

GRAPEVINE



OFFICE HOURS:

Wed. & Thurs. 9am-2pm

Parish Administrator

Jill Eckelkamp

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978-689-0463

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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

Val Carey, Beverly Brown, Anne Duffy, Betty MacKay, Matt McKeon, Robert Pauley, Janet Ratcliffe, Molly Ratcliffe, Sharon Taylor, Laura Walta, and Joseph Wilkes

Treasurer

Valerie Carey

Religious Education

Paula Cambell

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 & Brothers in Christ,

I hope you have found what you needed during summer. It was a hard season, given international, national, and local strife in the news. I hope God's love found you in it all. I was helped by a good Sunday worship attendance throughout. To everyone who has been around, thank you. To everyone who has been away, we hope you are well, and we look forward to welcoming you back.

A major change over the summer is our hiring of Donna Henderson as our Sunday School Director. Donna has a wealth of experience in children's education in a religious context. She is a fifth grade teacher at Saint Louis School in Lowell. With her leadership we should be better able to support the efforts of our Sunday School teachers, and enhance our communication with children's families. The decision Vestry and I made to create this part-time staff



position is intended to strengthen our commitment to children and young families in our parish. Sunday School registration starts on Welcome Back Sundae on September 14th. Please join us and meet Donna.

This fall, we'll take a look at some potential adult formation activities to enrich the parish experience of our adult members. During our summertime discussion about the Book of Common Prayer, we discovered how much we can learn about our faith and our church by taking the time to look closely at some things we take as com-

monplace week-to-week. We'll look for more such opportunities this fall. In addition, we might try Gospel-based Discipleship, a book-club style of Bible study that helps participants gain a deeper appreciation for each other, as well as of scripture. For students, and others among us who have new beginnings this fall, blessings! And for all of us, may this Season After Pentecost, which continues, bring the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to gather us back in worship, praise and love of God.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Rev. Joe

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN

As everyone knows, or should know by this point, I am nearing the end of my 6th and final term as Senior Warden. We've mentioned from

time to time that we need to start planning for my replacement and I thought it would be helpful for me to describe what I see as some of the

important aspects of the job. Contrary to what some of you may think, the job does not require any special training or knowledge. There's

Worship Service



*Sunday Services
are back to
9:30am*

MESSAGE FROM SR. WARDEN (CONT.)

actually very little to do that requires digging in and getting your hands dirty. Many of the projects you've seen me involved in over the years are things I've taken on because I've had a special interest in them. The skills that the job does require are really common and in everyone's bag of tricks to one degree or another.

- First on my list would be **communication**. You must keep an ear to the ground. You must be aware of what is going on with your fellow parishioners. The key to this is showing up, every week talking to folks, going to coffee hour. You must have a sense of St. Andrew's standing in our neighborhood and the community at large. Everyone will have their own approach to this, but over the years I've done everything from read obituaries in the Tribune to participate in the noontime Lenten services sponsored by Communities Together to attend charity events. The knowledge and insight you gain from these activities is then communicated to Rev. Joe and the parish. This is especially important because we have part-time clergy and, whether it be Rev. Joe or whoever comes after him, he will need your help to keep his finger on the pulse of the parish.
- Next on my list would be **computer/internet ser-**

vice. Nearly everyone has a computer these days and that's a good thing because we have budgeted for very limited secretarial support in the office. I use the computer for things as simple as typing up inserts for the bulletin or Grapevine and sending emails. I often communicate with the office, Rev. Joe and the Vestry by email. Since everyone has a different schedule, it really is the most efficient way to communicate with folks. I also prepare the agenda for our monthly meetings using word. Then there's everything else in between such as preparation of annual reports, occasional letters, grants, etc. We've also over the last few years converted our parish list to an excel spreadsheet that serves the dual purpose of facilitating mailings in an efficient manner. While passing occasional handwritten notes to our admin for transcription might not be a problem, doing that on an ongoing basis, as would be the case with the Senior Warden, would become an administrative burden which would ultimately effect our budget. Finally, and maybe most importantly, I do a lot of internet research on what other churches/organizations do. I look at their websites, resources, newsletters, etc. By way of example, when we were recently trying to fill the position of

Religious Ed Director, I looked at many church and seminary websites to get a feel for job descriptions and pay scale. I also used the internet to post the position on 7-8 different job boards. Another example is our annual stewardship campaign (coincidentally discussed elsewhere in this issue). I do lots of internet research to find ideas for the current year's campaign and, once I have the ideas lined up, there's lots of word processing involved in getting the project to completion.

- The last thing on my list is the ability to **remain on an even keel**. You encounter endless personalities, opinions, priorities on the road to getting the job done. I also have a lot of balls up in the air at any given time. As I've learned over the years, whether I'm wearing my Senior Warden hat or my Mom hat or my employee hat and sometimes even all three hats at one time, it's always easier on me when I remain calm.

If anyone has any interest in the position, I'm certainly willing to discuss and do everything I can to make the transition as smooth and seamless as possible!

Peace
Janet

WELCOME BACK "SUNDAE"



We will have an Ice Cream Social after the service on
Sunday, September 14th so that we can...

Reconnect with our church family after summer vacations
Re-establish our outreach, educational, and social programs.

MESSAGE FROM JUNIOR WARDEN

Welcome back to all those in our parish family that have been away for the summer months! Services go back to a 9:30 starting on September 8th, and you'll be happy to notice that the sanctuary is once again comfortable and dry. And while it doesn't feel like summer is over, with the opening of school and the start of Sunday School this month, there is no denying that fall is quickly approaching. The grounds have looked outstanding this summer, and if you haven't been around, do take a few minutes to enjoy the view from inside the Memorial

Garden. It won't be long before the flowers pass, the leaves turn, and we have the opportunity to revel in God's next season of warm, spicy colors.

Speaking of fall, we will be doing a Fall Clean-Up on Saturday, November 8th. Our Spring event was rained out, so it's been awhile since we did a thorough cleaning. So please mark your calendar for the first Saturday in November, when we will pull out the rakes, brooms, clippers, and wheelbarrows to spruce

things up before the holidays. We will plan to start at 9am, and we'll have extra equipment available to share. Many hands make light work, so please join us, even if you can spend just an hour. For those that prefer indoor work, the kitchen could use some attention as well!

I'll be looking forward to seeing you at church on Sundays!

In His Service,
Laura Walta

Office Hours



*The office is open
Wednesday & Thursday
9am-2pm*

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Fall always reminds me of renewal. Perhaps it's the crisp air, or the smell of new crayons, or the stack of new, untouched notebooks begging to be used! Regardless, there is always some comfort in coming home, back to the routine of old, always with a touch of new! Although we never really take a vacation from God, fall seems to invite us back to His house and ready share in spreading the Good News again and picking up right where we left off when summer schedules came around.

These days summer seems to be less and less of the old days of the past. Children are required to read books, complete projects, and master math packets to insure success in the next year of learning and prevent attrition. How then do we renew our relationship with God?

As parents, I know it's a constant balancing act. Not only are we yearning for Jesus and his guidance, but we are blessed with the huge task to being responsible for fostering our children's relationship with God and guide their faith formation. I think some-

times we over think it. Children learn best when they do. Children learn from watching what the adults they love, and respect do. They will learn to value what they experience not only in their faith, but in all aspects of their lives. It's such a humbling task. Do we always get it right?? No. Nope, not even close. But making an effort to include God in your life, and sharing your faith with your children is a giant step in the right direction. Sunday School is a great way to begin the conversation.

Sunday School is starting soon! Please take a few moments to register your child for the 2014-2015 year. New approaches to scripture and interactive instruction are planned! I looking forward to seeing everyone at the Sunday's Sundaes event on September 14th!

Also, check us out on Facebook: St. Andrew's Religious Education.

Donna Henderson

TOGETHER NOW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Just a brief note to report that, thanks to the faithful stewardship of all the folks that pledged to the Capital Campaign, we have recently deposited another check to the Together Now account, and have all the funds necessary to pay for the second phase of the organ restoration. Apparently, work has been delayed due to an overabundance of churches requiring Andover Organ's expertise, but we can hope for the work to start soon.

Remember that a portion of the Capital Campaign funds supports a variety of programs and grants run by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, including the Barbara C. Harris Camp, Local Mission Hubs (including one right here in the Merrimack Valley), Global Mission Matching Grants, Creation Care Grants (one of which helped pay for the new windows in the parish hall), a variety of youth programming, and the restoration of the St. Paul's Cathedral on Tremont Street. We can be proud that, through our support, we are a part of these important initiatives!

Funds from the Capital Campaign 5-Year Pledge, received from the Episcopal Diocese quarterly to date:

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Pledges Received in 2012	\$17,780	
Pledges Spent on Parish Hall 2012/13		-14,054
Pledges Received in 2013	\$13,943	
Pledges Received in 2014	\$ 8,375	
January	2,790.69	
April	3,381.42	
July	2,203.36	
Pledges Spent on Organ 2013		-11,100
Total Income/Expense	\$40,098	-\$25,154

NOTE: Expense does not include \$25,982 spent on parish hall from other sources

Available for Phase 2 of the Organ Restoration September 2014: \$14,944.

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.

Submitted by,
Huib Walta

RUMMAGE SALE

Flea Market/Rummage sale will be held on **Saturday, Sept 13th from 8:30am–2:00pm**. Please drop off items at the church. Help is needed to set up and to break down that day. Anyone who wishes to volunteer to help that day it would be greatly appreciated. Please call Patti Eldred or Paula Campbell if you have any questions or need assistance picking up items. Looking forward to another successful Rummage Sale!



Thank you,
Paula (978) 794-1000
Patti (978) 686-1472



Pastoral Care and Prayer List

Please notify the church office if you or someone in your family is ill or hospitalized.

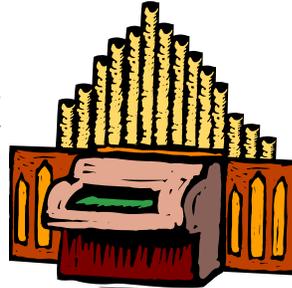
In addition to keeping you in our prayers, our Pastoral Care team would like to send one of its members to visit you and bring communion. We refresh the prayer list quarterly. Please contact the office 978-689-0463 or admin@standrewsmethuen.org if you wish keep someone on the list or add someone new.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

The next phase of the Organ project has started. This work will replace the dried leather in the stop action pneumatics. When this work is completed, all of the stops on the organ will be fully functioning, including the Swell 4' Violina which stopped playing shortly after my interview with Reverend Joe 4 years ago. The major portion of this phase will be completed in January and February, and will include work on the keyboards and pedalboard, the mechanical action from the keyboards to the chests, and the pneumatic action for the pedal stops. If you are interested, please see me for more details.

On August 24th, we had a Hymn Sing during the worship service, in which you selected 10 of your favorite hymns. I have the list of hymns, and will use them in our worship services this Fall. It is always good to hear the congregation sing!!

Choir will be starting soon, with rehearsals on Thursdays at 6:00 PM. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join with us.



Craig Seaman
Organist/Music Director



The Food Pantry

Thank you to those who have signed up to bring one item from the list every week when you come to church, this list has recently been revised to suit the needs of the recipients.

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:

Cereal, pasta, tomato sauce, soup, peanut butter, vegetables, tuna fish, rice, dry beans, soap, toothpaste and detergent.

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

Thank you for your continued help! Bev Brown

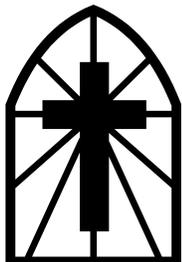
COR UNUM MINISTRY

St. Andrew's continues to support the mission work of Cor Unum in South Lawrence. On the last Friday of each month, at least 6 and sometimes as many as 12 members of St. Andrew's join other volunteers to serve a hot dinner meal to the homeless and disadvantaged. We meet at the Cor Unum "restaurant" off Salem Street (beside St. Patrick's Catholic Church) from 4pm -7pm for three hours of community service in a clean, friendly, well lit, air conditioned (summer)/ heated (winter) environment.

Please mark your calendars now so that you don't schedule other activities into that slot. This is an important responsibility we have taken on- the Cor Unum volunteer staff and over 300 homeless and hungry are depending on us.

Submitted by,
Laura Walta

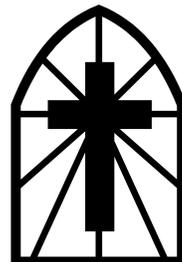
MEMORIALS



Music Memorial Fund
Joseph W. Madden

Altar Guild Flowers
In Memory of Joseph W. Madden
and Virginia Priesttly Madden

Garden Memorial Fund
John Daly





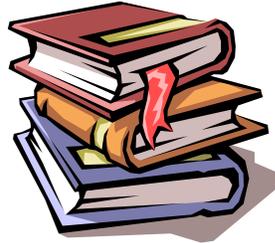
*If anyone would like to join the **Altar Guild**, we would love to have you. We need your help. Please see Gail Ratcliffe if you are interested and she will be glad to give more information.*

CHURCH BOOK CLUB 2014-15

Upcoming Dates & Selections

Wednesday September 24th 6:30 pm –
Here if You Need Me by Kate Braestrup

A memoir by the woman who serves as the Chaplain for the Maine Warden Service. She talks about people she has met who have suffered tragedies, and how she tries to comfort them, and work with the wardens who sometimes have very difficult jobs.



Wednesday October 29th 6:30pm –
Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

The sweeping story of twin brothers growing up in a missionary hospital in Addis Ababa, the turbulent capital city of Ethiopia in the 1960's, and following their story to America and beyond.

Sunday December 7th After Service –
Snow In August by Pete Hamill

A short novel about a young Catholic boy living in post-WWII New York City who befriends a local rabbi and becomes his "Shabbat Goyim" (helping him with chores on the Sabbath.) Elements of magical realism make this a different type of story.

If you are interested in joining us for the book club, please speak to Krista McLeod or Janet Ratcliffe.

"We read fiction and non-fiction. We seek books that enlighten and enrich our spiritual journey. We seek books that tell stories or have characters to which we can compare and contrast our own faith journeys. We seek books that challenge our notions of God, conventional religion, heaven, and good and evil. We seek books that challenge us to think about the human family and our relationship to our world and our history. We seek books about comparative religions and alternative faiths.

Sunday January 18th After Service –

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder

The book examines the life and work of Dr. Paul Farmer who is the founder of "Partners in Health", a worldwide charity based in Boston, and focuses on his work in Haiti and beyond.

Sunday March 15th After Service –
Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before & After Jesus by Thomas Cahill

Part of the "Hinges of History" series...What is the place of Jesus in the history of the world?

Wednesday April 29th 6:30pm –

Pope Joan by Donna Woolfolk Cross

A historical novel set in the 9th century that examines the life of the only woman Pope, who lived as a monk and eventually assumed the Papacy disguised as a man.

Wednesday June 3rd 6:30pm –

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

The story of a missionary and his family who travel to the Belgian Congo in the 1960's. Told from the point of view of the wife and daughters of this difficult man.

TOILETRY COLLECTION

During Vestry's recent meeting with Linda Soucy of the Arlington Neighborhood, it came to our attention that the purchase of the toiletries we all take for granted often cuts into the weekly food budget of one of the working poor families that our food pantry supports. As a result, we are setting up a collection point for the travel size items that you often find in hotel rooms. In a week when a family's food

budget is tight, a travel size bar of soap or bottle of shampoo could make a big difference. If your travels this summer and beyond take you to a hotel or motel that offers complimentary toiletry items (soaps, shampoos, conditioners, lotions, etc.), please consider bringing them back to us. You'll find the collection bin in the parlor at coffee hour.



WEDDING BELLS



Congratulations to Matthew Crotean and Lindsay Eldred who were married at Groveland Fairways in Groveland, MA by Rev. Joseph Wilkes on July 12th.



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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Robert Pauley who performed in this summer's production of Gilbert & Sullivan's The Mikado by Methuen Young People's Theater. This was Robert's 8th summer with MYPT. Performances took place at the Methuen Music Hall on Friday,

Sept. 5th at 7:30pm, Saturday, Sept. 6th at 2pm and 7:30pm and Sunday, Sept. 7th at 3pm. MYPT provides an excellent summer-time educational and cultural experience in musical theater to youth in Methuen and neighboring communities. St. Andrew's is pleased to support MYPT by offering the use of our hall for their cast party.

BAPTISM



Please welcome **Liam James Palmieri**, who was baptized on August 17th, to St. Andrew's.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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



October 2 - Dick Ratcliffe
Molly Ratcliffe

October 4 - Mary Durant
October 6 - Melissa Saindon
October 20 - Natasha Lee
October 22 - Peter Kwakye
October 23 - Heather Hudson
October 24 - Michelle Stehm
October 28 - Adam St. Marie

IN MEMORY OF...

For those of you who have not yet heard, we regret to inform you that our long time member, Joseph W. Madden, passed away on Thursday, July 24th. A lifelong resident of Methuen, Joe was a graduate of Bentley College School of Accounting. He served in the U.S. Army during the



Korean War, was a member of the John Hancock Lodge, The Scottish Rite Bodies, and Bektash Temple, AANONS, a 40 year member of Bektash Clown Unit. See the complete obituary at <http://www.dewhirstfuneral.com/obits/obituary.php?id=486987>

WALKING THE WAY CAMPAIGN



Dear Parish Family,

We are delighted to serve as St. Andrew's Stewardship Committee. On Sunday, October 5th, we will kick off our annual giving campaign: "Walking the Way."

Over the course of the six weeks that follow, we will journey together in exploring how the practice of intentional giving deepens our walk with Christ and supports life-giving ministries to our community and beyond. Day by day, week by week, people in and around St. Andrew's experience their life of faith in new and deeper ways through commitment. Your generosity generates mission and changes lives.

Here is our road map for the six weeks of our *Walking the Way* Campaign:

- Beginning on Sunday, October 5th and continuing through Sunday, November 9th, we will slightly modify our worship service to fit the theme of this year's stewardship campaign. You will find reflections written by Episcopal stewardship leaders across the country, covering stewardship and faithful giving in connection with the Gospel reading of the day, in your worship bulletin. We will use these reflections for prayer, study, and discussion during sermon time.
- In connection with the weekly reflection, we will also hear stories of personal transformation through the practice of intentional giving from your fellow parishioners.
- On Sunday, October 5th, you will receive your pledge packet. Take the weeks that follow to pray over what your pledge will be. Bring your pledge card to worship on Sunday, November 9th.
- On November 9th, we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, the culmination of the journey, when pledges will be completed and offered as an act of worship. Come early that Sunday and join us for a celebratory breakfast in our parish hall!

Rev. Joe, Vestry and the Stewardship Committee have set a goal of receiving 100% of pledge commitments from our worshipping community. We will be in intentional prayer that all will remain open to letting the Holy Spirit lead and guide us in a faithful response.

We will pray that your giving will come from a deep abiding sense of gratitude for the gift of this community and the gift we have in Jesus, the one who does not leave our side in our walk of faith. Our own walks are deepened when we give not from a perspective of "what is my fair share," or even, "what can I afford"; rather, our faith comes alive when we give from a grace-filled and grateful heart. Giving generously gives us strength and hope for the journey ahead.

Thank you for Walking the Way in hope and faith. Blessings in your journey.

Yours in Christ,
Janet Ratcliffe, Jim Beagan

ST. ANDREW'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The Directors of this years' VBS, Valerie Carey and Mimi Falk, would like to publicly thank the Free Christian Church in Andover, MA; in particular, Kathy Shannon - Children's Minister, and Robyn Cotta and Jane Mulcahy - Children's Ministry Assistants, for their generosity in making their program available to St. Andrews once again this year. In addition to the VBS program itself, we thank them also for loaning us the fruits of their labors of love, as evidenced in the beautiful castle walls, stage décor, and panoramic painting! If you have not seen the pictures, go to the church website and take a look. Thank you so much!

August 3-7th St. Andrew's became the home to knights, ladies, princes and princesses where they learned to STAND STRONG FOR GOD. We had thirty children registered for VBS and 27-30 coming most nights.

We learned that; our families and friends help us stand strong for God, prayer helps us stand strong for God, trusting God helps us stand strong, The Bible helps us stand strong for God and God's love helps us stand strong.

The Bible stories we experienced were David writing about God's love, Esther doing the right thing, Nehemiah perseveres to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, Jesus' trusted God and was brought back to life, and King Josiah followed God's way.



We learned many new songs and had some cool and interesting snacks including crowns, and torches.

We made some cool crafts and played some fun games.

We also watched a video about Chatter Chipmunk and watched a timid Knight in training, who was afraid of everything, conquer his fear and become a Knight with the help of Lady Cathie.



It was a wonderful week with many exciting moments and interesting developments.

Please take a moment to see the rest of the pictures on the church's website.



**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!

MARK THE DATE



<u>September 13th</u>	Annual Rummage Sale
<u>September 14th</u>	Welcome Back Sundaes
<u>September 24th</u>	Book Club, 6:30pm
<u>September 26th</u>	Cor Unum serving
<u>September 28th</u>	Choral Evensong, at St. Paul's, North Andover at 4pm.