

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

November 2020 Newsletter

November Greetings

Dear St. Anne's,

I am so glad to be worshipping with you again. While our numbers are still mindful of Covid dangers, still, to have any persons in the building with us, your filming crew, makes worship joyful again. Alas, how I cannot wait until this pandemic time is completely behind us! But we will wait in safety, with compassionate hope.

Please talk with me and each other about our worship possibilities for Advent and Christmas. Think about what will feel safe to you for Christmas Eve, and let us know. What traditions can we manage? I'm wondering about The Silver Tea.

I thank the Vestry for their affirmative vote to improve the cameras used to film our service of worship. I am impressed by the dramatic increase in quality. Thank you for making it easier!

I look forward to our first major feast season together. What riches will we discover together?

Faithfully, Mother Jennifer



Contact information

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

Worship:

In Person 9:30 am Sunday
YouTube, Facebook and BATV

From the Wardens

A lot has happened during October culminating with our first in-person worship service since the beginning of March. On October 18th, 30 people were at the service wearing masks, safely distancing, and guided by our Regathering Group as temporary ushers.

A lot of people were responsible for making this happen. The Regathering Group led by Linda Kusnierz with Ken Kinser, Marguerite Massey, Kathy Brewster and Mother Jennifer got us through the approval process with the diocese and put in place the required monitoring, safety and disinfecting procedures. To help with the process of frequently disinfecting the church and hallways, the vestry approved the purchase of a disinfectant sprayer that was pictured in the October newsletter. The unit is easy to use and significantly reduces the time needed to disinfect church, Bixby Hall and hallways. If anyone would like to help with weekly disinfecting routine after church services, the machine is easy to use and after a short lesson with Ken Kinser, virtually anyone can safely and quickly perform the disinfecting process.

Our Worship team (also our technical and production group) consists of Mother Jennifer, Mark and Brenda Komarinski, Ed and Sandy Giroux, Maria Martin, Peter Morelli, Mike Hopkins and occasionally others. Mark has been responsible for all the technical aspects of getting our on-line services recorded and fed to YouTube, Facebook and our web site. Sandy has been our primary camera person making sure cameras are properly set up, focused, aimed and re-aimed, sometimes during a service, and Ed has served as our Lay Reader. All three have been performing their tasks every Sunday (sometimes Saturdays as well) since our first virtual service in March, arriving around 8:30 Sundays and often not leaving before noon. The virtual service you are now seeing took many hours of work figuring out what lighting worked, where to put cameras, how to avoid tripping over cables and improvising when a camera or microphone failed.

Moving forward, the Worship Team realized that virtual services are going to continue well into the future regardless of a pandemic, and the key people now involved in the complexities of putting our services on-line can't keep working the way they have been without relief. Thankfully, we learned from churches and others doing virtual services that it *is* possible that with the appropriate equipment, a real-time virtual service can be done by a single operator. We applied to the diocese for a grant to improve our recording equipment and received \$1,500. Since the cost to achieve our goal was more than \$1,500, the vestry approved the necessary additional funds at its October meeting. New cameras were purchased and tried out during our service on October 25th resulting in considerable better video quality. We're now in the process of hiring an electrician to get the cameras permanently installed and all the necessary cable run. Eventually, a single operator sitting at a control console will be able to record and upload the service without being inside the main part of the church. This new video capability will open many possibilities such as allowing extended families and shut-ins to attend weddings, or baptisms and other services virtually, and I'm sure there's more we haven't even thought of yet.

Remember that November is Stewardship month, and you'll hear more about that in the next couple of weeks. A stewardship newsletter will be going out soon and it will likely get some mention during the service on the 15th – the sermon may be a little different than normal.

Mike Hopkins & Ed Giroux

"Be willing to make mistakes – Think outside the box"

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

The October Take-Home Sunday packets have been distributed to those I have addresses for. If you have asked for one in the past and are wondering how to get one, please email me at bkomarinski@gmail.com with your address and I will get it to you and your children. We've looked at Abraham and Moses. Next up is Joshua.

There is a new Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lesson up on St. Anne's YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxZ1cV19zR4&t=13s>). This lesson is about creating your own prayer table right at home. Please give it a watch.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

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

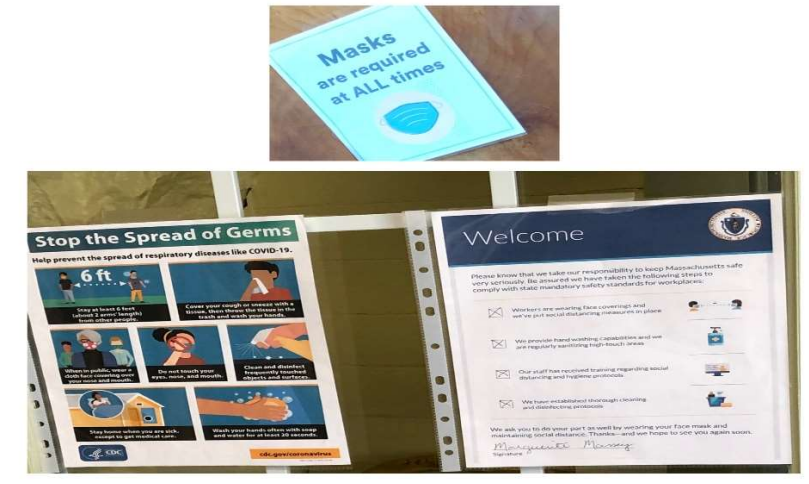
Passcode: 042871

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

"Be as much of your best self as you can today"

UPDATE FROM ST. ANNE'S RE-GATHERING TEAM



Approval has been received from the Diocese to resume in person worship with the protocols and procedures required in place. October 11 was the first Sunday that St. Anne's resumed in-person worship. Thank you to all who have attended being flexible and cooperating with the changes.

And to those who are not comfortable with the changes, not able to attend in-person or not feeling well, the service will continue to be recorded and posted. The Worship Team continues their dedication and efforts to improve the recordings and live stream posting of the service.

It is important to note that should COVID conditions worsen in our community we need to be prepared to return to restrictions. The Re-Gathering Team along with M Jennifer and the Wardens will determine the appropriate action to be taken.

Should an employee, or a parishioner or others that have been within St Anne's Church or other gathering spaces receive a confirmed diagnosis it is to be communicated to M. Jennifer, Ed Giroux, and Mike Hopkins. Upon notification appropriate communications and recommendations for cleaning and disinfection will be taken.

The Re-gathering Team have been ushering during the first four weeks of services. Soon Ushers will be brought back into the rotation following "training" in November. If anyone is interested in ushering please let M. Jennifer or any one on the regathering team (Ken Kinser, Marguerite Massey, Kathy Brewster or Linda Kusnierz) know.

Also allowed to resume meeting are small church groups. Before resuming groups are to provide M. Jennifer and the Wardens, and the Re Gathering team with the group contact. Meeting groups who choose to meet at the church, the meetings are to be held in the Bixby Hall meeting area and follow all the required protocols: Limit to 25 people, no food, safe distancing, masks worn, recording of attendance and return room to original set-up if changed and disinfecting following the meeting.

And last, the disinfectant mister is in use following services; Ken Kinser is available to train anyone interested in learning to use and be part of a rotating schedule to apply after services. Please contact Ken if interested.

Thank you from the ReGathering Team

"Make space for yourself to Grow. Make space for others to Grow"

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER

Thanksgiving is fast approaching. The Community Pantry is planning on giving each family receiving a full Thanksgiving Feast. We service between 250 – 300 families. The decision was made to split the feast among many groups who wanted to help. St Anne's through Mother Jennifer has chosen the following for our contribution.



WHAT DO WE NEED – Baked Good Mixes, Pudding Mix and Pie Fillings



WHO ARE WE HELPING? - Between 250 – 300 local families in need

HOW DO I DONATE? – Drop off at St. Anne's Church when you come for services or 21 Horman Road Billerica (porch bin)

WHEN DO WE NEED THEM BY? – Sunday: November 15th

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US #FEEDYOURNEIGHBOR

If you would like to help please donate from our wish list Please bring to St Anne's or there is a bin on my porch (21 Horman Road) or reach out to me, 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

ANGEL TREE



St Anne's has a long history of helping those in need especially those in need during the holidays. The last couple of years we have supported the **House of Hope of Lowell, Massachusetts**.

House of Hope helps 58 families that live in a shelter and more than 100 that are involved in the housing and stabilization program. We at St Anne's can help provide presents for the children and parents during the holiday season.

Due to the world we live in right now, we have to do things a little differently. Instead of bringing presents we are asking for monetary donations which will be used for St Anne's to order gifts online and shipped directly to the House of Hope.

Once we have all monetary donations we will use to support as many children as possible. Please let me know if you would like to participate. Please mark your donation ANGEL TREE to ensure they

don't get mixed into the general fund. If you choose to do cash anonymously, please write ANGEL TREE on the envelope. I know this is a tough ask since so many are hurting, please help if you can. Please see me if you have any questions

Thank you in advance for your generosity – Sandra

Special Events

We baptized **Kyla Epperson**, granddaughter of Nancy Packard, on October 3, with great joy.



Katalina Gamarra-Catlin (Mother Jennifer's daughter) was married in a small back yard ceremony.



If you have a special event you would like mentioned
please send the information to SandraForStAnnes@yahoo.com
Deadline is the 25th of each month

Jennifer's Journal

Listed below are the hours I am certain I will be at church. Both my foot and my half-time flexibility dictate lots of work from home. If you'd like to meet, but at a different time, just send me an email or make a telephone call. I have a flexible schedule!

	<u>Nov 3</u>	<u>Nov 10</u>	<u>Nov 17</u>	<u>Nov 24</u>
Tuesday	1-7pm	11-4	11-4	10-4
Wednesday		Clericus	10-1:30	
Thursday	1-7pm	1-4	1-4	
Saturday	9-4 Dio Conv			

A piece of worship planning I want your input about is having a service of **Holy Communion**.

Here are the givens:

- shorter than 30 minutes
- communion service would be abbreviated, similar to current Morning Prayer
- people remain in their pews
- bread and wine brought to you
- pre-packaged little k-cups wrapped in plastic wrap
- altar guild follows strict guidelines from Bishop when filling cups
- masks remain on

Here are my questions:

- when do we consume
- how/when dispose of cups
- how include locals who watch on-screen

Since we learn so much about the unfamiliar only when we do them, I think we might have a single service of Holy Communion relatively soon. What do you think? I'd like to hear your responses.

It's time to begin thinking about our **Advent (begins Nov. 29th) and Christmas season** this year, in the winter of continued filmed services regardless of where our in-person capability finds itself. What videos will bring you comfort? Christmas carols? Advent wreaths? Teatime together online? How are you building community? How can changed church still be church?

Do you have or want **Advent rituals**: Wreaths? Prayers to go with the candle lighting?

Deanery Assembly met on October 28th and we learned about how other churches are meeting the spiritual needs of their congregation during this time of pandemic. Any parishioner is welcome to attend.

Watch our **Diocesan Convention**, on November 7, available at [A livestream of the proceedings, via YouTube](#), is planned for those who simply wish to observe.

Deanery Update

Reverend Jennifer was the convenor of the Merrimack Valley Deanery meeting that was held on Wednesday, October 29. It was interesting to hear from delegates from six different parishes and

where they are in the opening process with church services. All are having some type of recording of services either via ZOOM or live streaming. Some have live services, one is getting ready to open soon, and one has no plan to go to live services. The next deanery meeting is in January.

Marguerite Massey, Deanery Representative

Thrift Shop Update

The thrift shop has had two volunteers from the Billerica Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon Religion) for the past couple of months. The young missionaries known as elders have been a great help with bringing donations in from the shed, putting items into the dumpster, moving air conditioners, vacuuming carpets, sweeping floors and stairs, and so much more. They are willing and eager to help us with the heavy lifting that needs to be done. They work for two hours on Tuesday and Thursday when the shop is closed. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Thank you from all the volunteers at St. Anne's Thrift Shop

Submitted by Marguerite Massey

Note on Music...



I hope you're all doing well. It's been great to have resumed in-person services. It's so nice to regroup! And having the new cameras for the continued recording of the services is very exciting! The cameras have excellent clarity, zoom capability, and panning.

FYI, I'll be recording the 2nd virtual hymn sing over the next week or so, and I'll be playing 5 hymns that were part of a 10-hymn request list made at a coffee hour some weeks ago.

Looking ahead, if you have any requests for the 3rd virtual hymn sing - the Advent Hymn Sing - please feel free to email your request along, to the new music email address for St. Anne's...music@stannes-billerica.org

Also, as I mentioned in last month's newsletter, it would be really nice to have some (recorded) singing by other members of the congregation (along with Maria!) for St. Anne's music of the Christmas season. If you've been in the choir the past few years, I'll reach out to you to see if you might be up for participating. Any other members of the congregation are of course welcome too...Please feel free to let me know, at the above email address, if you might be interested. Any Christmas music that you're comfortable with, and any setting (solo, duet, trio, quartet) could happen...and would involve a short meeting to record in the sanctuary at St. Anne's with social distancing that noticeably exceeds the guidelines.

Best,
Peter Morelli



Pledge Report

Since the pandemic, donations had been running less than the apportioned pledge. Then, the reopening of the church resulted in the biggest count of the year. However at week 41, Oct.18, there are still 10 folks more than \$500 behind in their pledges for a total about \$10,000. The slack has been taken up by 30 families who have contributed more than they pledged. In the first week of October, the third quarter pledge statements were sent out to those who had donated so that they can see how they stand. Overall this is an outstanding sign of faithful resilience and perseverance in the light of otherwise discouraging circumstances. God bless you all for the help you give, not just in money but in all the time and effort it has taken to keep things going.

Peace be with you, John.

St. Anne's Prayer List:

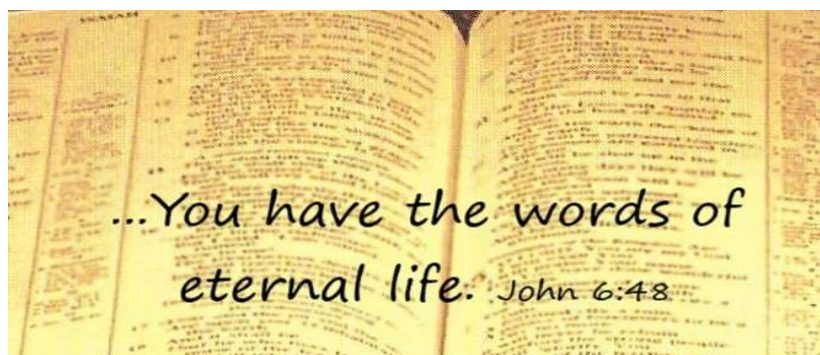
Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child (Name). Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service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

October

Amy Desmarais	10/02
Yvonne Hopkins	10/06
Sue Kennedy	10/08
Julian Beal	10/19

November

David Carpine	11/02
Eli Baldwin	11/14
Jennifer Stockton	11/19
Amy O'Sullivan	11/20
Julie Komarinski	11/28

December

Steve Hopkins	12/02
Belinda Fletcher	12/05
Marguerite Massey	12/07
Pat Cregg	12/10
Andrea Jeffrey	12/18
Lisa Carpine	12/25
Nicole Knowles	12/28

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

In Closing ~ The World According to Mr. Rogers

*All of us, at some time or other, need help.
Whether we're giving or receiving help,
Each one of us has something valuable to
Bring to this world. That's one of the things
That connect us as neighbors – in our own
way, each one of us is a giver and receiver.*