



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

Newsletter Jan. 2019

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

From the Rector

by The Rev. Lauren T. McLeavey

Dear Friends in Christ,

The 12 Days of Christmas are coming to an end on January 6th, and I hope that you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. On the 6th, we celebrate the beginning of Epiphany and the arrival of the wise men. Many people say "three kings" but in the Bible there is no mention of how many kings there were. This has become tradition because the kings brought three different gifts, without letting us know how much of each was given. Whether there were three kings or fifty kings doesn't really matter, what really matters is the Christ has arrived and His mission is to be made known to the world.

That is what the word Epiphany means, "to be made known." This short season in the Church focuses on Gospel lessons where Jesus is made known as the Christ, the Son of God, to the people. Similarly, we are to pass this on to others in our lives through our everyday actions. How has Christ been made known to you?

How can you make Christ known to others in your life?

These are questions to ask every day, especially as the new year begins. We are approaching our Annual Meeting on Jan. 20th. This is the time when St. Anne's asks these questions as a group. What worked last year? What didn't work? What are our hopes and dreams for 2019 and beyond? How can we achieve those goals while making Christ known to the world?

Please ponder all of these in your hearts, and then bring your positive enthusiasm and ideas to the meeting!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Lauren

P.S.- Frankie is getting baptized on Jan. 27th at the 10am service, hope you can be there!

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Rector

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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 & 10a

FROM THE CO-WARDENS

Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and stayed safe during your New Year's celebrations.

As is customary, the tradition of New Year's resolutions is probably something most of us are already thinking about. But, did you ever wonder where the tradition came from? According to www.history.com, the tradition of New Year's resolutions is based on of course, religion:

Ancient Babylonians.... "made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed. These promises could be considered the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions. If the Babylonians kept to their word, their (pagan) gods would bestow favor on them for the coming year. If not, they would fall out of the gods' favor—a place no one wanted to be".

The tradition carried forward to Rome under Julius Caesar and then to early Christians when... *"the first day of the new year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future".*

So, what are your New Year's resolutions? Do you make any? How successful are we at keeping them? Most probably resolve to better themselves in some way, whether by losing weight, smoking less, or something similar. But, should we include St. Anne's in our new year's plans? This is a question I hadn't thought of before. The new year brings a chance for a fresh start. Maybe we can resolve to volunteer at the Thrift Shop or host a coffee hour. Perhaps we resolve to attend services more often, or increase our participation in the service by volunteering as a lector, LEM or usher, or maybe resolve to increase your pledge. How you contribute to St. Anne's via time, talent or treasure is valuable to you and our church family.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2019.

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

FUN - RAISING!

Stay tuned for details about the Evening of Giving!

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Happy New Year Generous People of St Anne's

Dear friends I want to share a portion of the letter sent by the Executive Director of the House of Hope.

"Thank you so much for celebrating the tradition of giving this season; the Christmas presents for adopt a family in addition to many gift cards, household items, games and toys. Your generosity enables the House of Hope to do more for homeless families. As we embrace another Christmas season we are blessed to be able to assist and comfort more than 100 families who depend upon us for shelter and

housing. Also more 100 previously homeless families who have been placed in housing have also been helped. I am confident that I speak for House of Hope families, staff and board of directors when I acknowledge how much better you make our lives by your generosity to our families.”

I myself would like to thank the people of St Anne’s for understanding the true meaning of Christmas. Your compassion and kindness enables other know there is good and kind people willing to give a helping hand.

Thank you again - does anyone want to do a Christmas in July drive?

Sandra Giroux

FLOOD UPDATE

As you may know, we had a hot water pipe burst in the school building over Thanksgiving. Since the last update, everything has been cleaned up and dried out. The insurance adjustor and contractor came out and inspected the damage and are now determining what will need to be fixed or replaced. The hole in the ceiling has been covered up temporarily, so now we just need to wait for the insurance company to make their decision. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

ANNUAL MEETING

Hello Friends!

The Annual Meeting is right around the corner! It will be January 20th after the 10:00am service (snow date Jan. 27th). The meeting is a time for us to look back on the year that has past; the ups and downs, our accomplishments and things that need improvement while looking towards 2019 with hope and joy.

More specifically, we will be electing leadership positions (Vestry, Wardens, Clerk, and Treasurer) and voting to amend our By-Laws regarding the size of the Vestry. Currently our Vestry has 9 members, plus 2 Wardens, 1 Clerk, and 1 Treasurer. This is a total of 13 people. Over the years, churches in general have experienced declining membership and St. Anne’s is no exception. This isn’t a bad thing, it is just a fact of life. 13 members would be a good size for a larger parish, but the Vestry thinks it would be better to reduce the size. The proposal is to reduce from 9 Vestry members to 6, thus bringing the total with Wardens, Clerk, and Treasurer to 9 instead of 13. This is just a brief explanation; a more detailed proposal will be available at the meeting. This requires multiple votes, so for this year we will need to fill all vacant seats.

If you are interested in Vestry, please see Rev. Lauren.

Upcoming Events

January 2019

Jan 5th: 7:00pm Anneacreons Social Group Yankee Swap

Jan. 20th: Annual Meeting after 10:00am service

Jan. 21st: 9:30am MLK Jr. Community Brunch at First Congregational Church

Jan. 27th: Annual Mtg. Snow Date

Jan. 26th: 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
(2nd & 4th Tues.)

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-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 5th: Yankee Swap

-February 2nd: Dinner by Officers

-March 2nd: Movie/Dinner at Stelio's

-April 6th: Progressive Supper

-May 4th: Kennedy Library Museum

-June 1st: Annual Meeting/Cookout

Tuesday Bible Studies

-The 10am study is ongoing and traveling through Luke

-Tuesday evening Bible study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 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