



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Newsletter Sept. 2018

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

Believe it or not, I am always happy when Summer ends and Fall begins. I love September (not only because of the cooler weather) but because that is when the program year begins and our halls are filled with activity and joy. The center of our life together is worship, however the day to day ministry and human interaction is where we find added joy in being part of the body of Christ. I urge you to join in one or more of the good works/groups we have here at St. Anne's. God is in all things, and even participating in a "small" way makes a big difference in our life together.

Over the Summer, I continued my work on Sundays, but also at the Billerica House of Corrections and with the Community Food Pantry. The prison ministry brings the Word of God to our incarcerated neighbors, as well as some much-needed kindness and caring, things that are often hard to find in prison.

The Billerica Community Pantry has grown by leaps and bounds since it started in the Spring. In July the pantry served over 150 families in Billerica. It is

disheartening that so many families in our town struggle to make ends meet, but that just makes us work all the harder to be able to help our neighbors through hard times. In September the pantry is going to start having 2 distributions per month! Your help is needed! The pantry takes donations of food and money (see me for this) but we also need volunteers. Not all of the work is physical, so even if you have limitations, you can help! (no one under 18 please). Contact Taryn Gillis to volunteer at 978-663-8433.

I look forward to seeing you all as Coffee Hour begins on Sept. 9th, and at Yankee Doodle on the 15th. Sign up to march in the parade or help out at our games booth. Let's make this Fall the best one yet, full of love and strong in mission!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lauren

Contacts:

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The Rev. Lauren McLeavey
Rector

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Blog: therevlauren.com

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

Let me start by saying that I can't believe that the end of Summer is in sight. In my mind, that is not good news. But it does present us with an opportunity to re-start the programs that tend to take a summer hiatus.

Church school, coffee hour, Bible study and other groups will be meeting again. It's an exciting time around St. Anne's as we begin planning for our Christmas fair. That's right, I said Christmas fair!! To have a successful fair, planning must begin now. And quite frankly, we need your help. For several years, certain parishioners have provided a labor of love by running the events that happen during and after the fair and other events that benefit all of us. We are forever grateful for their hard work and dedication to our church and these events!!

However, these parishioners are no longer able to provide the work that they have in the past. We need more participation from everyone. As they say, many hands make light work. Any time you could devote is appreciated. For more information about upcoming planning meetings, please be in touch with Mark, Ed, Andrea or Rev. Lauren. New ideas for the fair or other events are always welcome!! As with our church in general, all are welcome and encouraged to attend and share their ideas!

Thanks for reading!
Ed Giroux and Mark Komarinski
Co-Wardens

FINANCIAL MEETING

The Financial Committee will meet at the church on Saturday September 8th at 9:00 am. The purpose of the meeting is to begin the process of developing a financial plan for the use of substantial monetary gifts received by St. Anne's in this past year. Issues to be discussed include short term needs (repairs and fixes), long term capital expenditures, use of funds to supplement operating costs, Outreach programs and more.

The meeting is open to anyone in the congregation who would like to participate – your ideas and concerns will be greatly appreciated.

FUN - RAISING!

Thank you to all who've been so supportive of the various FUN raising activities we've been doing to help our church thrive! As always, I welcome ideas about alternative FUN events. Some recent suggestions were to have a St. Anne's night at a local restaurant like the 99 or Flatbread Company in Burlington, where a share of sales is given back to St Anne's. Another suggestion was an activity at Wamesit Lanes in Tewksbury. Yet another was an SAT tutoring day in the fall.

September is nearly upon us! That means we start to turn our thoughts to Fall, apples, pumpkins and crisp, cooler air. And, with that comes thinking of the upcoming holiday season! To that end, we have some decisions to make as a parish about the Christmas Fair. The date this year will be December 1st.

After many years of wonderful service to us, the Thibeault family is taking a well-deserved break from the Ham and Bean Supper. We are very grateful to them as well as other families over the years who have made our marvelous dinners so successful (and, of course, delicious!). But, it's a lot of work and expense, not to mention how busy we all get that time of year. However, it is an annual tradition that many look forward to, and I don't want to just dismiss that. First and foremost, we need a group or family to take on the supper if we choose to continue to have it. If so, could we consider another dinner? Italian food is always popular, easy, and perhaps a little less costly! As an alternative, perhaps we could share costs and make it a potluck Christmas Dinner.

Given how busy we all tend to be around the holidays, another alternative is to eschew the idea of the Evening of Giving and dinner this year all together, and instead sponsor several families for Christmas Dinners. A "Christmas Dinner Food Drive" would be a wonderful way for folks to contribute to others more in need during the holiday season. We'd ask folks to donate towards Market Basket gift cards to purchase perishable items, and/or provide nonperishable food items like packages of stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, jarred gravy and the like. We could work directly with the Interfaith Food Pantry to obtain names of folks who need help.

Regarding the Christmas Fair itself, we're going to have a planning meeting between the 8am and 10am services on August 26. If you're not able to attend that day, please email me at craftyandi@yahoo.com with your input, ideas, and other pertinent details. Some agenda topics will include:

Christmas Fair participants – Annecreations/Christmas Café, Crafting Group, Day Raffles, Lit Baskets, Wreaths, outside vendors, Christmas Dinner Food Drive discussion OR Evening of Giving with Supper. Is this still happening? If so, when? Who's available to help? Angel Tree – charity contacts, coordination of gifts, making gift tags, wrapping, etc.

This wouldn't be possible without the help love and support of so many people in ways large and small. I remain honored and humbled by such an outpouring to myself and this church. Please feel free to speak with me at any time about FUN raising.

Much love,

~Andrea 

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Accepting Jesus is the first step, all mission grows from this relationship. (the following adapted from startingwithgod.com)

Is God In My Life Now?

When you made that decision and invited Jesus into your life, it is important to know, did God hear you? Yes. Jesus promised that He would enter our lives, if we ask Him.

-In Revelation 3:20 Jesus makes this offer, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Did you open the door of your heart to God? If so, what did He say He would do? Would God mislead you?

-First John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."

-In John 6:37, Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out."

-In John 10:27-29 Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

-Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so that we could be in relationship with Him. He's not indifferent to the issue. He went to great lengths to bring us into relationship with Him. Jesus took our sins on Himself and covered us with His righteousness, making us fully forgiven and fully accepted by Him. We don't have to first live good lives, or perform religious rituals, or spend years begging Him. God is the one who made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him. And we come to Him based on what He did for us, rather than what we can do. He paid for our sins, in order to forgive us and come into our lives.

-First Peter 3:18 says, "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God."

When a person asks Jesus into their life, it is exciting to know what God says is now true about your relationship with God:

You are at peace with God — "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

You became a child of God — "to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God." (John 1:12)

You are no longer living in darkness — “for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8) “He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13,14)

You are forgiven — “To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:43) “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us.” (Ephesians 1:7,8)^[L]_[SEP] “This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1 John 4:9,10)

You have been given eternal life — “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24) “And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who has not the Son of God has not life. I write this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:11-13)

You are sealed with the Holy Spirit — “In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13)

You can begin to know God’s love for you — “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.” (John 15:7-11)

-Sandra Giroux-

ANNEACREONS

The St. Anne's Anneacreons Social Group is meeting on Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Church.

The event includes pizza and ice cream social, a business meeting and registration for the coming year. Dues are \$15.00 per person. All persons over 21 are welcomed to participate.

Upcoming Events

Sept 2018

Sept 8th: 9:00am Finance Meeting

Sept. 8th: 6:00pm Anneacreons

Sept. 9th: Coffee Hour resumes

Sept. 11th: 10:00am Bible Study

7:30pm Bible Study

Sept. 15th: YANKEE DOODLE!

Sept 17th: 7:00pm Vestry

Sept 22nd: 9:00am Ladies Breakfast
at Stelio's

9:00am Men's Breakfast
at Deli King

Sept. 22nd: Diocesan Ministry Fair!

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 shop will be closed the first 2 weeks of July.

The Thrift Shop Summer hours are as follows:

Wed: 2-6pm

Thurs: 10am-4pm

Fri: 10am-2pm

CLOSED SATURDAYS until
September 8th after that, open
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 resumes on Sept.
11th! Join us!

-Tuesday evening Bible study
resumes on Sept 11th at 7:30pm.

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 4th 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