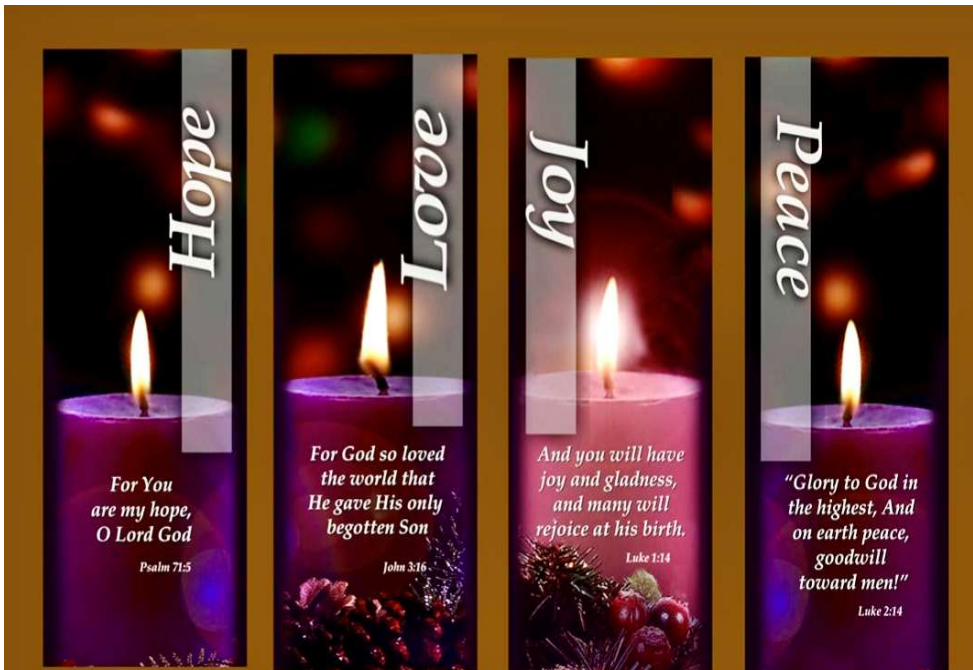


ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

December

2020

Newsletter

December Greetings

Dear Parish of St. Anne's,

This time of year, is always full: I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was a blessing, even if it was different from your usual celebration. I hope you all received news of the decision that your leaders had to make this week to close the church to in-person worship. I have never seen a group of people work so hard to avoid the decision we ended up making! We did not want to reverse what so many had worked so hard to accomplish in the first place – opening the church with many virus-safety precautions. How hard we pray for an end to this virus, and for the health and well-being of all our faithful.

Now Advent is here, as is the church's new liturgical year, as is our Christmas (virtual) Fair, as is a more dangerous degree of Covid-19 case counts. In the midst, I hope you are paying attention to what brings you

comfort and hope. Perhaps attending an Advent retreat. Or listening to Peter's organ playing familiar Advent hymns. Or reaching out to telephone a friend, or text a cousin, or write a stranger.

Look for news about midweek prayer that I will offer throughout Advent.

New is hard. New is especially hard when we don't want it. New is especially hard when it is all around us. New is just a challenge. But, "Do not be afraid," said the angel to Mary. You can do this. I will be with you. And your community will be with you.

The Christ child will be born, of this we are certain. Perhaps comfort and hope will lead to joy.

With the conviction of Advent's prophets, together we will prepare the way for Christmas.

Faithfully, M Jennifer

Contact information

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
PO Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.
No. Billerica, MA 01862
Office Ph: 978-663-4073
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:

9:30 am Sunday
YouTube, Facebook and BATV

From the Wardens

As you may have noticed, the author of the newsletter article alternates between the two Wardens every other month. Your author this month is Ed. The October article also written by me was the first one to be written after St. Anne's was permitted to re-gather in person. I have the dubious task of also writing the first Warden's article after we decided that it was best to suspend in person worship.

As you read in Mother Jennifer's email, this decision was not made in a vacuum. Nor was it made easily. We realize how important being together in worship is. It is important to us also. The facts are that the number of cases of Coronavirus is spiking in Billerica and surrounding communities. That fact coupled with the note from the diocese urging all parishes to suspend in person worship led us to the decision to close to keep everyone safe. Virtual worship will continue. Our Sunday service is available on the church's web site, FaceBook, YouTube, Billerica Access Television (BATV) and even on BATV's web site. Please check with Mike, Mother Jennifer or myself for details as to where to find the recordings of our worship.

Alexander Graham Bell is credited for the quote: *"When one door closes another door opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."* So, since this door is now closed even temporarily, what door can we open? We've held coffee hour on Zoom each week for the last several. Perhaps we could have a virtual social hour or progressive dinner. Could we meet in person, socially distant outdoors? We would love to hear from you with ideas as to how you'd like to gather either outdoors safely, or online or some other forum.

With Christmas just around the corner, it is even more important that our parish family have access to our online worship services. If you need any help accessing the videos that are produced each week, please reach out to one of us, a Vestry member or Mother Jennifer. We are able and want to help you if you are having trouble with the technology. Please don't be embarrassed if you are having difficulty. This whole situation is difficult for all of us, but together, we'll get through it.

Faithfully,

Your Wardens,

Ed Giroux
Mike Hopkins

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

The November Take-Home Sunday packets are ready and 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 and I will get it to you and your children. This month we looked at Joshua and Rahab.

The Advent Calendar was included in the packet. If you would like an Advent Calendar, please let me know.

Next up is Ruth. The packets will be ready December 20.

A story was shared at our prayer table and can be seen on St. Anne's YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SYfHgCEUcHs>

Please give it a watch. If any of your children would like their own copy of "I am not Afraid", let me know and I will get one to them.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

-Brenda Komarinski

Stewardship



St. Anne's Episcopal Church

PO Box 134, Treble Cove Road

North Billerica, MA 01862

November 21, 2020

Greetings St. Anne's Family,

We are coming to the beginning of another year in the life of St. Anne's. It would be such an understatement to say that 2020 was just another year. It is a time for reflection of the past and wishful dreaming of the future.

God has welcomed some of our family home this past year and has also wrapped His healing arms around others. He has watched over all of us and has provided guidance and strength for St. Anne's to continue to not only survive, but to grow as a loving, supportive family. We have been blessed with the calling of The Rev. Jennifer Beal as our Priest-In-Charge. Mother Jennifer has instilled a peaceful, calming and loving atmosphere to support not only St. Anne's, but also our witness to Billerica and the surrounding communities.

Our worship service has changed in many ways, but is still centered on providing a safe time and place to peacefully listen for what the Prophet Elijah referred to as that "Still, Small Voice of God" speaking to us. The avenues of worship participation have increased depending on the comfort level of individual parishioners. Each member must carefully identify their own restrictions that will limit their participation. We have resumed limited in-person services but have also been blessed with the ability to broadcast our services over the internet and through social media. There have been some changes adopted such as wearing face masks, no singing or communion and a limited duration of the Worship Service. These changes have come about in an effort to help us stay healthy by following recommendations of the government and our Diocese. The Sanctuary is also disinfected after each service.

This has been and will still be a period of Stewardship in our church. Most of us are familiar with the "Three T's: Time, Talent and Treasure" that have been associated with our participation.

Our continued success has only been made possible by the Time and Talent of our Parishioners. Happily, the Thrift Shop has re-opened as an unbelievable ministry to the general public. Members have performed an overall cleaning of the Church. The effort of many have and will continue in the evaluation of the

ever-changing process of reorganization to provide a safe Worship environment. The system that has been implemented to provide the ability to record and broadcast our services is amazing. The purchase of equipment and the constant tweaking to improve the process will allow for a permanent installation in the future.

These have been some major undertakings of our Parish, but possibly even more of an impact may be made through the small everyday examples that we perform naturally without even thinking, that proclaims the Love of God to others. A quick telephone call to check on our family members or possibly picking up a few items when we shop for others who may not feel comfortable in a store may have a significant impact. Even more may be just listening while someone expresses their concerns or fears. We are not always aware of needs or opportunities to volunteer our Time or Talent to St. Anne's, but a call to other Parish members or Mother Jennifer may provide just the right match for your service.

We are gratefully thankful for the continued financial support of our family members. We ask you to take a moment and prayerfully consider your level of future financial giving's. We understand that many of us are possibly facing financial challenges; St. Anne's is a place of peace and contentment. Please do not place undue concerns regarding financial commitments on your considerations, but listen to that Still, Small Voice.

Yours in Christ,

Ken Kinser

St. Anne's Episcopal Church			
P.O. Box 134 / 14 Treble Cove Road, North Billerica, MA, 01862			
Name (Please print)			
Address			
City			
State/Postal code			
Phone			
E-mail address			
	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
My Pledge for 2021			
Do you need pledge envelopes? Yes___ No___			
<i>Thank you for your generous support!</i>			



Announcements

To lighten the darkness together

Come to Facebook on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings. For only ten minutes. From 9:00pm to 9:10pm. I will light my home advent wreath, say a prayer, sing a song, and read something. Set aside a moment for quiet in your evening.

Coffee Hour (virtually) Sundays at 11am.

Come join your friends! Come SEE them!

Come chat about anything you want

Bring your favorite beverage with you.

Come before or after you have watched our service.

To join the Zoom Meeting please use the link listed in the weekly bulletin.

Please let us know if you need assistance.

Weekly announcements will continue to be listed in the bulletin.

A few words from the Re-Gathering Team – December

As you know a difficult decision was reached to suspend in-person worship effective Nov 29. We want you to know that the Re-Gathering Team continues to meet and will remain watchful of changing conditions with regards to the virus in our St Anne's and surrounding community.

May Peace be with you this Advent season,

Your Re-Gathering Team,

Linda Kusnierz

Ken Kinser

Marguerite Massey

Kathy Brewster

St Anne's Gardening Angels



The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul — Alfred Austin

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

Community Outreach

I cant Thank St Anne's enough for all you have done for the Community Panty. Donation, Volunteers to work at the Pantry, Volunteers who help pick up donations and St Anne's acting as a storage location (Ed is ever so grateful to get these out of our living room).

I wanted to give a couple of fun facts to show how much we can't do what we do with out your assistance.

- Each family of 4 receives approximately 30-35 meals per distribution (assortment of breakfast, lunch and dinner).
- 299 families received a Thanksgiving dinner in November (Turkey, vegetables, cranberry sauce, stuffing and a pie) on top of the 30-35 meals previously discussed
- Every family received sugar, flour plus other baking staples, as well as multiple boxed baking items (thanks to your donations)
- In October 5,543 bags of food was given out in October

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>.



Billerica Community Pantry

Drop off Locations

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

*Items Needed by
Saturday; December 19th*

Dish Soap



Dish Sponges



Hand Sanitizer
(full size & travel)



Tissues
(full size & travel)



Cleaning Products



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

If you find yourself Food insecure and a resident of Billerica, please accept a helping hand and register <https://billericacommunitypantry.com/home/registration> We all need a helping hand now and then. If you live outside of Billerica and your community doesn't have a Pantry please let me know and we can help you find assistance.

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

2020 has been a year of challenges and creativity. How do we evaluate the way things have always been done? Instead of focusing on what we can't do; 2020 has been a year of figuring out what we can do and finding a way to make it work. Our Christmas fair will be no different.

Let's get ready to have fun celebrating Christmas and supporting the St. Anne's community with



Starting Tuesday, December 8th and continuing through Saturday, December 19th we will have a raffle drawing. The person whose raffle chance has been pulled will be the winner for that day's prize.

How can you Help?

1. We need prizes. These prizes can be anything new: theme baskets, gift cards, or anything that you would want to win. They will need to be turned into the church by November 29th.

2. Buy chances. 1 for \$5 or a book of 5 for \$20. Chances will be available for purchase from Sunday, Nov. 22nd- Monday, December 7th. They may be purchased before or after church (curbside times will be scheduled weekly in case of closure), at the Thrift Shop, and through the Venmo App.
3. Our Facebook page will have a link- please share it to your own page.

Winners will be announced daily on Facebook and will be contacted through phone or email. I will schedule curbside pick-up times with winners.

Please feel free to contact me Lisa "Kinser" Carpine: 978-808-2068 (feel free to leave a message) or email me lisa.carpine@outlook.com

Venmo: A mobile payment service

Venmo, a mobile payment service, is now an exciting option for St. Anne's in which account holders can transfer funds to others through a mobile app. Venmo is only available on mobile devices like a phone or tablet for both apple and android devices. It will seem like a lot of steps, but it is very user friendly and will guide you all the way.

If you are interested, go to the App store; search and select Venmo. It will be a Blue Square with a white V. You will then need to download the app.

Directions:

- Open Venmo app.
- Sign up – enter your first name, last name, email address, & create a password
- Venmo will give you information on how it works – scroll, read & then tap next
- Read the user agreement & privacy policy – if you agree, tap next (upper right corner of the screen)
- Enter your phone number – Venmo will send you a confirmation code
- A 4-digit confirmation code will be sent to your phone – enter in the box & hit submit code
- In settings, (**located in the 3 lines upper right corner**); you can edit your profile & add a picture, so people know it is you (**optional**)
- In settings - click payment method – allowing you to add your debit card manually "add bank or card" – select card for your debit card information
- Search for St Anne's account - "**St Annes Episcopal Church North Billerica**" (It does not have any punctuation in its name)
- When you send money, it will ask you "what is it for" – please specify that this is a donation or for the Christmas fair & provide how you want to be contacted: (Phone or email)
- I will fill out your raffle tickets & confirm that it was received & your raffle tickets are ready

Venmo is one option; if you prefer, you may buy your tickets at the end of church service, thrift shop or scheduled on-site designated times



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

Mother Jennifer's office hours for the month of December.

Week of:	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29
Tuesday	11-4	11-5	11-5	11-5	By Appointment
Wednesday	10-2	9-4	9-4	9-4	By Appointment
Thursday	2-5	2-5	2-5	12-4	By Appointment

I posted a Resource Sheet outside my office that lists 24-hour phone numbers for anyone to call free of charge (877-382-1609 or 800-640-5432). If depression or sadness overwhelm you, please do not suffer in isolation. But telephone somebody, hopefully someone who can find the right resources for you. You are important.

The Billerica Food Pantry has continuously impressed me this month. The flow of food in and out has reached epic proportions, in my limited knowledge. The service you provide to Christ must sink His heart deep into gratitude 😊

I look forward, this season, to roaming the world for Advent and Christmas services. I wonder what you will find, too.

Celebrate the season with our Angel Tree and Christmas Fair.

REPORT ON THE 235TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

As one of the lay delegate representatives for St. Anne's to the 235th Diocesan convention that was held this year on November 7th I found the convention to be a totally different experience from other conventions. In other years we would drive into Boston or to another city in the Diocese to attend the convention at a church or hotel. This year I drove to St. Anne's where Kathy Brewster and I watched the convention on a laptop setup in the Nichols Room. Over 490 clergy members and delegates watched via ZOOM or You Tube. With a couple of minor technical glitches the convention went very smoothly as a virtual meeting.

Voting for the budget and resolutions was done on line with the tally available very quickly. The voting for various members to committees or commissions was done via an APP on delegates cell phones or someone actually called the delegate and after providing a PIN number you were able to cast your vote.

The Rt. Rev. Gates addressed the attendees stating how 2020 has been a year where "Brave Change has embraced us." A video tribute to the late Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris was presented. A wonderful video from the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center gave us a birds eye view of the lake, camp grounds, and trees with spectacular colors. Presentations were given by the Mission Strategy Committee, Diocese Youth Council, the office of Networking and Formation, the Racial Justice Commission, the Immigration and Multicultural Ministries, the Creation Care Justice Network, and the Young Adult Ministry. The \$9 million budget for 2021 was passed by the delegates. Three resolutions were adopted which Kathy and I will speak about in upcoming newsletters.

Marguerite Massey and Kathy Brewster, delegates to the convention

Christmas Flowers & Greens



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS/GREENS REQUEST

Though our church Christmas flowers and greens will be scaled back this year our memories and thanksgivings are not. If you would like to contribute to memory or in thanksgiving complete below and mail to the church. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve service program.

Name of the person or persons to be given **in memory of** or **in thanksgiving for** (please circle one).:

Amount given: \$_____ (Requested donation \$25.00)

Your name/given by:_____

**Please mail to the church identifying Christmas flowers in the check memo and the envelope.
St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Attn.: Christmas Flowers, P.O. Box 134, No Billerica, MA 01862
Due by December 15**

TEASER ALERT:

Who is observant? When driving by the Church look for a special gathering. Literally a gift from an Angel - long time benefactor & guardian.

Note on Music...



I'm wishing you all a wonderful Advent & Christmas Season. And I'm looking forward to the Advent services at St. Anne's, and the upcoming Christmas Eve service!

It's a pleasure providing music for the (recent) services, that have been in-person, and also made available online.

We recorded an Advent hymn sing last week - I hope you like it. I once again included hymn requests given at a coffee hour. Many thanks to Mark, Sandra, Marie Figenbaum, Brenda, and Ed for their really generous help with recording and set-up! The hymn-sing video came out excellent!

The Advent hymn sing can be found on the home page of St. Anne's website (scroll down). And the sheet music for the hymns played can be found below the Advent hymn-sing window.

Also, following is the link to the Advent hymn sing on YouTube...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aaUkOiex4w>

Furthermore, much thanks to Maria Martin for her continued participation in the services. Her beautiful singing adds much to the services, and I'm really thankful for the time and energy she gives to doing this!

And I'm very thankful for working with Mother Jennifer, and all that she brings to St. Anne's!

Sincerely,

Peter Morelli

Tuesday Bible Study

Looking for a group to join on-line? If so, we've got a Tuesday Evening Bible Study group up and running. Prior to the pandemic, this group was meeting at the church on Tuesday evenings and for the past year, has been studying "Women of the Bible", which generated considerable discussion and contemplation. Discussions generally include lots of sharing of ideas, how the material effects lives and often, personal experiences.

We're just about finished with the current course and are looking for a new subject to begin the new year. In the past, we've used published study materials such as "Women of the Bible", a study of St. Paul, Old Testament studies, Revelation and many others. We use published courses which often include supplemental material, questions and suggestions for discussion.

Anyone can join and jump in at any point. New ideas are always welcome.

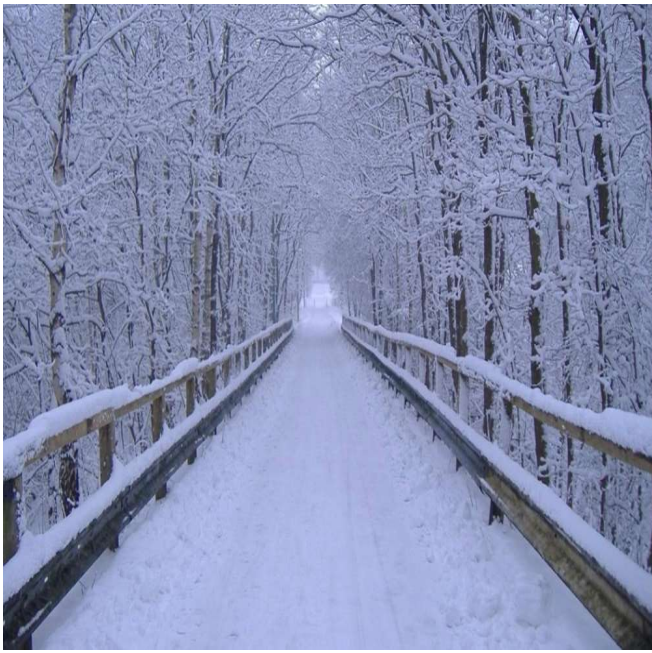
We meet on the second and forth Tuesday of the month via Zoom so if you interested, just let us know and we'll get you the link. You can contact me direct via email (mhopkins735@outlook.com) or text (603 765 3736) to get the link, or contact any other member of the group

Dirty Job – Help Wanted

we have a dirty job that needs to be done, Mike Rowe is not available... Looking for a few people who would be willing to clear out the boiler room and reorganize. Could be a half day job for three or four people.

Our boiler room contains many useful tools, supplies and cleaning machines, opened paint cans, supplies, odds and ends... all needing to be identified, stored efficiently, thrown away, recycled etc. to make the best use of the space.

Interested? Please contact Ed Giroux, Mike Hopkins or Linda Kusnierz if willing to help with this job. Thank you.



"Almighty God, our heavenly Father, the privilege is ours to share
in the loving, healing, reconciling mission of your Son Jesus
Christ, our Lord, in this age and wherever we are. Since without
you we can do no good thing.
May your Spirit make us wise;
May your Spirit guide us;
May your Spirit renew us;
May your Spirit strengthen us;
So that we will be:
Strong in faith,
Discerning in proclamation,
Courageous in witness, and
Persistent in good deeds.
This we ask through the name of the Father."
Church of the Province of the West Indies

St. Anne's Prayer List:

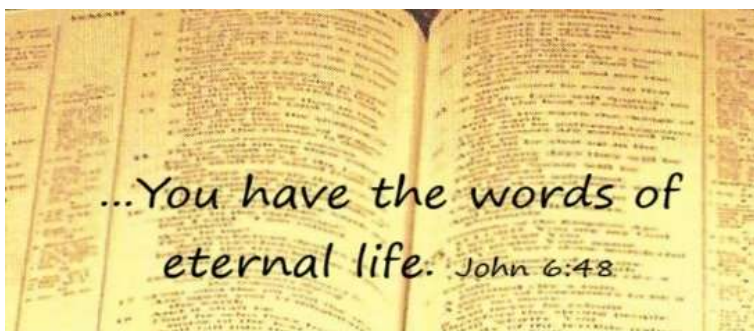
Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of the sheep, you gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom: We commend to your loving care this child (Name). Relieve their pain, guard them from all danger, restore to them your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise them up to a life of service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

NAME	Birthday	NAME	Birthday	NAME	Birthday
David Carpine	11/2	Steve Hopkins	12/2	John Kusnierz	1/7
Eli Baldwin	11/4	Belinda Fletcher	12/5	Sandra Giroux	1/11
Jennifer Stockton	11/19	Marguerite Massey	12/7	Carol McKenzie	1/25
Amy O'Sullivan	11/20	Pat Cregg	12/10	Mike Hopkins	1/27
Julie Komarinski	11/28	Andrea Jeffery	12/18		
		Lisa Carpine	12/25		
		Nicole Knowles	12/26		

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

Accessing Mental Health Care in Eastern Mass

This very difficult year of disease, isolation, financial turmoil, and political strife has left most of us beaten-down and some of us overwhelmed and despondent. Multiple stressors, in different areas of life, are a recipe for feelings of depression, anxiety, and hopelessness. Unfortunately, such feelings make it more difficult to ask for help. The deep and pervasive stigma associated with mental health treatment only adds to the difficulty.

Thoughts that life is not worth living, that the people you love would be better off without you, or that you want to kill yourself are all indications of a psychiatric emergency; urgent treatment is needed. In Massachusetts we are fortunate to have a psychiatric emergency service that is available 24 hours a day / every day. This is an option in addition to calling 911 or going to a hospital emergency room. The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health website offers the following information and a state-wide phone number:

If you or a family member are experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis, the Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention (ESP/MCI) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Anyone may contact ESP/MCI for assistance. Call toll-free at 1 (877) 382-1609.

In MetroWest Boston, the area where most of us live, the group that offers psychiatric emergency services is Advocates, but there are other providers who provide this service for other geographic regions. A complete list, by region and town is available at:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/emergency-services-program-contact-information>

Geographic Region	Provider Agency	Crisis Phone Number
MetroWest	Advocates	<u>1-800-640-5432</u>
Boston	Boston emergency services team	<u>1-800-981-4357</u>
Cambridge / Somerville	Cambridge / Somerville emergency services program	<u>1-800-981-4357</u>
Newton / Needham area	Riverside	<u>1-800-529-5077</u>

If you want help, but not in an emergency, it is best to start with your primary care doctor or with a preferred provider list from your insurance company. It can take some time to get a non-emergent referral, but persistence is rewarded. There are therapies and medications available that can help.



If you need help finding our Channel (YouTube) and Page (Facebook) please let us know. We can set it up with you, so you receive alerts when new content is posted.

In Closing ~ The World According to Mr. Rogers

“In times of stress, the best thing we can do for each other is to listen with our ears and our hearts and to be assured that our questions are just as important as our answers.”- **Mr. Rogers**