

GRAPEVINE



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Wed. & Thurs. 9am-2pm

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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

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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,

Yesterday I met with our new diocesan Bishop, Bishop Alan Gates, together with the other clergy from the Merrimac Valley Deanery. It was an opportunity to introduce ourselves and to talk a little bit about our parishes. Bishop Gates updated us on his process of getting acclimated to his new position, and to share his thoughts on parish visitations, and ways he could be helpful to parishes and their clergy. The discussion was high level and general. It was more of a conversation in which we got mutually acquainted and shared what was on our minds in terms of our respective ministries. It felt like a right first step and a very good start. We reflected on the beautiful monastic burial service last Saturday for our dear, departed, Bishop Tom. We miss him. But we are certain in our faith that he rests with God now, and would certainly want us to get about the business of



entering the next phase of our life together doing God's ministry in the world. We agreed that we are all looking forward to Diocesan Convention on Saturday, November 8th for more substantive work on the life of our diocese with the beginning of Bishop Alan's episcopate. Pray for me, and our lay delegates, Harry Noorigian and Matt McKeon.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Grapevine you will find a schedule of parish events around Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. It promises to be a

wonderful season, made all the more joyous if we all make an intentional effort to be together in worship and fellowship. Please also mark your calendars for Sunday January 15th, when Bishop Gayle will be visiting us. More details about that will be announced as they become available. Meanwhile, please know that I keep you in my prayers, and ask you to keep me in yours.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Rev. Joe

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN

As I write this piece, we are close to wrapping up our six week stewardship campaign, Walking the Way, and

the feedback thus far has been very positive. In addition to being a new and different approach to steward-

ship for us, it's also a new and different style of worship. As such, there has been a fair amount of con-

MESSAGE FROM SR. WARDEN (CONT.)

versation surrounding it and I'd like to share some of the feedback we've received thus far:

The weekly reflection has been a hit. Generally, folks have viewed it as an opportunity to hear new voices from within our parish and our church at large. It's caused us to think about some things relative to generosity that it turns out have been hiding in plain view all along. For me, perhaps the most surprising thing, has been the reaction of the volunteers who have stepped forward to share their thoughts on the weekly reflection. When I first approached people to take on this task, I was clearly asking for something well outside of the comfort zone of most. I place myself squarely within that category since I took on the first week simply because the whole program was my idea and it didn't seem right to ask people to do something that I wouldn't or couldn't do myself. At the end of the day, though, this group of volunteers has really enjoyed the challenge. Two weeks into the series, I even had someone who was inspired enough by the program to step forward and take on the one weekly reflection that had not yet been assigned. In the end, the weekly reflection has given each of us the opportunity to take some time out of a busy week to step back and discover something new about our personal faith journey.

Even though our Commitment Sunday, the official due date for pledge cards, is not until November 9th, pledge cards have started to roll in and early returns are promising. While we intend to publish our official thank you in the first Grapevine of 2015, we want to send our early thanks to those who have already responded.

As long as I'm extending thanks, I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the folks who've helped me with this year's campaign: Rev. Joe and Jim for reviewing and commenting on materials; Jill in the office for putting in the extra effort necessary to produce materials; Krista, Bev, Jim, Matt, Laura and Huib who volunteered to reflect on the weekly readings; Val, Robert and Maryellen Briggs for preparing and serving breakfast on Commitment Sunday; and Elaine for handling the pledge card returns.

One of the interesting side notes is the positive reaction to our reusable service bulletin for the duration of the campaign. This is the second time we've attempted this - once during the summer months and again during the 6 weeks of this campaign. Folks have appreciated the fact that the reusable bulletin allows us to conserve resources - not only does a reusable bulletin result in an actual cost savings in terms of time and materials, but it is a "greener" approach to wor-

ship and results in a reduction to our carbon footprint. Even though the reusable bulletin requires that we be more organized up front, it is something that we are considering implementing on an ongoing basis. Please see discussion and call for your feedback elsewhere in this issue.

One piece of constructive criticism that we received was from the reflection readers. For all of the planning that went into the program, we initially neglected to inform them of the change in the weekly readings. We corrected by week 3 and began sending out advance copies of the weekly reflection so that that the reader would have time to prepare. My apologies for the oversight.

Personally speaking, this is the sixth and by far most rewarding stewardship campaign that I've run. And oddly enough, I say that well in advance of knowing whether it will result in one extra dime being added to our bottom line. For me, it's been about the opportunity to stretch a little, try something different and the conversation we've enjoyed as a result. I thank you all for "Walking the Way" with me.

Peace.
Janet

MESSAGE FROM JUNIOR WARDEN

Please mark your calendars: Our Fall Clean-Up will take place on **Saturday, November 8th at 9:00am.**

Our Spring event was rained out, so it's been awhile since we did a thorough cleaning. So please mark your calendar for the second Saturday in November, when we will pull out the



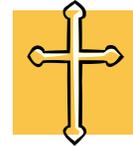
rakes, brooms, clippers, and wheelbarrows to spruce things up before the holidays. We will plan to start at 9am, and we'll have extra equipment available to share. Many hands make light work, so please join us, even if you can spend just an hour.

If anyone would

prefer to work inside the building the kitchen is in dire need of some TLC also!

Paul Schermerhorn is coordinating this event, so please contact Paul at pscherm337@aol.com if you have any questions.

In His Service,
Laura Walta



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.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Andrew's Sunday school program is growing strong. Each week students are learning about important people and events woven into our faith. Lessons come alive through play, stories, and song. Children are engaged in our new permanent space on the stage and we are slowly making it our own. In November, Sunday School will be focusing on being grateful for all God's gifts. December will be a time of preparation, Advent. Advent is my favorite liturgical season. It is a sentimental season of anticipation and excitement. We will be making Advent wreaths, creating our own Advent calendars, and preparing for the Christmas Pageant in collaboration with the Worship Committee. December will be an active month with a lesson on St. Nicholas, a community ser-

vice project, and of course waiting for God's greatest gifts- His only Son, Jesus!

Christmas is a time to reflect on all that God has done. It's not a matter of what we get, but the birth of the Holy one. It's not about gifts, with ribbons and bows, or Christmas trees, tinsel and mistletoe. The Christmas gift to us is Jesus Christ's gift of love. ~ M.S. Lowndes.



I am looking forward to my first holiday season at St. Andrew's. May the season's light brighten your heart and home.

Donna Henderson

CALLING ALL SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS!

Have you always had a secret desire to play a sheep? Do you picture yourself as a Wise Man (or Woman)? Do you love a great old-fashioned Christmas Pageant complete with the Gospel readings, a few Christmas Carols, and the chaos of baby Jesus crying at the top of his lungs and a few little shepherds running around the front pews?

Well, this year at St. Andrew's Church we would like to try a new sort of Christmas Pageant. Drawing from all groups in our parish we would like to try a "No-Rehearsal, Go-for-broke, Intergenerational Christmas Pageant."



Our Sunday School children will be involved, for sure, but we would like to ask some adults to participate too! We will be using very simple "costumes" and props, and we will be asking some folks to be readers, and other people to take parts in the Christmas story. There will be no lines to learn, since it will be a narrated pageant with our "actors" forming tableaux that depict the Christmas story. It certainly will be an adventure!

Mark your calendars so you don't miss this extravaganza! Invite your friends to church that day to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world! The Pageant will be held during the regular 9:30 service on Sunday December 21st. If you are interested in participating, let someone from the Worship Committee know...or contact Krista McLeod at 978-975-8224.

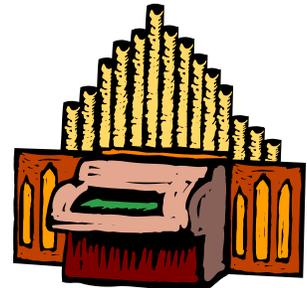
FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

For the past several weeks, each Sunday has included a hymn chosen during the Hymn Sing in August. It is always good to hear the congregation sing!

The choir is preparing a special anthem for Thanksgiving Sunday, and another for Christmas Eve. We rehearse on Thursdays at 6:00 PM, and anyone who enjoys singing is invited to join us.

Our service on December 28th, the Sunday after Christmas, will include another Hymn Sing, and will be your chance to sing any and all of your favorite Christmas Carols. If there are any particular carols you would like to sing that are not in our hymnal, please let me know so that I can have the words printed for the congregation.

The Organ project progresses. The stop action pneumatics have been completely rebuilt, and so now all the stops are working. This phase of the Organ project will be completed in January and February, and will include work on the keyboards and pedalboard, as well as the action from the keyboards and pedal board to the organ chests.



Craig Seaman
Organist/Music Director

REUSABLE BULLETINS

As many of you have noticed, we have experimented with a reusable service bulletin over the summer and again during our annual stewardship campaign. During the summer months, by utilizing a reusable bulletin, we were able to divert the time of our secretary to the long overdue task of updating our memorial book with the backlog of memorials that had been received over many years. Since this year's stewardship campaign included some recurring tweaks to our service which would have resulted in lots of extra photocopying, we decided to try it again. The reaction has been very positive (in fact, I've heard no criticism at all) and folks seem to notice and appreciate our efforts to conserve resources. We are considering instituting the reusable bulletin concept on a more permanent basis, but are open to suggestions on how best to handle that. For instance, is there anything that you've noticed to be miss-

ing from the format we used during the stewardship campaign? Do you have any thoughts on how frequently we should issue a new bulletin? We've talked about monthly and seasonal options. We have also been discussing the creation of a reusable bulletin for special services like baptisms. The reusable bulletin does require some extra diligence in coordinating schedules up front and making sure that we collect bulletins at the end of each service, but I haven't noticed that either of those things has created a particular hardship for anyone. Tell us if we've got that wrong. If you have any additional comments or constructive criticism that you'd like to share, please speak to Janet or send a quick note to Jill in the office (admin@standrewsmethuen.org). We would really like to hear from you!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Robert Pauley who will be inducted into Presentation of Mary Academy's Madonna Chapter of the National Honor Society on Nov. 12th!

SUNDAY SCHOOL "WISH LIST"

St. Andrew's Sunday School needs your help! We are looking for Legos! Old and new, all colors, all sizes, sets and random pieces, Lego people too! The Sunday School program would like to start using a curriculum that has children use Legos to recreate stories or scenes we are discussing in class. This is a great hands-on creative approach to engage our students.

All donations, including money to purchase supplies, are welcome. Please feel free to drop them off on the stage.

Thank you so much!
Donna Henderson



THANKSGIVING SIMPLE SUPPER



On Wednesday, November 26th there will be a simple supper followed by a Thanksgiving prayer service. 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



Bishop Harris

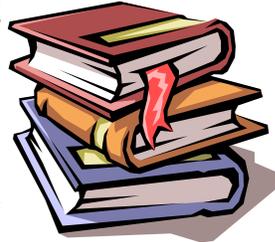
is scheduled for a
Visitation to
St. Andrew's on
Sunday
January 11, 2015

CHURCH BOOK CLUB 2014-15

Upcoming Dates & Selections

**Wednesday, December 10th 6:30pm –
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.



**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.

disguised as a man.

**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.

Wednesday, June 3rd 6:30pm –

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

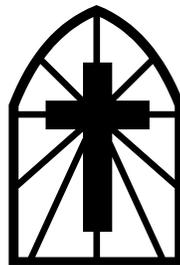
The story of a missionary and his family who travel to the Belgian Congo in the 1960's. Told from the point of view of the wife and daughters of this difficult man.

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. We select books that will create discussion and make us think!"

Please note that due to special Advent programming our December book club meeting has been moved to Wednesday, December 10th, at 6:30pm.

MEMORIALS

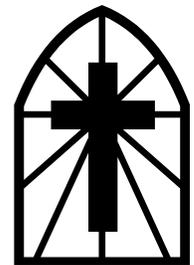


Organ Memorial Fund

Robert Byrom
Philip Clifford Sparta

Garden Memorial Fund

John Daly
Frances Beagan



BAPTISMS



Please welcome the following children who were baptized at St. Andrew's
William Matthew Hoegen on September 21st, .
Ryan Paul Prescott on October 26th.



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.

VISITOR



Mary Louise (Argyle) Babb, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. George Argyle was recently in the area for a brief visit and dropped in to see St. Andrew's. She enjoyed checking out the sanctuary, seeing what has changed and just how much hasn't. She has many good memories of St. Andrew's and its people. Jill, in the office, has Mary Louise's contact info if anyone is interested in reaching out to her.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

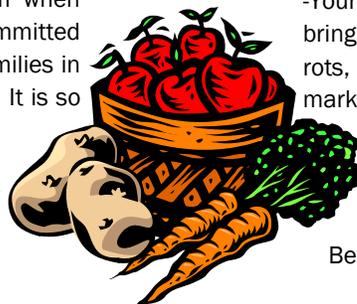
- November 19 - Karl Wunderlich
- November 24 - Chelsey Blanchette
- November 25 - Matt McKeon
- November 26 - Justice McGrail



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

SHARE-YOUR-BOUNTY DAY

Now that the fall has settled in, it is time to remember to bring a food item when you come to church. We are committed to providing food bags for six families in the Arlington District each week. It is so important to have everyone's support! We will again have a basket by the parlor door for donations which will be brought forward at offering time to be blessed.

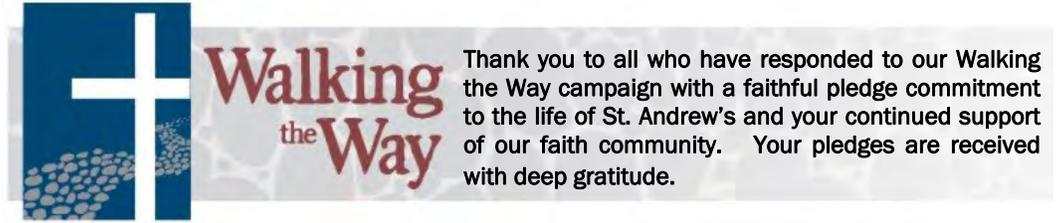
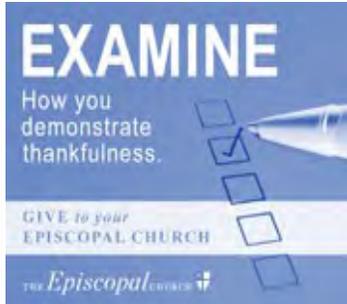


On Sunday, Nov. 23rd we will have a Share-Your-Bounty day. We ask you to bring fresh produce (onions, carrots, squash, apples, etc.). Please mark your calendar and share with those less fortunate.

I thank you all for your help!

Bev Brown

WALKING THE WAY CAMPAIGN



We hope you have experienced a deep sense of renewal in your walk with Christ and with this community over the past six weeks. We continue to be inspired by the many wonderful testimonies about what it means to follow Jesus.

Janet Ratcliffe and Jim Beagan
Stewardship Committee

SERVICE SCHEDULES FOR THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2014

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Sunday, November 23 | Share-Your-Bounty Day (bring to service) |
| Wednesday, November 26 | 6:00PM Thanksgiving Eve Prayer Service (simple supper) |
| Sunday, December 7 | Greening the church after worship |
| Sunday, December 14 | Advent Lessons and Carols (during worship service) |
| Sunday, December 21 | Christmas Pageant (during worship service) |
| Wednesday, December 24 | Christmas Eve service at 6:00PM
(Caroling at 6:00PM followed by 6:15 service) |
| Thursday, December 25 | Rite I Christmas day said service, 9:00AM |
| Sunday, December 28 | Hymn Sing (during worship service) |

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.

Do you need to make a pledge adjustment?

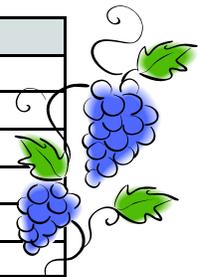
Please notify our pledge recorder, Elaine Morissette, if you need to make any adjustments in your pledge. You can reach Elaine by sending a note to her at the church address (or by dropping it off in the office and our secretary will make sure she gets it) or by email at REMOR20@aol.com

GRAPEVINE SCHEDULE FOR 2015

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!

Issue	Due Date for submissions
Jan/Feb 2015	Dec. 28th
Mar/Apr 2015	Feb. 22th
May/June 2015	Apr. 27th
July/Aug 2015	June 28th
Sept/Oct 2015	Aug. 30st
Nov/Dec 2015	Oct. 25th



**SAINT ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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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

- Nov. 8th** 9:00am Clean-Up Day
- Nov. 23rd** 9:30am Share—Your—Bounty Day
- Nov. 26th** 6:00pm 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. 7th** Greening of the Church following 9:30 service
- Dec. 14th** 9:30am Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 10th** 6:30pm Book Club
- Dec. 21st** 9:30am Christmas Pageant during service
- Dec. 24th** 6:15pm Christmas Eve service (begins with Carol Sing at 6:00)
- Dec. 25th** 9:00am Christmas Day quiet service

