

GRAPEVINE

FALL OFFICE HOURS:

M, W & TH 8:30am - 12:30pm

Parish Administrator

Janet McDonald

Office Phone and Fax:

978-689-0463

E-mail: admin@standrewsmethuen.org

Reverend Joseph Wilkes

617-957-2960

Senior Warden

Janet Ratcliffe

978-682-5606

E-mail: janetratcliffe@comcast.net

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,

Greetings! This fall I will have been with you at St. Andrew's for five years. I hope to be with you for many years ahead. I try not to live in the past. I try to live in the present moment, and imagine the future. But there are times that seem right for pausing and looking back. It helps to take stock of lessons learned, and to notice gifts among us, that will help us face the present and plan for the future. It feels to me like my five years so far at St. Andrew's has flown by. We have accomplished a lot. There have been a lot of changes. Some things have stayed the same. Each of us could make our list. We're blessed with a core of solid lay leadership, a dedicated and effective staff, a lively Sunday School, a restored church, and, thanks be to God, more people finding a home at St. Andrew's, including people who bring their children to church. Everyone one of you has had some part to play in this, whether you realize it or not, through your support, and for those nearby, through your presence. We should pause, reflect on this, and give thanks. But we can't stop and rest too long.

Five year points on a journey like ours are sometimes mistakenly called milestones. But milestones

are static points on a road already marked out by someone else. We should see our five year point instead as a turning point on a journey uniquely our own, and for which we must take full responsibility, with God's help. There is much to do. The truth is, we need to step up participation. For some who already carry a lot of the work, it's hard to imagine how they could. Maybe for them it means trying on new roles and handing off old ones to others. For some who carry less of the work, maybe it means getting more involved, at least a little at a time. Just ask anyone who is busy what the opportunities might be. I'm sure they'll have ideas on how to get involved! And for all of us, it means taking a prayerful look at our financial support. This seems especially daunting because of the persistently hard economy we face today. Many of our sisters and brothers are suffering from it. So, maybe increased participation in this area means at least getting involved in honest conversations about our parish finances. Our finances affect, and are affected by, our pre-

sent and our future. This fall we will have opportunities to do this as we talk about serious capital needs for our parish hall and organ, while at the same facing the reality of needing to ensure annual Stewardship support for an operating budget which we have already pared to be very frugal. We needn't be afraid to face these things. God is with us, and we go on this journey committed to each other and our church. Prayerfully we can face our present and our future, confident that God will help us. We only need to ask....and then listen carefully, for the answer isn't always what we might at first think it should be.

I look forward to greeting you this fall. Come to church ready to worship, pray, celebrate, imagine, re-connect, question, listen and participate. Thanks be to God! God Bless You!

God Bless you.

Faithfully,
Rev. Joe

MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENIOR WARDEN

End of summer greetings to my friends and family at St. Andrew's! It's always hard for me to make the transition from my slower-paced life on the beaches of Plum Island to the "go-go-go" back-to-school world

of September. I hate retiring my flip flops for the season, the shorter days and cooler weather, increased traffic during rush hour and always having somewhere that I need to be. The good news though

is that one of those places that I need to be is St. Andrew's. While I've been working on a few church related projects over the summer, I've taken the opportunity of being away on Sun-

Church Services

Now that the summer is over, we will return to our normal schedule.

Sunday services will begin at 9:30am and Sunday School at 9:00am.

A Rite I service will be added at 8:00am on the first Sunday of every month starting in September. The 8am will be on a trial basis through year end to determine if there is sufficient interest.

SENIOR WARDEN MESSAGE (CONT.)

days to visit other churches. As fun as it is to be away, it is always good to get back to my church home and see your friendly faces. As I'm sure is the case for many of you in your personal lives, St. Andrew's is ramping up for a busy fall. Join us for Welcome Back Sundaes on September 18th when we celebrate the official return to our regular program of activities with an ice cream social following our 9:30 service. We also have our fall rummage sale coming up on September 24th and the Blessing of the Animals on

October 2nd. Our fellowship committee is working on organizing a "Get to Know You" dinner for our newer members to be held sometime this fall.

Other projects that we have on tap for this fall are working on getting an environmental audit done on our property and organizing a neighborhood environmental stewardship program with the grant money we received last spring from the Diocese. And, as long as I've mentioned the "S" word (stewardship), Jim Beagan, Elaine Morissette and I have

decided that we will run our annual pledge drive earlier in the fall this year since later in the year makes budgeting for the following year difficult.

Watch for details and, in the meantime, please let us know if you are interested in pitching in to help with any of these important activities. I look forward to seeing you all in church!

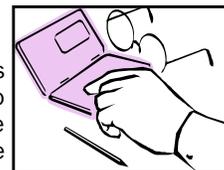
Peace,
Janet

TREASURER MESSAGE

The end of the summer is a point I look forward to as treasurer. The summer is usually a time to catch up from the bills of the winter, and build up a small surplus before preparing for the bills of the next winter. Unfortunately this year, we are in a deficit position going into the next heating season. Our income for the year to the end of August is \$73,073, and we have spent \$74,310. As I told you last issue, we have already overspent our entire budgets for heat and plowing. Fortunately, we ended the year in the plus column on those expenses, and that overage can be applied to some, but not all, of this year's costs.

On the income side, we expect to be low after the summer as people get behind on their pledges, but this year, we are at less than 90% of budget to date, more than \$3,500 behind. If you are behind, please try to catch up. If you are experiencing difficulties that will make it impossible to do so, please let the pledge recorder know so we can plan accordingly. One thing that has hurt us is the omission of an Easter collection this year. We are at only 29% of budget to date for special collections. Please consider making a special donation for Thanksgiving this year or an extra donation at Christmas to make up for the missing collection. Help make the upcoming rummage sale a success. Some people work very hard every time this comes up, and we are grateful for their contributions. The butterbraids were also a wonderful example of a small project that netted us almost \$500. Put

on your thinking caps.



The expense side has been helped in two main areas. The office expenses, which are budgeted lower every year, are running so far at only 54% of budget to date. This is a testament to the hard work of the secretary and warden in substituting electronic media for paper mail, and the treasurer in using on-line payments. We are now using a credit card to pay many of our bills, to get the 1% savings, which will net us each year at least \$250, the equivalent of a \$ per week pledge. But office expenses are the second smallest budget we have. It's kind of sad to realize that only worship expenses (not including the music or rector) are smaller. Maybe some of you can think outside the box and come up with some suggestions on how to save of our utility bills, or in some other big area.

The other low area is emergency maintenance. Just think of the hurricane of last weekend and how lucky we were in Methuen. As it was, the church lost power for a day, but that is all. We owe many thanks to God for this blessing, as we remember all those who were not so lucky. But there is another downside to this. My home and car insurance went up about 8% this year due to the losses the insurance companies are experiencing with all the weather disasters across the country. We can expect the

TREASURER MESSAGE (CONT.)

same when the church insurance renews next year. Not only the farmers have reason to pray for mild weather.

I am sorry to be focusing on money this issue, especially when the economy is so bad all over. However, it is better than hearing it from the pulpit. Just a warning on that, because stewardship season is coming soon, in fact early this year. I expect to be speaking again.

When you think about stewardship, remember although we need your treasure, we also need your time and talent. Please consider using them to come up with some ideas on how to firm up our bottom line.

Gratefully yours,
Jim Beagan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- September 1 - Victoria Milo
- September 9 - Elaine Morissette
- September 15 - Al Harvey
- September 18 - Kendra Cooley
- September 23— Janet Ratcliffe

- October 2 - Dick Ratcliffe
Molly Ratcliffe
- October 4 - Mary Durant
- October 6 - Melissa Saindon
- October 19 - Angela Perillo
- October 20 - Natasha Lee
- October 22 - Peter Kwakye, Jr.
- October 23 - Heather Hudson
- October 24 - Michelle Stehm
- October 28 - Adam Ste. Marie



CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 21. We will be learning new hymns and anthems, with a particular focus on music sung during Communion. Anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join the choir. We will miss two of our



long time choir members, Lloyd and Dora. Please see the Music

Director, Craig Seaman, if you have any questions, or come to rehearsal on September 21. And, as always, comments about the music of the worship service are always welcomed.

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Our annual flea market will take place on Saturday, September 24th and will once again be organized by Patti Eldred and Paula Campbell. Small items may be dropped off at any time in the room across from the stage. Because of space considerations, please hold off until the week before the event to drop off larger items. Please...no TVs or computer equipment.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



St. Andrew's Church hosted 22 children and 3 crew leaders (Mally Falk, Serena Torres, and Robert Pauley) during Vacation Bible School. We also had visitors join us on day 2 which put that day's count to 27 children. All week we had a wonderful time learning new songs at Sandcastle Shores (Beth Regan & Lisa Storie), playing games at Seaside (Patti Eldred, Paula Campbell & Danielle McGrail), snacking at Bid D's Diner (Janet Ratcliffe & Mary-Ellen Briggs), conducting science experiments at Tidal Wave Activities (Bethany Storie), hearing and experiencing the story Bonfire Bible Stories (Mimi Falk and The Biblical Acting Guild!)

The children learned to: Meet up with Jesus, Look up to Jesus, Join up with Jesus, Open up to Jesus, and get Fired up for Jesus. They did this by finding the answer to One Big Question each day; Who is Jesus?, Why can I trust Jesus?, Why do I need Jesus?, How can Jesus help me when I mess up?, and What does Jesus want me to do?. The answers were found in the Bible Story and Bible Verse they heard each day.

The program opened with a skit every evening about Hector (Jameson Falk), Taylor (Maggie Kwakye), TJ (Anthony Terranova/Lar's Falk) and Big D (Natasha Lee) and their adventures at SonSurf Beach Camp. We all learned hand motions for each days saying from Silent Dude (Clive Falk/Robert Pauley) and we sang lots of songs.

The program closed each evening with wonderful music, the Bible story review, the Big

Question and Answer review, prizes for that days winning crew, and Dr. Cool's Videos. And of course who could forget Val's crazy hats.

It was another wonderful VBS experience that could not have been managed without the support of our Parish members. We came together to donate toward daily activities, the food each day, and decorations to liven the week up. Hats off to those of you who acted, sang, painted served and led. Many of you have come up through the ranks over the years, and some are the yearly VBS faithful from other congregations.

No one complained about running around in the preceding weeks to pull this all together, so we'll meet up next year to do it all again!

Special mentions: Shawn (the Evangelist) Hamel who enthusiastically assumed any role assigned, and our own Huib Walta who managed, once again, to be in at least five places at the same time snapping photos like mad. He was also our technical go to guy and made our visions a reality.

Please make sure you go to <http://www.standrewsmethuen.org/> and see his awesome work.

Sincerely,
Valerie Carey & Mimi Falk

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.

Apologies to Val and Mimi for omitting this article from the last Grapevine.

COMING SOON! ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

Once again, Janet Ratcliffe and Jim Beagan will be co-chairing our annual stewardship drive.

In an effort to allow more time for next year's budgeting and financial planning, we plan to commence this year's annual stewardship drive earlier in the fall. We hope to kick off the campaign in late September and wrap things up by early November.

Jim and Janet will have written materials available in the near future, as well as an in-church presentation which you won't want to miss. In the meantime, please contact Jim or Janet with questions or if you wish to volunteer to help the Stewardship Committee.

MOTHER'S EARLY AUTUMN PRAYER

*Poured out of our deep summer pools
(elegant observation, refined reflection)
into autumn's waterfall
school buses, meetings, lessons, practice.
We are awash, tumbled in the rapids
(kicking and screaming
or enjoying the ride)
in the long rush to winter.*

*Wellspring of Life, Object of Our Longing,
Save us from drowning! Remind us to
breathe.
Open our eyes, that neither beauty nor vio-
lence escapes our notice.
Give us the wisdom to know when to go
with the flow
and when to swim upstream
So that we may arrive at Thanksgiving
with thanksgiving. Amen*

*-The Rev. Lesley M. Adams
(Women's Uncommon Prayers)*



*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.*

PRAYER LIST REMINDER

Please remember that in an effort to keep the prayer list that is printed in the weekly bulletin as current as possible we clear all names on a quarterly basis. Names do not automatically roll over from one quarter to the next. That means that you need to contact the office at the beginning of January, April, July and October if there are names which you would like for us to retain



on the list. You are also welcome to add or delete names at any time during the quarter by calling or emailing the office. To help everyone remember, we'll continue to print notices in the bulletin as the time approaches for us to refresh the prayer list.

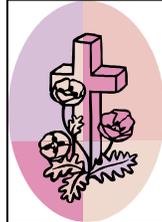
MEMORIALS

Organ Memorial Fund

William Atkinson
 Constance J. Bevin
 Lloyd R. Campbell
 Anthony Imondi
 Mr. Mebuwayesango
 Lawrence Shirton

Memorial Fund

Norma Briggs
 Lloyd R. Campbell
 Lillian Evans
 Lawrence Shirton



Building Preservation Memorial Fund

Lloyd R. Campbell
 Edwiga Rovinski
 Lawrence Shirton

Garden Memorial Fund

Marjorie Graham
 Lawrence Shirton

Music Memorial Fund

Lloyd Campbell
 Lawrence Shirton



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starts on September 18, 2011

The registration forms are available now through the church office, on the website, or on the table in the parlor.

Please return the forms to the church by September 18th so that we may order supplies.

Calling all **Sunday School Teachers** (returning and new) and any interested parent ...

There will be a teacher's meeting on: **September 11, 2011 after the 9:30 am service.**

Please contact Mary-Ellen Briggs [briggsmaryellen@yahoo.com] or Valerie Carey [carey.james@comcast.net] with any questions.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be held on Sunday, October 2nd, at St. Andrew's during our 9:30am service. Weather permitting, the service will be held outdoors in our Memorial Garden. In the case of inclement weather, we'll move indoors. Please bring your favorite pet, live or stuffed, for a special blessing. Watch for additional details as we get closer to the date of the event.

PREPARATION CLASS FOR CONFIRMATION 2013

The next Confirmation for churches in our deanery is scheduled for May, 2013 at the cathedral in Boston.

The Book of Common Prayer says this about Confirmation: "In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities for their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop." This is an important step on the journey to adulthood in the church.

Preparation class for confirmation will begin October 2nd after church and there will be an orientation for parents and confirmands on September 25th after church. Candidates must reach their 16th birthday by August 31, 2013, and must be a baptized Christian. If you, or your child, are a candidate or know of someone who should be confirmed, there are several ways to find details and register:

- A) See the email sent to all on-line parishioners—there is a link to an application that can be filled out and emailed back by September 18th.
- B) Refer to the parish website, www.StAndrewsMethuen.org
- C) Contact the church office

Candidates should also begin thinking about selecting a sponsor for Confirmation. This person should be a confirmed Episcopalian, not part of the candidate's immediate family. You should choose someone who can participate in up to four class experiences and/or service opportunities per year.

The course will consist of two ninety minute classes per month after church: October 2011–May 2012 and September 2012–April 2013. In addition, there will be requirements for the candidates to participate in the liturgy and in service opportunities that will be detailed later. Patti Eldred and Jim Beagan, together with Reverend Joe Wilkes, will be teaching the classes. Please contact any of them if you have questions.

A BIG THANK YOU TO...



Bob Burke for all of his hard work in our Memorial Garden. Thank you also to Paul Schermerhorn, our sexton, for volunteering his time to help with the garden. If you haven't stopped by for a look recently, please do so. Also, please talk to Bob if you'd like to help with the garden, including the donation of live plant mate-

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Are you interested in participating in a book discussion group later this fall?

We'll be reading and discussing

In the Presence of My Enemies by Gracia Burnham. Gracia and her husband, Martin, were American missionaries who were kidnapped by a terrorist group with ties to Osama bin Laden and held hostage for more than a year in the Phillipine jungle.

In the Presence of My Enemies is Gracia's firsthand account of a perilous year in captivity which included near starvation, con-

stant exhaustion, frequent gun battles, cold-hearted murder - and intense soul searching about a God who sometimes seemed to have forgotten them.

The book group will meet later in the fall and the format for the discussion is yet to be decided. We are open to suggestions from experienced book club members. For now, we are trying to see who is interested in participating. Please speak to Janet Ratcliffe, Bev Brown or Joyce Sparta if you are interested.

FALL CALENDAR



- ▶ We are planning to hold **First Communion classes** during the upcoming school year. One must be a rising 2nd grader to participate. If you are interested in joining this class, please contact Val Carey.



- ▶ Vestry will once again host "**Welcome Back Sundae**" on Sunday, **Sept. 18th**. We'll welcome everyone back from their summer activities that day and celebrate with an ice cream social after church.

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!