

GRAPEVINE

OFFICE HOURS:

M W TH 8:30-12:00

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

Junior Warden

Laura Walta

E-mail: laura@walta.org

Clerk of the Vestry

Molly Ratcliffe

603-860-4331

Vestry Members

James Beagan, Beverly Brown,
Paula Campbell, Val Carey, Betty
MacKay, Janet Ratcliffe, Molly
Ratcliffe, Beth Regan, Huib Walta,
Laura Walta, and Joseph Wilkes

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,

Thinking about Epiphany has gotten me pondering gifts. The magi brought spectacular gifts to the baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The story says they brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were rare and royal gifts brought by three men whose entire lives had been building to the moment of rejoicing at the birth of the most important person the world would ever know. They brought gifts fit for a king to the infant king of all creation, from the beginning and for all time. But their most important gift was their faith in the truth of who Jesus is, and their determination to go to any lengths that they might worship and protect him. They traveled far on a hard journey, and risked Herod's ire, avoiding his search for Jesus by going home on another route. Sometimes the best and most useful gifts are the ones that make a difference in the moment, and they don't have to be



spectacular like gold, frankincense and myrrh. Often, the best gifts are to sacrifice to be present as a witness in faith, and living that faith by doing something that helps it grow so it can spread to others. In Epiphany as we look forward to Lent, it is my prayer that we each will reflect on being more present wherever faith needs to be witnessed through action in our lives, and in the lives of our loved ones and parish. It's like being on a journey, but one not as arduous as the magi's. For us, it can be as simple as starting with the

journey to our church. Let us strive to make the gift of a lively and loving faith to each other through gathering in worship together, sharing our ideas on taking faith to action, and encouraging and nourishing each other to share God's love in, and outside, our church. See you Sunday!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe

SENIOR WARDEN MESSAGE

Happy new year to my St. Andrew's family! With the new year upon us, it is time to think about ways that you can help us get our year off on the right foot.

Annual Meeting - Elsewhere in this issue, you will find a notice about the upcoming an-

nual meeting on Feb. 3rd. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We can not even get started with the meeting if we do not have a quorum of parishioners who sign in. Can you spare one hour of your time to participate in this once-a-year meeting?

Elected Representatives - You'll also note that the agenda for the annual meeting includes the election of parish leadership. Those positions include the wardens, clerk, treasurer, two 3-year Vestry seats, as well as delegates to the convention,

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN

deanery and Communities Together. Jim Beagan has announced that he is stepping down as Treasurer.

Please consider taking on one of these important positions. The time commitment runs the gamut from attendance at one meeting per year all the way to the hands on administration of our church affairs. Job descriptions are available to anyone who is interested.

Various Committees, Guilds and Organizations - Choir, Altar Guild, Sunday School, Ushers, Hospitality/Fellowship, Building and Grounds ... you name your special interest and we have a volunteer opportunity for you.

There are many opportunities for participation at St. Andrew's and, quite frankly, we need your help. Pick something that interests you and join the fun. You

won't be disappointed. May the new year bring us many blessings!

Peace,
Janet

MESSAGE FROM THE JR. WARDEN

It was a busy fall here at St. Andrew's, and you've got to admit the church and grounds have looked great- especially all decorated for Advent and Christmas. Huge thanks to all of the volunteers that spend the 1st Sunday of Advent decorating after the service, and to Paul Schermerhorn (our Sexton) for all of his hard work. He's also been busy getting the first floor apartment in the rectory spruced up and ready to rent. It looks wonderful!

We had a Fire Department inspection in November, and now have everything up to code. The fire extinguishers are all full, the handles and locks on the elevator were replaced, and the elevator itself will have a tune-up after the holidays.

In an effort to keep the church building secure and safe during the service on Sundays, you might notice that all rear and side doors to the church are locked once the service begins, with signs that direct visitors to use the FRONT door. While we have not had any incidents, we want to be pro-active about protecting our children and worshippers from harm.

A couple of upcoming events: The Locust tree on Messer Ave, just past the side parking lot, was damaged during Hurricane Sandy with one side of the tree coming down across Messer Ave. When we had it removed, we noticed that the trunk of the tree was rotting, leaving the remaining tree in a precarious position. To avoid a possible calamity this winter,

the remainder of the tree will be taken down by the end of the month (weather permitting).

Also on the horizon, after the holidays, is a Kitchen Klean Up. The kitchen has fallen into disarray, and really needs to be cleaned out of things that don't belong there, and then organized with the items that remain. I would love to spend a Saturday afternoon completing this project, and I hope I can depend on the help of at least 6 or 7 folks that share my frustration with a disorganized kitchen! A date and time will be announced in the bulletin.

In His service,
Laura Walta



SILENT NIGHT-THE STORY BEHIND THE CAROL

On December 24th, 1818, Joseph Mohr, the assistant priest of the newly established parish of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf by Salzburg, came to the organist Franz Gruber with "Silent Night", a poem which he had written two years earlier. He asked Gruber to write a melody for 2 solo voices along with choir, to be accompanied by guitar. Later that day, Gruber returned with his composition, which Mohr liked well enough to include in the Christmas mass that evening. Mohr sang the tenor part and played the guitar, while Gruber sang bass, and the song was reportedly met with general approval by all.

There is a legend that a mouse had chewed a hole in the leather of the organ bellows, so that the organ could not be used for Christmas Eve. For that reason, it would have been necessary to use other accompaniment for the Christmas Eve mass, and a perfect opportunity to use the poem by Joseph Mohr. According to this legend, the organ builder who later came to repair the organ bellows obtained a copy of "Silent Night", and was able to

leave copies at other churches on his travels. Remember that at this time, a composition such as this needed to be copied by hand, so it must have been considered inter-



esting enough for someone to take the time to copy it.

The organ builder very likely was Carl Maraucher from Fügen (about 90 miles southwest of Oberndorf). This song was included in a church songbook prepared by Blasius Wimmer, organist and teacher in Waidring, dated July 22, 1819, only 7 months after its creation. It is quite possible that Maraucher traveled through Waidring on his return trip from Oberndorf to Fügen. "Silent Night" was also included on programs by the Rainer Family Singers (from Fügen), and the Strasser Family Singers (from Laimach, about 10 miles south of Fügen). Both of these singing

groups toured extensively throughout Europe in the 1820's. In 1839, the Rainer Family Singers began a 4-year tour in America, and performed "Silent Night" in New York City during a Christmas Day concert in 1839.

Translations into English are known to have been made in the middle of the 19th Century. In 1859, John Freeman Young (second Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Florida) published the English translation that is most frequently sung today, which included only three of the original six German verses. The slow, meditative lullaby version of the melody that is commonly sung today differs slightly (particularly in the final strain) from Gruber's original, which was a sprightly, dance-like tune in 6/8 time. "Silent Night" has been translated into over 300 languages and dialects, and is sung all over the world at Christmas time.

Submitted by Craig Seaman

CONDOLENCES



We regret to inform you of the passing of Rev. Roy Benjamin on January 8th. Roy was a wonderful priest and he and Sally were great friends of Saint Andrew's. Roy will be missed by us and by many other people.

If you would like to send condolences to Sally or make a memorial donation, please contact the office for further details.

CHURCH BOOK CLUB

January 16th: Book Club Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Nevins Library.
We will be discussing "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini



St. Andrew's to undertake 2013 book study during Lent

Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE is inviting everyone in the diocese to join in reading a book together in 2013, *The Rich and the Rest of Us* by Tavis Smiley and Cornel West. He describes it as a book that "asks us to re-examine some of our assumptions about poverty" and commends a diocesan wide study of it "as a way to begin to educate ourselves about poverty, one of the root causes of violence." Diocesan Convention in November created a task force in memory of Jorge Fuentes, a young leader at St. Stephen's Church in Boston who was shot and killed on the street last September. Shaw said the book study project is a way to start a broader conversation within the diocesan community as the task force's work gets underway.

"It is my hope that groups and individuals in every congregation of our diocese will take up this book study project, either in Lent or at some other time during the upcoming year, and start a conversation that, with the Holy Spirit's leading, will invite us into meaningful action that will help bring Christ's peace and healing into this world," Shaw writes in his introduction to the study guide produced for the diocesan wide project.

If you are interested in joining us during the Sundays of Lent for this book study, please speak to Krista or Janet R. so that we can order the right number of books.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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



February 1 - Huib Walta
February 4 - Maureen Maccaro
February 5 - Gail Ratcliffe
February 6 - Brenda McKenney
February 7 - Kyleigh Cooley
Robert Pauley
February 14 - Evelyn Ratcliffe
February 16 - Dorothy Archambault
Mally, Clive & Lars Falk
February 18 - Nicholas Wunderlich
February 19 - Krista McLeod
Peter Kwakye, Sr.

BAPTISMS



Please help welcome the newly baptized and their families to St. Andrew's:

- **Olivia Marie Collopy**
- **Evan McDermott**

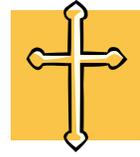
Baptized on November 11th

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SNAPSHOTS

“Miracle in the Manger”



A special thank you to Val Carey, the Sunday school teachers and our kids for organizing and performing this year's Christmas Pageant, "Miracle in the Manger". Check our website (www.standrewsmethuen.org) for some more great pictures.



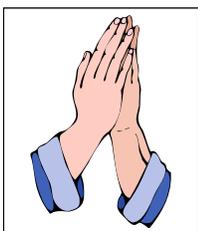
Pastoral Care and Prayer List

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 refresh the prayer list quarterly.

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

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF THE 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 pres-

ence 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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2013

Saint Andrew's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2013.

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 2013 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 oversee 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 -- please consider how you can help make it a success!

Attention all Committee Chairs:

Now that the holidays are over, annual meeting time is fast approaching. Please submit your write up for the annual report to Janet McDonald no later than January 20th.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

I wish to thank all of you who so generously gave to the Adopt-a-Family effort. Your outpouring of care made many children enjoy this wonderful season of Jesus' birth!

I also thank all of you who continually support the food pantry we run to help feed those in our area who have difficulty



making "ends meet". As we begin a new year, I hope all who are able can bring food items to church weekly so that we can continue this outreach project. May the New Year bring you blessings untold!

Bev Brown

VESTRY OPENINGS

It's not too early to start thinking about our annual meeting which will take place early next year. Elections for parish leadership positions, including Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Clerk and two Vestry seats, will take place at that time. Please speak to Janet R. or Rev. Joe if you would

like to hear more about any of these positions. If you have never taken a turn in one of our leadership positions, or if it's been a while since you last served, please consider stepping forward. We would welcome your fresh perspective, as well as some new energy.

JUNIOR WARDEN JOB DESCRIPTION

A Junior Warden is the Vestry officer who has overall care of the church buildings and property, subject to the Rector being in overall charge. In practical terms, the day-to-day care of the property is done by a Sexton, hired as a parish staff member. We are blessed with an excellent Sexton at St. Andrew's. Paul takes meticulous care of the premises. He is proactive in identifying problems, recommending solutions to the Junior Warden and Vestry, and then implementing those solutions. He is also adept at identifying bidders for contract work, meeting contractors, getting bids, and recom-

mending contractors to the Junior Warden and Vestry. He supervises contractor work. He also is available and responds timely to building emergencies, although there have been very few of these with him on the job. Thus, the Junior Warden position is much more do-able than in the past. It does not require being on-site during the week. The main Junior Warden role involves staying in touch with the Sexton on a weekly basis, monitoring the use of budgeted funds for building maintenance/repair, approving within pre-established limits occasional unanticipated building expenses, bringing

unanticipated building expenses to Vestry, and ensuring good communication between the Sexton and Vestry on building issues. Other than needing to be at monthly Vestry meetings, much of the work between meetings can be done with phone/email contact with the Sexton, and email contact with Vestry and the Rector. It is also useful to stop by perhaps monthly and go around with Paul to look at things. He is very flexible scheduling these visits. If you would be willing to try this role, please let Janet Ratcliffe or Rev. Joe know. You would be well-supported by an excellent Sexton.

TREASURER JOB DESCRIPTION

The Treasurer is the Vestry officer who oversees the parish's finances. The duties include receiving and disbursing funds, keeping records of receipts and disbursements and to present statements of the parish's financial condition at annual meetings and regular Vestry meetings. We

recognize that is a daunting task and anticipate hiring a part-time bookkeeper to report to the Treasurer and assist with payroll, paying the bills, balancing the check-book, and preparing taxes and financial reports. The assistance and support of a professional bookkeeper will

make the job easier for a volunteer who assumes the role of Treasurer. If you would be willing to try this role, please let Janet Ratcliffe or Rev. Joe know.

TOGETHER NOW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

I am proud to announce that St. Andrew's will usher in the New Year with a completed renovation of the Parish Hall. A lot has happened since the last Grapevine went out! A new CVT tile floor has been installed and sealed. We hope that the medium brown color will help hide any scuffs and dirt. With routine buffing, it should give us years of use. In addition, the walls have all received a fresh coat of paint, and the new windows have been outfitted with new mini-blinds for a fresh, clean look.

The stage too has been updated with insulation and new windows, a drop ceiling, lighting, and mini-blinds. The retractable wall across the stage will be installed at the end of December and will both help us save on our heating of the hall, as well as provide an additional classroom or meeting space

going forward.

If you've been in the Parish Hall lately, you can't help but notice how warm it is, how easy it is to see with the adjustable bright lighting, and the improved acoustics. No echoes! It is our hope that we might get the hall into regular rental, so if you or someone you know is looking for space for a meeting or party, talk to Janet McDonald in the office and she will provide paperwork and get it on the calendar.

We receive quarterly payments from the Diocese of all pledges paid to the Capital Campaign each quarter. We have received a total of \$17,779 in pledges to date, and are expecting a check for Q4 in January. Our next project is the restoration of our famous organ this spring, so it

is important that everyone keep up with their pledges.

Again, I want to note that this transformation of our Parish Hall would not be possible without:

- the generous pledges to the Capital Campaign by so many of our members;
- gifts to the Building Preservation Memorial Fund and the Organ Fund; and
- a \$10,000 Energy Conservation Grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts obtained by our Senior Warden, Janet Ratcliffe.

My thanks goes out to all of our pledging members, the Campaign Committee, and the Vestry for supporting these important projects.

Submitted by Huib Walta



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Our Youth Group continues to meet regularly, and we are enjoying each other's company. Participation is good, enthusiasm is great, and we have plans to continue getting together for monthly fun and service activities (which we are finding are also a lot of fun!). Over the past couple of months, we were busy with:

November 10: Visited the Kimball Farm Corn Maze in Haverhill, where we learned the value of sticking together! We were the only ones in the maze, and we were sure glad to have our flashlights and gloves, as it was cold and dark!

November 18: Took a group of Nevins residents on an "Armchair World Tour" by the teens, who did an excellent job with presentations on England, Germany, Italy, Ghana (Africa) and China. We fastened our seatbelts, put our seats into the upright position, and took off on a whirlwind tour that delighted the residents and got them talking about their own travels.

December 9: Enjoyed a Christmas Party together with an international Pot-Luck dinner, a traditional Yankee Swap, and a fun "White Elephant" Yankee Swap at St. Andrew's. Candy was popular and changed hands often during the traditional swap, and Robert was voted winner of the worst White Elephant gift ever! The food was great, the gift swapping hilarious, and a nice time was had by all.

December 23: The St. A's Angels went caroling up and down the halls of the Nevins, where residents were thrilled to hear all of

their favorite carols. Followed by a little Christmas party, we treated our adopted grandparents to cider, eggnog and festive snacks. Smiles abounded as our elderly friends opened gifts from their secret Santas. There was no questions that the teens had made the season special for everyone involved.

Coming Up:

- January 20** Bowling in Bradford followed by pizza
- January 27** Making Valentines at the Nevins
- February 9** Plans for Snow Tubing at Nashoba in Westford.
- February 24** Plan for board and card games, and Bingo at the Nevins, with plenty of prizes for all the winners

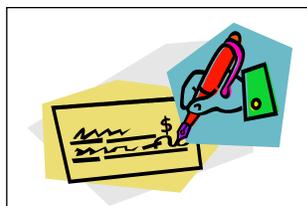
All teens, whether members of St. Andrew's or not, are welcomed to join us in our monthly schedule of events. Thanks to a generous gift from an anonymous donor, we will be able to continue our fun and service activities through the summer and into the fall. Please watch for upcoming emails as we are able to put specific dates/times to each of our plans. Parents are always cc'd on the emails to keep them in the loop. Teens (or parents) are asked to **please** indicate whether or not they will be attending, as rides have to be arranged. Adults are welcomed to help drive/chaperone!

Submitted by Laura Walta

DID YOU KNOW?...

That it's possible to make electronic donations to Saint Andrew's? It's as easy as using the bill pay feature that most banks now offer free of charge to their checking account customers. You simply set up Saint Andrew's as a payee with our

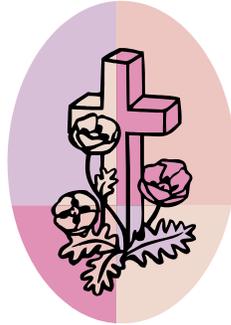
name and address and then schedule payments in the amounts and at the



times you desire. Be sure to direct the payment to the attention of our pledge recorder and include your envelope number in the account number field.

If you have any questions, please speak with Jim Beagan or Janet Ratcliffe.

MEMORIALS



Memorial Fund
Virginia Scott

Garden Memorial Fund
John Crosbie

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to those who have signed up to bring one item from the list every week when you come to church. **Please sign up in the parlor, and participate in this ministry – it is very important to those in need.**

In addition, we purchase milk and bread and occasional toiletries, so a monetary donation is also helpful.



Each week we give the following to each of six families:

tuna, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, green veggies, yellow veggies, soup, peanut butter and jelly.

Thank you for your continued help!

Bev Brown

GRAPEVINE SCHEDULE

In an attempt to get the Grapevine publication out in a timely manner, a schedule has been developed. If you have relevant information to share, please get it to the office by the due date listed. Unfortunately, materials that are received after the due date may not make it into the publication - so try to think ahead. Thanks!

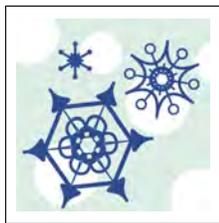
Issue	Due Date	Publication Date
Nov/Dec 2012	Oct. 28th	Nov. 8th 
Jan/Feb 2013	Dec. 30th	Jan. 10th 
Mar/Apr 2013	Feb. 24th	March 7th
May/June 2013	Apr. 28th	May 9th
July/Aug 2013	June 30th	July 11th
Sept/Oct 2013	Aug. 31st	Sept. 12th
Nov/Dec 2013	Oct. 27th	Nov. 8th

**SAINT ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

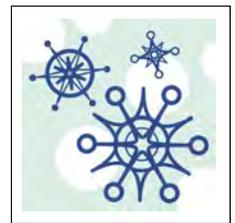
90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844

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

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



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



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!



CALENDAR

- Jan. 16th** Book Club at 6:30pm, Nevins Library
- Jan. 20th** Annual Report Information due
- Feb. 2nd** Annual Meeting
- Feb. 13th** Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 16th** St. Patrick's Day Dinner 