



# St. Anne's Episcopal Church

## Newsletter June 2017

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

## From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer has arrived! While I enjoy warmer weather, when it gets really hot, I long for the snow drifts of December. However, I know the I am often in the minority with this opinion.

Summer brings heat and also vacation. Usually church programs end in summer and life generally slows down, but we are still here! Don't forget about St. Anne's while you are having fun in the sun. Even though you may be away, our expenses still continue. I urge you to sign up for automatic payment with your bank.

After Pentecost, we switch to "Ordinary Time" which I think is not a great name for this liturgical season. We switch to the color green, which symbolizes growth and change. This is a season where we are not leading up to a big holiday (like Advent, Lent, and Easter), rather this is when we are supposed to work on our inner prayer life, and our growth as a follower of Christ.

Even if you are away, you can still serve Christ in the world. Make a new friend, talk about God, read a good theology book, these are just a few things you can do to continue growing in Christ even if you are away. You can also listen to my sermons online at my blog: [www.therevlauren.com](http://www.therevlauren.com)

Speaking of vacation, I will be away Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Jonathan will be filling in for me. I pray that this summer, we can stay strong in our mission and continue the good momentum we have begun this Spring. While we need vacation to rest and relax, God never takes a vacation, and our faith shouldn't either.

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  
Thrift Shop Ph: 978-667-6268

Email: [stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com)  
Website: [stannes-billerica.org](http://stannes-billerica.org)

The Rev. Lauren McLeavey  
Rector  
Mobile: 718-440-0811  
Email: [rector@stannes-billerica.org](mailto:rector@stannes-billerica.org)  
Blog: [therevlauren.com](http://therevlauren.com)  
Vestry:  
Ed Giroux – Warden  
Mark Komarinski – Warden  
Sue Geen – Treasurer  
Kathy Brewster – Clerk  
Marie Figenbaum – 2018  
John Kusnierz – 2018  
Lucy Anne Young – 2018  
Judy MacPherson – 2019  
Carol Lazott – 2019  
Jane Kotelly – 2019  
Russell Bent – 2020  
Andrea Jeffrey – 2020  
Janet Lyna – 2020  
Worship:  
Sundays, 8am & 10am

## **From the Co-Wardens**

Hello Friends,

We write today to inform you of the financial situation St. Anne's is in. We're running low on money. Before you completely panic, we're not going to close tomorrow or next week or next month. But this is a situation that we need to address now as a congregation.

### **How did we get here?**

We've been fortunate in years past where wealthy benefactors were able to pay for many bills and improvements. Those benefactors are not around anymore, and our expenses have only increased, to the amount of about \$250,000 for the budget for 2017. Our budget shows an income of about \$190,000, meaning we started the year facing a \$60,000 deficit. We've had deficits in the past, but this year was rather large and hit us very quickly this year. As many of you likely know, the number of people that attend on a weekly basis is decreasing as the congregation gets older – the per-family pledge is increasing, but the number of families pledging is decreasing. As a result, our weekly giving has decreased accordingly.

### **What has the Vestry done so far?**

Our long-serving sexton, Al Westerlund, has retired and the position of sexton was replaced with three volunteers taking on his duties. We've renegotiated our electric bill, resulting in a decrease. We've reduced the hours and pay for our secretary. We're starting new and smaller fund raisers that do not require months of work. We've started a Finance Committee to review spending and budget. And we're contacting you to let you know where we stand and what you can do to help.

### **What is our status?**

Based on our budget, we need on average just under \$5000 per week from all sources to pay all our bills. As we approach the summer months, this becomes very difficult since some sources (like the preschool) are not in session. Our budget shows an average income of about \$3700 per week meaning we need to make up an extra \$1300 per week (or about \$5200 per month) to continue to pay our bills. We have received a loan from the Diocese to keep us current with some large expenses that will need to be repaid.

### **What now?**

Now we ask for your help. We know the St. Anne's community steps forward when we ask, and we're asking. But rather than ask for paying for a specific bill, we're asking for a few specific ways you can help right now:

-Time – The Thrift Shop would like to be open more hours and be open during evenings when working families will be home. If you can volunteer one day a month to help, the Thrift Shop can be open longer and attract more customers.

-Talent – We need a new Buildings and Ground coordinator. This doesn't mean you need to do the work, only make sure the work gets done. We also need your ideas. We need to have more and smaller fund raisers. We need to increase our membership.

-Treasure – We have about 90 families that pledge to St. Anne's. An increase by each person of \$10 per week will result in an extra \$900 per week and will go a long way to making us financially stable. For many it may be hard. For others, it's a few cups of coffee per week. Since our parish meeting a few weeks back, 12 families have increased their pledge to increase pledges by about \$200 per week. This is a great start and we need this trend to continue.

### **What next?**

The Vestry and Finance Committee will continue to review spending and find places to cut. Michele O'Shea has volunteered to be our Fund Raising Coordinator to help those that have fundraising ideas to make them as successful as possible. Income information will be posted in the weekly bulletin. The Vestry will hold a special Parish Meeting in June to give more updates and send another letter after that with more information.

We've included some slides from our meeting for you to review. The first slide shows our expenses as a pie chart as approved at the start of 2017. The second slide shows our expected sources of income for the year and our deficit. The third slide shows the distribution of pledges. A third of our average pledge is under \$10 per week while 6 pledgers provide over 35% of the \$100,000 budgeted.

This is not the time to panic or to look backwards. This is the time for all of us to look forward and plan for St. Anne's future. In the past, you have responded when the need was specific. For example, when we needed money for a new roof, a new organ or a retirement gift for Rev. Peggy, the people of St. Anne's provided abundantly. What St. Anne's needs now is not as exciting as any of those items. She needs all of us to come together and provide for her as she has provided spiritually for us.

Yours in Christ,  
Edward Groux  
Mark Komarinski  
Co-Wardens

\*Financial charts and graphs are at the end of this Newsletter.\*

## **Calling All Linguists!**

-Do you speak a language other than English? If so, and you will be at church June 4<sup>th</sup>, please contact Rev. Lauren via e-mail, [rector@stannes-billerica.org](mailto:rector@stannes-billerica.org) or call the office as 978-663-4073.

## **Strawberry Festival, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

-The Strawberry Festival is June 17th! Along with the Gardening Angels' Strawberry Shortcakes, and the ever popular Cookie Walk, we will once again have vendors dotting our lawn selling a variety of items. This year, we're introducing a barbeque ! We'd love the church's help in donating items to this. Can you donate a sleeve of frozen hamburgers, a package of hot dogs, veggie burgers, or some hamburger or hot dog buns? Could you help us out with paper goods, or plastic storage containers? OR....Could you donate a Market Basket gift card (or cold hard cash) so we can buy what is not donated? Please email Andrea Jeffrey directly at [craftyandi@yahoo.com](mailto:craftyandi@yahoo.com) so she can update the signup sheet located near the kitchen. (You're welcome to call the church at [978-663-4073](tel:978-663-4073) if you prefer to speak with someone.) We'd love some help with setting up tables and tents in the morning of June 17<sup>th</sup>. (8AM arrival for volunteers, please) If that's too early, cleanup will be happening around 130-200 PM later in the day, and we'd love help with that aspect as well.

-Speak with Judy Peck if you would like to assist with strawberry picking.

-Speak with Sue Geen if you can help with the Cookie Walk, or bake cookies.

-Speak with Maureen Thibeault if you can help out in the Thrift Store that day.

Many thanks for your continued generosity, and we look forward to seeing you on June 17th!

## **Game Night!**

Games Event at St. Anne's

Sunday, June 4th, from 4-7 in Bixby Hall

Cost: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

Organizers: Michele O'Shea and Sue Geen

We will have a variety of games (dominoes, popular board games, etc.) to play. We will form teams. There will be prizes for the winner of each team. We will provide snacks and beverages. Feel free to bring your favorite snack to share with your team. For this with young children, we can provide babysitting during the event. All are welcome to attend (bring friends!).

Please see Michele or Sue if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!



## **FUNDRAISING!**

**Coins for the Church** continues: So far the first drop of coins yielded \$51.00. Your loose pocket change can certainly add up! The bottle will remain in the office during the week, and will be out on Sundays for any loose change you may wish to contribute! Thank you for your contributions.

**Yankee Candle:** Our recent Yankee Candle Fundraiser was very successful! Thank you all for your interest and orders. Exact profit will be forthcoming shortly, but we believe that we are at about \$500 profit for St. Anne's. Orders will be delivered around the first week of June to the church. You will be contacted for pick up.

**Ken MacPherson** is selling beautiful, hand-made (by Ken himself) crosses as a fundraiser for the church. They are only \$7.00 each! Contact Ken if you would like to purchase a cross (or many!).

Call Ken at [978-667-7734](tel:978-667-7734) E-mail him at [kmacp1@verizon.net](mailto:kmacp1@verizon.net)

## Upcoming Events

### June 2017

June 3<sup>rd</sup>: Annacreons Cruise

June 4<sup>th</sup>: At Coffee Hour: Sunday School Ice Cream Social and Retirement Party for Al!

June 4<sup>th</sup>: 4:00pm GAME NIGHT

June 17<sup>th</sup>: Strawberry Festival!

June 19<sup>th</sup>: 7:00pm Vestry

June 24<sup>th</sup>: 9:00am Ladies Breakfast at Stelio's  
9:00am Men's Breakfast at Deli King

## Ongoing Activities:

Mondays: Al-Anon 7:30pm

Tuesdays: Bible Study 10am

Wednesday: AA 8:00pm

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup>

Craft Group 10am

Saturdays: 4<sup>th</sup> Men's & Women's Breakfasts

Sundays: Choir Practice 11:45am

## Announcements

### To All St. Anne's Parishioners:

This is my sincere thank you to all of my wonderful friends at St Anne's who may have attended my husband's service, or sent a beautiful card or even a simple hug in church, as well as all the prayers in these past five years. I was blessed to have the opportunity to fall in love all over again and he never hesitated to tell me every day that he loved me. I know he died happy. That, in itself, is what keeps me going. Once again, Thank you and God bless.

Pat Cregg

### June 4<sup>th</sup>

June 4 is recognition Sunday. We will be celebrating Al Westerlund's retirement and thank him for his years of service as our Sexton with

a luncheon following the 10:00 service.

We will also be recognizing our hard working Sunday School teachers: Doreen Knowles, Lisa Lavoie, Nicole Knowles, Linda Kusnier, Amy O'Sullivan, Annie Gerard, Todd Baldwin, Ron Desmarais, and our sub Mark Komarinski. There will be an ice cream social following Al's lunch.

Please join us!

-Brenda Komarinski, Yvonne Hopkins, Cyndi Hopkins

## **From the Temporary Sextons**

For the next few weeks, we request that meetings usually held in the Nichols room be held in the Sunday School room.

We are preparing for our new furnace installation. In expectation of that, Rev. Lauren has asked us to determine if there are items that are no longer being used that could be given away.

We are cleaning closets and storage areas. We have set up tables in the Nichols room to hold items that have been displaced. These items are not all going to be thrown away -- many are going to be stored in different boxes or closets.

If you see something on these tables that belong to your group or you are currently using, please label it. Kathy Brewster or Carol Lazott will get back to you with the new storage location.

Thank you,  
Carol & Kathy

## **Attention Truck Owners!**

-Do you have a truck and a free Saturday? We will be getting our original organ out of storage, but

we need help! Please contact Ed Giroux if you are interested.

## **Annacreons**

The Anneaceons will be on a cruise to Star Island (Isle of Shoals) on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and are planning a cookout for early July. Signup sheets are currently up for the cruise and will be up in a couple of weeks for the cookout. All Anneacreons events are open to the entire parish so you don't need to be a member to participate – just sign up and join the fun.

## **Prayer List**

Submit the names of your loved ones. Please do so by e-mailing the office [stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com), calling the office, 978-663-4073. The prayer list will reset on Pentecost (June 4<sup>th</sup>).

## **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!

## **Tuesday Bible Studies**

-The 10am study continues.  
-Tuesday evening bible study has ended for the year after finishing a short study of Handel's Messiah. Thanks to Bob and his portable music machine and iPod we had the music as well as the biblical texts on which it was based. There was much discussion and sharing and we're all looking forward to beginning anew after a summer break.

### Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast takes place on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Ladies – Let's get together for breakfast on the last Saturday of the month at 9:00am at Stelio's in North Billerica. It's a good time to reconnect and plan activities. Please come.

### Choir

Our choir meets from 11:30am-12:30pm on Sundays. Feel free to contact Peter Morelli at (617) 480-9775 or at [morellimail@msn.com](mailto:morellimail@msn.com).

### 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](mailto: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. Suggested donation is \$25 per arrangement.

### St. Anne's Craft Group

St. Anne's Craft 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

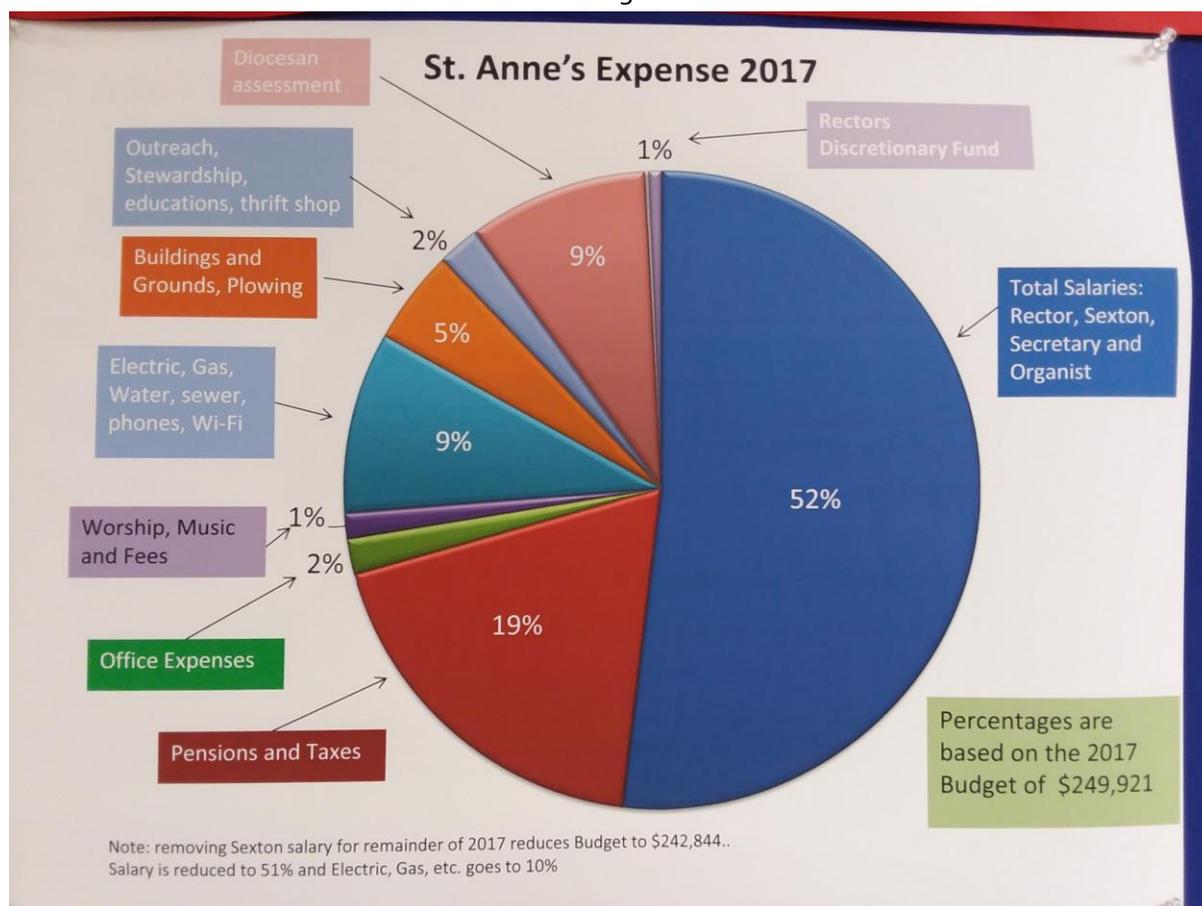
nearby. Most everything we make is for the Christmas Fair. One does not have to know how to knit, crochet, or any other type of needle work. Just come and gab with the rest of us. Please contact Marie Figenbaum (714-585-9744, cell, or 781-275-7294 home.)

### Administrative office

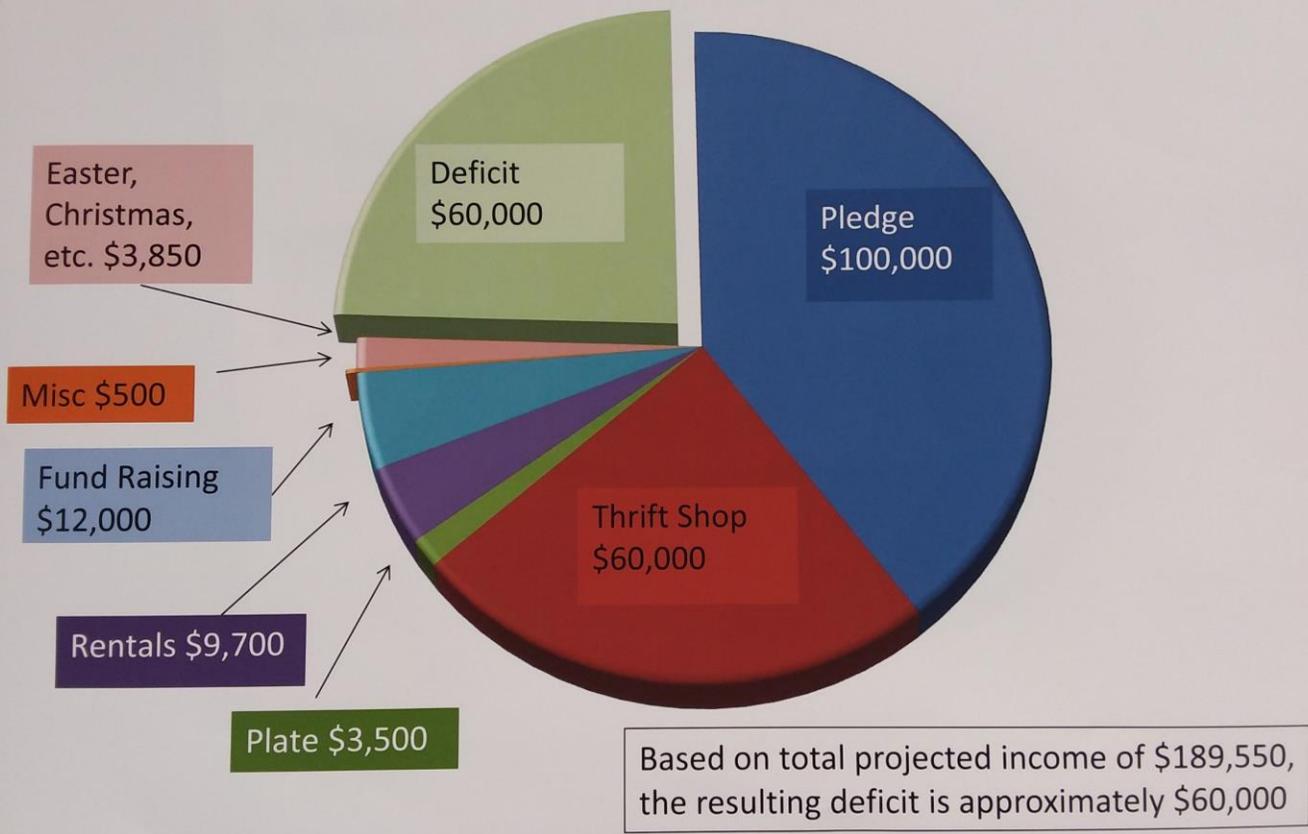
Administrative office hours are Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

### 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](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com).



## St. Anne's Projected Income 2017



## St. Anne's Pledge income per pledging unit

