



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Newsletter June 2018

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer time is here, and while I love seeing the sun, personally, I could do without the heat. We are gearing up towards the annual Strawberry Festival and I am getting excited! I know it will be a wonderful day full of activity, fellowship, and of course, fundraising. There are plenty of jobs to be done on the day and also ahead of time. Speak with Andrea Jeffrey for more information.

I hope you will join me on June 24th at 1:00pm for a discussion of Bishop Gene Robinson's book "God Believes in Love: Straight Talk About Gay Marriage" followed by a screening of the documentary about him called "Love Free or Die." See the enclosed flyer for more information. (If you are not available on the 24th, contact me to arrange another viewing, it is a really great documentary.)

As Summer begins, the program year comes to an end and many people go on vacation. The Church, however is never on vacation and neither is our Christian Mission. Wherever you may go and

whatever you do this Summer, never forget to have God in everything you do. An easy thing to do is pray every day. Many people think this is very time consuming, but it really isn't; you can start off small. Most people know the Lord's Prayer (Our Father). When you get up just say the Lord's Prayer and that is praying. Try doing this every day, then work your way up to more. This is a simple way to remember Jesus while on vacation, and to remember St. Anne's too.

I also urge you to think about new and innovative forms of ministry that St. Anne's could get involved in this Fall (see outreach article later in this newsletter). In Christ we are a community working together to spread love in the world, and we are free to try new things (sometimes failing, sometimes not) because we will never lose God's love or our community. So, let's be brave and embrace our mission in the world!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Lauren

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Vestry:

Ed Giroux – Warden

Mark Komarinski – Warden

Sue Geen – Treasurer

Jane Kotelly – Clerk

Susan Kennedy – 2019

Carol Lazott – 2019

Kathy Brewster – 2019

Russell Bent – 2020

Andrea Jeffrey – 2020

Janet Lyna – 2020

Lisa Carpine – 2021

Louise Boyce – 2021

Mike Hopkins - 2021

Worship:

Sundays, 8am & 10am

From the Co-Wardens

Memorial Day!!

As I sit to write this, I have just returned from participating in the Town's Memorial Day activities. I can't really call it a celebration. It's a day of remembrance for the brave men and women who paid the ultimate price, made the ultimate sacrifice so that I can sit at my keyboard and write a newsletter article. This and other freedoms is what we all enjoy thanks to their sacrifices.

We have many people to thank for the freedoms we all enjoy. The first person to make the ultimate sacrifice for us was, of course, Jesus. Jesus' message was very simple; love others as your own brother or sister. This is sometimes a hard thing to do. Other people (usually unintentionally) do things to upset us or make us angry. The natural human reaction is to lash out and "get even". I've found myself having this reaction from time to time. It's the easy way to react.

A wise person once said to me that doing the right thing is usually never the easy thing to do. When someone upsets us or hurts us, the right thing is to forgive and love that person. It is never easy to do, but it's the right thing to do. Harsh words and kind words said to us are usually never forgotten. Which words would you like to be remembered for?

In other news:

- Please remember that if you have a question about anything going on at the parish or a particular decision that was made, please ask. Firsthand information is always more reliable than rumors.
- We need Lay Readers, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes at both services. If you've ever felt that you'd like to become more involved with the service in these or other ways, please let Rev. Lauren, Mark or Ed know. None of the roles are overly difficult or complicated. The more volunteers we have minimizes the time commitment.
- Please share your ideas. We have a lot of bright and very talented people at St. Anne's. You may have a great idea for a FUN raiser or a better way to do a particular task. Please share your thoughts.
- Finally, with the summer coming we know that many parishioners take more Sunday's off than normal. Please know that even if you're not here, our bills come on a regular basis. Please remember to keep your pledges current. You can even set up an automatic payment from your bank. If you would like additional information on how to do this, consult your local branch.

Thanks for reading!

Mark Komarinski

Ed Giroux

Co-Wardens

FUN - RAISING!

Ah June! Summertime is upon us and with it our annual Strawberry Festival, being held June 16th. Our favorite annual event features the famous strawberry shortcake (thank you Gardening Angels!) as well as our Cookie Walk! (Advance thanks to all the cookie bakers and Sue Geen!) We're planning a BBQ as well as music! There's a sign-up sheet for donations to the BBQ or donate to the coins for church jar. Please come and support the church on June 16th and visit with some local vendors for an always fun day. If you have any questions about the fair please see the Facebook event page on the church page or speak with Andrea. For strawberry related questions please speak with Judy Peck (Strawberry picking will be Friday, June 15th. Plan on meeting at the church at 7:30am).

Also in the works is learning a bit more about the various ministries here at St. Anne's. We could use your help in a variety of easy ways; in front of and behind the scenes. Lector, prayers, eucharistic ministers, acolytes, Sunday school, coffee hour, altar guild, and thrift shop can always use you help. More details are coming on when we plan to have these informational sessions.

Happy summer to everyone!

Much love,

~Andrea 

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Lately, I have been wondering: is the Church still relevant in this modern world? How can we at St Anne's Church stay relevant in a world where the Church is becoming increasingly irrelevant?

In talking to people from other churches & faiths we face many of the same issues; how to attract new members and retain our congregations when people are so distracted by life, family & work obligations. Maybe we feel we are in control and don't need help from others or God. Other times we are embarrassed to ask because it's been too long.

Yes we have all heard the Gospel lessons and they don't change. BUT, the Gospel is always relevant; the message of salvation will always remain unchanged. Maybe we need to communicate it in a different way. Rev. Lauren has already started us down this path with "Ashes on the Go" and by recording her sermons for posting on Facebook and her blog for sharing with friends. What else can we do?

According to national statistics people touch their phones more than 2,500 times a day (are you helping or hurting the average?) How many times did you pray today? How many times did you think of God - close to 2,500?

What would you think of a daily text of Spirituality? No reply just something to start you thinking.

We attend church on Sunday but what about the rest of the week? Are we open and welcome? Do we spread the word? I find myself reflecting on this because I failed today. While working at the Community Pantry I was asked what group I was representing I automatically said Billerica as a first response and St Anne's as second. The Pantry is being run by the Billerica Inter-Faith Association, why didn't I answer St Anne's first? This is something I must reflect on.

The day isn't getting any longer, technology is becoming a bigger part of our lives; we need to communicate differently to retain and grow our church. How do we attract more members? As we approach the summer and we hopefully bask in the warmth of the sun, would you consider the possibility of mobile outreach? Who would be willing to have an online messaging chat on a different topic each week (some spiritual some not) and chime in when you have time? Who wants to participate in a text group? Who would like to meet for Coffee outside of St Anne's walls? Who wants to meet and do a community service project?

How would you like St Anne's on the Go? I know I can always use a positive message and a note to encourage me. Let's share our ideas, and God's love, with each other and the world.

-Sandra Giroux-

Line Dancing 101 - One Fun Night!

with Carolisa of Moonlightdjz

Monday June 4 ~ 6:30-8:00 pm

\$12 at the door * \$10 in advance

Sign up @ moonlightdjz@gmail.com

Have you always wanted to jump in when everyone hits the dancefloor at a wedding or party? Don't sit on the sidelines...join in & have *fun!* We'll review all the popular "**party**" line dances you'll need from the nae nae to the cotton eye joe & electric slide, some country & more. Move & Groove to a mix of the *best* pop & dance from each decade; using easy moves to get loose on the dancefloor. Relax & have a fun night out with friends! For anyone who loves to dance or wants to learn – **Get in the Groove!**

Look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming Events

June 2018

June 4th: 6:30pm Line Dancing 101

June 9th: 3:00pm Annacreons Cook Out at the Peck's.

June 11th: 7:00pm Vestry

June 12th: 7:30pm Evening Bible Study

June 12th: 11:30am Billerica Interfaith Asso. Meeting at First Parish UU

June 19th: 7:00pm Community Conversation on Gun Violence at LDS, 70 Concord Rd.

June 19th: 7:30pm Evening Bible Study

June 24th: 1:00pm Book & Film Discussion in Bixby Hall

June 30th: 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

1st, 3rd, & 5th

Craft Group 10am

Thursdays: Dance Class 10:30am

Saturdays: 4th Men's & Women's Breakfasts
NA 6:30pm

Announcements:

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 is on break until Sept.

11th, have a great Summer!

-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 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

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 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, 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