

# ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH – SMALL BUT MIGHTY



## St. Anne's Episcopal Church

## September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parish of St. Anne's,

I begin with a quote from our Bishops: "live gently with ourselves and one another". This is my deepest prayer for us all, to live gently with ourselves. For me, I have found greater health when I practice no judgment but instead graciousness. Perhaps, applying it to oneself is the hardest task! But one that is worth it.

At an August Zoom meeting of leaders and our Diocese, Canon Bill Parnell relayed some highlights from a monthly meeting of all the Episcopal bishops in the United States. He was proud to tell us that the speaker had been **Dr.**

**Anthony Fauci** who had hammered home three things that are effective in combatting our pandemic: (1) universal wearing of masks; (2) avoid crowds; (3) physical distancing.

These three things remain always at the forefront of your Re-Gathering Team's planning meetings. For this is what Love looks like, to remember our Presiding Bishop.

Across the Diocese, 50 congregations have been given permission to re-gather in person. Some do so indoors, others outdoors. 110 out of our total 175 congregations are doing some form of worship. 100 are working with Re-Gathering Shepherds.

I close by quoting two paragraphs from our Bishops in their June pastoral letter to the Diocese. I commend their care and concern for us all.

"The work ahead is daunting, but we are certain that taking the time for careful planning is essential. It is rooted in the covenant we make with one another at baptism to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as

yourself." Our deepest hope is that our efforts to support one another in these decisions and preparations will indeed be manifestations of our love of God and one another.

Finally, in times of anxiety, frustration, and grief, may we live gently with ourselves and one another. Mistakes will be made. Decision fatigue will be inevitable. Disappointment will be around the corner, again and again. So too will there be grace and discovery, as we continue to claim our identity as a people of hope and new beginnings. May we do so with patience, forgiveness and good will!"

Never forget, dear Parish, to "live gently with ourselves and one another".

In Christ,

Mother Jennifer

## Contact information

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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:

Online only  
YouTube, Facebook and BATV

## From the Wardens

As you may know, **the Thrift Shop is open!** thanks to the diligent work done by the Re-Gathering team, Linda, Marguerite, Kathy and Ken. The State and Diocesan requirements have been met; a written plan was approved that describes how the Shop will function during the Covid-19 pandemic. The team will continue to work towards plans to open the church for a live service, allow groups such as AA, Al Anon, and NA to resume meeting, and get the Explorers pre-school open and running. There is still quite a lot to be done, but things are moving along.

The Worship team is currently working on the issue of how to continue producing video recordings for those who will not be able to attend live services. The trick is to find a way to produce a video without creating obstructions (visual or physical) to the live congregation. This will involve some new video recording equipment and we've applied for and received a grant from the diocese to cover some of that cost. Moving forward, it's important to have a video system that can be operated by more than one individual (currently Mark) with a minimum level of training. We recently recorded a Sunday service with the re-gathering team present so that they could see what a live service would be like using our current recording equipment. Both teams profited from the experience and spent a good deal of time discussing everything from movement to music after the service concluded.

On top of everything else, it's time to start thinking about stewardship. Time, Talent and Treasure is hard to think about in the middle of a pandemic, but many people are contributing significant Time and Talent to keep things going as noted above. Many continue to contribute financially (Treasure) through their pledge, but now is the time to begin looking at next years' needs when, hopefully, we will have the Covid-19 more under control.

The Wardens, Mike Hopkins and Ed Giroux

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME



Take-home Sunday School is back! This year we will be exploring people in the Bible, starting with Abraham. We will also be doing the occasional Catechism of the Good Shepherd lesson via You Tube. If your child wants to be part of the filming, please let me know. If you need a take-home packet, please let me know.

-Brenda Komarinski

[bkomarinski@gmail.com](mailto:bkomarinski@gmail.com)

## 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/j/86101091581?pwd=aVdVL09jdFZXNXZTHNvRUZEV0gyUT09>

**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



The Re Gathering Team has been busy with the many requirements and tasks associated with reopening. Thank you to those who participated in the survey, results are included in the newsletter.

We are pleased the Thrift Shop has opened on a limited basis; an update article is also included in the newsletter. Many thanks to Marguerite Massey and Kathy Brewster and team for their efforts. We continue to prepare for in-person worship meeting with our Diocese Shepard; ensuring we will be following State and Diocese guidance. Our Preschool tenant is also preparing to reopen and must also meet State and our requirements to do so. While we are busy working on these items and more, we are pleased to see that soon we will phase into a “new normal” at St. Anne’s.

## **Jennifer’s Journal**

### **What does it take to film worship?**

When I began filming at home back in March, it would take me a full hour to set up. I got better at it, but it still takes me at least a half-hour. So, too, does it take quite a while to set up the church for recording.

I think patience is underrated!

### **Anyone with a heart for reaching our 20 and 30 year olds?**

I mentioned this before and wondered if anyone has been thinking about it. I’d love to hear from you.

### **Reaching out to our more home-bound parishioners**

Have you wondered if they were alright? Have you hoped so? Let’s establish a Pastoral Ministry Team. And re-activate our Lay Eucharistic Visitors. If you are curious, reach out to Mother Jennifer or to Sue or John Geen.

### **Prayer from 1910.**

“Our Father, we acknowledge our manifold sins – we do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry these our misdoings. We have done those things we ought not to have done and we have left undone those things we ought to have done. Have mercy upon us, O God, and teach us to have mercy on ourselves by learning never to follow a first mistake by a second – always to lean the future by the past, and ever to rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things. Amen. Psalm 120.”  
From Prayers for Dark People. UMass Press. 1980. p. 47.

This prayer was written by WEB DuBois, around 1910. He was the first African American to receive a PhD from Harvard University in 1895.

I first heard about this at a Letter-writing to Congress event with the Diocesan Ministry of Immigration Partnership last month where Bp Gayle shared a prayer from the above collection. I was so struck by many things that I wanted to share it with you all.

Especially 8:00ers, isn’t his opening startling? He must have attended many Episcopal services! Perhaps even in Cambridge, MA!



## Living with the Pandemic

I enjoy checking in occasionally with my former Diocese in Southern California. I find that reminders we all experience the coronavirus pandemic stretch my patience and flexibility. The following was a recent question and answers.

“How are you finding hope during this time?”

Walking; taking advantage of more flexible schedule; new dog; learning new things from using Zoom; biking; exercise; find beauty outside; morning devotion; meditation; yoga; hike; breathe; find ways to enjoy the present; wine & cheese; reading more; centering prayer; hobbies; gardening.

What do you add to this list of hopeful activities?

What do these encourage you to think about?

I'd love to hear your thoughts.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER



**250 of each Needed by Tuesday; September 15<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Baking Mixes</b> 	<b>Canned Frosting</b> 
<b>Antibacterial Soap</b> 	<b>Full Sized Toothpaste</b> 
<b>Personal Hygiene Products</b> 	

**Please have items delivered to your preferred location by 5pm**

**Drop off Locations**

- 21 Horman Road
- 45 Sachem Street
- 66 Dudley Road
- 20 Oxford Road
- Lobby of the Police Department
- Treble Cove Market Basket
- Center Market Basket

Each month the Pantry has a targeted wish list; for the Month of September we are requesting Baking Mixes, Canned Frosting and Hygiene products.

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 would not 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>.

Each month you hear my passion – what is yours and how can we help?

Sandra

Billerica Community Pantry Board Member

## Note on Music...



I hope you're all doing well.

It's more and more challenging as time passes (these months), to feel a sense of community, and oneness in endeavors. However, I keep in mind that all of us who are part of St. Anne's, are together in spirit...and that worship continues through at-home prayer and the online services.

I hope you continue to value the online services. Much thanks to Mother Jennifer for providing leadership, and to our skilled and dedicated recording team.

I also hope you've been enjoying the music in the online services. There's been a lot of variety in the music, and a lot of preparation involved in providing it!

I greatly look forward to regathering!

Best,

Peter Morelli

## Pledge Report

Due to the counting schedule there is no report this month.... But there will be an update next month.

## St. Anne's Prayer List:

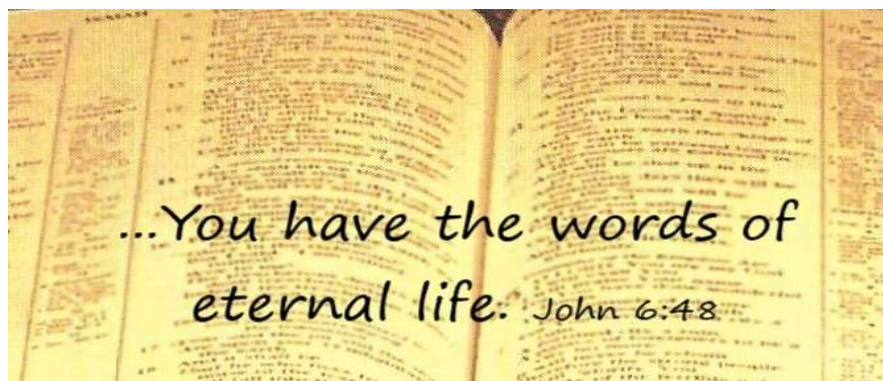
Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child (Name). Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service 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 Margaret Westerlund home**  
**Thursday September 3, 2020**



Eternal rest grant unto Margaret, O Lord,  
 And let perpetual light shine upon her.  
 May she rest in peace.  
 Amen.

**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.

Brenda Komarinski  
 Jonathan McKenzie  
 Yvonne Hopkins

September 10th  
 September 27th  
 October 10th

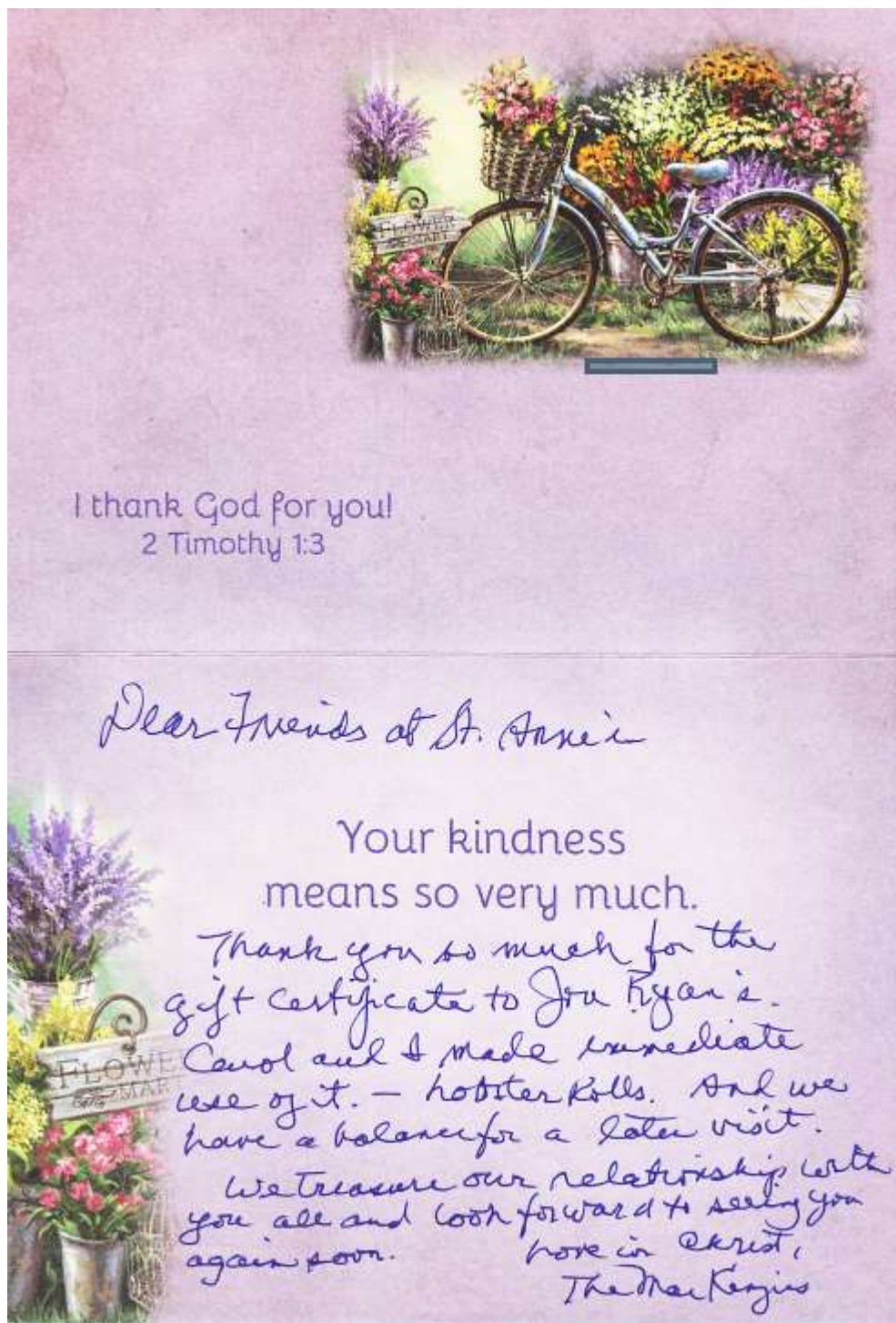
If you or a loved one are celebrating a birthday and want in the following newsletter please let me know [SandraForStAnnes@yahoo.com](mailto:SandraForStAnnes@yahoo.com). We had to start somewhere, please let me know name and dates.

***For Labor Day***

*Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
 Amen.*

*BCP p. 261*





### **THRIFT SHOP IS OPEN!!!**

We are back open for business for customers and we are accepting donations. New customers and faithful patrons are slowly returning to the thrift shop. Our new hours are Wednesday and Friday from 10AM until 2PM. As business increases, we may open another day. Only ten people are allowed in at a time with masks, gloves, and social distancing required.

The clothing racks are overflowing with summer clothes for men, women, infants, and children. We also have summer shoes. As summer continues, we will wait to put out fall/winter clothes until October.



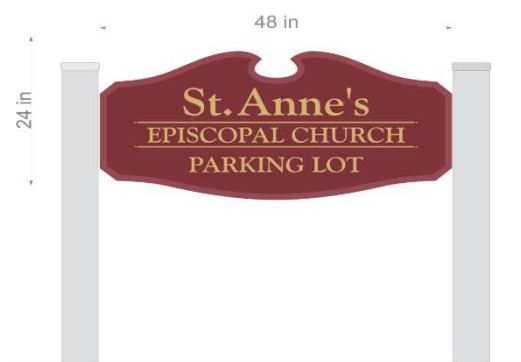
Our book room is well stocked with reading material for all ages both adults and children. Now is the time to add to your library at home. Do not forget books for your children and grandchildren.

Plenty of items are available for arts and crafts to keep you and any children busy. Halloween decorators are already out. The kids room has lots of new toys. Our dish room is filled with cups, glasses, dishes, and baking pans.

Hope to see you soon.

Marguerite Massey

## **New Addition**



It took a while, but we are well on our way to having a sign for the parking lot. You may remember we obtained a grant to improve the signage last year prior to Covid. Kathy and Marguerite have been working hard with the sign vendor to make this happen on our budget. Permits have been obtained and work should start soon.

## **Our Parish Survey**

Your leadership and Re-Gathering teams are grateful to those who returned their surveys. The normal response rate is 26%-33%, and we had a 29% response rate. So, thank you. Your answers and thoughts cover the whole spectrum, but there are trends that help us to make plans for our gradual re-opening of worship, hopefully in October. Thank you for taking the time to return the survey.

We learned that 36% of our 50 respondents watch the online service weekly, and 38% do sometimes totaling almost 75%. Most of our Sunday morning congregants have been able to continue worshipping, through the dedicated effort every single week of our parishioner film crew.

62% of our respondents said they would feel safe attending services with the restrictions and compliance requirements outlined. 36% would likely attend in-person services once they resume while 44% stated they might attend. Many shared the reason(s) why they would not attend in-person. And, too, some shared comments indicating how much they miss: the fellowship of being together, communion and even spiritual communion rather than morning prayer, and all things just being normal.

The yearning to return to being together is vividly clear. And this is the pain of eucharistic fasting: as members of Christ's Body, we are not meant to live without each other!

Yet, world and local health situations mean that loving each other requires we honor each other's boundaries. For some, the coronavirus presents low risk while for others, it could mean hastened death. Our ultimate giving of love to our friends needs to accept their boundaries, wherever they may be.

This is quite a moment to wonder what Jesus would do?



### In Closing ~ The World According to Mr. Rogers

The more I think about it, the more I wonder

If God and neighbor are somehow one.

“Loving God, Loving neighbor” ~ the same thing?

For me, coming to recognize that God loves every neighbor is the ultimate appreciation!

Won't you be my neighbor?

*Ongoing activities are currently on hold until further notice but thanks to our regathering committee we are making progress*