

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

JANUARY

2021

Newsletter

January Greetings

Dear St. Anne's,

No other Newsletter greets you with three church seasons to choose from! According to Facebook's system of tracking numbers, you liked the Advent Prayers I posted. You didn't watch our services of worship quite as much. Perhaps Christmas was just too different this year to include "going" to church. And now, it is already the season of the Epiphany, or 'seeing & 'understanding'. How can our Sunday mornings bring us together for more seeing and understanding?

In one of the immigration advocacy groups that I work with, they hold to this statement: **We expect messiness, confusion, and*

discomfort, and we choose courage and trust.

What a helpful way to approach the pandemic's demand of us that we do worship and community-building differently. Let's try new things this Epiphany season, even if they are a bit messy and confusing. What can you imagine?

God is always there, here, everywhere to pick us up and try again. His Incarnate Love always conquers all. Of this I am absolutely certain.

With faith,
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

Mother Jennifer's **office hours** are generally

Tuesdays 11-4 or later

Wednesdays possibly 11-4

Thursdays 2-5 or later PLEASE call or email her with any kind of pastoral concern.

If any pastoral concern arises, please do not hesitate for a second to contact your Priest.

From the Wardens

It's a new year and I (Mike) get to write the first newsletter article "From the Wardens" in 2021 and the first thing I'd like to do is thank Lisa Carpine for her creation and operation of a highly successful Twelve Nights of Christmas fair in the face of a continuing pandemic. And I also want to thank Sandra Giroux for her work raising close to \$1000 for the House of Hope helping families in Massachusetts, helping them gain stable housing. Thank you, Lisa and Sandra, and thanks to everyone who participated in the Twelve Nights Fair and with contributions to the Angel Tree. Examples of Stewardship that can be done with a little creativity and determination.

Following the service for Advent 4, the church was decorated for Christmas with the hanging of wreaths and the addition of poinsettias around the altar. Three manger scenes were set up: one in front of the altar, one on the piano and one outdoors. Each had new characters appearing as the season progressed to the 3rd Christmas service where the 3 kings arrived.

Not everything went according to plan during Advent. Within a half hour or so of recording of the Advent 4 and Lessons and Carols services we learned the posted versions had no audio and both services needed to be re-recorded. Thanks to everyone who stayed for all four service recordings that Sunday – Mark, Maria, Ed, Sandy, Peter, Brenda and of course, Mother Jennifer. Our apologies to those who accessed those services early in the day and couldn't figure out why there was no sound. The second services with sound, were posted by mid-afternoon.

We can't seem to get past finding new water leaks. The latest just before Christmas, turned out to be a leak in a rusted hot water heater in the basement of the church. John Geen was able to locate the leak and shut off the water to that heater, which will need to be replaced. Fortunately, it's a heater that only supplies hot water to the bathroom behind the Sanctuary and the single sink in the Sanctuary.

As Ed wrote in the December newsletter, I'd like to repeat his last sentences: "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 Mike Hopkins & Ed Giroux

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

The December 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. We met Ruth and Naomi.

Next up is David. The packets will be ready January 17.

Advent lessons shared at our prayer table can be seen on St. Anne's YouTube page and on our website.

<http://stannes-billerica.org/Education.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh0faV8iieCG7h42EBrDE0Q>

Coming very soon are Christmas and Epiphany video lessons. Please give them a watch.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

-Brenda Komarinski

Pledge Report

The final count for 2020 is complete thanks to Marguerite and Kathy who have kept this essential function going through the pandemic. The total regular giving for 2020 is \$90,150 compared to \$104,424 for 2019.

For 2021 we have, so far, only 38 pledges for a total of \$65,081 compared with 62 active pledge numbers in 2020. Pledge card returns are important not just because of enabling a more accurate budget but because they are the main measure of active church membership. Their number is the first thing folks examine for such as hiring a new priest. So, please pledge something you know you can afford and please return your card as soon as possible. We are running out of time before the report for the annual meeting.

Last, God bless you all for keeping donations coming to St. Anne's during this exceptionally difficult year of 2020. I think we will remember it for a long time.

John Geen, assistant treasurer for pledges.

Announcements

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 – January

As we are aware the Town of Billerica and half of the towns/cities in the Commonwealth are in a red status. The Governor has imposed new restrictions on gatherings, which hopefully are for a short period of time and result in a containment of the spread of COVID. The vaccine is now being distributed and administered which brings us all hope for the future.

St Anne's will continue with remote worship indefinitely with care for the health of our parishioners. Thank you to M. Jennifer, Rev Jonathan, the Worship Team, and the additional voices in song for the Advent prayers, the Christmas Eve celebration and the Lessons and Carols service. You all brought comfort and joy during this time.

Be well, with wishes for all the best in 2021!

Linda Kusnierz,

Your Re-Gathering Team, Linda Kusnierz Ken Kinser Marguerite Massey Kathy Brewster

Community Outreach

FOOD Pantry is MOVING To help us continue to serve the growing numbers of neighbors in need of food during this pandemic, we are moving the Pantry operations to 11 Concord Rd in the center of town (the former Masonic Talbot Lodge – next to the library).

Distributions will continue to use a 'Drive-thru' model. New appointments will be provided and **each month** recipients will be **required** to contact us and confirm their appointment.

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.

Here is our target wish list for January – thank you in advance for always being there to help.

Billerica Community Pantry

Drop off Locations

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

Items Needed Every Friday

Instant Oatmeal Packets



Jelly and Jam



Please have items delivered to your preferred location by 5pm

Sandra Billerica Community Pantry Board Member

Angel Tree



St Anne's Episcopal Church of North Billerica is amazing, St Anne's has a long history of helping those in need especially during the holidays. In a most difficult time for everyone you put your own fears and concerns aside and exceeded any expectation of generosity, you came through with almost \$1,000 in support for the House of Hope.

With your generosity, we were able to buy towels, sheets, blankets, bed comforters, books, art supplies, coloring books, laptop desks, and baby monitors. We also spent some of the funds on kid & adult masks, sanitizer, and cleaning supplies.

Your generosity is always appreciated and astounding! Sandra



Special Events - Christmas Fair Update

2020 was a year of firsts for St. Anne's. This year we successfully implemented our first Virtual Christmas fair. It has been so difficult for us not to be together, but as a community we all came together to support our Church. Together we raffled 16 amazing prizes for our 12 days of Christmas, and we raised \$1051. Thank you for all of your support and generosity as we tried a new approach to our annual Christmas Fair.

Lisa Caprine



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

St. Anne's Sunday school numbers have doubled since before the pandemic. Brenda has been quietly ministering in effective, supportive ways. Congratulations to unfolding possibilities!

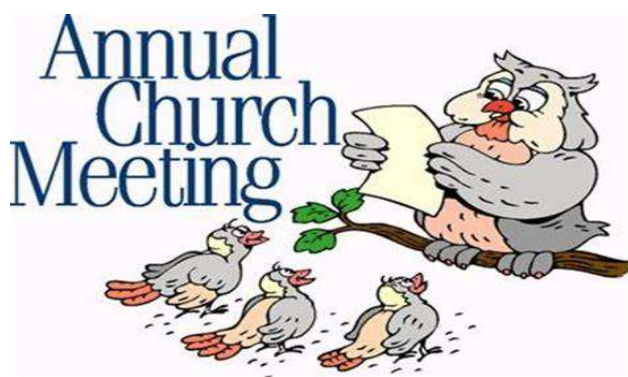
Our Newsletters have become pages that demonstrate the AMAZING amount of activity in our church. Only because we have technology in place, and because we have technology available to us, do we see so much outward ministry taking place by all of you. Congratulations!

News about our upcoming Annual Meeting

Our By-Laws are wonderful: they do not specify that the Annual Meeting must be in person. We can go ahead with a meeting by Zoom and have it count legally without any hiccups! Hooray for our forebears!!

We have no impediments to our meeting, only the ones that we create. Ah.

Another great part of our By-Laws is the amount they establish for a quorum: ten percent of regular worshipers and financial contributors. Those are standards that are easy to meet unlike many other churches' By-Laws. Way to go, St. Anne's :-)



Warrant for 2021 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in North Billerica, MA will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:15am by Zoom videoconferencing for the purpose of:

- Election of Vestry members, Convention and Deanery Delegates
- Election of Co-Wardens, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Clerk
- Being informed about the 2021 Budget
- Receiving Annual Reports of the ministries of the parish
- Considering and voting upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting

By Order of the Vestry MM, Clerk

******* If you normally do reports for the Annual Meeting, please send it in NOW to StAnnesBillerica@gmail.com. They are due prior to January 9th.**

Continued update: 235th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts

Representatives to the convention approved several resolutions. The first involved the "diocesan Total Clergy Compensation (TCC) be defined as the total of cash any, and all other cash compensation paid to an individual clergyperson. TCC does not include benefits (e.g. pension, health, or dental insurance, etc.) or reimbursements for job related expenses as described in the 2020 Guidelines."

The Diocese has a formula that is to be used to determine the minimum compensation package for various positions that may be at a church. The formula involves adding the total current operating revenue, number of current adult pledging units, and the average current Sunday-Attendance. Each number is multiplied by a percentage determined by the Diocese to arrive at Total Points which are used to determine the compensation for each position at a church.

The budget for 2021 was approved. The budget information was broken down with detail regarding the Income (assessments, investments, and Endowments, and Other Income Sources) and Expenses (overview, Mission Strategy Disbursements, and Mission Strategy Support.) If anyone is interested in seeing the details of the budget, they are available on the Diocese website and I also have a copy of the information that I can make available.

The convention also resolved that the bishops will be called "to issue a proclamation declaring a climate emergency, thereby recognizing Bishop Curry's call to care for God's beloved world, and further recognizing that accelerating global warming and mass extinctions are destroying God's Creation, threatening to make our planet uninhabitable, and therefore committing us to embrace brave and difficult change." Working with the diocesan Creation Care Justice Network (CCJN) the bishops will create the text of the proclamation.

In the January issue I will provide an update on the two remaining resolutions.

Presented by Marguerite Massey, delegate to the Diocese Convention



Well THAT was a year I don't want to repeat.

Virtual worship wrapped up 2020 by recording services for Dec 20 and Dec 27 so the entire team could take a week off only to discover that due to a configuration problem, there was no sound. Nothing - not a peep. The good news was this was discovered before we all left for the day on the 20th so we quickly reset and re-recorded both services after having made sure the sound was working. In the end some of us were there about 8 hours that day. We got back together a few days later to record the Christmas Eve service. There were a lot of new things we tried yet I walked away that evening thinking that was the best all-around service we've recorded.

But back to details. We've moved the two cameras out into the pews, one near where we want to permanently mount it, the other about halfway back. Both give us really good views of the altar, the piano, and organ. There's still the occasional mess-up when we forget which camera is recording and which we can move but that's a lot smoother these days. The cameras include presets so they can quickly aim at a specific spot each time to give a bit of consistency to everything. The sound is.... better? I think we finally have the right set of settings, recording equipment, and microphone placement to have things sound like you were right there. Minus the fan from the heating system.

With things the way they are it's been difficult to get an electrician in to add lights and mount the cameras. Once that's done we can move the recording area from in front of Mother Jennifer and into the microphone room. From there we'd be able to go to YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. This will also move the cameras out of the pews so that when we are able to open our doors you probably won't notice a thing, maybe some brighter lights in a few spots.

I really want to thank the people who have been donating their time, talent, and treasure to make this happen: Ed Giroux has been handling almost all of the readings and prayers, Sandra Giroux has been operating the cameras and working with Mother Jennifer as I can only describe as co-directors, Brenda Komarinski and Mike Hopkins have been taking turns at acolyte and responses to prayers, and Maria Martin's solo singing with Peter Morelli at the organ and piano have combined to continue to make St. Anne's a place of worship even if everyone can't be there in person.

Mark Komarinski
Virtual Worship Committee



Note on Music... I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and I'm wishing you the very best this New Year.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and I'm wishing you the very best this New Year.

Many thanks to...

...Mother Jennifer for providing all-around leadership,

...the recording team (humbly named) for outdoing themselves with the Advent & Christmas services,

...all the congregation of St. Anne's for keeping St. Anne's together,

...Maria, for offering her beautiful singing from week to week,

...Maria (again), Michele O, John G, Ken K, & John C. for offering their time & talent to record the Christmas Eve hymn-sing music at St. Anne's.

Following is a Dropbox link to the folder of the Christmas Eve hymn-sing recordings...

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8gaavokhrma7z0p/AADtpnO6T_I7GUYu-CtZBPx1a?dl=0

And following is a Dropbox link to the folder with five St. Anne's prelude highlights of the past months...

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/55a3bwc300rc2im/AABRdwBQnluQrZVpQJ6vpbsfa?dl=0>

Lastly, following is a Dropbox link to the folder containing recordings of many of the preludes & postludes at St. Anne's the past months.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/a9qy6nyefrdd1j/AACRUKrZsaPW0Gwx4EeS9YBha?dl=0>

I hope you're all doing well.

Best, Pete

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 fourth 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

The Power of Prayer

2020....what a year. Our family truly saw the new meaning of Christmas love when Kathy developed a very serious infection the day after Christmas and had to be airlifted to Tufts Medical Center, where her recovery was lifted by prayers near and far. We really ran the gamut of emotions in the past week. We want to thank you all for holding us close in prayer and love. The hope and joy of the birth of Jesus was evident in the prayers you sent to us.

With gratitude and love,

Pete, Kathy, and Andrea Jeffrey

Ps look for the Facebook page "Kathygram" for the whole story, and updates on the road to recovery.



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:

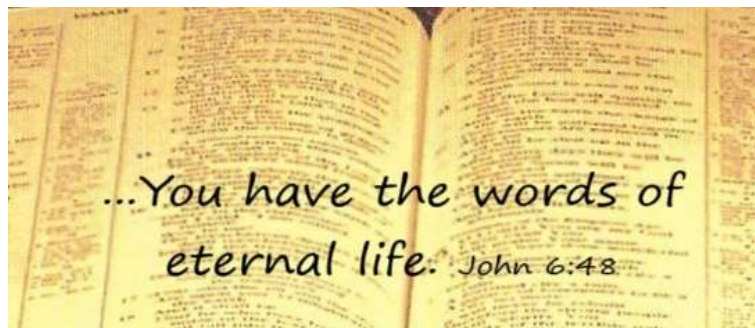
Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine McLaughlin, Greg D., Elaine Howland, Dianne Brown, John Phillips,
Norm & MJ Zarella, Janet Lyna, Barbara Rogers, Pat McCleave & family, Cyndi,
Patricia Mobley, Susan Fader, Fred Brown, Debbie King, Cathie and Greg Harper,
Irene and Kenneth Mouradian, Linda E., Mary Hyatt, Jose Torres Sr., Sarah Komarinski,

For those in nursing homes or with ongoing illnesses:

Marie Horgan, Joshua Young, Dinah Holman

Especially in our prayers:

Donald Fudge, Kathy Jeffrey



WCVB Channel 5 Boston

55m • ⚙

Woburn city officials say the cases are spread throughout the region.



🔊 WCVB CHANNEL 5 BOSTON • 1 MIN READ

57 COVID-19 cases now linked to Christmas Eve gatherings at church

Please say a prayer for all those who attended Christmas Eve services in Woburn, Ma and are now infected with Covid.

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.

PAST PRESENT & FUTURE BIRTHDAYS

Steve Hopkins	12/2	John Kusnierz	1/7
Belinda Fletcher	12/5	Carol McKenzie	1/25
Marguerite Massey	12/7	Mike Hopkins	1/27
Pat Cregg	12/10		
Andrea Jeffery	12/18	Stacey Fassi	2/7
Lisa Carpine	12/25	Norm Zarella	2/15
Nicole Knowles	12/26	Todd Baldwin	2/20

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

Thrift Shop Update

If you don't have time to volunteer in the shop perhaps you may have the time to put out the trash barrels every Sunday for trash pickup on Monday. Taking bags of clothing and dropping them off in a clothing bin that are in various locations in Billerica is a big help. Taking bags of books and/or CD's to the bookstore in Burlington helps to move items out of the shop that we can't sell. Lastly taking items from the shop to a Savers store either in Wilmington or in New Hampshire helps get items to those in need elsewhere. If you are able to help in any of these ways please let Kathy Brewster cell 978-729-9202 or Marguerite Massey cell 978-987-9800 know.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

From the Diocese

The **Working Group on Adolescent Mental Health plans** to offer a series of pre-recorded sermons that any congregation or youth group in the diocese can use on the Sundays from Jan. 17 to Feb. 14. A diverse group of preachers from around the diocese will prepare sermons for adolescents that will also be appropriate for adults listening along. The goal is to center and support young people and speak to them pastorally during an incredibly challenging and isolating time. Access information will be announced.

FOR INFORMATION: The Very Rev. Amy McCreath (amccreath@diomass.org) or The Rev. Christopher Whiteman (whiteman@trinity-concord.org).

Safe Church

While we are not meeting in person, it is still important to keep up with our Safe Church training. Many of us took this 3 years ago and are due for a refresher. This can be done online at: www.safeguardingonline.org

Per the Diocesan website:

“This training is designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power, to outline steps toward preventing abuse, to offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs and to equip anyone in a position of congregational leadership with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ.

The training is required of all clergy, diocesan employees and congregational employees. It is also highly recommended for wardens, vestry members, lay eucharistic visitors, pastoral visitors, youth leaders, Confirmation sponsors, acolyte leaders, choir directors, church school teachers and volunteers working in a congregation on a regular basis. “

If you have any questions, please email Brenda Komarinski, bkomarinski@gmail.com.

Stay Safe! -Brenda

Multicultural Celebration of Epiphany/Three Kings Day

Tuesday, January 5th at 5:00pm on zoom. Please Register to receive link. Mother Jennifer is proud to participate in this event. <https://www.diomass.org/epiphany-three-kings-2020>





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**



Stay Safe – Stay Healthy until we can meet again