

GRAPEVINE



OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesdays & Fridays 9am-2pm

Parish Administrator

Jill Eckelkamp

Office Phone and Fax:

978-689-0463

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Reverend Joseph Wilkes

617-957-2960

Senior Warden

Krista McLeod

Work: 978-686-4080 x 10

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Junior Warden

Laura Walta

E-mail: laura@walta.org

Clerk of the Vestry

Matt McKeon

978-975-8224

Vestry Members

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

Treasurer

Valerie Carey

Religious Education

Donna Henderson

978-609-2654

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 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,

Epiphany is the season of revelation and discovery. In the first Epiphany Season, God revealed that the long yearning of the world for God's intimate, personal, loving presence was at an end. In the birth of Jesus, God Incarnate came to live among us and bring us the good news of salvation. The chasm between God and God's people was removed. How amazed Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the animals and the wise men must have been to witness this. It would have been wonderful to be there with them, in that momentous time of change. Instead, we read and hear about it in stories from the Gospels. These Gospel stories were collected and written down by inspired writers so that we might imagine how it was, and what that



means for us now. In hearing and reading those stories, we are called to follow in the footsteps of the early faithful who heeded the call to spread the good news, both by telling it, and by living it as exemplars. It's a call to be on a journey. But it's not a journey to find God. God found us in that first Christmas so long ago. God is always with us, even when the world puts distractions in our way of feeling this. Instead, it

is a journey in service to Our Savior. I ask you to join me in prayer during Epiphany, that through the power of the Holy Spirit we can break through the noise and appreciate God's loving presence, and that it make a real difference in how we lead our lives in God's service. God Bless You!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,
Joe+

MESSAGE FROM SENIOR WARDEN

TIME, TALENT, TREASURE...

Don't you just hate it when non-profit organizations plead for additional support? Oh yes, let's face it, we all do...

Well, that being said, I want to take a few moments to make you all aware of our Pledge situation, and ensure that all members of our congregation understand where we are financially going into the new year.

St. Andrew's is a very small parish, as you know. Lots of the time that has its advantages...we all know each other, we all seem to recognize that we need to stick together, and we all work a bit harder to make our church function day-to-day. On the other hand, it does mean that the burden of our financial health rests on fewer people. Which puts us at risk of more easily having shortfalls, and that is what has happened

this year.

For 2016 we have a total of 47 pledging members or families, and the total dollar amount of pledges is anticipated to be \$47,082. As of now it appears that we will be approximately \$5,000 behind last year's pledged income. At the same time, our 2015 pledges fell behind in collection, so that we are at this point coming up over \$4,000



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.

MESSAGE FROM SR. WARDEN (CONT.)

short for the year we just finished.

The Vestry is hard at work reviewing the proposed budget that has been put together by our Treasurer, Val Carey and Assistant Treasurer Anne Duffy. We are trimming in all areas that we can, and reviewing our activities and programs so that we can ensure the best use of our funds. Val and Anne are also still awaiting a few financial reports from various parish ministries so that will provide the Vestry with a fuller financial picture for the coming year.

In our discussions about the budget, the Vestry talked about taking money from our reserves to fund the operating budget for 2016. In the past we have been very committed to presenting a balanced budget at the annual meeting, and we know that using re-

serves for operating expenses is not sound fiscal policy. At first glance it seems like the easiest and best solution... thoughts run through our heads..."hmmm, \$5,000"... "not that much"... "we'll only do it this one year"... "maybe we can make it up with some other income later in the year"... But on reflection, we know that beginning to use reserves for operating expenses is a very bad precedent to set, and we don't want to start down that road.

So, when we were meeting this week, a couple of our members did some quick calculations and determined that if every pledging member increased their pledge by \$2 per week this deficit would be made up. Or if a few folks who had not pledged this year were able to pledge \$5 per week that would help us get to a balanced budget. The Vestry is asking parishioners to review, perhaps pray, and

consider their 2016 pledge again. We know that there are many demands nowadays on our household incomes, and we truly appreciate the contributions that each of you makes with your time, talent, and treasure to St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's has so many assets, but our greatest asset is the people who worship and work here. There is so much we do now, and so much more we can do for our church, our community and our world. We need to continue to work together to grow our small parish, to welcome new members and to reach out with our ministries and our love of God to our neighbors so that our work can continue and expand. Thanks for all you do, and for your support of St. Andrew's.

Krista McLeod,
Senior Warden

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday School Update

Students of Sunday school have started to establish traditions, laying down roots so to speak. They are remembering things and lessons we completed last year and began looking forward to doing them again. I noticed it early on in the fall. I would hear "Ms. Donna are we going to be doing this? or Ms. Donna, remember when we did that". For the untrained ear it may sound bothersome or even annoying. To me it was simply melodic. The students are learning, applying, and connecting to the material, to me, to St. Andrew's, and most importantly to God and their faith. This was evident with our Christmas Pageant. Students graciously took their roles, robes, and props and reverently followed the program. From our method acting donkey, to our choir of angels and animals, from king to shepherd and holy family our Sunday School students

participated in the age old tradition of acting out the Gospel. They were fabulous!!! The best part for me was hearing, "Maybe I can be the dove next year?" Pleased, I agreed- confident this tradition will continue to grow.

Traditions and history are so important in faith formation. With this in mind, the Sunday School will be spending some time with Moses during Ordinary Time. There are many crafts and activities to look forward to. Moses' rich history in the Old Testament will be on the forefront while we learn about the prophet, leader and recipient of the Ten Commandments.

Many blessings to all in 2016.

Donna Henderson

MESSAGE FROM JUNIOR WARDEN

It's that time again, when we New Englanders hunker down for the long nights and cold days of Winter. Although the fall extended itself right into Christmas, most of us have finally put away the shorts and tee shirts, and hauled out the long-johns and furry gloves.

But some of us are not hibernating through the season! If you were at Church over Advent and Christmas, you might have noticed the beautiful shine on all of the floors, and fresh new paint over old cracks and marks. The boiler is clean and ready to deliver heat all winter. Even the rectory next door got insulation and glass glazed to keep out the cold.

You may have heard the exciting news that plans are underway to create a new, paved, lined parking lot both at the side and in the rear. We've waited a long time for this big event! We're scheduled for a spring start, as soon as the snow is gone. In the meantime, we've leveled both lots, and pushed back the edges to

make room for the snow banks. The plower is ready to keep them clear. And the inspections of the fire extinguishers and kitchen hood have been scheduled. As always, much thanks goes to our sexton, Paul, who stays on top of the details and keeps our church building and grounds in top shape!

Just a reminder that we have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) unit on the wall across from the handicapped bathroom. 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. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson. Unlike regular defibril-

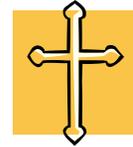


lator (AED) unit on the wall across from the handicapped bathroom. An AED is used in the case of a suspected heart attack, allowing us to give the immediate response needed to keep a person alive in the case of a heart attack. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson. Unlike regular defibril-

lators, 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. It is impossible to go wrong, as the AED will only deliver a shock if it is needed! Perfect for a building that hosts a number of older individuals. We pray we won't need it, but will be so happy that we have it if an emergency arises!

May you continue to experience the peace and blessings of Christmas throughout the Winter season. Remember that we will be here to celebrate every Sunday morning at 9:30, and if there is a storm in progress, you can always call the church office and listen for the cancellation advisory. So keep warm, and dream of sunshine!

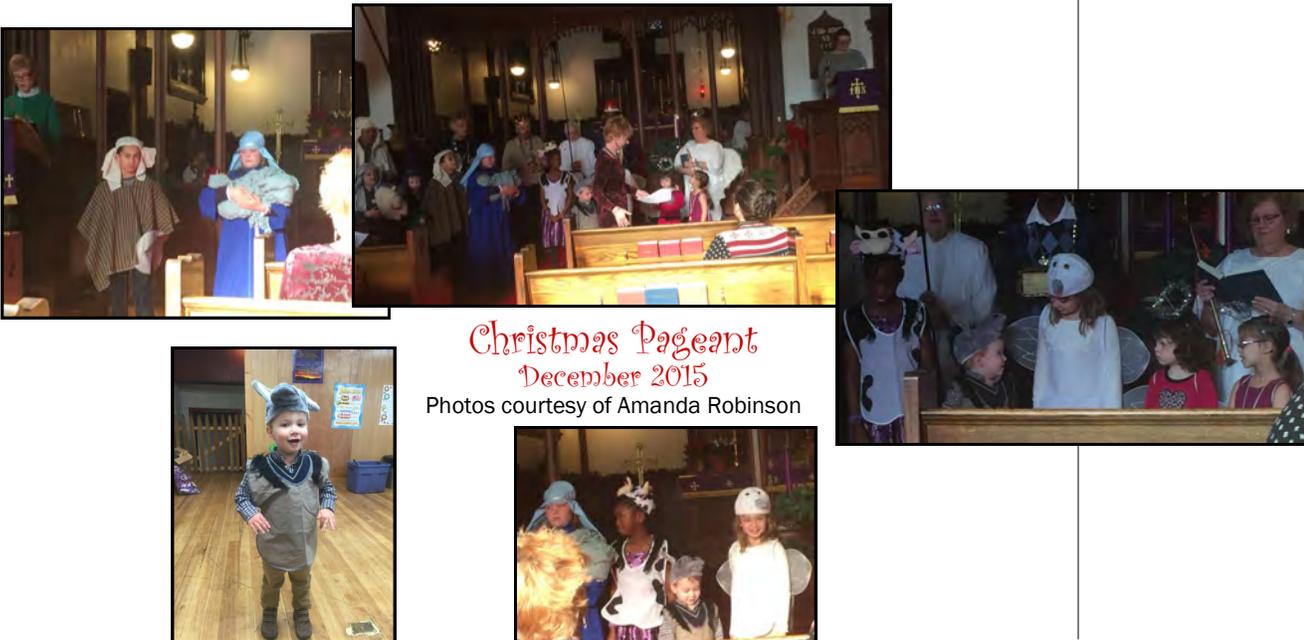
In His service,
Laura Walta



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.





Congratulations
Rev. Joe!

Who has just celebrated the 9th anniversary of his ordination.

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

Ephesians 4:11-12

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>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</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		-\$13,600
Pledges Received in 2015	\$ 9,865	
January	\$2,546.25	
April	\$4,128.32	
July	\$1,473.43	
October	\$1,717.87	
Pledges spent on Organ 2015		<u>-15,056</u>
Total Income/Expense	\$52,276	-\$42,710

NOTE: Expense does not include \$25,982 spent on parish hall from other sources, and \$3,188 spent on the organ from other sources.

Available for Walkway/Side entrance: \$ 9,566

Replacing the side entrance to the church/office will be out next project. The concrete is battered beyond repair, and has become a safety concern. Having a lovely hall is diminished by the condition of this entrance. We hope to begin looking at plans and going out for bids in the early spring.

We are in the final year of the Capital Campaign pledge payments. Thank you to everyone for keeping up your pledges. It is only with your help that we can take on these large projects. 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

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Tuesday, February 9, 2016
4:00-6:00pm



Join us on Shrove Tuesday for food and fellowship and fun!

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



Music is an important part of the worship experience, especially when the entire congregation can join together in song. Looking back at the past year, we have used several new musical settings for service music. In particular, we have sung the Nicene Creed, and have also learned a Song of Praise - "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases". We have also used a few new hymn texts by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, sung to familiar tunes. And now, as a way of learning new hymns from the hymnal, we will be singing selected hymns for several weeks in a row. The hymn chosen for the beginning of the year is #250, "Now greet the swiftly changing year", a Slovak text from 1636 set to a sprightly carol-like tune (*Sixth Night*) by Alfred Fedak.

I am looking forward to another year of music at St. Andrew's. In addition to the Chancel Choir, a Children's Choir started up last fall, and sang twice. As always, everyone who enjoys singing is encouraged to join with us.

Submitted by Craig Seaman, Organist/Director of Music

LENTEN ACTIVITIES/SERVICES

Tuesday February 9 at 5pm - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper /Church Hall

Wednesday February 10 at 7pm - Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten Book Discussion

Sundays February 21, 28, March 6 (extra session/snow date March 13) after church

Sunday March 20 at 9:30am - Palm Sunday Service

Thursday March 24 at 7pm - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday March 25 at 7pm - The Way of the Cross

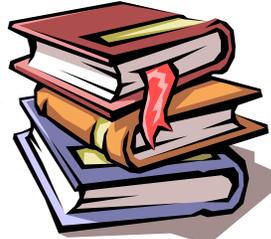
Saturday March 26 in the morning - Altar Guild & helpers meet to prepare the church

Sunday March 27 8am/9:30am - Easter Breakfast/Easter Sunday Service

CHURCH BOOK CLUB 2015-16

Upcoming Dates & Selections

Sunday January 24th After Service - Under the Banner of Heaven by Jon Krakauer
Prize-winning journalist Krakauer explores what he sees as the nature of radical Mormon Fundamentalist groups. Using mostly secondary historical texts and some contemporary primary sources, Krakauer compellingly details the history of the Mormon church from its early 19th-century creation by Joseph Smith to its violent journey from upstate New York to Utah, where, after the renunciation of plural marriage in 1890, it transformed itself into one of the world's fastest-growing religions.



Sundays during Lent- Lenten Book Study- More Information to Come

Wednesday April 27th 6:30pm - Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks Bethia Mayfield is a restless and curious young woman growing up in Martha's vineyard in the 1660s amid a small band of pioneering English Puritans. Her father is a Calvinist minister who seeks to convert the native Wampanoag. Bethia befriends Caleb, the son of a Native American chieftain, who becomes a prize in the contest between old ways and

new, eventually becoming the first Native American graduate of Harvard College. Inspired by a true story.

Wednesday June 1st 6:30pm - I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai MEMOIR BY THE YOUNGEST RECIPIENT OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. In 2012 she was shot in the head in retaliation for her views. She was 15 years old. This is the remarkable tale of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the

fight for girls' education, of a father who championed and encouraged his daughter to write and attend school, and of brave parents who have a fierce love for their daughter in a society that prizes sons.

Wednesday September 14th 6:30pm The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman The Dovekeepers is a compelling tale set in Ancient Judea. At the mountaintop fortress of Masada, nine hundred Jews held out for months against the invading armies of Rome. According to the legends, two women and five children survived. This book is based on these events and the tragic history of the Jewish people.

All dates and titles are tentative, based on availability of books and the scheduling of other church activities. Check the weekly bulletin for updated information. All meetings are scheduled to take place in the Church Parlor. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to participate, you may attend just one session, or all. Guests are welcome.

For more information or to request a book, please contact:

Krista McLeod 978-975-8224

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

January 2 - Christy Lee
January 12 - Kristofer Wunderlich
January 22 - Curtis Robarge
February 1 - Huib Walta
February 5 - Gail Ratcliffe



February 7 - Kyleigh Cooley
Robert Pauley
February 14 - Evelyn Ratcliffe
February 16 - Mally, Clive & Lars Falk
February 18 - Nicholas Wunderlich
February 19 - Krista McLeod
Peter Kwakye, Sr.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2016

Saint Andrew's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2016.

The Election of the following:

- Clerk of the Annual Meeting
- Senior Warden
- Junior Warden
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Two Vestry positions available to serve 3-year term
- Delegates to the Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of MA

Delegates to Deanery:

- Greater Lawrence Council of Churches
- Parish Historian

Other Business will include:

- The receipt of annual reports from all Parish organizations

- The receipt of annual financial reports
- A report on the adopted 2016 budget
- Any other business as may properly be brought before the Congregation for its consideration

Your participation is crucial to our success. First, you'll likely remember from previous years that we need a quorum in order to proceed. That means we need parishioners to be present and sign in. We can't even get the meeting started if we don't have people willing to do that.

Secondly, Vestry members, your representatives to the board that oversee the business of our church, are elected at this meeting. As of this writing, we have a number of positions that will need to be filled, including Junior Warden, two three-year seats on the Vestry, parish historian, delegates to the convention and representatives to Communities Together.

If you'd like the job descriptions for any of these positions, please let us know. This annual meeting is a great opportunity to help St. Andrew's move forward – please consider how you can help make it a success!

Attention all

Committee Chairs:

Our annual meeting is scheduled for the first Sunday in February, so we need to start thinking about our annual report. We'll need your inserts for the report no later than Jan. 20th so that Jill will have enough time to compile and produce the final printed copies. Submitting a report either in the body of an email or by attaching a word document to an email will be appreciated since that will make the job of compiling the report much easier.

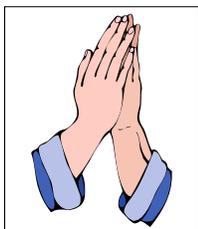
Thank you!

VESTRY OPENINGS

February 7th is the date for the annual meeting. 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 Krista 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.

PRAYER FOR THE SEASON OF THE EPIPHANY



Gentle God, the tinsel falls, the year turns, the carols fade. The blessing of Bethlehem that touched all the gray in our lives with star-silver is past. In this turning season of long cold nights, we ask God's presence beyond our holidays into the wintering times of our

lives, so that we can begin to grow and become strong, filled with wisdom and the favor of God.

Amen



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.

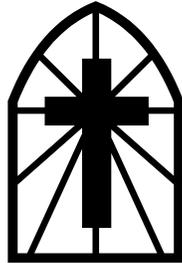
Each week we give the following to each of six families:

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.

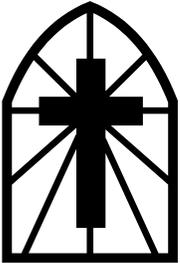
Thank you for your continued help! Bev Brown

MEMORIALS



Organ Memorial Fund
 George Kelley
 John MacKay

Music Memorial Fund
 Patricia Rose Hume
 John MacKay



SAVE THE DATE!
SAINT PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

St. Andrew's St. Patrick's Dinner is back on!

**Saturday
 MARCH 19
 5:00pm**

There will be the traditional meal, a fun, lively sing along, and gift basket raffles. Watch for more information but save the date!!

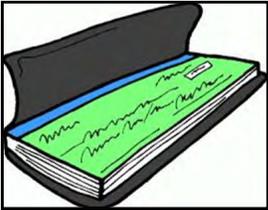
All proceeds benefit our food pantry for the Arlington Neighborhood.

Bev Brown



A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

The vestry is busy working on the budget for 2016. this is not an easy task. We have the income total based on everyone's pledges and need to determine what can and cannot be done in the year to come based on those numbers. If you have not pledged for 2016 please consider making a pledge, even if you think it is small...every little bit helps balance the budget.



me no later than January 23rd. I need to get the numbers into the accounting system and create the financials before the Annual Meeting. This will help you when creating your reports for the Annual Meeting. Starting in 2016 I would like these forms filled out at the end of every quarter.

If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me.

I also need each person/organization that controls a St. Andrew's Bank Account to fill out the form (found in this edition and turn it in to

Yours in Faith,
 Valerie Carey

GOD THE GIVER CAMPAIGN



"Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Creator, who created all the lights in the heavens. God never changes or casts a shifting shadow" James 1:17

Thank you to all who have responded to our God the Giver campaign with a faithful pledge commitment to the life of St. Andrew's and your continued support of our faith community. Your pledges are received with deep gratitude.

Donna and Douglas Allbee

James Beagan

Joyce Brearley

Beverly A. Brown

Blanche Campbell

Paula Campbell

Valerie and James Carey

Claire Cavanaugh

Sharon Chase

Carol Collopy

Deb Donegan

Anne S. Duffy

Patti Eldred

Jim and Carol Elliott

William and Dorothy Haney

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Hargreaves

Albert S. Harvey

Lawrence and Barbara Hill

Kathleen Hillis

Katherine Ives

Karen Keleher

Norma Lee

Betty MacKay

Joanne Markavitch

William McBride

Matt McKeon and Krista McLeod

Christopher and Elecia Miller

Elaine M. Morissette

Harry Noorigian

Robin A. Palmieri

Virginia Palmieri

Evelyn Ratcliffe

Richard and Gail Ratcliffe

Janet Ratcliffe and Robert Pauley

Molly Ratcliffe

William and Amanda Robinson

Bertha Rothwell

Craig Seaman

James D. Shirton

Paul and Joyce Sparta

Lisa Storie

Michelle Surette & Maureen Lira

Sharon Taylor

Laura and Huib Walta

Nancy and Reggie Weisenborn

Rev. Joseph W. Wilkes

Frank J. Worthy

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.



St. Andrew's Parish

Account Name _____

January-December 2015

Bank Name: _____

Account #: _____

Signers: _____

Balance per 2014 Annual Report: _____

Income: Donations _____

Interest _____

Other: _____

Total Income: _____

Expenses: Description _____

Total Expenses: _____

Balance per Bank Statement 12/31/2015 _____

Report Submitted by: _____

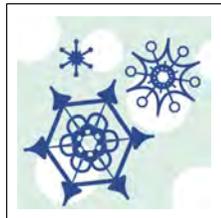
Contact Phone Number: _____

**SAINT ANDREW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

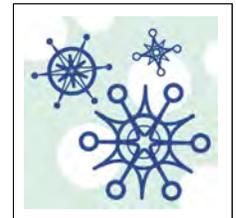
90 Broadway
Methuen, MA 01844

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

WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS



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



MARK THE DATE

- Jan. 23** Annual Report Information due
Jan. 24th 10:30am Book Club
Feb. 7th Annual Meeting
Feb. 9th 5pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper /Church Hall
Feb. 10th 7pm Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten Book Discussion

Sundays, Feb. 21st, 28th, March 6th
(extra session/snow date March 13) after church

March 19th St. Patrick's Day Dinner



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!