

*St. Anne's
Episcopal Church*

*Newsletter
March 2020*

SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

From the Wardens

First of all, I'd like to thank Rev. Brad Ingalls for his time here. I'm certain that his passion for Pastoral care at St. Anne's has been great gift to many in the parish and we wish him the best for whatever the future brings him. Rev. Brad will be leaving us in just a week, his last day will be March 10th, and a new bridge or interim priest should be assigned by the end of the month. Rev. Jonathan has agreed to handle the services through the end of March and we should know more about a longer term priest by the end of the month.

The work in the Rector's office following the frozen pipe break in November, is now complete. It's looks kind of empty right now, but the Church Insurance Company has agreed to reimburse us for the damaged furniture. Before that happens, we need to provide a list of items to be replaced along with

the replacement costs and that's in process.

It's Lent, which we all know is a time for prayer and reflection. Some of us were raised to give up something for Lent but today it seems many people see it as a time to reach out and contribute in some way: a time for giving. Think about what you can do to help St. Anne's through this time of change as we move towards the future.

Ed Giroux & Mike Hopkins

Contact information

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
PO Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.
No. Billerica, MA 01862
Office Ph: 978-663-4073
Office Admin Hours:
Tues. 9am-3pm
Thrift Shop Ph: 978-667-6268

Email: stannesbillerica@gmail.com
Website: stannes-billerica.org

Vestry:

Ed Giroux – Warden
Michael Hopkins – Warden
Sue Geen – Treasurer
Marguerite Massey, – Clerk
Lisa Carpine – 2021
Louise Boyce – 2021
Brenda Komarinski – 2021
Rosemary Kinser – 2022
Jose Torres – 2022
Michele O'Shea – 2022
Linda Kusnierz – 2023
Dorothy Callihan - 2023

Worship:

Sundays, 8am & 10am

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Dear Friends,

I write you this evening (3.11.20) with an update about our beloved Barbara Harris.











Following several days of stability after surgery last Sunday evening, Barbara's condition has continued to weaken, and she is now being kept comfortable by the hospital medical team. She is not receiving any visitors, but all of us hold her in our deepest and fondest prayers.

I will be in touch with you again as soon as there is word to share.

***Be present, O merciful God, with your servant Barbara,
and protect her through the coming hours,
so that she who is wearied by the changes and chances of this life
may rest in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [BCP, p. 133, adapt.]***

Faithfully, The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates

Know the FACTS

Symptoms	Coronavirus <small>Symptoms range from mild to severe</small>	Cold <small>Gradual onset of symptoms</small>	Flu <small>Abrupt onset of symptoms</small>
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Cough	Common* (usually dry)	Mild	Common* (usually dry)
 Sneezing	No	Common	No
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Sources: World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER



Billerica Community Pantry is a community-based volunteer organization working together to provide assistance in food and other non-perishable goods to our elderly, veterans and young families.

Our “Just in time” model for food distribution has helped almost 200 families monthly, many with multiple children or generations.

The Community Pantry is able to obtain many food items from the Food Banks for pennies on the dollar unfortunately non-food products are full price.....but essential.

For the month of March we would like to feature oral health.

This, is where you come in, can you help us help our neighbors?

We are seeking donations such as **Toothbrushes, Toothpaste and mouthwash for both adults and children plus dental floss.**

Donations should be received by March 15th but can be accepted earlier and can be dropped at St Anne’s Church, porch drop off at 21 Horman Rd, No Billerica 01862 or 128 Bridle Rd, Billerica 01821. Arrangements can be made for pick up from our community Dentists or generous partners. Contact Sandra for details (SandraJGrioux@gmail.com) or (978) 621-1112.

Donations must be individually wrapped; multipacks are welcome and will be given out as one unit for hygiene reasons.

Thank you in advance for your generosity,
Sandra

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2019-2020 Take Home Sunday School!

The theme for Take home Sunday School for the month of March is Lent. The packets are up on the bulletin board. If you want a packet, please let me know.

- In God's Grace,
Brenda Komarinski

The monthly meeting schedule for the year is:

April 5

May



Lenten Season

Lunch is served at 11:45AM at the First Congregational Church at 18 Andover Road.

Services that follows at 12:30pm.

Spring Lenten Luncheon Schedule

March 11 Billerica Ward LDS

March 18 N Billerica Baptist

March 25 Catholic Community

April 11 Christian Science and First Parish UU

FUN-RAISING

Save the date! March 12th will be a Pottery Painting Fun-Raiser for St. Anne's at Magic Brush Pottery & Fused Glass in Tewksbury. More details will be forthcoming



Eucharistic Visitor Training will be offered on Saturday, March 28, 9AM to 4PM, at St. David's Church (205 Old Main Street) in South Yarmouth. This training provides the required licensing to be a Eucharistic Visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Eucharistic Visitors are lay people who have been trained and authorized to administer the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. During this training, participants will gain understanding of church practices and canons, best practices of a home Eucharistic visit and more. Find more details and registration online.

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Assistant of Congregations & Event Coordinator (jgarrett@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, et. 421.

Marguerite Massey, deanery representative

Thrift Shop

Getting the winter blues from the gray skies, bare trees, and barren lawns? Maybe the snow and rain are dragging you down? Why don't you make a visit to St. Anne's Thrift Shop to pick up something to brighten your day? You never know what you can find. Maybe a new lamp to light up that dark corner of your house. Maybe a new picture to hang on the wall or a picture frame for a favorite photo. How about new glassware to hold a favorite beverage? What about a fancy dish to hold nuts, candy, treats, or even those misc little items you want to save? There are lots of clothes for you and all your family members to switch up your winter wardrobe. How about something to fill an afternoon or evening? A book, puzzle, or game or maybe you could find a cookbook to spice up your meals. You will be shopping locally, supporting the church, and helping the environment.

Hope to see you at St. Anne's Thrift Shop soon. Submitted by Marguerite Massey, treasury of thrift shop

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

Saturday 2nd – Youth Talk Out 6:30

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

Thrift Shop Ph: 978-667-6268

-We are always looking for volunteers, so drop by and sign up to help!

Tuesday Bible Studies

* Morning Bible Studies 10AM

* Evening Bible study 7:30pm meets the 2nd and 4th

Men's Breakfast

The Men's breakfast takes place on the 4th Saturday of the month at 8:30am 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

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.)

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

March 11, 2020

Dear People of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

As cases of the coronavirus COVID-19 increase rapidly in Massachusetts, we seek to respond in a manner that both takes appropriate precautions to protect our communities and to reduce the anxiety and fear associated with this public health crisis. We have assembled a small group of persons who bring expertise in epidemiology, public health and disaster response to provide guidance for our congregations and related organizations, drawing on the wisdom of public health officials and focusing on matters specific to church contexts.

Based on their counsel, we are today issuing the mandates detailed below, which are effective immediately and until further notice. They include significant changes that the current circumstances now call for, including that **communion is to be distributed in the form of consecrated bread only; offering plates are not to be passed among the people;** and **at the Peace people should greet one another without physical touch of any kind.** We ask you to read in full and heed the mandated protocols and additional recommended practices detailed below. These mandates and recommendations replace previously distributed guidelines.

We are deeply grateful for all the ways that you are already caring for one another and all the ways you will continue to do so in the days ahead. We ask that you keep up your efforts to check on and find ways to support those who are vulnerable, isolated, unwell or in quarantine, through prayer, phone and video calls and errands. Thank you for continuing to be mindful of those whose incomes may be disrupted during this time. Include in your unceasing prayers those who are medical care providers and first responders, and those who are at higher risk of exposure because of their direct public service.

As we said in last week's messages, it is important to continue to stay informed via credible sources. Stay connected by all means available, while remembering, as part of our self-care, to take intentional time away from newsfeeds and devices, for the prayer, quiet and restorative activity that will return us less anxious and more ready to serve Christ in the days ahead.

As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminds all of us in his March 10 statement:

We are in this together.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris 2

COVID-19 Response

Mandated Protocols as of March 11, 2020

Preparing for a service:

- • **Baptismal fonts and holy water stoups** are to be cleansed and are to remain empty unless there is a baptism. Ministers of baptism are to wash their hands with soap and warm water prior to the service and use hand sanitizer immediately before the baptismal rite.
- • **Altar rails, processional crosses, torches** and other liturgical implements are to be cleansed with a disinfectant prior to and after each use.
- • **Altar Guild members** are to wash their hands with soap and warm water prior to handling communion vessels.

At the Eucharist:

- • **All ministers of communion** are to wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 30 seconds immediately prior to the service, **and** to use a hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol content immediately prior to the Eucharistic Prayer. If a large number of persons is present, use of hand sanitizer should be repeated during the distribution of communion. If hand sanitizer is unavailable, ministers of communion should wash their hands with soap and warm water immediately prior to handling communion vessels.
- • **At the Peace**, the people should greet one another without physical touch of any kind. A gentle bow, nod or namaste gesture is preferable. Elbow bumps are discouraged since people are encouraged to sneeze into their elbow to reduce the chance of transmitting the virus.
- • **Offering plates** are not to be passed among the people. Plates or baskets should be placed in a location where the people may leave their offering. Ministers of communion are not to touch offering plates if they are presented at the altar.
- • **The Eucharistic Prayer** is to be said as usual, with a single chalice containing a small amount of the consecrated wine to remain on the altar during communion. The consecrated wine should be returned to the earth in a reverent manner, or, if preferred, the celebrant alone may consume it.

Concerning the distribution of communion:

- • Communion is to be distributed in the form of **consecrated bread only**. Wafers should be used instead of baked bread. It is perfectly acceptable, and sound theology, for communion to be received in one kind.
- • The consecrated wafer is to be delivered **into the recipient's hand**, to avoid the communion minister's hands touching the mouth of the recipient.
- • When offering a **blessing instead of communion**, extend a hand or make the sign of the cross over the person rather than touching them.

Caring for one another:

- **At healing rites**, ministers are to cleanse their hands with hand sanitizer immediately before laying-on-of-hands and anointing of **each person**. Only the designated healing minister is to pray with the person; groups are not to surround the person.
- Clergy and other **visitors to homebound or hospitalized persons**, or those in care facilities, are to use hand sanitizer immediately before and after visiting with the sick or infirm person. Anyone who feels or, at any time during the prior two weeks, has felt unwell or run a fever is to refrain from home, hospital or nursing home visits.
- Respect all **safety protocols** of hospitals or other care facilities.
- Clergy are to respect the **confidentiality** of patients and all parishioners at all times and are to **follow the directives of their local public health authorities**.

Strongly Recommended Practices

- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content should be made available to all attending church services and events.
- Remind people to cover coughs and sneezes.
- Common areas, bathrooms and classrooms, especially handrails, doorknobs and faucets, should be cleaned and disinfected frequently and prior to each gathering.
- Virtual gatherings* are encouraged where possible. Church or program staff may be encouraged to work from home, provided their physical presence is not required.
- Food served at coffee hour, feeding programs or other gatherings should be in individual servings. If food is not in individual servings, a person wearing a new pair of food service gloves should be assigned to pre-plate and serve the food. Serving utensils should be handled only by the person preparing and/or serving the food.
- Persons who feel, or within the past two weeks, have felt unwell or run a fever are discouraged from attending church services or events, both for their own protection and the protection of others. If anyone in a household is unwell, everyone in the household should remain at home. In particular, the following persons who are at particular risk from COVID -19 should take extra precautions:
 - o Persons age 60 or over
 - o Anyone with a respiratory condition such as asthma or emphysema
 - o Anyone with an autoimmune disorder
 - o Anyone who is undergoing or has recently received chemotherapy
 - o Smokers

*Some **free or low-cost online meeting platforms** include: Skype, Zoom, Google Hangouts, GoToMeeting, Cisco Webex Meetings and Microsoft Teams. Churches that are regularly **live-streaming or podcasting services** are invited to e-mail details to news@diomass.org so that a list can be compiled and shared.