



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Newsletter Sept. 2016

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Hello Friends!

Welcome to the renewed St. Anne's Newsletter. The intent is to send this out monthly in order to keep everyone informed about what is happening here at St. Anne's and how you can get involved. I hope to get to meet more of you as our Fall programs begin. Sunday School, Bible Study, Annacrons, the Thrift Shop, the choir are all gearing up to kick into high gear in September.

Our fall Stewardship Campaign will start up shortly, and included in this newsletter is a letter from the Stewardship Committee. We have been blessed with many things in our lives, our friends, and families. Remember to give thanks always for what we have and be generous of spirit, because our possessions do not define us, only our love and our identity as children of God. We are not giving to the church; we are giving to God through the church. Keep your eyes peeled for our new brochure.

Summer/Fall always reminds me of growth and the parable of the sower (Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23). The sower throws seed on 4 different kinds of ground, but the seed only grows in the fertile ground, not the rocks, the road, or

the thorns. If you know about gardening (which I do not) this is obvious, but of course Jesus is talking about sowing the Word of God, and Christ's mission. We never know who will be "good soil," so we keep throwing seeds all over the place and then wait to see where it grows. And you never know where a seed will grow, so it is our job to always be living out Christ's mission in the world. Jesus promises us that even if we can't see it right away, it will bear fruit

I have only been here just about 2 months, but I can already tell how much the parishioners of St. Anne's love the Lord and their Church. St. Anne's is definitely fertile soil. We are the body of Christ in the World, and our actions, both individually and as a group, are how we spread God's love.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lauren

Contacts:

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
PO Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.
No. Billerica, MA 01862
Office Ph: 978-663-4073
Office Admin Hours:
Tues. & Wed. 9am-1pm

Email: stannesbillerica@gmail.com
Website: stannes-billerica.org

The Rev. Lauren McLeavey
Rector
Mobile: 718-440-0811
Email: rector@stannes-billerica.org
Blog: therevlauren.com

Vestry:

Ed Giroux - Warden
Mark Komarinski - Warden
Sue Geen - Treasurer
Kathy Brewster - Clerk
Susan Kennedy - 2017
Lisa Lavoie - 2017
Maureen Thibeault - 2017
Marie Figenbaum - 2018
John Kusnierz - 2018
Lucy Anne Young - 2018
Judy MacPherson - 2019
Carol Lazott - 2019

Worship:

Sundays, 8am & 10am

From the Co-Warden:

If the story of St. Anne's was a book, I'd say we've experienced parts of three different chapters. One chapter closed when Rev. Peggy Howell retired at the end of 2014. It was a nervous time as many of us had never been through a change in Rector at St. Anne's.

The next chapter was the introduction of our interim Rector, Louise Forrest. She joined us in January, 2015 and helped guide us through an interim period. I am grateful for her leadership and patience with us as a new warden. That chapter closed in May when the Rev. Lauren McLeavey answered our call to become the Rector of St. Anne's.

The next and most exciting chapter so far from my perspective began in July of this year when Rev. Lauren officially took over as Rector. Although she has only been here for about two months, she is already a breath of fresh air. Listen for a lively hymn and you may see her dancing during the service!! As she gets to know all of us, I'm sure that you will welcome her as part of our church family. I'm pleased that she has hit the ground running and I, for one, am looking forward to seeing what the future holds for St. Anne's.

We'll soon start another program year in September; plans are well underway for the welcome back to Sunday School brunch, a trivia night and the annual Christmas Fair. Please join us for any or all of these fun family friendly events. This is a very exciting time for St. Anne's as we begin a new chapter in the life of the parish. Please come and share in the excitement!!

Ed Giroux
Co-Warden

From the Stewardship Committee:

Many of us link stewardship solely to fall programs focused on increasing the pledge. That certainly was my view of stewardship in past years, but I've come to understand it really has a broader meaning. We've all heard that stewardship was time, talent and treasure, but the focus was always on money and that needs to change as we go forward at St. Anne's. Don't get me wrong, money is important but Stewardship is more than that.

First of all, we need to take the time to recognize at a personal level just how much that has been done over the years really is stewardship: the time many people have contributed to successful Christmas Fairs, the Strawberry Festival, golf tournaments and the thrift shop; the talents of those who have worked to manage and coordinate activities, fix things, teach Sunday school and keep computers running; and of course, those who contribute to our financial health not only with pledges but when additional funds were needed for such things as Thrift Shop repairs and an AED unit.

We also need to look at stewardship at a higher level: What does St. Anne's as a parish contribute to the community? Certainly the biggest part of that contribution today is the Thrift Shop which provides clothing and other household items to people in need. In past years, we've also provided Christmas gifts for children of prisoners at the House of Correction and keeping in mind our own limitations, maybe there are other things we should be doing as a parish.

Stewardship really is what we do with what we've got – at a personal level what we can do for the church and at a higher level, what the Church can do for the community. So as Fall approaches you'll hear more about pledges, but remember that those pledges are necessary so that we can continue with all of the other stewardship that's going on every day.

Mike Hopkins

Upcoming Events

September 2016

Sept 10th: 6:30pm Annacreons
Thrift Shop Sat. Hours
resume

Sept 11th: 10am Sunday School Starts
11am Brunch
11:45am Choir practice

Sept 13th: 10am Morning Bible Study
Starts
7:30pm Evening Bible Study
Starts

Sept. 19th: 7pm Vestry
Sept. 24th: 6pm TRIVIA NIGHT

Ongoing Activities:

Mondays: Al-Anon 7:30pm

Tuesdays: Bible Study 10am
Bible Study 7:30pm
(starting 9/13)

Wednesday: 1st, 3rd, & 5th Craft Group
10am

Saturdays: 2nd St. Elizabeth's Guild
4th Men's & Women's
Breakfasts

Sundays: Choir Practice 11:45am
(starting 9/11)

Announcements

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will resume
Saturday hours beginning Sept.
10th.

Wed: 2-6pm

Thurs: 10am-4pm

Fri: 10am-2pm

Sat: 10am-2pm

We are always looking for
volunteers, so drop by and sign up
to help out!

If you can't volunteer during the
week, you can help on Sundays
after church! We need help after
church putting the trash and
recycle bins out on the curb for
Monday morning pick up and also
emptying the donation shed. If you
would like to help with this after
the 8am or 10am service, please

find one of the Thrift Shop
volunteers, a warden, or if can't
find someone, speak to Rev.
Lauren. Many hands make light
work!

Annacreons

The Annacreons is a social group
that is open to everyone at St.
Anne's for fellowship and fun. Our
first meeting this church year will
be at the St. Anne's September 10th
at 6:30 for Pizza and Ice Cream.
We'll also talk about our plans for
the 2016/17 season which *may*
include a play, a movie at Chunky's
in Nashua, a progressive supper, a
Yankee Swap, around the first of
the year and a tour or boat ride (in
May 2016 we went on the Duck
Tour in Boston with several of our
teenagers). Our September
meeting is when we try to pin down
the events and we're always
looking for something new so
please plan to join us. Adults over
the age of 18 are welcome!

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The Tuesday night bible study
group will start the season on
Tuesday September 13th at 7:30pm
to discuss ideas for our weekly
sessions. In the past, sessions
consisted of listening to videos
done by various Theologians and
professors that dealt with
everything from Exodus to
Revelation. Subjects such as the
nature of evil, characters of the
New Testament, and a session on
the Torah led by a Rabbi were also
viewed. Videos were typically 30
minutes each followed by 30
minutes of lively discussion. This
past Spring we read and studied
two books by Marcus Borg:

"Reading the Bible AGAIN for the
first time" and "Meeting Jesus
Again for the First Time". Both
were excellent books and
generated considerable discussion
and deep thought.

Please consider joining us. We
meet every Tuesday evening at
7:30 and generally head home
shortly after 8:30.

Christmas Fair

I know it seems funny to think
about this while temps are still in
the 90's, but it's time to start
thinking about the Christmas Fair,
which will be held December 3 here
at St. Anne's. I'd like to get some
opinions from the Parish.... do you
prefer the standards of the tables
we've had in years past - knitting,
candy/sweets, bake table, lit
baskets and Christmas Cafe; mixed
in with a few selected outside
vendors **OR** might it be time to
open the Fair to more outside
vendors (charging them a table
fee) to attract a different crowd,
and in essence ease up the hard
work so many of you do leading up
to the fair? Would folks still like to
have the dinner and Night of
Raffles following the Fair?
Do you have some other ideas for
the Fair? Do you have any ideas for
possible Workshops?
I'd really welcome your honest
input. Feel free to drop me a note
at craftyandi@yahoo.com, I will
also leave some slips shortly at the
church for folks to jot down what
they might like to say (for those
that don't have email, or prefer to
remain anonymous).

With love,
Andrea Jeffrey

Choir

Our choir will resume rehearsing on Sundays, starting 9/11, from 11:45am-12:45pm. We welcome members of the congregation to come to the rehearsals and take part in the singing - We're very understanding on time commitment availability and singing/music reading experience. If you're interested or have questions about the choir or the music program, please feel free to contact Peter Morelli at morellimail@msn.com or at (617) 480-9775.

Pastoral Visits

Rev. Lauren warmly encourages visitations at home or hospital bedside. You don't even need to be a member of St. Anne's. But, you need to take the first step and invite her. Please give Rev. Lauren a call at 718-440-0811 or e-mail at rector@stannes-billerica.org, and we will arrange for a visitation at a place and time of your convenience.

AED Fundraising

AED (Automatic Electric Defibrillator) fundraising is complete and the AED has arrived! Many thanks to the youth and Carol Lazott for spearheading this effort and for helping to keep our parishioners healthy and safe. Keep your eyes peeled for training sessions in the near future!

Prayer List

If you would like to add a loved one to the prayer list or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Judy MacPherson at judymacp@verizon.net.

Altar Flowers

If you wish to donate altar flowers to Saint Anne's, please fill out one of the flower request forms and return it to Stacey in the office.

St. Anne's Knitting Group

St. Anne's Knitting Group meets the first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Nichols Room. Then we go to lunch nearby. Most everything we make is for the Christmas Fair. One does not have to know how to knit, crochet, or any other type of needle work. Just come and gab with the rest of us. Please contact Marie Figenbaum (714-585-9744, cell, or 781-275-7294 home.)

Administrative office

Administrative office hours are Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Bulletin Announcements

Announcements for the weekly bulletin must be submitted to the office by the Tuesday before you wish the announcement to appear. Please include details such as contact person and phone number/e-mail, dates and times, as well as the end date for the announcement. Please submit announcement to Stacey at stannesbillerica@gmail.com.