.689.0463) before driving to Greycourt since we may decide to move indoors at the church.

AUDIT HELP WANTED



We are looking for a couple of volunteers with a business/bookkeeping/accounting background who could assist with an audit of our books. The Diocese

requires an annual audit and a special, less cumbersome (and costly) audit by committee is permitted for parishes of our size. The job would entail spending a few hours, at your convenience, working through the checklist developed by the Diocese. Our ability to apply for certain grant funding opportunities for projects we'd like to undertake here at St. Andrew's

is dependent upon getting the audit done in a timely fashion. To the extent we can find volunteers to help with this important task, it will save us the expense of having to hire professional accountants to do the job. Please speak with Jim Beagan or Janet Ratcliffe if you can help.

*If anyone would like to join the **Altar Guild**, we would love to have you. We need your help. Please see Gail Ratcliffe if you are interested and she will be glad to give more information.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 7 - Haley Allbee

May 10 - D.J. Ste. Marie

May 10 - K.C. Miller

May 12 - Denise Clooney

May 12 - Laura Walta

May 19 - Callie McGrail

May 23 - Blanche Campbell

May 25 - Tom Sanderson

May 28 - Hailey Wizboski



May 29 - Kaylah Kelley

May 29 - Nicole Clooney

June 1 - Amanda Clooney

June 4 - Deborah Wunderlich

June 11 - Connor Michael Maylun

June 17 - Bertha Rothwell

June 18 - Jacqueline Drapeau

June 23 - Julia Anne Robarge

June 24 - Kara Rourke

June 29 - Nazaree Ayala

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S



We warmly welcome the children who were recently baptized (Lillian Jean Covatis, Brooklyne Rose McGrail, Elisia Maria Perillo and Anthony Louis Perillo, III) and their families to Saint Andrews Church.

Watch for details coming soon about Vacation Bible School (VBS).

ANSWERING GOD'S URGENT CALL, TOGETHER

St. Andrew's has been asked to serve as a pilot parish in the Diocese's upcoming capital campaign. The campaign will be facilitated by a professional fundraising firm engaged by the Diocese and can result in the funds necessary to undertake some badly needed capital improvements at St. Andrew's (THINK GYM RE-MODEL).

More details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, we are looking for volunteers willing to serve on a parish level committee.

Please let Rev. Joe and Janet R. know if you have any interest in or prior experience with fundraising and would be willing to serve on St. Andrew's committee.



Please consider helping out with the coffee hour ministry and take a turn providing cookies or pastries.

The sign up sheet is on the door connecting the downstairs parlor and kitchen.



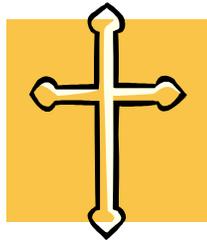
BEST BREAKFAST IN THE MERRIMACK VALLEY!

Early risers on Easter Sunday were once again treated to a breakfast of eggs, sausage, toast, hash browns, and french toast, courtesy of Richard Falk and his dedicated kitchen crew. Thank you to Richard, Jameson, Gordon, Robert, Beth and everyone else who helped organize, shop, cook, serve and clean up.

PASTORAL CARE AND PRAYER LIST

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.



We plan to refresh the prayer list quarterly this year.

Please contact the office 978-689-0463 or admin@standrewsmethuen.org if you wish keep someone on the list or add someone new.

THE FOOD PANTRY

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

Congratulations to:

Patrick Donegan
Kaylah Kelley
Magdalene Kwakye
Natasha Lee
Kassandra Milo

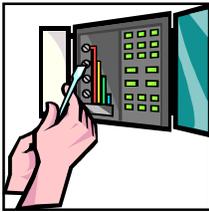


who were confirmed by Bishop Bud Cedarholm at St. Anne's in Lowell on April 30th. We're proud of your accomplishment! A special thanks also go out to Jim Beagan and Patti Eldred who led the class and shepherded them through the process.

Important Note

If you are scheduling an event in our parish hall, please let Janet M. know at the time you are entering the event on the calendar whether you will need tables and chairs and, if so, how many. Our sexton will then be able to plan his weekly schedule accordingly.

SECURITY UPDATE



Our new alarm system is up and running, including the fire alarm which is now continuously monitored 24/7; the locks on the exterior doors have been changed; and security codes have been assigned. If you have

not yet received your new key or signed up for a 4-digit security code, please contact Janet M. in the office.

The new system is very easy to use. If the system is armed when you enter the Messer Ave. entrance, you will hear a very distinctive beeping noise and you must then enter your 4-digit code. If the last person out in the evening has not armed the system, it is set up to automatically come on later in the evening. It is,

however, extremely important that before exiting the building you check to be sure all interior doors are closed. The system will not arm if interior doors are left open or movement is detected. Please see any Vestry member on Sunday morning if you need a quick tutorial.

Thanks for bearing with us as we made this necessary upgrade to our security system.

BUTTERBRAID FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Butter Braids fundraiser. We sold 100 pastries which resulted in a \$450.00 boost to our general budget. We've had



lots of positive feedback on the pastries and have already had requests for a repeat fundraiser, so we'll likely try this again sometime in the fall.

SAINT ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844

Phone: 978-689-0463
E-mail:
admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org

SPRING CLEANUP THANK YOU



A group of parishioners, along with the Scouts who use our hall as their regular meeting space, joined together on May 7th for a spring clean up of the church yard. It's great to see our grounds, as well as the memorial garden and flowering trees and shrubs, coming back to life after a long, cold winter. Thank you all for your hard work.

MARK THE DATE



May 22nd Recognition Sunday/Church Picnic at Greycourt Park at 9:30am.

If you have an email address and are not currently on our email distribution list, please contact the office.

Distributing the Grapevine via email is a tremendous cost savings for us.

Thank you!