



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Newsletter Dec. 2016

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Hello Friends!

As you read this, we are entering the season of Advent, a season of waiting. Waiting can mean different things to different people. Awaiting the arrival of a new baby is a joyful anticipation. Waiting for the doctor to call with test results is a stressful and worrisome waiting. Christianity is a religion of waiting. We live in the time in between Jesus' promise of return and His return. So, the question is, how should we wait? This is one thing to reflect on in Advent. As we await the celebration of the birth of our Lord, His arrival to live and die as one of us, how are we honoring Him as we wait for His return?

In Matthew (5:14-16) Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Here, lamp-light represents our good works in God's name. This is one way to look at our time on earth and is called active waiting. We are here to do good works in the name of God, and here

at St. Anne's, we are not short on good works.

To help you with having a reflective Advent, please take one of the "Slow Down, It's Advent" posters that are available at the church. (Supplies are limited, so one per household please.) This Advent calendar gives you prayers, readings, facts, etc. for each day of Advent in order to help you have a holy time waiting for Jesus. It can be colored as well (if you have little ones or just like to color).

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard this year to make St. Anne's a beacon of Christ's love in the world. The Church is nothing without the people, and together as the Church we are the body of Christ in the world. As we wait for Jesus, remember to never hide your light under a basket, or let the wind blow it out, or let the rain squelch it.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lauren

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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:

It's Advent; But what does it all mean??

According to the web site, <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/advent-resources-2014> "Advent is the season that occurs four weeks prior to Christmas. It is a time of reflection, waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ."

Many, including myself have over looked this as a period of reflection and merely focused on the preparation for the commercial side of Christmas. At St. Anne's, we have heard in recent weeks about what our parish means to us. I encourage you to take some time, sit back and do the same. Reflect on what our parish means to you. Take a few moments and think of these things as you complete your pledge card. What time, talent or treasure do you have to contribute? Many people are working very hard to prepare for the Christmas fair, the ham and bean supper and the angle tree as we look forward to the Christmas season.

My theme for these articles has been the next chapter of St. Anne's. It's never too late to help make the next chapter even better than the previous ones. With the beginning of advent comes the beginning of a new church year, and the new calendar year isn't far behind. This is the perfect time to commit to St. Anne's and to one another by giving of your time, your talent and your treasure.

I hope you and your families have a very Merry Christmas.

Thank you for all you do,

Ed Giroux,
Co-Warden

ANGEL TREE

The book of Who says: "No matter how different a Who may appear, he will always be welcome with holiday cheer."

You have the opportunity to make Christmas a little more for the children being serviced by the Department of Children and Family. There are many children in need; we hope you are able to share a little Christmas magic, again this year by supporting the Angel Tree of St Anne's

We are ready to receive your gifts large and small, wrapped and unwrapped. We are helping children 0-18 male and female. If you are unable to shop we have elves to assist.

Gifts will be collected from now until December 18th.

Every year you have shown the Children (of whatever program we support) they are not forgotten, they are special and for that I thank you for your generosity.

"What if Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store; What if Christmas perhaps means a little more?"

Upcoming Events

December 2016

Dec. 1st: 6:00pm Wreath

Decorating Workshop

Dec. 3rd: CHRISTMAS FAIR

Dec. 10th: Safe Church Training

Dec. 11th: 6:00pm Community
Carol Sing at LDS on Concord Rd.

Dec. 18th: 1:15pm Caroling at
Sunny Acres

Dec. 19th: 7:00pm Vestry

Dec. 20th: Greening of the Church!
6:00pm Potluck, 7:00pm Greening -
all are welcome!

Dec. 24th: 1:00pm Silver Tea
10:30pm- Carol Sing
11:00pm- Midnight
Mass

Dec. 25th: 9:00am Christmas Day
Service, ONE SERVICE ONLY

Dec. 31st: 9:00am Ladies Breakfast
at Stellio's
9:00am Men's Breakfast
at Deli King

Ongoing Activities:

Mondays: Al-Anon 7:30pm

Tuesdays: Bible Study 10am
Bible Study 7:30pm

Wednesday: AA 8:00pm
1st, 3rd, & 5th

Craft Group 10am

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

Sundays: Choir Practice 11:45am

LOOKING AHEAD

Jan 10th- 7:00pm Rev. Lauren's
Installation.

Announcements

-Pick up your new parish directory
in the narthex.

Thanksgiving Mission/Outreach

-The Thanksgiving Outreach was a
great success, thank you so much
for your generosity!

Christmas Pageant

-The Christmas Pageant will be
held on December 18th during
the 10:00am service. Pageant
rehearsals will be Dec. 4th after the
service, Dec. 11th after the
service, Saturday Dec. 17th time to
be determined, and gam on Dec.
18th.

-Please see Julie Whooley if you
have any questions.

Safe Church

-On Saturday December 10th, St.
Anne's will be hosting Safe Church.
Though it is required of all clergy,
diocesan employees and
congregational employees, it is
also highly recommended for
wardens, vestry members, lay
Eucharistic visitors, pastoral
visitors, youth leaders, choir
leaders, school teachers and
volunteers working in a
congregation on a regular basis. -
You can register online at
www.diomass.org or contact the
Rev. Karen Montagno at 617-482-
4826 ext. 413 or email
kmontagno@diomass.org.

Christmas Sing Along

-There will be a community
Christmas sing along on Sunday,
December 11th at 6:00pm at the
Church of Latter Day Saints, 70
Concord Road, Billerica. Light
refreshments will be served
afterward.

Caroling at Sunny Acres

-On December 18th join us as we
spread Christmas cheer to the
residents of Sunny Acres Nursing
and Rehabilitation Center, located
at 254 Billerica Rd. Chelmsford. We
will be meeting at 1:15pm and
singing starts at 1:30pm.

Greening of the Church

-On Tuesday, December 20th, there
will be a potluck supper at 6:00pm

followed by decorating at 7:00pm.
Bring the whole family and enjoy
cider and carols as we decorate the
church for Christmas.

Finance Committee

-If you are interested in how our
budget is determined, you can join
the Finance Committee and help.
Please see Ed Giroux if you are
interested.

Rev. Lauren's Installation

-On Tuesday, January 10th at
7:00pm, Bishop Gates will be at St.
Anne's to officially install Rev.
Lauren as Rector. Please join us for
this celebration of new ministry.
More details are forthcoming, if
you are interested in helping plan
this event, please see Rev. Lauren
or any member of the Transition
Committee.

Prayer List

Submit the names of your loved
ones. Please do so by e-mailing
the office
stannesbillerica@gmail.com,
calling the office, 978-663-4073, or
by writing the name on the
provided slip of paper and add to
the collection plate. The list will be
renewed quarterly and all
additions/subtractions should be
done through the office.

AED Training

-Sign up for training on the bulletin
board.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop hours are as
follows:

Wed: 2-6pm

Thurs: 10am-4pm

Fri: 10am-2pm

Sat: 10am-2pm

Thrift Shop Ph: 978-667-6268

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. The next meeting is a Yankee Swap, Jan. 7th at 7pm. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the kitchen. All are welcome!

Tuesday Night Bible Study

The Tuesday night bible study meets at 7:30pm. The group will be discussing "The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul" by Adam Hamilton.

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

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast takes place on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00am at the Deli King restaurant located at 885 Mains Street in Tewksbury. The men's group is simply anyone who wants to show up for a good breakfast and little socializing. Everybody is welcome.

Women's Breakfast

The Women's breakfast is the 4th Saturday of the month at 9:00am at Stelio's in Billerica. Join us!

Choir

We're looking to form a special, larger choir for Rev. Lauren's installation on January 10th. This choral project is in celebration of the ministry begun by Rev. Lauren at St. Anne's, and also of the work by the wardens, search committee, vestry, and congregation over the past two years.

Please consider taking part in this. We welcome all ages and all voices! We rehearse on Sundays from 11:45-12:45, though we can focus on the music for the Jan. 10th installation from **11:45-12:15**.

If you can sing joyfully, and perhaps can't participate in the choir year-round, now is the time to sing, 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS FAIR, December 3rd

Don't forget to pre-order your wreathes and the wreath decorating workshop will be on Dec. 1 at 6pm.

From the St. Elizabeth's Guild:

****Cookies****Breads****Cakes****Pies****Coffee cakes***

The members of St. Elizabeth's guild need home baked goodies for the bake table at the Christmas fair on December 5th. In order to make our table a success we need your help by either baking or buying goodies. Contributions will be accepted Friday, December 4th afternoon and early evening or Saturday morning. Fair hours are Saturday from 9AM until 2PM. Hope to see you there.

From Andrea Jeffrey:

There is still time to donate, if you feel so moved. The Evening of Giving, Silent Auction, or Day Raffles would be glad to accept your donations, which can be left in the Office. You are also welcome of course to support by purchasing tickets to these! If you have questions, you can speak with Andrea Jeffrey, Sandra Giroux, or Barbara Weisensee.

The St. Elizabeth's Guild would welcome your baked goods. The Ham and Bean supper would welcome sides and pies; there is a sign up sheet for that. We hope that you will join us for the Supper that evening!

Tickets to any and all can be purchased at church, or on Fair Day itself December 3.

Wreath Decorating happens **December 1**, please speak with Brenda Komarinski for more information.

Advance set up happens **Friday December 2** from 5-8; we'd welcome any and all help in setting up tables, moving furniture, helping in a variety of ways. You may also take this chance to drop off any donations for raffles, baked goods, cookies for the Cookie Contest. If you have a concern with the times, just call me [978-888-7316](tel:978-888-7316).

There have been many elves very hard at work behind the scenes working to make this Fair abundant and successful. I thank each and every one of you, and look forward to seeing old and new friends at the Fair on December 3.

Greetings from the Silent Auction Team.

We are gearing up for the Holiday Faire and an NEW feature at the Faire. A SILENT AUCTION. We are gathering items (and need your assistance, I will get to this shortly) to make Auction Items all proceeds to benefit St Anne's Episcopal Church. These items will be displayed during the day of the faire; bids will be made on the corresponding sheets (each item will have an opening bid). IF you know you won't be around at the final bell (during dinner 12/3). We will accept a sealed bid (your best offer) to be opened at the final bell for comparison with the final offer - high bid wins. IF a tie the final in person bid wins.

How can you help prepare? We need Auction Items. If everyone went to 5 vendors that they utilize, and ask for a donation (we can provide a letter if requested) our auction would have a bevy of items. Please bring these items to the office (there is a bin set up). Items will be grouped and wrapped for Auction Day. Be creative we all use different vendors.

If you want to Sponsor an auction item, please talk to Sandra. Your sponsorship would need to be the majority of the end product.

Do you want suggestions? Local eateries, craft stores, pet stores, florist, auto part store, lottery tickets, games, Christmas decorations, Gift cards, etc. These must all be new, not gentle used items. We hope you understand. If you have any questions, please see Sandra Giroux or send an email sanedbec@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance from the Auction