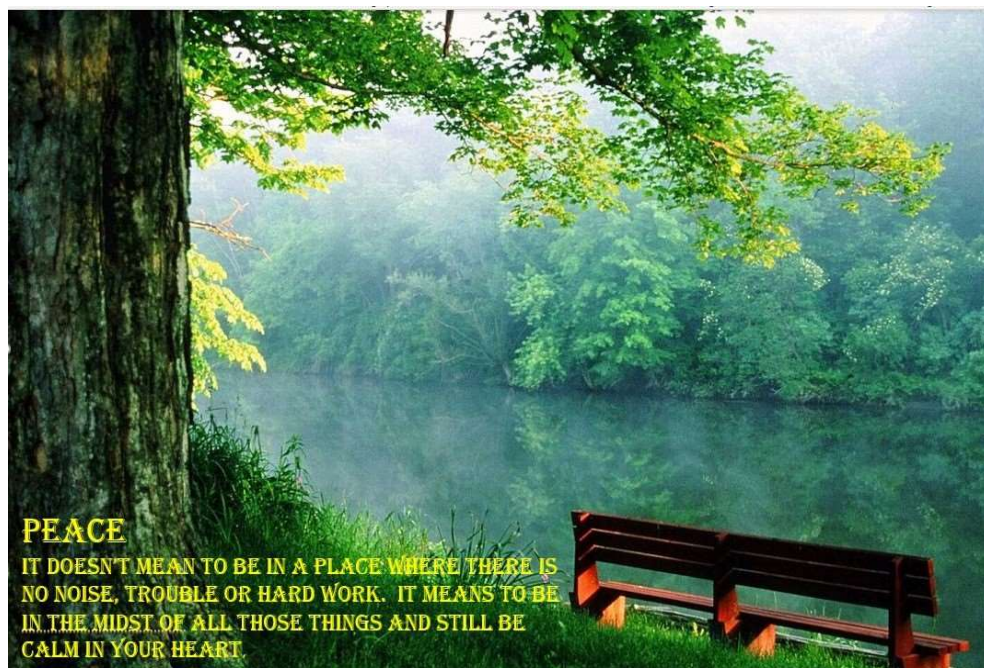


ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – SMALL BUT MIGHTY



PEACE

IT DOESN'T MEAN TO BE IN A PLACE WHERE THERE IS NO NOISE, TROUBLE OR HARD WORK. IT MEANS TO BE IN THE MIDST OF ALL THOSE THINGS AND STILL BE CALM IN YOUR HEART.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

August

Newsletter

Dear Faithful of St. Anne's,

As I complete my second month with you, it feels both fast and slow. There are still so many of you whom I have never met ☺ Yet, so much work has been accomplished. Hooray for all of you!

Even my broken ankle is well on its way toward wholeness.

Since we have had so little face-time together, I thought that today I would give you some **Snapshots** of the professional activities that take up your priest's other half-time. Of course, all things are slightly shifted by the pandemic, but these have been my passions.

For two years I have been visiting the **Billerica jail** almost every week. This ministry began when a new friend of mine from the Concord Chorus began his two-year sentence there. Quickly I was recruited to go singing with the jail chorus. There I met another Oberlin Conservatory and College

alum whom I am still ministering to. I hope the jail reopens to clergy soon.

At the same time as that jail ministry began, I also started visiting ICE detainees in the Plymouth County jail. That ended a few months later, but I have continued that justice work through both Boston Immigration Justice Area Network and our own Diocesan **Ministry of Immigration Partnership** with Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa's Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries. I will share a recipe for a summer Pineapple Punch elsewhere in this newsletter.

My clergy activities have included **Deanery monthly clergy and bimonthly Assembly** meetings – sometimes in 3 deaneries (the one where I live, Concord River; the one where I used to serve in Sharon, Neponset River; and now the Merrimack Valley).

The **Interim Clergy Network** meets monthly with all three

Regional Canons. Getting to know all three of those wise women has been a privilege.

I am our Diocesan representative to **Province One** made up of the 7 New England Dioceses – which has not met in the past year.

Our church is so wide and varied: I give thanks every time I get to witness the diversity and love of God.

The volunteer major activities in my life are both musical: the Concord Chorus, and my Cello Ensemble: A Concord of Cellos. More about them in another newsletter.

Our Life Together

At our first Zoom Coffee Hours a week ago, many of us spoke about our desire to reach out to those in their 20's and 30's. We might begin by contacting the Diocesan **20's and 30's Task Force** and inviting them to come worship with us sometime this winter. If you think

this is a good idea, let me know.

I am so glad to point you to the article in this Newsletter about the excellent work of our Re-Gathering Team and our Diocesan Shepherd. Look for it ☺

On Sunday afternoon, July 26, about 25 faithful from at least 6 of Billerica's faith communities all watched a movie together. We saw the film "The Sultan and the Saint" about 13th century Muhammad Al-Kamil's encounter with Francis of Assisi and found it quite relevant to today's issues. It calls us to live into the "common humanity we all share".

As I had hoped, the discussion across our faiths afterwards was most rewarding. I hope we do more together.

Our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, makes 4-minute videos twice a month for us all. The most recent finds the Prayer attributed to St. Francis (BCP p. 833) as appropriate for today. I wonder if

our PB has seen "The Sultan and the Saint"?! Here is the link to our Presiding Bishop's videos.

<https://fast.wistia.net/embed/channel/u3mbmc7cor?wchannelid=u3mbmc7cor>

Look for news about the very exciting re-opening of our Thrift Shop!

At the end of July, I attended a half-day Professional Development Conference required for clergy in our Diocese by the author of the book entitled Dignity by Donna Hicks. She believes that every human being is born with worth. I find this an interesting starting point to combine with our Baptismal Covenant (BCP p. 304). Lots to think about!

I hope you keep cool and stay connected to our church and to each other.

With Christ's grace,

Mother Jennifer

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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 BATV

From the Wardens

As a member of the (e-Worship team) TEAM that has been putting virtual worship at St. Anne's online on Facebook, YouTube and on Billerica's local access cable channel BATV, I truly hope you have enjoyed and found the production to be more than satisfactory. Of course, nothing can replace the sense of community we all share when we worship together, but for now, this is the best we can do.

In another section of this month's edition of our newsletter, you will read about the regathering team that has been assembled for designing and implementing safeguards for regathering for worship. It is their charge to devise a plan to be acceptable to the diocese. Of course, any regathering plan is subject to state mandates and those are contingent on the positive trends we have seen in terms of Covid-19 cases in the Commonwealth. I know you've all heard this before, but in order to keep the state numbers continuing in the right direction, we all have to do our part by keeping social distance, wearing masks when social distancing is difficult to maintain and wash our hands. In general, just use common sense.

As I type this email, I just received an email from the regathering team about the plan to re-open our Thrift Shop. I look forward to reading it and learning about the plans to return the Shop to some sense of normal. Hopefully, we are on our way to some type of "normal".

Even after we re-open, there will be certain restrictions in terms of capacity, masks and social distancing. In the event you remain nervous or unsure whether you should come to church, the e-worship team will also devise a way to continue to produce an online version of the service that may even be streamed live!! No promises as to what it will look like, but please stay tuned.

In the meantime, I want to thank the e-worship team; Specifically, Mark & Brenda Komarinski, Sandra Giroux, Peter Morelli, Maria Martin, and of course Mother Jennifer Beal and the Wardens. And please let us know how we're doing. We would love to hear from you.

Until next time,

The Wardens,

Ed Giroux and Mike Hopkins

Announcements

Coffee Hour has returned to St. Anne's (virtually)

recurring meeting on Sundays at 11am.

Come join your friends!

Come SEE them!

Come chat about anything you want to!

Bring your favorite beverage with you.

Come before or after you have watched our service.

Just come!

Jennifer Beal is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

To join the Zoom Meeting please use the link below. You can cut and paste the address into your web browser or highlight the link and right click on 'open hyperlink'. Please let us know if you need assistance.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86101091581?pwd=aVdVL09jdFZXNXZTHNvRUZEV0gyUT09>

Meeting ID: 861 0109 1581

Passcode: 042871

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 861 0109 1581

Passcode: 042871

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdqFLkw8Vy>

I you need assistance with how to zoom please reach out and we can help you with an easy zoom lesson so when it's time for coffee hour you can connect with confidence to join the festivities.

UPDATE FROM ST. ANNE'S RE-GATHERING TEAM



St. Anne's Re-Gathering Team was established to acquire necessary information from guidelines established by our Diocese based on governmental recommendations that will allow us once again, to meet and worship in the safest atmosphere possible. The members of the team are our leader, Linda Kusnierz, Kathy Brewster, Mike Hopkins, Ken Kinser, Marguerite Massey and Rev. Jennifer.

The Rev. Jen Vath, of Christ Church in Andover, is our Shepherd providing guidance and recommendations to us on our journey to re-opening. She is a resource appointed by the Diocese to guide several Parishes. Her position allows her to observe and share both the positive and not-so-positive experiences of the Parishes in their own journeys.

There are stages to our re-opening, and the team is working to implement the necessary changes with the least impact to worship and meetings as we know them. Just as in our personal lives, we must adapt for the well-being of us all as members of the Body of Christ. Some of the changes may be more difficult than others such as physical distancing, wearing masks, the unavailability of hymnals and prayer books, no singing, although no one can restrict the internal singing of favorite hymns that may be played, and generally following the directions of others which may possibly feel like a loss of personal freedoms.

The Team meets regularly in a prayerful setting to discuss plans and their implementation. We also gather at other times to mark out and make physical changes that will assist us in maintaining a safe environment.

We are also working on a Parish Survey to gather information of preferences for re-gathering. Please take the time to complete and return the survey.

The ministry of St. Anne's Thrift Shop, although technically not a form of worship, has different guidelines to follow and is on a path to re-opening soon.

The Team members are available to provide updates and receive suggestions and recommendations from members of the Parish.

.....
A Journey by Stages" was originally posted in our June Newsletter; here is the link in case you wanted to revisit:

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



Virtual Team



From the beginning of the pandemic we have been bringing you virtual services and they can be found at:

Website: stannes-billerica.org

YouTube: St Anne's Episcopal Church No Billerica MA

Face Book: St Anne's Episcopal Church No Billerica MA

Billerica Access Television (BATV) – See programing guide

Someone asked me are Virtual Worship Services real.

My response was ____ YES!

Is a meeting held virtually still a meeting?

Is a phone call real since you aren't in person?

Because something factual is on the computer or TV is it not real?

NEWS FLASH – Reality is not just when you walk through the church door, and you have all heard me say Church has left the Building. Reality exists beyond us, something bigger than us.... Doesn't our belief of God go along side this understanding of reality.

So with that being said my question to you is

- * **What do you consider reality?**
- * **How do you feel about Virtual worship?**
- * **Are you looking for something more?**

We, the Virtual Worship Team are trying to fill your needs and give you a worship service that includes you while being safe. We are doing this because we want you back when the time is right. But we need your feedback.

Stay Healthy, Stay Cool and we will see you when the time is right, but please for the time being give us your feedback.

Virtual Worship Team.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER



The Small but Mighty church comes through again. Not only does St Anne's allow food donations to be stored in a borrowed Sunday School room a couple of her parishioner's help with the Community Pantry on pre-sort days and distribution days. In addition, Lisa, Sue and John assist in emptying the bins at two of the Market Baskets.

It always amazes me how generous St Anne's is.

Each month the Pantry has a targeted wish list; for the Month of August we are requesting Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Mayonnaise, Jelly and Canned Fruit.

Before the pandemic we serviced 175- 200 families per month and at its peak we hit 450 families. We have averaged out to approximately 300 families served each month but wouldn't be surprised to see an uptick now

that the extra unemployment benefit has ended. If you would like to help please donate from our targeted wish list: bins are at Market Basket (Center & Treble Cove), there is a bin on my porch, or a monetary donation can be made at <https://billericacommunitypantry.com/home/contribute/>.

If you are Food Insecure, please register for assistance please accept a helping hand; we all do at some point in time. <https://billericacommunitypantry.com/home/registration/>.

Sandra

Billerica Community Pantry Board Member

Note on Music...



I continually hope and pray for everyone's health and safety. And I hope you're enjoying the beautiful sunshine-filled days.

I also hope you value the online services that are being recorded. I'm working hard on offering something nice musically each Sunday.

Best, Peter

Pledge Report

First, a special thanks to Marguerite and Kathy for continuing to count and deposit the pledge during these difficult times. Then a great big thanks to all the faithful parishioners who have kept up their pledges enabling St. Anne's to continue to pay its bills. The continued support has been heartwarming as can be seen from this chart. The actual receipts up to June 30 were \$46,833 compared to a pledge of \$47,938. May you continue in good health and enjoy God's blessings of Summer.

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 McCleave 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

God has welcomed our friend home



Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

O God our times are in your hand; Look with favor we pray, on your servant _____, as he/she begins another year. Grant that he/she may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his/her trust in your goodness all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mother Jennifer	August 1st
Mark & Brenda Komarinski	August 5th
Ed Giroux	August 23rd

If you or a loved one are celebrating a birthday and want in the following newsletter please let me know SandraForStAnnes@yahoo.com. We had to start somewhere, please let me know name and dates.

Loss of a friend

Many of us at St. Anne's have been on Cursillo and are mourning the sudden, unexpected loss of our friend Elgin Summerfeld. Elgin was a joyful, robust personality of deep faith. He had the ability to appreciate what was troubling someone and the talent to say those words which made it a little better. A man close to God is now even closer.

When someone close dies I think of life as a structure of building blocks. Loss of a spouse or parent knocks out so many blocks that rebuilding is needed to keep the structure from falling. I thought I wasn't that close to Elgin but news of his death made me suddenly very conscious of a hole in my life, not structure threatening, rather uncomfortable. He had a bigger effect than I knew.

Elgin was a Cursillo enthusiast. It was a passion of his. So I should honor his memory with a few words about it. Cursillo is a 3 day getaway for an intense course in Christianity. The purpose is to learn Jesus' deep love of us and to learn to be open to the Holy Spirit so that we can better help our neighbors. Most folks find it life changing. Of course, Christianity is not a solitary activity. So, long after their Cursillo, people continue to meet in small groups to share experiences, pray and encourage each other in Christian community. Elgin believed with all his heart in Christian community. He was a "people person" who lived out Jesus' great commandments to love God and neighbor.

Peace be with you all, John Geen

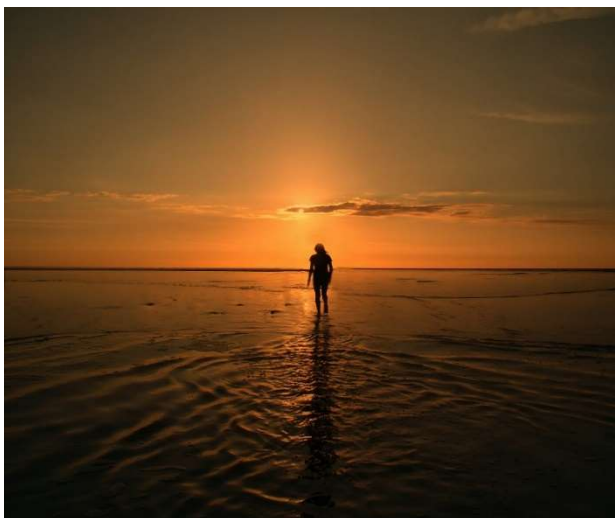
Collect for the importance of vacations

32. For the Good Use of Leisure (BCP p. 825)

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUNANANSI (Pineapple Punch-a summer drink from Uganda)

Take a ripe pineapple and cut it in half or take its peels.
 Put in a pot, and fill with water.
 Boil for an hour or so.
 Strain. Add ginger and turmeric root. Boil for another 15 minutes or so.
 Let cool.
 Store in a glass container if possible (not in a metal pot).
 May cut a lemon in sections and add to liquid.
 May add honey, if pineapple was not very sweet.
 Chill.
 And enjoy on a hot summer day.



Isolated, But Not Alone

**Inclusion during a time of social distancing.
Inclusion is not about a place or space or individual. Inclusion is about community. St Anne's is your community please reach out if you need anything.**

In Closing ~ The Prayer in Uncertain times from the New Zealand Prayer book

God of the present moment,
God who in Jesus stills the storm
And soothes the frantic heart;
Bring hope and courage to all
As we wait and work in uncertainty.
Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead.
Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided,
For your will is health and wholeness;
You are God, and we need you.

If you have enjoyed the sermons from our staff at the Diocese, here is a link to all of them so far this summer. As always, Mother Jennifer recommends Bp Gates's that he preached from Old North Church in Boston on the same day that we heard him from the BCH Camp, July 26th. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/11mBJliewrqFkrTUKXo5AtV5mEsEFhip5?usp=sharing>

Ongoing activities are currently on hold until further notice