



# St. Anne's Episcopal Church

## Newsletter December 2017

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

## From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter December and get closer to Christmas, I urge you not to rush through Advent! This is a short season, but a very important one. During this season we wait with joyful anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we shouldn't rush through it. During this time, try to make extra space for prayer and reflection on the true meaning of the season.

Our Pledge Drive for 2018 is complete. Thank you all for your participation, attention, and for your pledges to St. Anne's. We are all part of the Body of Christ, and like a body, we all need to work together in order to function. I am hopeful that our financial situation in 2018 will be much better than 2017, and that this trend will continue!

The due date for our baby is Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>. However, once January rolls around, he could be born at any time! We are very excited and I have been

preparing for extended maternity leave. Rev. Jonathan MacKenzie has cleared his schedule and is ready to fill in for me on Sundays once the baby is born. While I am on maternity leave, please direct all communications through Stacey in the office.

I'll be using up my 2017 vacation days Nov. 27-Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. I will attend the Christmas Fair and Ham and Bean supper, and I will be available for emergencies only. Please contact the office if you need assistance.

Before I go on leave, the Bishop is coming! Bishop Alan Gates will be coming to St. Anne's on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> for his visitation. On that Sunday, we will have 1 service at 10am and a festive reception. The Bishop will also meet with the Vestry and other leaders after church, so please make sure you are there for this joyous occasion.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Lauren

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Vestry:  
Ed Giroux – Warden  
Mark Komarinski – Warden  
Sue Geen – Treasurer  
Kathy Brewster – Clerk  
Marie Figenbaum – 2018  
John Kusnierz – 2018  
Lucy Ann 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**

This is an always an exciting time of year around St. Anne's. As I write this, the Fall Harvest Fair is behind us, Thanksgiving is only a few days away, and our annual Christmas fair is right around the corner. Many parishioners are hard at work to make the fair, the Ham & Bean Supper and Evening of Giving a success. These events will be held a week apart this year to make it easier for all the volunteers. And, don't forget the Angel Tree. This year gifts will be collected for children who are less fortunate and will be distributed by the Division of Children and Families (DCF).

Over the last several weeks, we have talked a lot of Stewardship and pledging and how you can help. In the past, St. Anne's family has always been generous and stepped up to make these events very successful. We need to make sure these traditions continue to help our spiritual home. It's all a lot of work, but the fellowship provided by coming together to celebrate the holidays and help others alone makes it all worthwhile. Before we know it, advent and Christmas will be here.

After the New Year holiday, we'll be right back to work to make St. Anne's ready for the Bishop's visit, the annual meeting and the start of another year. And, don't forget there is a blood drive scheduled for January too.

I hope you all have the opportunity to take a well-deserved rest over the holidays. We all need some down time to reflect and rest. Take time to be with family and friends.

We hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving and we'll see you at the fair on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As always, thanks for reading.

Mark Komarinski  
Ed Giroux  
Co-Wardens

## **Angel Tree for DCF**

The tree will be up November 26<sup>th</sup>. The gifts will be distributed to local children through the Department of Children and Families.

You may select a boy or girl; and the ages will run as follows:

0-12 months, 1-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, and 15-18 years.

The tree will be decorated in colored ribbon, with labels indicating age. Please bring in your gift with ribbon no later than December 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to get out and shop, we will be happy to do it for you.

We will purchase, and wrap, a gift from you and place it under the Angel Tree.

Simply speak with Michele O'Shea, Andrea Jeffrey, Sandra Giroux, Lisa Carpine, Doris Hamner, Brenda Komarinski, or Cyndi Hopkins. You can choose the age, or we will do that for you. Thank you for your generosity, and for making Christmas special for children.

## **FUN - RAISING!**

Ah, December. Season of Hope, and Light, and Love. As you are reading this, the Christmas Fair on December 2 will be nearly upon us, or will have just happened. As always, I am overwhelmed by the support and love that makes this annual event so magical. Seeing familiar faces, old friends, and making new ones! The sounds of laughter filling our church halls, the smells of wonderful baked goods...and watching so many work so hard to make this event happen. That's the true spirit of Christmas. We will also be gathering for our annual Ham and Bean Supper on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and I look forward to hearing folk's opinions on whether they like the Supper on a separate night from the fair, or to go back to the traditional of having it on the night of the Christmas Fair. Regardless of when we have it, I am profoundly grateful to Maureen and Earl Thibeault and family for making this supper actually happen. The Evening of Giving will follow the Ham and Bean Supper, and we look forward every year to the prizes and fun. Awesome advance organizing, Sandra Giroux!

As December progresses, we remain grateful for the generosity of St Anne's to make our Angel Tree happen. This year, St. Anne's has a Dream Team of "elves" making Christmas a little brighter for disadvantaged children. My sincere thanks to Michele O'Shea, Sandra Giroux, Cyndi Hopkins, Lisa Carpine, Doris Hamner, and Brenda Komarinski ; who remind me every day what the power of love and friendship can do.

This has been an amazing year of FUN raising- I remain humbled and honored by the outpouring of love and generosity. I look forward to upcoming events in 2018 – beginning with Bishop Alan Gate's visit, and a blood drive in January. February will feature a Sweetheart Silent Auction and Dinner. Other possibilities as 2018 continues (just to name a few) another Paint Night, Bowling Night, Game Night...if you have an idea for a FUN-raiser, just let me know!

Fondly,

Andrea Jeffrey

**Annual Meeting, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Annual Meeting will be January 21<sup>st</sup> (snow date is January 28<sup>th</sup>). If you need to submit a report, please submit it to our Parish Administrator, Stacey Fassi, at [STANNESBILLERICA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STANNESBILLERICA@GMAIL.COM). All reports must be submitted ELECTRONICALLY via e-mail Word, Excel, or typed into the body of the e-mail. Do not handwrite or scan a report, it will not be accepted. This makes the report much easier to collate and saves time and energy. You must submit your report by January 15<sup>th</sup> or it will not be included in the report.

**Save the Dates:**

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00am-2:00pm – Christmas Fair!

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – Ham and Bean Supper/Evening of Giving

Jan. 7, 2018 – Bishop Gates' Visit

Jan. 21, 2018 – St. Anne's Annual Meeting (snow date Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Dec. 2017**

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: CHRISTMAS FAIR 10am-2pm.

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>: 6pm Interfaith Christmas Concert at LDS on Concord Rd.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: 6pm Ham and Bean Supper/Evening of Giving

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>: 7:30pm Evening Bible Study

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>: Angel Tree Gifts Due

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: 9am- Advent 4 service  
1pm- Holy Eucharist with Silver Tea to Follow  
9:30pm- Hymn sing  
10pm- Midnight Holy Eucharist

Dec. 30<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 10:00am

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

NA 6:30pm

## **Announcements:**

### **Prayer List**

The prayer list will be refreshed for Advent 1 (Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>).

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.

### **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!

## **Tuesday Bible Studies**

-The 10am study resumed on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, continuing with the book of Acts. All are welcome!

-Tuesday evening Bible study will be on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

## **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 is now rehearsing on Sundays from 11:30am-12:30pm. Please consider taking part in the rehearsals, and singing in the choir at the services on Sundays. All ages and voices are welcome. There are options with time commitment availability and singing / music reading experience. With choral projects, your participation in preparing and singing any anthem is valued. If you're interested or have questions about the choir or the music program, please feel free to contact me at [morellimail@msn.com](mailto:morellimail@msn.com) or at (617) 480-9775. If you can sing joyfully, you are welcome. God hears your song!

Sincerely,  
Peter Morelli

## **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, followed by lunch. One does not have to know how to knit, crochet, or any other type of needle work. 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. Please include details, as well as the end date for the announcement. Please submit announcement to Stacey at: [stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com)