

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

OCTOBER 2020 Newsletter

October greetings to you! Fall is here, along with some form of return to school, more Zoom meetings becoming our way of life, and a return to in-person worship in our beloved church building. We still don't have an exact date, but we are closer than ever!

Please look for our official announcement about a first Sunday for you to come to changed church. After we hear back from our Diocese about our lengthy application to re-gather for Sunday worship, we will send to you by email the date of the Sunday you are invited to come to our one service at 9:30am. It will be the same service as the one on-line, which means that it will be shortened to less than 30 minutes in length, and cameras and cords will be set up for filming.

After we can have parishioners back in the church on Sunday mornings, then we will slowly invite our service participants back to their ministries. But with the worship

so changed to accommodate our new needs, your role will have changed also. Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors and LEMs, I ask for your patience!

With filming requiring ever-changing flexibility, shortened morning prayer is the worship we shall keep for the next while.

This week we suddenly learned more about our cameras. Five minutes into the service, one camera stopped working! Completely. Oh no! Because the film goes live simultaneously onto the internet, an immediate solution had to be found: more movement from the one remaining camera, which can only be done by a person moving quickly to make the adjustments. Why did these nerves get tight? Because we have only older and persnickety cameras to work with. They have gotten us far – six months of recorded services every single week! Congratulations to our inventive film crew for mastering a

smoothly delivered service of worship.

When the church is open, if you choose to come, anticipate that you will be aware of filming equipment being present. We have entered a new age, or rather, we have caught up with our digital age! Who knew there was so much to filming a complex event?!

Your Vestry, Worship and Re-Gathering Teams have been grappling with the best ways to serve our parish community. Webinars from Virginia Theological Seminary about worship have independently supported the vision your leaders have for improving our equipment and worship experience. Stay tuned for further reports.

Eventually, this will all end. We won't be like this forever, even though it feels that way now. My physical therapist for my still-healing ankle wisely holds my hand when she says, "Are you frustrated because you want to do

more? Well, Don't. It just takes time." But that's not what we want to hear! Come, Lord Jesus. Now!

In Christ,

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
Russell Brent - 2021
Rosemary Kinser – 2022
Jose Torres – 2022
Linda Kusnierz – 2023
Dorothy Callihan - 2023

Worship:

Online only
YouTube, Facebook and BATV

From the Wardens

As I type this article, we have just learned only a few hours ago that St. Anne's has been approved by the Episcopal diocese to re-open for in person indoor worship. We have asked for and been granted permission to open on Sunday, October 11. So how did we get here?

Sandra and I have been attending St. Anne's for almost 20 years now. As many of you know, we were married here in 2001. Having been members and volunteers for **our small, but mighty church** for our entire time here I really thought I had seen everything. Then 2020 happened.

This chapter begins on March 15, 2020. Our first Bridge Priest, Fr. Brad Ingalls' final Sunday was March 8. We knew that would be his last day with us, but we had no way of knowing that would be the last day of in person worship for more than seven months. At that time, the pandemic was just beginning to peak, and everything was shutting down. We were required to close, and we had no services the following week (03/15). But a small group (ok three of us), Mark Komarinski, Sandra and I thought if Rev. Jonathan, Peter Morelli and Maria, our soloist would be willing, perhaps we could record the service and post it on Facebook and the church's web site. That way members and perhaps future members would view the service and be able to participate in virtual worship. We started with one camera and an empty church. Lighting and audio left much to be desired. But we were able to adapt and change things on the fly and improve a little bit at a time each week. We really thought we could do this for a couple of Sundays. But the Sundays turned into weeks then into months. We'll be revealing our hopes and plans for additional improvements at a later date. I believe Mark has described the upgrades and changes in more detail in another article in this edition of our newsletter.

While all that was going on and prior to the onset of the pandemic, the vestry voted to ask the diocese to allow us to call a half time Priest-In-Charge. As the pandemic was peaking, the diocese suspended all interviews. So, our search for a PIC was on hold. Thank God Jonathan was willing to step up and conduct the virtual service each week in front of the "technology and music teams" and an otherwise empty building. Once the Covid numbers leveled off, the diocese sent us our second Bridge Priest, Mother Jennifer Beal. And I am pleased to announce that she and the Vestry have agreed to enter into a Covenant of Ministry to be our first ever Priest-In-Charge (PIC). Please join me in officially welcoming her to our St. Anne's family. To be honest, her appointment as our PIC deserves an article of its own, so stay tuned for that!!

I started this article by announcing that we would be open for in person worship on Sunday, October 11. But I feel like we need to set expectations. We will be open, but open under the "new normal". To get to this point, we formed a re-gathering committee consisting of Kathy Brewster, Ken Kinser, Linda Kusnierz, Marguerite Massey and of course Mother Jennifer. Together they worked with a diocesan consultant to interpret not only the requirements imposed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, but also the Episcopal diocese. They did a fabulous job and deserve all the credit for getting us to this point. Thank you!!

As a result, if you decide to come to church, you'll notice several new procedures that must be followed for our church to remain open. We've all been subject to similar requirements in other public spaces like stores and restaurants. For example, the maximum capacity is reduced, masks are required, social distancing is required, and we will still be offering only one service of Morning Prayer. I think Linda explains the "new normal" in more detail in her article in this newsletter. You will also hear instructions on a Public Service Announcement (PSA) that we've put together. We'll also likely email and/or snail mail them.

Please know that if you don't feel comfortable coming to church and being out in public, we understand and support that decision. Virtual worship is continuing. As part of the "new normal", the service will continue to be recorded and streamed live to the internet. In fact, we've received a grant from the diocese to make further improvements. We'll have more details on that later too.

So after having been at St. Anne's for nearly 20 years, I've seen many chapters in the story of this **small but mighty church**. A long and successful chapter ended with Rev. Peggy retiring in November of 2014. Rev. Lauren's chapter was short by comparison. But retirements and relocations are common occurrences. I could never have predicted the chapter that began on March 15th, 2020. I just don't have that kind of an imagination. October 11th, 2020 begins the next exciting chapter in the story of St. Anne's. Let's hope and pray that it is another long and successful chapter. I think you'll agree that this story is exciting and is a real page turner.

The Wardens

Ed Giroux

Mike Hopkins

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

Thank you for your patience with the Take-home Sunday School packets. The Abraham packets are ready. If you would like one, please let me know. Next up is Moses.

In addition to the packets, you can find Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lessons on St. Anne's YouTube page. These lessons are for all ages, even adults. The first You-Tube lesson is about Baptism. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1IRHNZ4KCU&t=136s>

Be on the lookout for the next one!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

-Brenda Komarinski

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



Expectations Resuming In Person Worship

We look forward to resuming in person worship. We are almost there! Your returned Survey responses have been helpful to us as we have worked on your behalf toward regathering for worship. Thank you. We have finally completed addressing our concerns for how we can best promote health for everyone in this time of coronavirus. We have submitted to the Diocese our request for approval. Once approved the Sunday service date and time will be communicated to the Parish.

Preparations for in person worship have been made following guidance from the CDC, the State, and the Diocese. You will see several changes to minimize risk, to minimize the spread of COVID._

Required compliance posters can be found throughout the church reminding to wear a mask, frequently wash hands, safe distance and remain at home if not feeling well. Should a person who has been in the building tests positive for COVID they are to contact Mother Jennifer, Ed Giroux, or Mike Hopkins.

As you enter the church safely distanced, you will be greeted by the usher who notice you are wearing a mask. If you forgot to bring your mask a mask will be provided. The usher will spritz your hands with hand sanitizer. An usher will also write down your name on the attendance for contact tracing and to keep count on the number of attendees. The service program will be distributed by the usher.

The carpet has been marked to guide you into the church and to exit through the doors by the organ into the hallway.

Available pews have been marked with a Welcome! sign, they have been identified to allow for safe distancing. The available pews are for two people to sit at opposite ends of the pew (when not from the same household). Members of the same household, two or more, can sit together in the same pew. Unavailable pews have a blue tape across the seat cushion. Our church pew capacity is approximately 22. Once the church pews are safely filled additional seating is available in the "overflow".

Prayer books, hymnals and song books have been removed from the pews. At this time there is no singing allowed except for our soloist who has a mask and is safely distanced.

During the Peace, remain in your pew; waive, gesture or nod to one another.

The rest rooms are available with single capacity. If used during the service, please exit church through the doors by the organ, and re-enter through the front doors of the church.

A collection plate is on the organ for donations to be placed into as you leave the church at the end of the service.

As you know the service is being filmed and is being streamed live. We are fortunate and grateful to have some talented parishioners who have faithfully provided online worship for St. Anne's since March.

Online worship will continue along with in person worship.

This allows for those

- who are not comfortable with in person worship,
- have health concerns that keep them home,
- or those who are not feeling well to stay home and
- available for those who simply prefer to worship on line

with the option to do so.

To film the service, there is lighting, and cameras placed in front of the sanctuary. And from time to time during the service adjustments may be needed.

With the service complete, the celebrants and organist having left the sanctuary, the ushers will indicate row by row to safely exit passing by the organ through the doors and into the hallway, exiting through the office doors.

At this time there will be no coffee hour and we are not to congregate in the hallway, please continue to exit the building. And please join the online Zoom coffee hour with Mother Jennifer at 11:00.

We look forward to seeing you and remember... wear your mask, wash your hands, and maintain physical distancing. Be safe and stay well!

Peace be with you,

The Re Gathering Team

DISINFECTING SPRAYER



The Vestry authorized the purchase of a disinfecting sprayer for use throughout the Church as needed. The unit produces a mist containing a disinfectant solution that will kill over 99% of germs that have been exposed. We received the unit last week and after the supplier's demonstration, the Sanctuary has been disinfected after each service.

The sprayer is actually a modified power sprayer that has been placed on a cart. A five-gallon bucket is placed on the lower shelf with a siphon hose to supply the disinfectant to the pump. This five-gallon supply of solution only requires three ounces of the concentrate supplied for full strength. The solution is for disinfection only and not as a general cleaner.

During operation, the pump remains on the cart and a 75-foot tube supplies the hand-held wand used to create the mist. The very light mist created is a surface disinfectant that does not saturate the surfaces and usually dries in less than 15 minutes. It is safe for door handles, pews and cushions. To clean the entire Sanctuary and Altar area takes about 20 minutes. The unit is very quiet and does not require any type of personal protection for the user. We will be providing demonstrations for those who might wish to view the actual process.

After witnessing the ease of the hand-held unit, we are hoping that a group of Parishioners will volunteer to be trained so that a rotating schedule may be created to disinfect the Church after services.

Ken Kinser

Jennifer's Journal

Office hours for the month of **October 2020**

I will try hard to keep to what I predict now at the end of September. But both my foot and my half-time flexibility present challenges. I am working very hard to keep progressing with my ankle strength. I appreciate your understanding.

WEEK OF	Oct 1	Oct 6	Oct 13	Oct 20	Oct 27
Tuesday	10:00-3:00	Clergy Day w BPS	11:00-4:00	11:00-4:00	11:00-4:00
Wednesday		Dio.Formation mtg	Clericus	10:00-2:30	BIA
Thursday	1:00-3:00	12:00-2:00	1:00-4:00	Webinar	1:00-4:00

For the Fall Diocesan Clergy Day, our Bishops have chosen this interesting topic: Through a mix of presentations and small group conversations, the morning workshop led by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas will explore a framework for the heart to help us become compassionate, prophetic leaders who are willing and able to take up the mantle of moral leadership that this decisive moment in history requires. In the afternoon, the bishops will report to us about recent developments in the House of Bishops regarding, among many other things, current thoughts about prayer book revision. I always enjoy this window into our nationwide church life.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER



250 of each Needed by
Tuesday; September 15th

Baking Mixes



Canned Frosting



Antibacterial Soap Full Sized Toothpaste



Personal Hygiene Products



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

62. A Prayer attributed to St. Francis, BCP p. 833

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

Note on Music...



We've recently put together a St. Anne's virtual (pre-recorded) hymn sing.

From the virtual hymn-sing video... *"We're welcoming people to sing the songs of their faith. Also, you're welcome to let us know what your favorite hymn is, so we can add that next time."*

The virtual hymn sing is Part I, or five hymns of a ten-hymn request list, from members of the congregation. These requests were given at a coffee hour a few weeks ago.

I played the five hymns on the piano for the hymn sing. Hopefully you'll enjoy hearing the hymns played in the sanctuary at St. Anne's...and that you'll be inspired to sing along!

Following is the link to the virtual hymn sing...

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5iombvq901p9red/9.28.20%20-%20Hymn%20Sing%201.mp4?dl=0>

Also, in preparation for Advent and Christmas, having some sung hymns pre-recorded by members of the choir / congregation would be great. We're considering how to best offer any hymn-recording opportunities in St. Anne's sanctuary to those interested in singing. The recordings could be solo, duet, trio, or quartet singing...all with organ accompaniment. And of course safe-distancing will be followed...**we should be able to noticeably exceed any safe-distancing guidelines.** Please let me know if you may be interested in participating in Advent and Christmas music recordings.

Best,
Peter Morelli

The Virtual Worship Committee has been busy!

On the technology side we've done a number of upgrades and with the return of Mother Jennifer, we're starting to broadcast live to YouTube each week with uploads to Facebook and Billerica Access TV about an hour later. What used to take until noon (or in some cases 2PM) has now been shortened to 11AM, with part of that time just waiting for uploads to complete. We've upgraded to three microphones, two wireless and one ambient to pick up prayer responses and organ/piano. There's still a lot of manual work and shuffling around each week and our focus has been on getting the best and easiest camera angles and sound. With the Regathering Committee attending the past few weeks we've been getting good feedback from them on how it looks from out in the pews. We've made changes there so the cameras and lights are arranged differently so they won't be blinding or noticeable.

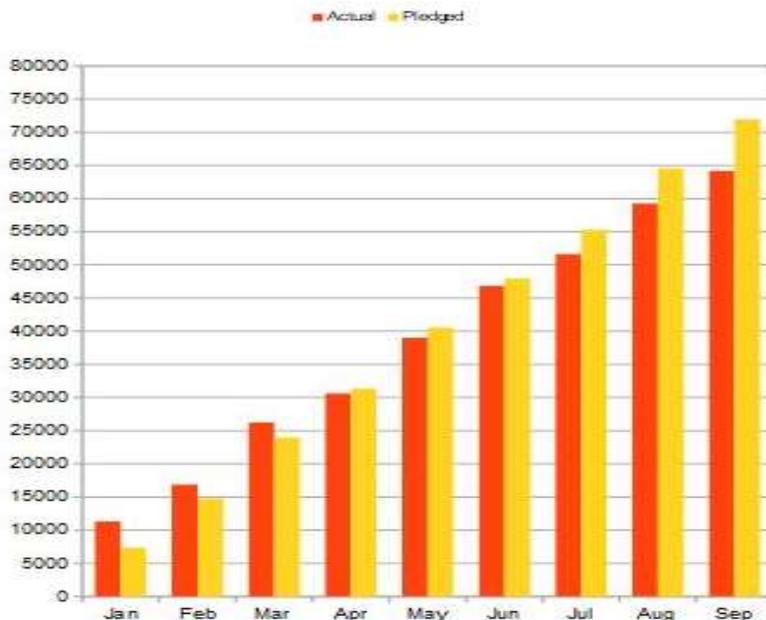
We recently were awarded a grant from the Diocese to improve our camera system. Unfortunately, it's not enough to cover all the upgrades we'd like to be able to broadcast without requiring as much effort as now but we're closer to our goal than we would be without it.

Thank you to everyone who's given us feedback. Each week has new challenges and the occasional step backwards, but there's been a lot of effort to try and make it so that when St. Anne's opens, you'll still have the option of remaining home and watching online.



Pledge Report

St. Anne's 2020 3rd. Quarter Pledge Status



St. Anne's Prayer List:

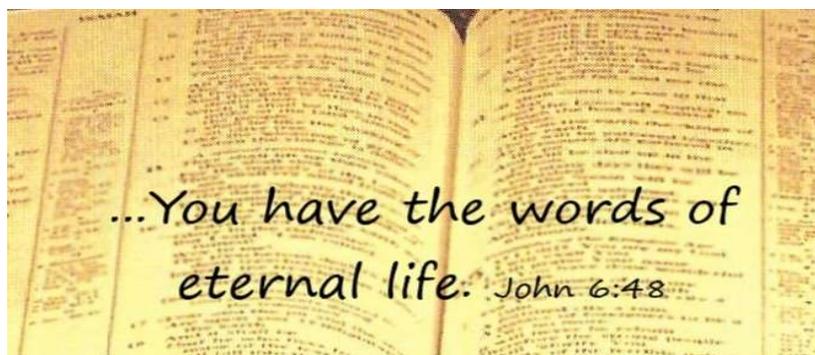
Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child (Name). Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service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



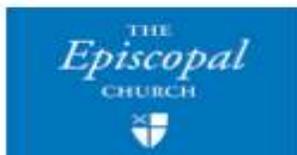
Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

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.

Yvonne Hopkins

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. We had to start somewhere, please let me know name and dates



Media Release

Please note: Spanish translation is forthcoming.

Presiding Bishop calls for prayer for President and First Lady

[October 2, 2020] Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has issued the following statement:

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic I continue to pray for all affected by this virus in any way.

At this particular moment I ask that all Episcopalians also pray for the President and First Lady, and all in the White House or Government who have been infected by this virus.

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your children, the President and First Lady, and all in the White House or Government who have been infected by this virus, that their weakness may be banished and their strength restored; and that, their health being renewed, they may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- For Recovery from Sickness, Book of Common Prayer, p. 458

God of all beings,

A lot of us feel less safe than we did a few days ago and a few days ago we weren't feeling that secure to begin with. Help us draw upon you, our Divine Source, when what we have just isn't enough to get through the day.

A lot of us are grieving. Actually, all of us are grieving, lost friends, lost kin, lost homes, lost income, lost connection to others, lost health. Help us not also lose hope. We can lose a lot and still survive, but not that.

A lot of us are so angry. Angry that our inherent worth and dignity seems up for debate by those who have never had their worth and dignity questioned in courts of law. Angry that love of power seems to trump love of neighbor. Repurpose our anger into righteous action, Lord.

My fear is turning to anger and I am afraid that my anger can turn so easily to hate, and hate is the thing I say I am against. Turn me away from hate. My heart can't take that kind of brittleness because I need it to give and to receive love. Remind me that my heart is spoken for.

A lot of us are ashamed of how numb we feel, but honestly, we've run out of emotional bandwidth and the system needs to re-boot before it comes back on-line. Give us rest and self-compassion.

A lot of us are joyous and feel like we have to shield that joy from others, lest it seem like we are callous toward those who are hurting. Help us see and celebrate what good there is in our lives and the lives of those around us.

I don't think you created us to be able to metabolize such a constant stream of bad news every day, Lord. But I do know that you created us to metabolize cookies. And for that I give you thanks and praise. They are helping. But they are not enough.

So; if you could show the hell up right now, that would be great. And if you are already showing up, give us new eyes to notice you. Amen

In Closing ~ The World According to Mr. Rogers

Often, when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. I've felt that many times. My hope for all of us is that "the miles we go before we sleep" will be filled with all the feelings that come from deep caring – delight, sadness, joy, wisdom – and that in all the endings of our life, we will be able to see the new beginnings.