

GRAPEVINE



OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesdays & Fridays 9am-2pm

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Clerk of the Vestry

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Val Carey, Anne Duffy, Patti Eldred, Matt McKeon, Krista McLeod, Robert Pauley, Gail Ratcliffe, Sharon Taylor, Laura Walta, and Joseph Wilkes

Treasurer

Valerie Carey

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Huib Walta

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Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Joe or Krista 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 recently was asked by a local reporter who covers the faith community scene to provide information about our "homecoming Sunday." This is what we call Welcome Back Sunday at Saint Andrew's. I happily gave her the date (Sunday September 20th) and the worship time (9:30 AM). I mentioned how we have a special coffee hour after church that Sunday, making our own ice cream sundaes. So, for us at St. Andrew's it really is Welcome Back Sundae Sunday. But her request made me realize that many communities of faith have a "welcome back," or "homecoming event" in the fall. Like us, there must be many faith communities whose members travel, or are otherwise "off," for the summer. So we at Saint Andrews find ourselves part of a wider tradition, each faith community working to welcome back, and celebrate the return of, sisters and brothers they might not have seen for a while. While volunteers at St. Andrew's prepare for worship and for the ice cream sundaes afterward, maybe each of us can take a



role in preparing for Welcome Back Sunday by reaching out to each other, and to people we have not seen recently, to try to have as big a celebration as possible. Doing so, we'll be standing with other communities of faith in the wide tradition of gathering to re-focus on worship and community.

While thinking about future activities, I want to mention Sunday School registration. Donna will be communicating about this in more detail. But it takes place on Welcome Back Sunday at 9 AM.

I also want to mention that our Blessing of the Animals will occur on Sunday October 4th at our 9:30 AM service. October

4th happens to be St. Francis Day, and our Sunday to Celebrate God's Creation. You are invited to bring your pets, service animals, working animals and toy animals to church that Sunday for a blessing. Weather permitting, the service will be in our garden in front of the church. Otherwise it will be in the church where, miraculously, a gathering of many animals with their people has never been a problem.

As summer winds down and we anticipate the colors of fall, I keep you in my prayers, and ask that you keep me in yours.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Rev. Joe

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN

Autumn is Creation Care Season

The Episcopal Church has designated the autumn as

"Creation Care Season." I love this idea, and think that it is a wonderful time to think and pray about how we care for (or unfortunately don't

care enough for) God's creation. In centuries gone by, fall was for harvest, planning and preparing for a long winter ahead, storing seed safely so

Worship Service



*Sunday Services
are back to
9:30am*

MESSAGE FROM SR. WARDEN (CONT.)

you would be able to plant the next spring.

Today we see the vestiges of these tasks when we pick apples, put pumpkins on our front steps, and Indian corn decorations on our front door. We go to harvest fairs and corn mazes for fun outings. Fall is also a great time to plant a new tree, put in your spring bulbs and make some spaghetti sauce from the last good tomatoes and put some in the freezer. In the church we also celebrate our relationship with the animals that God has created by remembering St. Francis of Assisi on his October 4th Feast Day, and commemorate his relationship with God's creatures by having a "Blessing of the Animals" service.

But I think we need to begin to think more deeply about our role as caretakers of God's creation. We certainly know that humans have the capacity to wreak havoc on our natural environment...we have proven that time and time again. Now perhaps it is time to think about ways in which we can recover and restore the world around us. I am ashamed to admit that this has never been a priority for me. I have been a lazy caretaker, a lackadaisical recycler, and a wasteful con-

sumer. I feel a bit guilty about this, but have excused myself by figuring I am not the worst...I was brought up this way...all Americans are like this. And indeed we live in a land of plenty, and we are far removed from the seasons and from direct relationship with God's creation. This separation has made it easier to forget the affect that we and our daily activities have on our environment. It is easier to throw away a plastic bottle in the trash than to have a special container for recycling. After all, what can I do that will make a difference? It is someone else's job to clean up the world, save the planet, stop extinction of animal and plant species.

Well, maybe it is not "somebody else's Job"...may it is everyone's job. As we enter Creation Care Season, I am going to try to pay more attention to what I CAN do, rather than feeling hopeless about what I CANNOT do. I have realized that if I am not part (even a tiny part) of the solution, then I am a big part of the problem. I have admired what the Vestry and previous Wardens have done to pay attention to being "greener" at St Andrew's and I want to recommit us to that work. Being careful about using too much paper, turning

down the heat when the building is not being used, and ensuring that when we do renovations we do them responsibly, are all good practices for us as a church community. Personally, at home I am going to turn off some lights and appliances when we are not using them, and finally get one of those recycling bins and start properly disposing of plastic bottles and cans in our house. There must be something that each of us can do to improve our earthly home.

The church invites us to consider our impact on God's creation and its impact on us, and this season is a wonderful opportunity to do that. As one of my favorite hymns begins:

*In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to
be,
Unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can
see.*

Krista McLeod,
Senior Warden

MESSAGE FROM JUNIOR WARDEN

Welcome back, to all who were away over the summer! And a happy Labor Day to friends and family of St. Andrew's. Labor Day always feels like part of a fulfillment of God's promise in Matthew 11:28, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,

and I will give you rest."

Rest is deserved for all who worked so hard at St. Andrew's over the summer. On the building and grounds front, there are several projects you can see, and many

that you can't. You might notice the newly painted doors on the front of the church. Or the fresh paint on the brown boxes that cover the windows in the foundation. The floors in the Parish Hall are freshly waxed.

MESSAGE FROM JR. WARDEN (CONT.)

Projects that you can't see are just as important. The boiler room is cleaned up, allowing us to get a renewal on our insurance and fire safety permit. Two new gas burners in the rectory have replaced the one, ancient oil burner, providing dependable heat for the apartments, and less carbon emissions into the environment. A big project was the installation of a sprinkler system in the front yard, thanks to a generous donation by Harry Noorigian. Our grass remains green despite the heat and the lack of rain! And that's what we like to see- a church that looks alive and welcoming!

Another new item you may notice is the new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit on the wall across from the handicapped bathroom. Another gift from Harry Noorigian, an AED is used in the case of a suspected heart

attack, allowing us to give the immediate response needed to keep a person alive in the case of a heart attack. According to Wikipedia,

"The AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson. Unlike regular defibrillators, an automated external defibrillator requires

minimal training to use. It automatically diagnoses the heart rhythm and determines if a shock is needed. Automatic models will administer the shock without the user's command. In most circumstances, the user cannot override a "no shock" advisory by an AED."

Thank you, Harry, for this life saving gift! We pray we won't need it, but will be so happy that we have it if an emergency arises!

Get ready for the onset of Fall, and enjoy the great weather and colorful display that autumn brings. More news next issue on a Fall Cleanup Day!

In His Service,
Laura Walta

Office Hours



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

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sometimes it's o.k. to be a follower. Sunday School this year will focus on discipleship—being good, active followers of Jesus in our lives. Whether it is in play, or at school, while watching TV or surfing the internet—following our faith is so important. It's so instinctive for children to do what is right. It's all very black and white, ironically usually it's what is right for them. This year's Sunday School's theme will help our child make loving choices and encourage them to allow faith to guide them, using references from parables and biblical leaders and followers. Through stories, play, Lego's, snacks, and crafts our children will practice being true disciples of faith. I'm so excited to start my second year at St. Andrew's.



Sunday School will hold a parent orientation on Sunday, September 13th at 9:00 a.m. This will give me the opportunity to meet with all parents and share the plan for the upcoming year. I am looking forward to meeting everyone then.

Welcome back Sundae will be Sunday, September 20th. This will be our first official Sunday School class. We will celebrate after with some sweet treats.

Sunday, September 27th will be our first annual "Bring a Friend to Sunday School".

I am wishing everyone a safe rest of summer and an easy transition into the fall.

Donna Henderson

Important things to know as we begin this year:



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.

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, Sept 12th 8:00-2:00 Flea Market/Rummage Sale - We are looking for volunteers for this event. We will be sorting items starting Tuesday, Sept. 8th at 6:00 thru Friday. We are looking for donations of soups & stews for our snack bar & need people on the floor selling & we also need volunteers for clean up and bringing unsold items to the Salvation Army. Please put aside an hour or two to help out. With everyone's help this event will be a success.



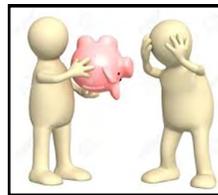
Also - bring down anything you want to get rid of. If you need us to pick them up, please call.

Thank you
Paula & Patti

Paula - (978) 686-2137 Patti - (978) 686-1472

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

It has been a wonderful summer and I cannot wait to see everyone back at church. We have so many activities coming up at St. Andrew's that it promises to be a very busy fall. Although we had a lovely summer vacation, our bills still come in and our pledges are down.



Please, if you are behind, bring your pledge up to date.

See you all on Welcome Back Sunday!

Yours in Faith,
Valerie Carey

WELCOME BACK "SUNDAE"



We will have an Ice Cream Social after the service on **Sunday, September 20th** so that we can...
Reconnect with our church family after summer vacations
Re-establish our outreach, educational, and social programs.

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 6 - Melissa Saindon
October 19 - Evan McDermott
October 20 - Natasha Lee
October 22 - Peter Kwakye
Victoria Dion
October 24 - Michelle Stehm

If you don't see your name on our Birthday list, please contact the office and let us know!

TOGETHER NOW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Have you noticed how wonderful our organ sounds? Especially during the Hymn Sing Sundays when Craig sometimes pushes it to its limits. Or after service, when he entertains us with some truly beautiful pieces of music. Most of the work on the organ is now complete, and we again thank the members of the Together Now Capital Campaign for their faithful pledging!

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	\$10,687	
Pledges Spent on Organ 2013/14		-12,500
Pledges Received in 2015	\$ 6,331	
January	2312.00	
April	2,546.25	
July	1473.43	
Pledges spent on Organ 2015		<u>-17,460</u>
Total Income/Expense	\$48,741	-\$44,014

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

Available for Phase 4 \$4,327

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



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 Valerie Carey.

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

During the summer, we had two Hymn Sings. I have the list of hymns chosen, which I will use when I select hymns during the next few months.

I am planning to start a Children's Choir, with the first rehearsal after church on September 27th for about 15 or 20 minutes. The children will learn simple songs (with hand motions) which will be presented during the church service, and may use some of the recently acquired percussion instruments.

Rehearsals for the Chancel Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00 PM. We invite anyone who enjoys singing to join with us.

Hope that you all have a relaxing summer, and see you in church!

Submitted by
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.

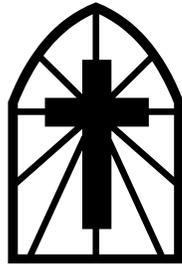
Each week we give the following to each of six families:

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

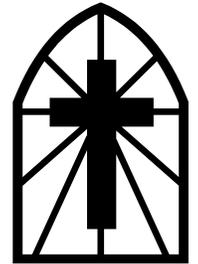
MEMORIALS



Music Memorial Fund
Dora and William Atkinson
Theresa J. Morissette
Amelia Vogler

Building Preservation Memorial Fund
Dora Atkinson

Organ Memorial Fund
Theresa J. Morissette



ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD

Hello fellow parishioners!! First, thank you to all of you who always remember the food pantry at MAN Inc. (Methuen Arlington Neighborhood). We are entering a new year of assistance to those in need. For those of you unfamiliar with this , let me give a brief overview. Each week six bags of food are packed and given to MAN. Linda Soucy and Carmen Rosario have their “ear” to the heartbeat of the neighborhood and decisions are made on a weekly basis as to who will receive the food. All recipients are working parents who need a little help. We routinely give the following items: cereal, peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauce, soup, vegetable, tuna, and bread. We also give cash for fresh milk. With your help we have done this for 13 years.



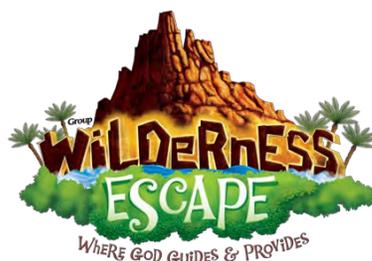
Donations can be brought to church on Sundays.

Thank you on behalf of all those who benefit from this outreach ministry.

Submitted by Bev Brown

THANK YOU

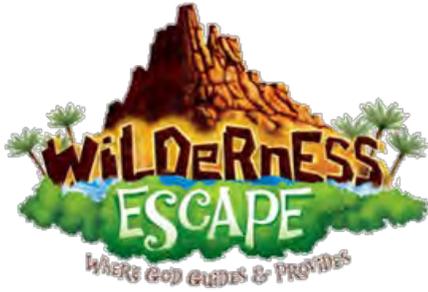
We would like to thank all the people that made VBS possible this year. We could not have done it without you. From the people who donated money or food, helped with set up or clean up, worked one day or five, each one of you played an important part of this program.



We would like to give a special THANK YOU; to Cathie and Craig for, once again, being our music gurus. Also stepping up and helping out in Moses' Tent when we needed help; to Michelle and Maureen for taking the pictures and putting together the program that is now on our website; to Mary Ellen for running the snack program, and to Jordon, my right hand person, for keeping us on schedule and helping me lock up every night. There were so many people that helped out that I cannot name them all but we appreciate each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Valerie Carey & Mimi Falk

ST. ANDREW'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



August 2nd-6th, St. Andrew's became the camp of Moses and his people. We had 30 children register for VBS with 25 or so coming every night. The children became four of the twelve tribes of Israel.

We learned at Moses tent some of the events that happened to the people of Israel. Starting with escaping from Egypt, crossing the Red Sea, God providing quail and manna, Moses and his defeat of the Amelekites, the story of the First Passover, and God giving Moses the Ten Commandments. Each day gave us a new reason to TRUST GOD. God is with, God provides for us, God gives us strength, God saves us and God guides us...so **Trust God!**



The four tribes visited Games every day and played some interesting games like: Camel Spit, Lemon Herder, Quail Tag and many more.

This year was a little different from other years. The tribes would visit the Israelite camp each day. There would be three to four tents each day that the children could visit and "purchase" and item. It could be a snack, making various crafts, or decorating a T-Shirt. It was their choice what tents they visited. Most children tried to get to all the tents by the end of the week. They could visit the sandal maker's tent and make a pair of sandals, or the weaver's tent and learn to weave a mat, or the rope maker's tent and learn to make rope. They could visit the musician's tent and make a tambourine and drum, or the camel herder's tent and make a camel bell necklace. They could visit the baker's tent and get a drink and snack each day. They may have eaten a Red Sea Split, or made fried dough, or made Moses fighting the Amelekites out of cheese sticks, pretzels, and marshmallows. Each day a new feast would be available.



We also learned many new songs that we proudly showed our families the last night.

The tribes had a competition going to see which tribe could bring in the most food for the Arlington Neighborhood Food Bank. In the end about 50-60 pounds was collected.

We had a daily skit about life in the Israelite camp and came back each night with God Sightings- things we saw that allowed us to know God was with us.

It was a fantastic week with exciting and wonderful moments.



Please take a moment to see the rest of the pictures on St. Andrew's website: www.standrewsmethuen.org



**SAINT ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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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 12th</u>	8am-2pm Annual Rummage Sale
<u>September 13th</u>	9am Sunday School Parent Orientation
<u>September 19th</u>	9am - 2pm Vestry Retreat at Rolling Ridge in No. Andover
<u>September 20th</u>	Welcome Back Sundae
<u>September 23rd</u>	6pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal begins
<u>September 27th</u>	Children's Choir Rehearsal begins Bring a friend to Sunday School Day
<u>October 4th</u>	9:30am Blessing of the Animals