

GRAPEVINE



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By Appointment

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*Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Bill
or Laura 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 BRIDGE PRIEST, REV. BILL BRADBURY

After 12 months as your Bridge Priest, it was wonderful to worship in the church IN PERSON with you on Sunday June 6th. I felt the energy of being together, even though for the time being we are wearing masks and keeping our distance. In addition to being with each another, we were also able to break our Eucharistic fast and be with Christ physically as we received the sacrament of the altar.

Below is an important question for us as we experience Holy Communion with Christ: In an interesting book called The Divine Magician: The Disappearance of Religion and the Discovery of Faith, Irish philosopher Peter Rollins says there are three stages in a magic trick (as presented in the 2006 movie "The Prestige"). The first stage is called THE PLEDGE, when the magician shows us a white dove.

The second step is called THE TURN in which the dove is placed behind a curtain and when the curtain is opened the dove is gone. Now you see it, now you don't.



But the audience doesn't clap at this point. No, they wait for the third step, called THE PRESTIGE in which the dove appears under the magician's hat. Voila!

Now, Rollins says, consider the Holy Eucharist as a magic trick. After the priest consecrates the bread and wine, they are held up as the Divine Presence of the Risen Jesus there for all to see. That's THE PLEDGE.

Then, the second stage, THE TURN, happens as people take Christ into their hands and make him disappear in their mouths. God was there but now God is gone.

And in faith we wonder: are we expecting THE PRESTIGE to happen, for Christ to reappear in and through our lives?

Courage in Christ,

Bill Bradbury



Life at St. Andrew's Update from the Sr. Warden

Welcome Home. That was the message on the bulletin board (thank you Krista and Madeline!) when we arrived for the first Regathering Sunday on June 6th. A regathering only possible as a result of our Vestry's communal commitment to Trust and Protect each other. Because that's what Home is- a place you can feel safe and cared for. I am reminded of Arch Bishop Michael Curry's vision of **Beloved Community**- "where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing." Now that's a Home I want to belong to!



Many arrived that first Sunday with tears in their eyes. It had been a long time coming and the experience was sweeter for it. I am reminded of Romans 8:28: "*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*" Even in the midst of a deadly pandemic, God has provided so many examples of love, comfort, safety. It makes me wonder, what we have learned about ourselves, God, and one another, as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic? For what are you thankful as a result of this experience? I'd love to share your thoughts in the next Grapevine!

With an email for "This Sunday at St. Andrew's" going out to everyone weekly with the service and Livestream connection information, you'll also be getting weekly updates for meetings and events scheduled in the near future. As a result, the Grapevine is going to a quarterly schedule and will focus more as a review of the past three months and an introduction to what to expect in the future. I do hope that more folks from the parish will submit brief articles and letters about church/religion related activities, thoughts, and observations.

It has become Summer (June 21) as I sit here writing, and that makes me think of the hot Sundays of July and August. A recent decision by the Vestry will bring a big change as we move forward with the installation of **air conditioning** in the parish hall. Hooray! We will stay cool at coffee hour, and may even decide to have services in the hall during the hottest periods. It will also make it much more comfortable for parish events and rental activities. Home is also a place we can comfortably meet and connect.

Air conditioning will also bring comfort to the twice monthly meeting of the Vestry as we study **Sacred Ground**, a film-based dialog series on race and faith. Developed and promoted by Bishop Michael Curry and the National Church,

Sacred Ground is a sensitive, prayerful resource that creates space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism.

It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story.

It holds as a guiding star the vision of beloved community – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another's pain and seek one another's flourishing.



Update from the Sr. Warden (Cont.)

This 10-unit study is a component of our Vestry discernment process, as we seek God's guidance in determining who we are called to be as a church, in this time and in this place. If there is interest, we will offer it to the congregation next year. You can see more at [Sacred Ground: Summary – The Episcopal Church](#).

You may have received an email from Eileen and me regarding **Safe Church** recertification. The deadline to complete is July 30th. This training is required of anyone that works with vulnerable people, to minimize the possibilities for abuse. The training is online and is relatively simple to complete. Safe Church is another way that we welcome, nurture and protect all who join with us. In 2019, St. Andrew's adopted two Safe Church Policies designed to foster healthy and sustainable ministry with vulnerable people: one for children and youth, and one for vulnerable adults. You can read them on our website [here](#). If you have any questions about the training, please contact our Parish Admin, Eileen. If you have any questions or concerns with respect to our Safe Church Policy, please contact me or Reverend Bill.

While many are now vaccinated, we also know that many vulnerable persons might not be children too young, or those with underlying medical conditions or compromised immune systems. In keeping with our desire to create a safe and welcoming space for all, including minors, elders and people with disabilities, the Vestry has established some **rules for our re-gathering** in person.

We will all continue to wear masks, for the time being.

We will continue to remain socially distanced in alternating pews. You will see the closed pews are tied off with yellow ribbon. Individuals can determine for themselves with whom they feel comfortable sitting. Please ask for permission to sit in a pew with someone who is not in your immediate family.

We will continue to practice a "hands off" sharing of the Peace, remaining in our pews and offering prayerful hands to one another.

What's **new** this week? **We can SING!** But we all must wear our masks. For so many of us, singing is a part of the service, similar to saying the prayers or reciting the Creed. Remember Fr. Joe telling us that "he who sings prays twice?"



These rules are in keeping with Diocesan guidelines, and will be reviewed regularly, and revised as appropriate to conditions on the ground and any new recommendations from the Diocese and the CDC.

In closing, I want to wish everyone the blessings and peace of God over the Summer months. I pray that we will all experience the many joys of the season, with gatherings made even more precious after so many months of separation and isolation. May we each experience God's love and forgiveness in our lives, made all the more sweet through our relationships with each other. Remember that joy follows gratitude, and there is always reason to be thankful!

Space Available

Please share the following information with your friends, family, and contacts. You can copy and post on your Facebook page. Be sure you post it to "World" so that it can be shared with others. Thanks for your help. This is an important source of income to support our operating budget.

FOR RENT, \$3,000/mo includes utilities:

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 90 Broadway, Methuen, has roughly 2,500 square feet of finished basement space available in what was formerly a kindergarten. The space is currently divided into four large rooms, and can be subdivided to suit. Hardwood floors. Walls may be decorated. Space includes access to restrooms. There is a driveway on All Saints Way with private parking, leading to a private entrance. Location on Broadway, adjacent to the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood, is prime for branch offices of community, social, and/or human services. Other possible uses are limited only by your imagination, for example:

- daycare center/preschool
- remote learning center
- branch of a clinic or library
- food pantry
- small business/consulting offices

Contact St. Andrew's Church at 978-689-0463 and leave a message for more information. Or email Admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org.

FOOD PANTRY TO BENEFIT THE ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD

I would like to continue giving MAN gift cards for the summer. If you can please send donations to the church marked for the food pantry it would be most helpful.

I hope, when we return in September, that we can again collect items as before and I will resume giving MAN bags of food.

Thanks to you all that have been supporting this ministry during these difficult times!

Bev Brown



Now that we are back in church, let's show our gratitude in our stewardship.

Jim Beagan, Pledge Clerk



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Zoe Ratcliffe	2-Jul
Justin McKenzie	2-Jul
Jordan Polmatier	7-Jul
Emma Covatis	10-Jul
Harry Noorigian	11-Jul
Norma Lee	11-Jul
Christopher Carey	13-Jul
Elizabeth MacKay	16-Jul
Kayla Allbee	18-Jul
Dawn Schmidt	20-Jul
William Robinson	21-Jul
James Carey	22-Jul
Isaiah Gomez	24-Jul
Liam Robinson	26-Jul
Evelyn Nix	31-Jul
Dylan Mercier	31-Jul
Gary Sifferlen	4-Aug
Beth Regan	8-Aug
Eric Prescott	10-Aug
James Beagan	31-Aug
Victoria Milo	1-Sep
Patrick Kane	7-Sep
Paul Sparta	15-Sep
Kendra Cooley	18-Sep
Gwen Rosengelb	27-Sep
Ariella Egan	30-Sep

Ngh'umbi Tanzania



Next quarter:

Photos and a report from our friends at St. John's on the installation of the solar panels and the electric water pump, and the construction of the water tank and stand, and the piping to a tap stand in Nghumbi, Tanzania!

St. Andrew's Community Garden for the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood

If you haven't looked yet, do stop and take a gander at the beautiful Community Garden planted over Memorial Day weekend by the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood gardeners. The group has been busy all Spring. In March there was a Garden Area Cleanup on an unusually warm sunny day.



When the leaves, brush and trash were cleaned up, Ellen brought out some Forsythia branches she had rooted and we planted them in memory of the original gardeners of 2018, including Ellen (center photo) and co-managers, Laura and Ruth (right).



In April, we got a 8 yards of rich, loam and compost delivered. Our plants hadn't been doing well last year and we discovered the soil was devoid of any organic matter, starving our poor plants! So on a Sunny April Saturday, the gardeners set about emptying half of the soil from their bed, and replacing it with the good stuff! Now we were ready to plant!

Memorial Day Saturday was cold and rainy, but that didn't stop us from planting hundreds of live plants donated and delivered from their farm by Val and Jim Carey. They are our biggest donors every year, and really make this operation possible!

It was a beautiful thing when it was finished! Now the fun begins- watering and weeding until it's time for picking!

St. Andrew's Community Garden for the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood (Cont.)



With Laura's (my!) new responsibilities, she really needs additional help to keep this important ministry alive at St. Andrew's. While some gardening experience would be great, the gardeners themselves are a cooperative community, and we have access to the guidance of one of our local farms. Please consider stepping into a role in creation care. And don't worry- all gardeners follow masking and social distancing protocols.

Contact St. Andrew's Church at 978-689-0463 and leave a message for more information. Or email Admin@StAndrewsMethuen.org.



New gardener Robyn brought her granddaughter to help out.



New gardener Samantha brought her son to lend a hand.



Val and Jim arrive with plenty of tomatoes and other veggies for planting day.