

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – SMALL BUT MIGHTY

YOU NEVER CHANGE YOUR LIFE UNTIL YOU STEP
OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE; CHANGE BEGINS
AT THE END OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

Roy T. Bennett, The Light in the Heart

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

June Newsletter

Dear parish of St. Anne's,

After my first Sunday at your altar, I say that the intensity of filmed worship through a screen somehow matches the intensity of our beginning work together.

First, your six worship techies have such a sense of humor that I haven't laughed and experimented so much in many months! You are wonderful. Thank you for being so welcoming and willing to bring me in to your Sunday morning experience. I look forward to more.

Next, although I supplied clergy leadership on three occasions last fall and introduced myself to you then, now I am honored to introduce myself as your Bridge to Priest-in-charge.

Most recently I have served two congregations in West Newbury (also part of the Merrimack Valley Deanery) and at the Cathedral (the Chinese Congregation where all my words were translated into Chinese). Before, I had served five churches in this Diocese since 2015 when I

returned from ten years in the Diocese of Los Angeles serving four churches and making hospice visits at the time of death. During my first ten years of ordained ministry, I worked at the Cathedral, and the churches in Brookline, the South End, Cohasset, and Braintree. I live in the town of Concord from where I was ordained and where my mother still lives.

My other passions include ministry in the Billerica House of Correction, the Ministry of Immigration Partnership in our Diocese, monitoring conservation land in NH, and singing with the Concord Chorus and playing the cello with the quintet A Concord of Cellos. My cello playing husband and I played on our front lawn every day for six weeks at the beginning of the stay-at-home time. I like building community wherever I am.

I compliment all of you, but especially members of the vestry, for serving your parish sturdily during not only an extended interim time but also this pandemic time. I look forward to working with you and

your wonderful wardens as together we seek to be God's ministers in the world around us.

Keep an eye out for my church email address that will soon be up and running, and please use it. I believe that communication is always the medium for healthy parish life.

As we follow our diocesan guidelines about the process for eventually re-gathering for worship, we will be taking seriously how best we can safeguard the health of all our members. Pray for your leaders as we engage in this process. With gratitude.

I close with the last verse of II Corinthians from today's lectionary texts for Trinity Sunday: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." For ever and ever. Amen!

Faithfully in Christ

Jennifer+

(The Rev'd) Jennifer D. Beal

Contact information

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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:

Online only
 YouTube, Facebook and BAT

From The Warden's

Another month has passed and here we are approaching summer. We still cannot gather as a church family. I am still not sure what the “new normal” will look like. But the longer we go this way, the more I hope it looks more like the old normal than what we see today. The diocese has made a document called “A Journey by Stages” available to us all that details the stages of regathering. If you are reading this online, click on the following link:

https://www.diomass.org/sites/diomass/files/documents/A%20JOURNEY%20BY%20STAGES%202020_05_18.pdf



The new normal represents a change in the way we gather, worship and commune together. As we have become used to at St. Anne's, change seems to be normal for us. Mother Jennifer Beal has agreed to join us as our new Bridge Priest to Priest in Charge (PIC). You may remember that she joined us as a supply Priest for several services in the fall shortly after Rev. Lauren left and before Fr. Brad came. We have been blessed to have Rev. Jonathan working with us on the recorded service every Sunday since March 15, almost three straight months. I think we can all agree that we are extremely grateful for his service to St. Anne's.

Since being here one week, she is hitting the ground running. She has already started leading the weekly Sunday services and made some great suggestions to enhance the look of the video. She has already been virtually introduced as the newest member of the Billerica Interfaith Association and will attend her first Vestry meeting later this month. You may remember that the furniture in the Rectors office was ruined by a combination of water and asbestos laden insulation. As a result, the insurance claim will cover new furniture. Mother Jennifer along with Linda Kusnierz and Rosemary Kinser will be shopping to fill the office with appropriate furnishings.

Once we have agreed to her Covenant of Ministry, I'm sure she will publish her contact information and office hours. I suspect that the hours will be by appointment only as we slowly begin to re-open. Mother Jennifer joins us after working as a long-term supply Priest in Newbury MA. We are fortunate to have her back.

Please join the Wardens in welcoming Mother Jennifer (or M.Jen) to St. Anne's.

Ed Giroux & Mike Hopkins

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER



Billerica Community Pantry is a community-based volunteer organization working together to aid 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 450 +; which has increased from 185 families just 3 month ago.

The Community Pantry is able to obtain many food items from the Food Bank but we are concerned because many other communities are facing the same increases. If you are able please consider donating food items or cash donations to the pantry. Food donations can be dropped off at 21 Horman Rd, North Billerica 01862. Or Monetary donations can be made to Billerica Community Pantry Inc. P.O. Box 285, Billerica, MA 01821.

If you are in need; the next distribution on Monday June 22nd 2-5 pm at 70 Concord Road in Billerica (next to Sweeney’s Funeral home). This is a drive through distribution – you do not even get out of your car; we ask you pop the trunk and we place the food in – Fast, Easy and Contactless.

Please make sure you RSVP and let us know you are coming (978) 663-8433 or billericapantry@gmail.com

I would also like to say Thank You to the Vestry for allowing me on behalf of the Community Pantry to store dry goods in the Sunday School room that are picked up from other drop off locations.. To protect St Anne’s from the church mice it was recommended we use large plastic storage bins with lids....so if you have any extra please send my way.

Note on Music...



This ‘note on music’ is in a journal format, with entries for April, May, & June. Due to an email mishap, the ‘note on music’ newsletter entries for April & May did not make it into their respective newsletters.

April 2020 entry, pre-Easter...

...thinking about you all and praying for your health and safety.

In these difficult times...Services at St. Anne’s brought to you this Lenten season, and upcoming Easter season, through the hard work of a dedicated recording team. Maria Martin offered to be the cantor this past Sunday and also for the upcoming services. Reverend Jonathan is going above and beyond with his contribution to the services. And the recording team is doing excellent work.

I hope you’re all doing well and staying safe.

May 2020 entry...

I’m glad and thankful to be taking part in the recording of St. Anne’s services being posted online at this time. It’s an honor working with Rev. Jonathan, the excellent recording team, and all involved with St. Anne’s. Much thanks to Maria Martin, for giving of her time and beautiful singing, to help lead the services.

I greatly look forward to seeing everyone at St. Anne's when this has passed.

June 2020 entry...

I'm thinking about and praying for all who are involved with St. Anne's. I wish that you're doing well and staying safe.

Many thanks to all who have been providing leadership for St. Anne's during this difficult time. I've seen many instances where time and talent are being offered generously for St. Anne's. It's inspiring to be part of this church!

Sincerely, Peter Morelli

Office Hours

I welcome office hours by appointment only. Please email for your choice of phone call or in-person visit in my office. I will request the wearing of face masks and washing of hands as we try to keep each other healthy and well. Also, be prepared to participate in contact tracing if we should need it. I have found that seeing each other through FaceTime or Zoom or Skype is better than just a phone call. I am happy to walk anyone through how to install Zoom on their computer. Currently, my available days are generally Tuesday, Wednesday afternoon, and Thursday afternoon."

Mother Jennifer

Remember Diocesan Guidelines – Stage 2 Cautious

Public Health Indicators for Stage Two:

- At least 14 days of sustained decline in positive tests for coronavirus.
- COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU bed use and deaths show ongoing decline.
- Capacity of the medical care system is no longer under significant stress.
- Rapid testing and contact tracing is available, at minimum, to test all with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment are available.
- Significant limitations on size and type of gatherings continue under directives of government and public health authorities.
- Those at higher risk are urged to continue to stay at home.
- Some businesses and institutions may reopen with limitations.
- Refer to "MA Safety Standards: Places of Worship" in the list of public health resources at the end of these guidelines.
- If a place of worship learns that an attendee or employee or other worker has tested positive for COVID- 19, it shall notify the local Board of Health in the city or town where the place of worship is located and assist as reasonably requested to trace likely contacts and advise contacts to isolate and self-quarantine.

Virtual Services

It's been a while since I wrote about our setup and we've made a number of improvements over time.

It is making things easier for us and I hope it makes the service better for you. You might have seen that we have added a microphone at the lectern and Rev. Jonathan is now reading the gospel and giving the sermon there. We have figured out how to wire a microphone into our recording gear and some weeks it works and some weeks it does not (sorry Pentecost, didn't work this week). We have also run a microphone to Maria when she's able to make it, and we do our best to mix all the sound together, so it sounds like you're really there. For the more general sound, the microphone has been moved further away and still out of view of the camera. In the photo below you can see the shorter tripod has the camera and digital recorder and the taller tripod has the camera.



When Cameraperson Sandra pans the camera, it is a lot easier to do when it's just the camera. Another improvement is even more lighting. We now have two large umbrella lights pointing onto the altar and this lets us move some smaller lights around to highlight areas near the back wall. You can see one of the lights on the left and one of the smaller lights just to the right of Rev. Jonathan.

We've also been learning about how level (or not) a 100+ year old building is. While the tripods we use have levels on them, nothing else in the building appears to be on the same plane, so there's a lot of adjustments we have to do to try and make sure it doesn't look like we're about to slide off screen.

There have been some improvements to...I guess postproduction? The video is recorded on the camera and the sound is on the recorder, titles have to be generated, the video and audio have to be synced up and cleaned up to remove background sounds and boost the volume, and then it all has to be exported in a way that can be uploaded to YouTube, Facebook, and BATV for broadcast. This requires more computer power than is normally in the building so I've been able to bring in a temporary computer to do the work and upload – what used to take 90 minutes or more is now down to about 45 minutes.

Lastly, I've been able to take all of this knowledge and work with the Billerica Scholarship Foundation to record and edit their scholarship awards presentation this year. I found it very rewarding to be able to help the students of Shawsheen Tech and BMHS get some sort of recognition for their accomplishments.

Mark Komarinsi





EfM – Education for Ministry

Looking for a way to take part in a small spiritual community and study your faith with some people at Christ Church Andover who share this interest? EfM (Education for Ministry) might be just the ticket for exploring what the “priesthood [i.e., ministry] of all believers” means to you as a layperson. EfM is an ecumenical, Episcopal Church-affiliated program. The School of Theology of the University of the South has created this four-year distance learning curriculum to provide a blend of individual study, small group interaction, and worship. Our current Christ Church group, which started as a “live” class, is recruiting for the fall, and is currently using the Zoom format so that people can attend at a “social distance.” For more information, contact Rosemarie Buxton at rosebuxton@yahoo.com, 978-886-1802, or Steve Taylor at sdtaylor.home@hotmail.com, 978-623-3385

St. Anne’s Prayer List:

Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child (Name). Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for _____. Amen.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others:

Norm and MJ Zarella, Cathie O’Neil, Janet Lyna, Margaret Westerlund, Barbara Rogers, Pat McLeave and family, Cyndi, Donna and Sonny Martell, Cathy and Brian, Edward Bromley, Patricia Mobley, Susan Fader, Fred Brown, Brooks Bassi, Jean Hatch, Debbie King, Cathie and Greg Harper, Ronna Massucco, Irene and Kenneth Mouradian, Rys, Matt, Linda E., Mary Hyatt, Dolly Longuemere, Jose Torres Sr., Sarah Komarinski.

For those in nursing homes or with ongoing illnesses:

Kathy Jeffrey, Marie Horgan, Joshua Young, Dinah Holman

Ongoing activities are currently on hold until further notice

In Closing we ask for Serenity during this troubled time Jesus, let your mighty calmness lift me above my fears and frustrations. By your deep patience, give me tranquility and stillness of soul in you. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like you. Amen.