



# GRAPEVINE

## **OFFICE HOURS:**

W/TH 9:00-2:00

## **Parish Administrator**

*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,

Greeting you now in our early  
November Grapevine, I'm mind-  
ful that Thanksgiving is upon  
us. Advent and Christmas will  
be here before we know it.  
We're pretty good at being pre-  
pared for the seasons at St.  
Andrew's. The worship commit-  
tee met last month, and we had  
a really good discussion leading  
to some exciting variety in our  
worship services for the upcom-  
ing seasons. The conversation  
centered on the experiences we  
have had in recent months,  
varying things a bit among Rite  
I, Rite II and the New Zealand  
Eucharist. Worship committee  
members, and many of you,  
have commented that the vari-  
ety is both interesting and at-  
tention-getting. It keeps us  
from becoming "rote" in our  
rites. The varying services  
cause us to pay close attention  
to what we pray, hear, and sing.  
For many of us, this has  
brought us to a deeper place in  
our worship lives, and has en-  
livened our experience of being  
church. Elsewhere in this issue  
of the Grapevine, you'll find a  
schedule of which rites we will  
be doing on which Sundays so



that you can feel more pre-  
pared, and be especially  
watching for your favorite. As  
for me, I like them all. It's not  
because I'm an ordained  
church "professional." It's  
because each creates a differ-  
ent feeling about, and image  
of, God for me. That helps me  
feel like I have lots of ways to  
God. That's good, because  
God reaches out to us and  
invites us in so many ways. If  
at some time I feel out of sync  
with one path, it gives me hope  
to know that there are others  
right around the corner. I pray  
you feel similarly about our  
variety. In any case, I invite  
your comments. Join us for  
the seasons of Thanksgiving,  
Advent and Christmas. Take in

the variety of our worship of  
God. Use it to be especially  
attentive in God's presence  
with us. And let us pray that  
we be prepared for God to  
reach us in more and deeper  
ways than we might have  
imagined. I bid you peace.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Rev. Joe

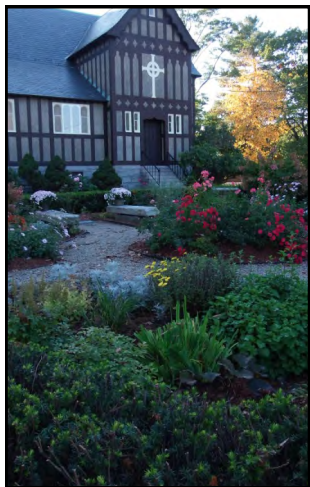
## SENIOR WARDEN MESSAGE

Greetings on a chilly autumn  
Sunday! As you likely know by  
now (and if by chance you  
don't know, you surely will by  
the time you have finished  
perusing this issue), it is stew-  
ardship season here at St.

Andrew's. It is that time of year  
when each of us  
must *prayerfully consider* what  
our financial contribution will be  
to St. Andrew's for the coming  
year. What I'd like to do here is  
offer some real talk about the

impact that your *prayerful  
consideration* has on the  
business of running St. An-  
drew's. It is no secret that  
your contributions, both large  
and small, are the means by  
which we keep our parish

## MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN (CON'T)



running. We maintain the facilities, pay the staff and keep our various ministries afloat. Once our annual pledge drive concludes and we know what to expect on the income side, we decide how we will spend our money and develop an operating budget for the coming year. That budget becomes the blueprint by which we operate the business of St. Andrew's. What, you may ask, does your *prayerful consideration* of your pledge have to do with any of this? It means that you have thought about it, prayed about it, and had a conversation with God about it. It means that you have concluded that St. Andrew's is important to you and that you want to support this faith community and its ministries. It means you have

come up with an amount that you can realistically commit to St. Andrew's during 2014. It means that, absent any extenuating circumstances (and we do understand that in today's economic climate things can change for any of us at any time), St. Andrew's can count on the amount you fill in on your pledge card. So you may be wondering what happens if you don't *prayerfully consider* your pledge. Unfortunately, we end up with some of our pledges going unfulfilled and that has a negative effect on our budget. We can no longer pay for things we had planned on when we developed our budget for the year. You can help us to avoid this pitfall by taking some time to *pray* about your pledge. And, if throughout the course of the year, a change in your circumstances requires

you to change your commitment, we can make whatever adjustments are necessary on our end. It's as simple as sending a note or making a phone call to our pledge recorder, Elaine Morissette.

Money is not an easy thing to talk about, although I'll admit that with 5 stewardship campaigns under my belt it has become easier. Thank you for bearing with me and please know that we are grateful for each and every gift of your time, talent and treasure.

Peace,  
Janet

## MESSAGE FROM THE JR. WARDEN

As summer has turned to fall, I thought we would have a lot of work to do in preparation for winter. But walking around the church last week, I realized that we are in pretty good shape! Thanks to the diligence of Paul Schermerhorn, our sexton, many things just get done without any ado. Light bulbs have been replaced. The classroom off the Parish Hall has been painted. The leaky faucets in the bathrooms have been replaced. The grounds are in great shape. I will keep an eye on the leaf situation,

and will send out an announcement if we need to do a fall clean-up. Perhaps near the end of November, before



Thanksgiving. No sense doing anything until the last of the leaves have come down.

Speaking of the grounds- do stop by and check out the Memorial Garden. It is full bloom and absolutely lovely!

Many thanks to Bob Burke for his dedication to transforming this space. And many thanks to Harry Noorigian for providing the heavy equipment needed to turn the donated granite into two very beautiful, rustic, benches. The garden has become a perfect spot for rest and contemplation.

In His service,  
Laura Walta

# STEWARDSHIP LETTER

October 23, 2013

Dear St. Andrew's Family:

It's that time of year when we must once again talk about stewardship. Stewardship is not simply about money. It is about how we live and how we give. It is about giving of our time, talent and treasure in response to God's gifts of unconditional love, salvation and grace. For many of us here at St. Andrew's, giving of our time and talent comes almost as second nature. We are blessed with many volunteers who perform in a variety of ways to keep us going. Giving of our treasure is more difficult for many of us.

St. Andrew's depends on the voluntary offerings of the parish to maintain the facilities, pay the staff and carry out the programs of the parish. Your contribution, large or small, helps keep the parish going.

- The total 2013 budgeted expenses are \$119,636 or \$328 per day.
- **Our Music Program costs \$10,250 per year. That's \$197 per week.**
- Utilities cost \$18,500 per year in the church building and another \$8100 per year in the rectory.
- Part-time staff expenses are \$17,709.
- The average of the 52 pledges we received for 2013 is \$52,468 annually or \$1009 per week. That translates into an average weekly pledge of \$19.
- The top 5 pledges average \$331 per week (or an average of \$66 per pledge).
- The remaining 49 pledges average \$678 per week (or an average of \$14 per pledge).

In order to responsibly and realistically plan for the financial needs of the Parish for the coming year, we rely on members making a well considered "pledge" of financial support. Later this year we will develop a budget for the upcoming year for Vestry approval. During the budget-making process, the plans and goals for the year are balanced against expected income. Since pledges account for roughly half of our budgeted operating income, your pledge is an important building block for next year's budget and extremely important!

A pledge is your commitment of a certain amount of money to help this community grow. St. Andrew's is our spiritual home, and your pledge helps us extend that welcome to others. Your pledge to St. Andrew's says, "I am a part of this community, and I want to show that this parish that its goals are important to me."

Pledges are most useful when made as year-long commitments, and we encourage you to make your pledge for 2014 by November 17, 2013. Most people fulfill their pledges in weekly or monthly installments throughout the year. When you declare your pledge commitment early, it helps us to plan and to allocate for our full range of ministries, both local and global, for the full year.

Many people feel deeply rewarded when the way they choose to live and give includes committing to an intentional program of giving to their church. It is a sort of spiritual discipline that helps them feel closer to God, and more closely linked to this community, its activities and ministries. We hope you will make your pledge to St. Andrew's and experience a similar reward.

Peace,  
Janet Ratcliffe  
Senior Warden



## Do you need to make a pledge adjustment?

Please notify our pledge recorder, Elaine Morissette, if you need to make any adjustments in your pledge. You can reach Elaine by sending a note to her at the church address (or by dropping it off in the office and our secretary will make sure she gets it) or by email at [REMOR20@aol.com](mailto:REMOR20@aol.com)

## CHURCH BOOK CLUB

*St. Andrew's Book Group meets every other month to discuss books that we think will enlighten us on our spiritual journeys...sometimes they do, and sometimes they don't, but we usually have a few laughs and enjoy the company of our fellow parishioners anyway. If you are interested in joining the Book Group just speak to Janet Ratcliffe or Krista McLeod. We can get you a copy of the book in advance through the Nevins Library. We can usually obtain large print or audio versions if you prefer them, in addition to regular hardcover or paperback books. We also welcome guests if you wish to bring a friend.*

### Upcoming Dates & Selections for 2013/14:

#### **Wednesday November 13/6:30pm**

"The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls (non-fiction/memoir)

#### **Sunday January 5/after coffee hour**

"The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis (fiction)

#### **Sunday March 2/after coffee hour**

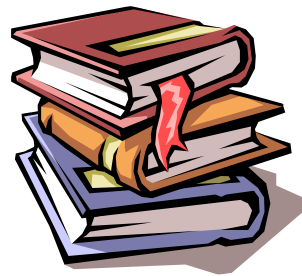
"The Gift of Rest" by Joseph Leiberman (non-fiction)

#### **Wednesday May 14/6:30pm**

"Song of the Magdalene" by Donna Jo Napoli (fiction)

#### **Wednesday June 11/6:30pm**

"Nickel & Dimed" by Barbara Ehrenreich (non-fiction)



## THANKSGIVING SIMPLE SUPPER



On Wednesday, November 27th there will be a simple supper followed by a prayer service to honor Thanksgiving. It will be an opportunity to take a short break before the onset of the holiday season. As a symbol of being thankful for all our blessings, I would like to ask those attending to bring something for the food pantry. It will not be long evening; hopefully I'll see you then!

*Submitted by Bev Brown*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 3 - James Sulesky  
 November 13 - Michael Wizboski  
 November 19 - Karl Wunderlich  
 November 24 - Chelsey Blanchette  
 November 25 - Matt McKeon  
 November 26 - Justice McGrail



December 8 - James Lee  
 December 11 - Dominic Drapeau  
 Dora Atkinson  
 December 12 - Caela Miller  
 December 15 - Brooklynn McGrail  
 December 31 - Eric Dalrymple  
 Rev. Joe Wilkes



## SERVICE SCHEDULES FOR THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2013

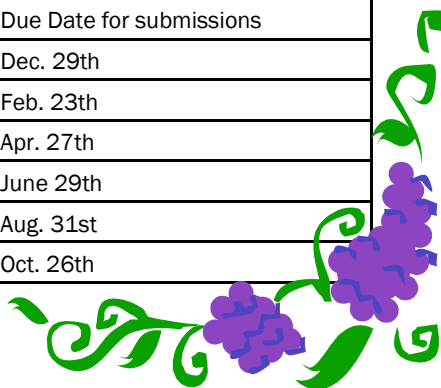
Sunday, November 10	Rite II (Note: Veterans' Day remembrance)
Sunday, November 17	Rite I
Sunday, November 24	New Zealand Eucharist (with Litany of Thanksgiving) (Note: Talk on the organ by Craig Seaman)
Wednesday, November 27	6:00PM Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service (simple supper)
Sunday, December 1	Rite II (Note: greening the church after worship)
Sunday, December 8	Advent Lessons and Carols (with Eucharist)
Sunday, December 15	New Zealand Eucharist (Note: study on the prophets after Church)
Sunday, December 22	Rite II
Tuesday, December 24	Rite II Christmas Eve service at 6:00PM (Note: caroling at 5:45 PM)
Wednesday, December 25	Rite I Christmas day said service, 9:00AM

All worship services listed are at the church. All Sunday services are at 9:30 AM. As November and December evolve, there might be additions to this schedule. These will be listed on the website and in the Sunday bulletins.

## GRAPEVINE SCHEDULE FOR 2014

In an attempt to get the Grapevine publication out in a timely manner, we will use the following schedule. If you have relevant information to share, please send 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!

<u>Issue</u>	Due Date for submissions
Jan/Feb 2014	Dec. 29th
Mar/Apr 2014	Feb. 23th
May/June 2014	Apr. 27th
July/Aug 2014	June 29th
Sept/Oct 2014	Aug. 31st
Nov/Dec 2014	Oct. 26th



## 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.

## ADULT EDUCATION FOR ADVENT DECEMBER 15, 2013

Advent is a season of looking forward to the celebration of the birth at Christ at Christmas. The prophets are an important part of that looking forward. Some of them prophesied the birth and sacrifice of Jesus; others exhorted their people to return to the Lord. These prophecies show up in the Advent liturgy and also play



an important part in our Lessons and Carols Service, which will be held the prior Sunday. Please plan to join us after church on Sunday, December 15, to study the prophets. We will learn about and discuss their messages for their own times, and how those messages are relevant for us today.

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND VISITORS

We have a group of Eucharistic ministers who are trained for home visitation. Although we mostly visit those who are too sick to come to church, we are also available to visit and bring the Eucharist to those who cannot attend church for other reasons. Remember that we include in our Prayers of the Faithful those who can't be with us today. The Eucharist that the visitors bring is blessed as part of the Sunday service; it joins the Sunday worshipers with those who receive it at home. It brings the strengthening we all need, and hopefully will allow the person at home to get back to the full union with their parish brothers and sisters at the Sunday Eucharist service. If you are interested in having an Eucharistic minister visit you or someone else in your family, please contact the church office. Please remember that the office is only staffed part-time, so the response may take a little while.

## MERRIMACK VALLEY DEANERY

The Merrimack Valley Deanery includes parishes stretching from Westford to Newburyport. We are fortunate to be located in the center, so we do not have to travel that far. The deanery meetings for this year are being held at Trinity Church in Haverhill. The last meeting was held September 25. At that meeting, a youth candidate was selected for the upcoming Diocesan convention. At the May meeting, grants totaling \$6300 were awarded to four parishes for outreach activities. At the meetings we are also made aware of upcoming events at parishes in the deanery and at the Diocesan level. I will post these on the bulletin board on the lower level. At the last meeting we also had a presentation on the efforts of a several parishes who are trying to establish collaborative activities for mission, administration, and for worship. That is something we may look into as well. We have two deanery representatives, but anyone from the parish can attend. The next meeting will be in the spring. If you are interested (a participatory supper is provided), please see Jim Beagan or Betty MacKay.

Submitted by Jim Beagan



## 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.**



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.*

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

*Thank you for your continued help!*  
*Bev Brown*

## NEW TENANT BEGINNING IN JANUARY

We are in the process of working out details with Champion Youth Outreach Programs, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to sponsoring affordable high quality youth programs for children and teens across the nation since 1991, for their rental of our hall on Wednesday evenings from 5pm-8pm to run a youth cheerleading program. Their program would begin in January and run year round but for short breaks during school vacations and between sessions. Although they understand that there may be an occasional church event which would require that they cancel on any given evening, the hall will be generally unavailable on Wednesday evenings beginning in January.

## LOOKING FOR ACOLYTES

If you are over 10 and looking to make a contribution to the church service, consider acolyting. Anyone can be an acolyte! There are trainings and senior acolytes are good at teaching the ropes. It is not difficult but is important to the service. If you are interested in trying this, see Beth Regan or Lisa Storie at church or call Beth at 978.687.1340.



## FILM ON HUNGER

*Neighbors in Need* and the Nevins Memorial Library will host a free viewing of the film, "A Place at the Table" on Wednesday, December 4th at the Nevins Memorial Library at 6:30 pm. The film showing will be followed by a discussion led by area teachers, nutritionists and health professionals who will explore how hunger in our local communities affects how our children learn, and the other serious social, economic and cultural problems pervasive hunger creates. The film and panelists will also look at solutions to solving hunger in our country. The Nevins Library is at 305 Broadway in Methuen.

For more information, please contact Linda Zimmerman, Executive Director of *Neighbors in Need* at 978-685-8321 or [neighborsinneed@verizon.net](mailto:neighborsinneed@verizon.net).



# TOGETHER NOW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

I've asked Craig Seaman, our Organist, and also the person from Andover Organ responsible for the restoration, to describe for us (in layman's terms) what's happening as a result of this restoration effort. He has written several great articles for the Grapevine about the organ, and I asked him for a progress report. He reports that, with respect to the overall project, we have completed phase 1, which addressed the most pressing issue of cyphers (pipes that do not stop playing). Phase 2 and 3, which are scheduled for next Spring 2014 after Easter, will make the organ easier to play. Phases 4 and 5, which are not yet scheduled, will clean up the voicing and regulation of the pipes themselves



(i.e. make the pipes sound better). This organ has "tracker-pneumatic" action. A "tracker" is a mechanical linkage between the key and wind chest that "tracks" the movement of the key. "Pneumatic" means pressurized air, and in this organ involves thin leather which flexes when operating, valves made of felt & leather that seal against the hole to the pipe, and gaskets which must completely seal the internal workings against the outside atmosphere. All of these components wear over time and need to be periodically refurbished for the organ to continue working optimally. On November 24, after church, Craig will give a short talk (20 - 30 minutes) that will explain the

workings of this organ, and the specific projects we are undertaking.

Thank you to everyone for keeping up your pledges. Remember that our bright, beautiful, warm Parish Hall is now advertised as available for rentals on the parish website, complete with some photos. Keep us in mind if you know of people looking for a venue for 160 or fewer people.

Again, thank you to our pledgers to the Capital Campaign! You have made all of this work possible, and with your help, we will get another 100 years out of our beautiful organ and make some great memories in our Parish Hall.

*Submitted by Huib Walta*

## MEMORIALS

<p><b><u>Garden Memorial Fund</u></b> Mary Trela</p>	
<p><b><u>Music Memorial Fund</u></b> Elsie Wright</p>	

### **New Office Hours:**

*Wednesdays & Thursdays  
9am-2pm*

Jill Eckelkamp is our new secretary, call, email or drop by to say "hello".





# YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

I missed the deadline for the last Grapevine, so I'll try to catch everyone up on what's been happening with the teens since last June. As you might expect with our busy teens, it was extremely difficult to plan activities on dates and times that met everyone's crazy schedule. We did try, however, and have done the following over the past four months:

## June

I want to thank all the teens again for their work with the Friday Night Specials in June. We received a very nice "Thank You" card, which read:

*"Dear Laura and Youth Group,  
The Friday Night Specials Dance clients and providers wish to thank each and every member of the youth group that assisted with serving the prom dinner. Your attention, sensitivity to special needs and especially Robert for taking charge of the dining room, made the evening a success.*

*Trudi & George Driscoll, Beth Regan"*

You all make St. Andrew's proud! Good work, everyone!

## July 10

A large group of us had the opportunity to serve dinner to the homeless at the Cor Unum meal center in South Lawrence. It was a wonderful experience to live out our Baptismal Covenant as we sought and served Christ in all people, and respected the dignity of every human being. The teens asked to do this again!

## August 23

So we did it again! We had a big group that even included some adults, serve dinner at Cor Unum, and all agreed that this was a very good ministry.

## August 26

A small group of us enjoyed an evening of baseball and the traditional food that goes with it at a Lowell Spinners game. We had a great time- watching the people was as much fun as watching the game, and we all came home with a "bobble head" souvenir.

## September 7

We had a beautiful sunny day for our trip out of Gloucester on a whale watch. We enjoyed the trip, but watch as we might, there was not a whale to be seen! At least everyone received a free ticket for another day.

## October 3

Although many of the teens ended up with conflicts and couldn't join us, a core of die-hards spent another evening at Cor Unum. Great experience, as always!

We need to have a planning meeting and talk about the next few months, but also about what you want out of the Youth Group. I would like to meet after we do a Cor Unum evening, as we get out at 7 and would have time to gather at the church for an hour to discuss. I'll send everyone an email as soon as I have a date.

I am also actively looking for someone who would like to share this responsibility with me. My new job has me traveling every other month, and it has been hard to be in two places at one time! The kids are fun to be with, interesting to talk to, and definitely worth the time. Would anyone like to be a co-coordinator?

As always, a huge THANK YOU to the parents that drop off and pick up the teens from all of our events, and who volunteer as chaperones! This wouldn't work without your support. All teens, whether members of St. Andrew's or not, are welcomed to join us in our monthly schedule of social and service events. 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*



Natasha and Kyleigh at the Spinners Game in August.



Some of the teens at the Whale Watch in Gloucester in September.

**SAINT ANDREW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

90 Broadway  
Methuen, MA 01844

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

*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**

- Nov. 13th @ 6:30pm Book Club
- Nov. 27th @ 6pm Take a break from your Thanksgiving preparations and join us for a simple supper of soup and bread followed by a Thanksgiving prayer service.
- Dec. 1st Greening of the Church following 9:30 service
- Dec. 8th @ 9:30am Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 24th @ 6:00pm Christmas Eve service (begins with Carol Sing at 5:45)
- Dec. 25th @ 9am Christmas Day quiet service

