



# St. Anne's Episcopal Church

## Newsletter Dec. 2018

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

## From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you read this, we are entering the season of Advent, a season of waiting. Waiting can mean different things to different people. Awaiting the arrival of a new baby is a joyful anticipation. Waiting for the doctor to call with test results is a stressful and worrisome waiting. Christianity is a religion of waiting. We live in the time in between Jesus' promise of return and His return. So, the question is, how should we wait? This is one thing to reflect on in Advent. As we await the celebration of the birth of our Lord, His arrival to live and die as one of us, how are we honoring Him as we wait for His return?

In Matthew (5:14-16) Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Here, lamp-light represents our good works in God's name. This is one way to look at our time on earth and is called active waiting. We are here to do good works in the name of God, and here

at St. Anne's, we are not short on good works.

Soon after the New Year, we will have our Annual Meeting and elect the church's leaders. We have a Vestry so that you, the body of Christ in the world, can decide how St. Anne's does God's work in the world. The Vestry is in charge of business matters, but also they are to lead the parish in its mission. We have 3 Vestry seats open for election. If you feel called to serve as a leader for St. Anne's, please come and talk to me. I can answer any questions you have and give you more information.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard this year to make St. Anne's a beacon of Christ's love in the world. The Church is nothing without the people, and together as the Church we are the body of Christ in the world. As we wait for Jesus, remember to never hide your light under a basket, or let the wind blow it out, or let the rain squelch it.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lauren

### Contacts:

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The Rev. Lauren McLeavey  
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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

Jane Kotelly – Clerk

Susan Kennedy – 2019

Kathy Brewster – 2019

Marguerite Massey – 2019

Russell Bent – 2020

Andrea Jeffrey – 2020

Janet Lyna – 2020

Lisa Carpine – 2021

Louise Boyce – 2021

Mike Hopkins - 2021

Worship:

Sundays, 8am & 10am

### **FLOOD UPDATE**

As you may have heard, we had a pipe burst in the school building. Water flowed down into the supply closet and into the hallway and classrooms. The pipe has been replaced. We are very lucky that the damage is not worse than it is! Service Master has been great at the clean-up and are working around our schedule. We are currently drying the floors/walls to avoid mold growth. This means that there will be equipment in the halls and classrooms for an indeterminate amount of time. Eventually, they will have to open some walls to check for mold. All of this will help prevent mold and water damage in the long run. We appreciate your caution in navigating the halls and your patience during this process. The restrooms are working, just please be careful. The preschool will continue to meet on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. All other groups and activities will occur as usual.

### **FROM THE CO-WARDENS**

I can't believe that the holidays and winter are upon us. Ok, I knew by the calendar that the holidays were coming, but winter seems to have made an early entry in my opinion.

We always here that this is the season of giving; that certain groups of people need our help and we at St. Anne's and others by all reports do a great job in reaching out to help. We had a great response for the folks affected by the Merrimack Valley gas explosions. The angel tree this year will provide for the House of Hope in Lowell. We've accepted donations for flood relief to those in Louisiana after Katrina. And there are many other ways that we have helped.

But it's important to remember that some of these groups and organizations need help all year long. Many people (myself included) tend to forget that at other times of the year. There is no question that the holiday season can be a very stressful time of the year for many people. But for many, that stress doesn't go away when we flip the calendar to January. I'm not a big fan of New Year's resolutions, but maybe this year will be different. I may take some time to decide not **if** there is more, I can do, but **what** more can I do? Whatever I do doesn't have to be financial. We always talk about time talent and treasure as it relates to St. Anne's. But this applies to any cause.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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

### **FUN - RAISING!**

It's been another wonderful year of FUN Raising here at St. Anne's. I am, as ever, blown away by the generosity of this church. I ask, and folks step up and help - and I hope - have FUN. I talk a lot of time talent and treasure, I know - that overused expression once again - but it's really true for me. FUNRaising is not always about the dollar bill - not that it's not important, trust me it is, but it's about the community spirit, the helping, the smiles, the warm greetings, and the support. It's about folks who arrive early to an event and lug out and set up tables with a smile on their face. It's about brothers and sisters in Christ cooking and serving a meal together (and not using sharp kitchen tools on one another!) It's about folks who work hard all week coming together to talk about the future of the church. It's advice and input and guidance. It's about people preparing their signature dish and bringing it to a pot luck or a fair. It's about children running hither and yon in search of plastic eggs filled by members of this church. It's about people pressing a few dollars into my hand and quietly telling me to put the money where it's needed the most. It's anonymously buying someone else's ticket for a dinner. It's about laughing with a paintbrush in hand. It's about buying a homemade strawberry shortcake in the summer or a

particular gentleman's cookies at a Bake Sale. Fronting their own money for supplies without wanting reimbursement. It's about these things and so many more.

As I write this the Christmas Fair is on the horizon and will most likely be a fond memory by the time you receive this newsletter. So, I will preemptively thank you for all your support, love, hugs, and treasure of your generous giving natures. Thank you for continuing to make St. Anne's a warm welcoming place of acceptance and love. An early Merry Christmas to one and all.

Much Love,

~Andrea 

## OUTREACH AND MISSION

### **Give Hope!**

There are a couple of Sunday's left to give Hope! St Anne's is supporting the House of Hope this year.

This year we are leaving the tree empty until the gifts come in. As you put your gift under the tree please place an ornament on the tree as a physical reminder you gave hope to someone. The goal for all of us at St Anne's is to have a tree full of Hope. Suggestions are for NEW and Unwrapped toys and games (all ages)

Items for teenagers are always a need, especially toiletries and small gift cards.

The most requested gift cards are: Walmart/Target/Visa/Simons Mall/ Market Basket/CVS/RiteAid/Movie Tickets/Barnes and Noble/Dollar Tree/Five Below

We would love to give every adult in shelter a 25.00 gift card (Wal-Mart/Target or a VISA), plus a personal item they would take with them when they leave the shelter.

### **Shelter Needs in general:**

- Bath towels/Hand Towels/Face Cloths
- Bed Pillows
- Twin/Full Sheets--- Twin/Full Quilts
- Diapers size 4,5,6 and wipes
- Plastic Food Containers (Large size)
- Silverware utensils- forks, spoons, butter knives
- Rectangle laundry baskets
- Batteries—AA, AAA and D
- **Toiletries** (full size bottles shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, hair brushes, bar soap, razors, shave cream, lotion, feminine products for men and women)
- **Paper products** (tissues, napkins, paper towels, toilet tissue, 7-12oz plastic cups, brown lunch bags, plastic baggies all sizes)
- **Snacks** (granola bars, fruit cups, fruit snacks, juice boxes, crackers, cookies etc.)
- Coffee/sugar/nondairy creamer/Splenda/hot chocolate
- New adult clothing --- for adults and teens (sweat pants and shirts/pjs/packaged underwear/slippers/sneakers)

If you have any questions or need assistance, please let me know.

Give Hope to your fellow man,  
Sandra Giroux

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## Be the ONE

At some point in our lives we will all need assistance. Is this your year to pay it back or pay it forward?

The holidays / winter season is so tough on many:

our seniors

our Veterans

our homeless

our young

our ill or chemically dependent

our neighbors struggling paycheck to paycheck and many others who are just suffering.

You may share a ride, a coffee or even a pew and still not know their struggles you do not walk in their shoes.

What can you do; you are just ONE?

There are many organizations who would much appreciate the assistance of ONE.

The Billerica community offers many ways. Toys for Tots has multiple drop boxes. St Anne's is supporting House of Hope this year. The food pantry can use time and money. The American Red Cross needs blood. The homeless need coats and warm clothing. Or it could be as simple as checking on a neighbor with cookies and coffee.

Be the ONE...be a helping hand. Be a friend listen, support, comfort choose your words carefully others may take what you say to heart.

The holiday season has such high expectations many may find the blues or guilt. You can be the ONE to show kindness and hope. In doing so you may find yourself receiving the gift.

Peace and Comfort,  
Sandra Giroux

## Upcoming Events

### December 2018

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>: 9am-2pm Christmas Fair

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 6:00pm Interfaith

Christmas Concert

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: 12:00pm-2:00pm Billerica

Dog Park Holiday Pet Photos

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>: 6:00pm Ultreya

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>: 7:00pm Vestry

Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: 12:00pm Greening of the Church

Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: CHRISTMAS EVE

1:00pm-Service with Tea

9:30pm- Carole sing

10:00pm- Holy Eucharist

Dec. 22<sup>nd</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

Bible Study 7:30pm

(2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tues.)

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:

#### Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop hours are as follows:

Wed: 2-6pm

Thurs: 10am-2pm

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!

#### Anneacreons

-January 5<sup>th</sup>: Yankee Swap

-February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dinner by Officers

-March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Movie/Dinner at

Stelio's

-April 6<sup>th</sup>: Progressive Supper

-May 4<sup>th</sup>: Kennedy Library Museum

-June 1<sup>st</sup>: Annual Meeting/Cookout

### Tuesday Bible Studies

-The 10am study is ongoing and traveling through Luke

-Tuesday evening Bible study meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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)