



# St. Anne's Episcopal Church

## Newsletter January 2018

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

## From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year celebration.

2017 was a tough year. In reality, all years have their ups and downs, but it seems that 2017 was especially rough, personally, professionally, nationally, and globally. I'm not usually one for New Year's resolutions, I never end up going to the gym 5 times a week, but this year, I think I will make one.

I have a tendency to internalize things and only focus on the negative. This affects my mood and life greatly, and it affects other people. I am a human being after all, and we all make mistakes, even if it is hard to admit. I think in 2018, I am going to try and focus on the positive in life instead of dwelling on the negative.

God blesses each and every one of us in our lives in different ways, and our own happiness and well-being depends on how we react to those blessings. I have heard that motherhood

changes everything and I will soon find that out for myself. For me, for my son, my husband, and for you, my beloved parishioners, I am going to work hard to shift focus from the bad stuff, to the good stuff.

The Christmas Season is all about welcoming Jesus into our lives. Jesus is the light, Jesus is love, Jesus is understanding. With Him, we can do anything, as long as we do it with love.

I will miss Lent this year because of maternity leave, which is both good and bad. I love Lent as a season, it is a great time to really pray and ponder. I'm sure I will have lots of time to pray during my sleepless nights at home, but please know that I love you all, and I will miss you when I am away.

I'm not gone yet, so let's embrace Jesus' "attitude of gratitude" and celebrate all the great things St. Anne's has done in 2017 with joy and hope for a great 2018.

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**

As we wrap up 2017 and the Christmas season, we look back at the year and all that we have accomplished:

- Our thrift shop had another successful year by helping those in need.
- We've opened our doors and welcomed another group that needs our hospitality for a place to meet.
- St. Anne's has been more active in the community by taking part in the town's Yankee Doodle weekend and a candle light vigil at Town Hall after the tragedy in Charlottesville.
- On Ash Wednesday, St. Anne's reached out to the community by distributing ashes at the local train station.

And of course we reached out to the community with our traditional Christmas fair, ham & bean supper and evening of giving. We also brought back our fall harvest fair. Already planned for this year is the "Giving is the new receiving" blood drive in January.

With the New Year comes new opportunities to become more active in St. Anne's. We always say that we need your time, talent and treasure. But we also need your ideas, your energy and participation. No idea is too small. We've spent several weeks discussing stewardship and how you can help St. Anne's financially and otherwise. 2018 brings the opportunity for all of us to become more active members of our parish family.

As we all know by now, Rev. Lauren will be away from us for a period of time as she welcomes a new member of her family. It is important for us to remember that while she is away, St. Anne's needs to continue and we are responsible to make sure the parish runs smoothly. Everyone has gifts or talents to offer. Please offer your talents to help continue the successes at St. Anne's.

We hope you take some time to reflect on the past year, and enjoy the holidays with friends and family. Then we can all start 2018 by bringing a new energy and enthusiasm to our parish home.

Thanks for reading!

Mark Komarinski  
Ed Giroux  
Co-Wardens

## **FUN - RAISING!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, As I write this in late December, both the Christmas Fair as well as the Ham and Bean Supper have happened, and we are awaiting Christmas. But, before looking forward, permit me to look backward for a moment and reflect. The Christmas Fair was a wonderful day, bright and sunny, and well attended with plenty of holiday spirit, raising over \$3,000 for St. Anne's, due to the wonderful spirit which is St. Anne's working in the church and in the community. To all who helped in one way or another; quite simply, thank you. The next week after Christmas Fair we were on to the Ham and Bean Supper and Evening of Giving. Even with snowy stormy conditions, we hearty New Englanders made a near capacity showing for a magnificent dinner put on by Maureen Thibeault and family! That raised over \$300 in ticket sales; not including the Evening of Giving which raised over \$1000, Wow! The generosity of giving extended to the Angel Tree, which provided over 150 children with a gift to open for Christmas. Thank you doesn't seem an adequate enough phrase to convey how this church makes me feel each and every year!

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2018, and look forward to lots more FUN-raising events in the future!

PS be thinking of any items you can donate to the Sweetheart Silent Auction Dinner, which is happening February 10!

Fondly,  
Andrea Jeffrey

## **Blood Drive at St. Anne's!**

Giving is the new Receiving!

I am very excited to tell you about an opportunity for St Anne's to increase its presence in the community and help so many people in one day. Now I know many of you are thinking "what will this cost me?" It will not cost you one red cent. But your cost will be in red..... I am asking for your support in helping up to 3 people with just one pint of your blood.

St Anne's has the opportunity to host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross, January 27, 2018. The Red Cross is having a January incentive - for every potential donor a \$5.00 Dunkin Donuts gift card will be given out! We have a goal of 35 appointments between 9:00am and 2:00pm. A link will be out soon to make your appointment - or see me and I will make it for you!

I have enclosed some quick facts:

Aspects of each potential donor's health history are discussed as part of the donation process before any blood is collected. Each donor receives a brief examination during which temperature, pulse, blood pressure and hemoglobin (or hematocrit) are measured.

### **Donation Type and Frequency**

Blood (whole) Every 56 days  
 Platelets Every 7 days - 24x yr  
 Plasma Every 28 days - 13x yr  
 Double Red Every 112 days - 3x yr

I am asking you to stay healthy (so you can donate) be supportive and spread the word. I know this is something small that will benefit so many as well as bring the community into our spiritual home away from home.

Sandra Giroux

### **New Dance Class at St. Anne's!**

**Bellydance with Carolisa of moonlightdjz**

**Starts January 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday mornings at 10:30am**

Six weeks - \$60 \* to Register: [moonlightdjz@gmail.com](mailto:moonlightdjz@gmail.com) or 978-937-7937

Have you ever wanted to try Bellydance? Try something new in the New Year..

and try this **beautiful and joyous dance!** Fast & fiery to slow & smooth, this dance includes core isolations \* figure 8's\* flowing hands and arms \* a Greek dance and the beautiful Veil Dance --all set to a fantastic mix of world music! Increase flexibility, work all muscles especially the core (low impact) & feel great in this FUN & friendly class! **For women of all ages, body types and fitness levels.** Wear comfortable, stretchy clothing; best are thick socks, slipper sox or ballet type slippers you can glide in. Veils may be borrowed. Advance Registration Required.

Carolisa has over 20 years of dance teacher experience in many styles including Zumba and Line Dancing. More classes may be added in the future!

### **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.

### **Angel Tree**

Thanks to your generosity, St. Anne's collected around 200 gifts to be distributed to children living in foster care via the Department of Children and Families. Thank you so much for your kindness and for making Christmas that much more special for local children!

### **Rainbow Flag**

You may have noticed our new rainbow flag outside, here is the story behind this wonderful new addition which is a symbol of welcome to all of God's people:

This past summer, a young person in our congregation asked me what the Episcopal Church's stance on homosexuals was. I explained that our church was a welcoming church. All humans are welcome here, no matter who they love. They asked why we didn't advertise that to our community. The First Parish church in the center of town has a rainbow flag out front to let everyone know that ALL are welcome. They asked if we too could let the world know that welcome everyone. I said we should speak to the rector. There ensued a brief discussion about the type of flag and where it could be placed. One that didn't need a flagpole and that could be moved easily was decided upon. I purchased this flag and Rev. Lauren put it up. St. Anne's had welcomed Rev. Louise with love. We all know people that have been marginalized. Change is hard, but I like to think that a symbol of welcoming to those that have made scapegoats and rejected would be welcomed here at this place of love. I ask you: what would you have told a young person? Would you have told them no?

Your sister in Christ,  
 Brenda Komarinski

**Keep reading until the end for pictures from Christmas!**

## Upcoming Events

### Jan. 2018

Jan 6<sup>th</sup>: Annacreons Yankee Swap

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: 10:00am Bishop Gates Visit

Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>: 7:30pm Evening Bible

Study

Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>: 10:30am Dance Classes by Carolisa start!

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>: Annual Mtg. Reports Due

Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: 11am ANNUAL MEETING

Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>: 7:30pm Evening Bible

Study

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>: BLOOD DRIVE

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: Annual mtg. snow date

Jan. 27<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

Thursdays: Dance Class 10:30am

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

Breakfasts

NA 6:30pm

## Announcements:

### Pledge Envelopes

The pledge envelopes for 2018 are in the narthex for pickup by the congregation. They are in alphabetical order starting at the left back to help individuals find theirs. If there are problems with them, I can be reached at 978-657-0765.

Many thanks,

John Geen

### 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 and fourth Tuesday of the month.

### 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)



Angel Tree gifts, thank you for your generosity!!!



Silver Tea

The Church decorated for Christmas



Silent Night, Holy Night

