

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY

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WORDS OF HOPE ACCUMULATED BY GUESTS OF COFFEE HOUR

February Greetings

Dear Parish of St. Anne's,

I write this while still basking in the glow of my first Annual Meeting with you. As you said, the ministry of God through our hands and feet for Christ has, if anything, been invigorated by the coronavirus pandemic! You are not slackers in any regard! Congratulations for your perseverance, even in very uncomfortable times.

Gaze and gaze at the heart above filled with the words that gave us hope during this month of January. One never knows what direction the Coffee Hour conversation will take.

As I drive in to Billerica, I've become aware of how the land formations change and shift. More water mingles

with land. High points drop down and down until the low points fill with water. Beautiful pine forests give way to marshes and bogs. All the parts of land and water live together, needing each other.

This is the metaphor to describe us. We need all of us. We need us in our differences. We thrive most when we intermingle, feeding and sustaining each other. Does this apply to Black History month? I can't wait to see. Continue the journey of seeking and giving nourishment to each other.

May your hands and feet for Christ be watered and blessed, as you know how much I appreciate you.

Gratefully,

Mother Jennifer

St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

February

2021

Newsletter

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
Brenda Komarinski – 2022
Bob Peck - 2022
Rosemary Kinser – 2022
Jose Torres – 2022
Russell Brent - 2022
Linda Kusnierz – 2023
Dorothy Callihan – 2023
Janet Lyna - 2023
Marie Figenbaun - 2024

Worship:

9:30 am Sunday
YouTube, Facebook and BATV

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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

Our first attempt at a virtual Annual meeting appears to have been a great success. Thanks to everyone for attending at one point I counted 24 people and if I left my screen so I could see everyone, the boxes on my lap top screen got a bit small. It was still very manageable; I was very happy to see a few faces I hadn't seen in several months.

Linda Kushner has been putting together information on data base programs and accounting software used by other churches. The wardens, rector and a few others have been reviewing the information to determine what would be beneficial for St. Anne's. The need for a database became clear after several people spent time consolidating existing parish lists into one we believe is accurate. A managed data base program will not only provide the way to maintain the parish list but also provide a means to organize organizations and various ministries within the church. As for accounting software, our auditors have been telling us for a couple of years now that our use of multiple spreadsheets was not going to be acceptable moving forward. A decision on what programs we will be using and how they'll be managed will be made soon.

The January newsletter mentioned a water leak in a hot water heater serving the sinks in the sanctuary and the adjoining bathroom. The good news is we believe that leak will fixed with the replacement of the rusted, leaky old heater with a new one to be installed this coming week. Fingers crossed for no more leaks!

Faithfully your Wardens, Mike Hopkins & Ed Giroux

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME

by Brenda Komarinski

The January Take-Home Sunday packets went out January 17. If you would like one, please email me at bkomarinski@gmail.com and I will get it to you. We met David. The next person from the Bible that we will meet is Solomon. The packets will be ready February 14.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd lessons shared at our prayer table can be seen on St. Anne's YouTube page and on our website.

<http://stannes-billerica.org/sunday-school-videos/>

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

Please give them a watch. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Tuesday Evening Bible Study

The Tuesday evening bible study group is starting off the new year studying the Psalms. We're using a book titled PSALMS Prayers of the Heart but Eugene Peterson as our guide. This is part of the Life Guide bible studies series for small groups which provides a short introduction to the Psalm to and a list of questions to be discussed. Based on our first meeting and reading of Psalm 1, I believe we're going to have a very interesting and lively group.

Tuesday evening bible study is done virtually using Zoom and this works very well for a small group. It's open to everyone and we meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. If you'd like to join we'd love to have you. Just send me an email at mhopkins735@outlook.com and I'll see that you get the Zoom link to the meeting.

Mike H.

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.

FEBRUARY 7TH - BRING CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

FEBRUARY 14TH - BRING HEALTHY HERMITS

Thank you all for attending the Annual Meeting via Zoom 1.31.2021



Weekly announcements will continue to be listed in the bulletin.

A few words from the Re-Gathering Team

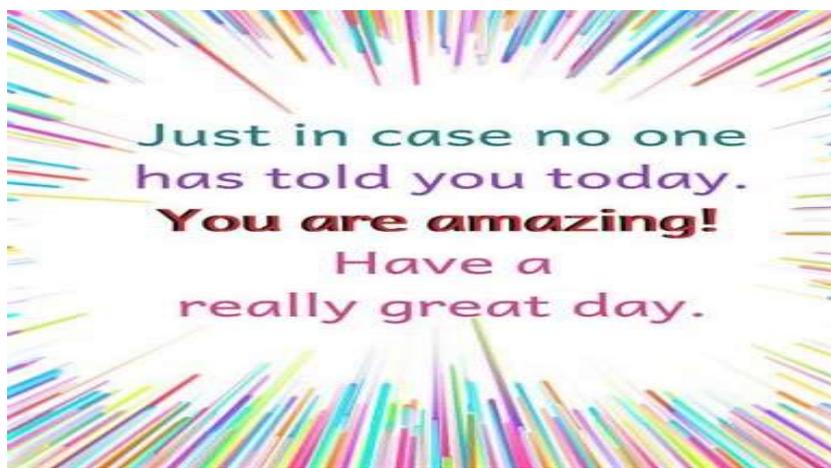
Re-gathering Team: Linda Kusnierz, Ken Kinser, Marguerite Massey, Kathy Brewster

We continue to monitor Billerica's COVID-19 status, we remain red. Billerica has been in a red status for 9 weeks under the revised State measurement. We are thankful that the vaccine is being distributed under the Phase 1 group. We also acknowledge the concerns regarding new variants.

Most recently the Team met to discuss and determine if we would be safely returned to in-person worship by Easter Sunday (April 4). We discussed Ash Wednesday, and services through Lent and to the Easter Sunday Celebration. There has been no change in the Bishops emphasis "all churches are strongly urged to suspend all in-person, indoor worship." Together we agreed that we do not foresee that we will be able to safely celebrate in person worship by Easter, April 4.

Remote worship *only* remains indefinite. The time will come when we gather and resume in person worship (and continue to provide remote worship) we look forward to that time!

Linda Kusnierz,



Community Outreach – annual summary

By now you all must have heard me say "Church is not just what we do on Sunday; it is HOW we live our lives". I do believe St Anne's sets a shining example of practicing what we preach.

We, the people of St Anne's, have gone into the community and spread love and hope in an exceedingly difficult year. What started off as a normal year was somehow derailed due to a little thing called the Covid 19 pandemic.

As I am writing this, I keep coming back to the phrase we say in the renewal of our Baptism, “I will with God’s Help”. With God’s help, the people of St Anne’s contributed so much to the Billerica Community Pantry and the House of Hope.

Here are some of highlights and drives St Anne’s participated in:

January:	Full size boxes of tissues for Cold & Flu season
February & March	Dental Hygiene including toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash & floss.
May & June:	Canned Tuna, Mayo, Spaghetti Sauce, Jelly & Nutella
June:	The Vestry approved the use of the classrooms for storage for the pantry.
August	Sue & John, Lisa, and Brenda were designated helpers to collect food from storage bins around town to bring back to St Anne’s for safe keeping. Participated in food drive for Tuna, Chicken, Mayo, Jelly & canned fruit.
September	Baking mixes, frosting, and personal hygiene items
November	Baking goods mixes, jello, pudding and pie mixes
December	Dish soap, sponges, tissues, hand sanitizer and cleaning products. Almost a \$1,000.00 worth of gifts to the House of Hope

Please note the above list doesn’t take into consideration the considerable number of manual labor hours you put in sorting and shifting food from one location to another for distributions. Or the people that are now considered regular volunteers at the pantry.

Also not accounted for in this list are the NUMEROUS phone calls you all made to just check in on our St Anne’s family members. St Anne’s also brought Missionaries from the Church of Latter Day Saints into St Anne’s thrift shop to help stock when the missionaries were having problems (and still are) maintaining service hours.

I know the Pandemic curtailed some activities but due to your outreach you have made so many a little more hopeful. I cannot wait to see where 2021 takes us.

Thank you for allowing Church to leave the building and spread hope all around.



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

In the Office

We are closer to hiring a new parish administrator. When you see a new face and name, welcome her into our midst.

Annual Report

THANK YOU to all who contributed reports to our Annual Meeting. I appreciate your willingness to describe new parts of ministry that you may not have written about before. I don't take any of you for granted!

Parochial Report

This month's project will be assembling the Parochial Report. It is the document by which the National Church collects its statistics about Episcopalians.

This year we are asked more questions than in the past, like how has the pandemic affected our church life and are we committed to racial justice and reconciliation. The first question, being descriptive, is easier than the second. However, I view this second question as also descriptive. It is not about where we think we should be or even about where we want to be. I think it only asks if we care about being on a journey of trying to understand more about this topic that affects all of us when it affects one of us. If we answer 'yes' to caring, then I believe we can answer 'yes' to that commitment. Awareness is the beginning.

As I have said to the Vestry, I have no investment in the direction of our journey; I just care that we are on the journey of racial awareness. Please write to me with your thoughts on this. Or use a telephone.

Technology Winners!

Do you know that we had about six new Zoom users arrive at Annual Meeting this year?! I was so impressed with the great effort you made to overcome your hesitancy about the technology. In fact, altogether, we had just six fewer attend than two years ago when people just had to walk in. You are right, the pandemic has not held us back! Thank you all.

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

This year, the contagiousness of the coronavirus means that I will not be imposing ashes on any person's forehead. We will not get the close encounter with our mortality that those gray ashes of last spring's palms always signify. Instead, we are reminded of mortality too often by the disease. Instead, we shall enter into the other parts of Ash Wednesday's service. <https://www.bcponline.org>

Beginning with readings and a homily, our service will include the invitation to observe a holy Lent, the saying of Psalm 51 together, and the Litany of Penitence, concluding with an absolution. It is a full service, somber and truthful. Regardless of our use of technology. I look forward to it with you. There will be a parish email/letter about it closer to the time.



Virtual gatherings by Mark Komarinski

I think we're near the pinnacle of what we can do for technology right now. There's a few additional changes that I'd like to get in but we need an electrician. Do you know someone that can run network cables and change light bulbs in really high ceilings? Get in touch with the Wardens.

If you were able to make it to one of our live broadcasts back in the fall the setup is very similar except the cameras are on opposite sides of the church maybe ½ way back. The service starts the same way with me shouting out a countdown and then start recording and broadcasting to YouTube. Sandra and Mother Jennifer worked out anything special about the service and worked out times for the hymns so we know what happens when. Mother Jennifer and I try out the sound from her wireless microphone ahead of time to make sure the mic isn't touching anything and causing additional noise. This has been working out pretty well. There's a new microphone for picking up the congregation (such as it is, usually the acolyte and Sandra or myself if we can concentrate on that long enough) and the music. I think the sound from that is a lot better and it's less likely to pick up the footsteps of people walking past. I've started being more tactical in turning that microphone on, usually only when there's music or when there's a response. It makes it interesting for things like psalms where there's a voice and response where I'm trying to hit the right buttons at the right time. front

So funny story from this week. The laptop we're using has cameras plugged in, one on each side of the laptop. The display in front of Sandra and myself shows the output of the two cameras, one live and broadcasting and the other would go live at Sandra's wave to change. As the service started and Brenda is lighting candles, I see Sandra getting a bit panicky and notice that even though Brenda had lit the candles and walked off the Altar, the non-live camera was showing the candles as not lit. This happened in the past a few times and in really bad situations we'd be stuck with one camera, but I knew the fix – deactivate and reactivate the camera. It's a simple process and doesn't impact the live broadcast. Except this time it didn't work. The non-live camera is now black. That's when I realized that the camera on the right side of the laptop was unplugged. The microphone to record the music is near us so we can't make any noise in fear of it getting picked up, so I'm pointing at the floor where the cable is. Sandra somehow read my mind and grabbed it. I plugged it in, deactivated and reactivated and now we have lit candles. At that point we let out a quiet sigh of relief and the rest of the service went off well.

There's a small glimpse into the life of the broadcasting team. But the end result is that we're able to hopefully help you in some small way as we head towards a time when we can all meet in person again.





Note on Music... by Peter Morelli

Much care is being taken with the preludes, postludes, and hymns for the upcoming online services...in selecting, rehearsing, and polishing. This work now includes music for the upcoming season of Lent, and of course the Easter service in April. As mentioned at the Annual Meeting, the prelude for the Easter service this year is a well-written organ prelude on Jesus Christ Is Risen Today. It was composed in 1993, by Robert J. Powell.

On another topic, please consider sending in a hymn request or two. It's an opportunity to have music you particularly like, in a service at St. Anne's. Please send any music requests to... music@stannes-billerica.org

Cursillo Report 2020

Cursillo is a renewal movement within the church. It is lay-led, open, liturgical, and inclusive. It is a time to focus on what is fundamental for being a Christian in today's harried, hectic world. It is an opportunity to get away from the daily responsibilities of life and be fed spiritually.

The Secretariat of MEC is a group of committed leaders that act together to find ways to guide the renewal movement. The members include Rick Britton, Marion Brosseau, Kathy Doller, Ellen & Bill Harland, Cyndi Hopkins, Rosemary & Ken Kinser, Rev. Jonathan McKenzie, and Lisa Puls.

As we all know, 2020 has been a challenging year due to the pandemic and our need to social distance. One wonderful aspect of 2020 involved thinking "out of the box". There has been much creativity and willingness to try a new approach. The Secretariat has been very willing to work with the various parishes to plan Ultreyas on Zoom. Ultreyas promote sharing of our Christian lives in a group setting. Some of the themes include: "Giving Thanks, "The Joy of the Lord is your strength" – organized by our own Sue & John Geen, and "Peace beyond Understanding". One of the perks to on-line Ultreyas is that we are seeing friends from around the country. This special time together provides for scripture readings, music, pray, reflection, and discussion. Everyone is welcome!

Cursillo weekends are special because when you go home, your journey is not over. You have an opportunity to join smaller groups, called reunion groups, to continue to foster your spiritual growth. Our Cursillo weekend for 2020 required rescheduling due to the pandemic, but a team continues to do a check-in on a regular basis in anticipation of a new date in 2021/2022, once we are confident that it is safe to move forward.

Coming soon is a "Day of Reflection" which is a time to focus and to allow for meaningful spiritual substance relevant to our lives. This year's theme is "Hope" and will take place on March 13, 2021 during our Lenten season. All our Welcome!!

DeColores, Rosemary Kinser



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:

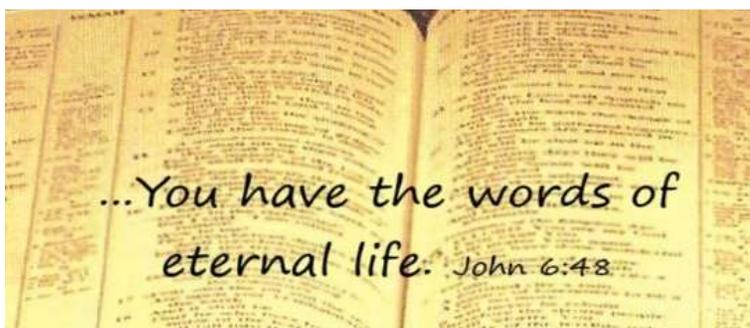
Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine McLaughlin, Greg D., Elaine Howland, Dianne Brown, John Phillips, Norm & MJ Zarella, Janet Lyna, Barbara Rogers, Pat McCleave & family, Cyndi, Patricia Mobley, Susan Fader, Fred Brown, Debbie King, Cathie and Greg Harper, Irene and Kenneth Mouradian, Linda E., Mary Hyatt, Jose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

For those in nursing homes or with ongoing illnesses:

Marie Horgan, Joshua Young, Kathy Jeffrey, Christine Lander

Especially in our prayers:

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.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Stacey Fassi	2/7	John & Sue Geen	3/1
Norm Zarella	2/15	Laurie Holman	3/8
Todd Baldwin	2/20	Linda Kusnierz	3/26

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

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

Check out our newest addition.

Many THANKS to Marguerite and Kathy B for staying on top of this!

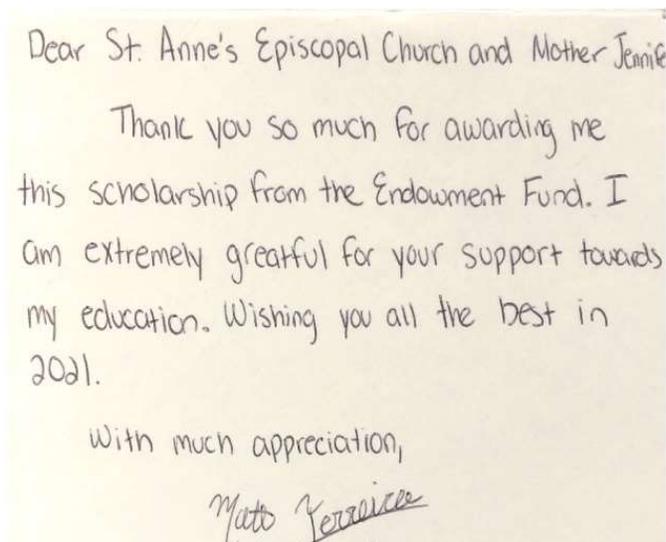
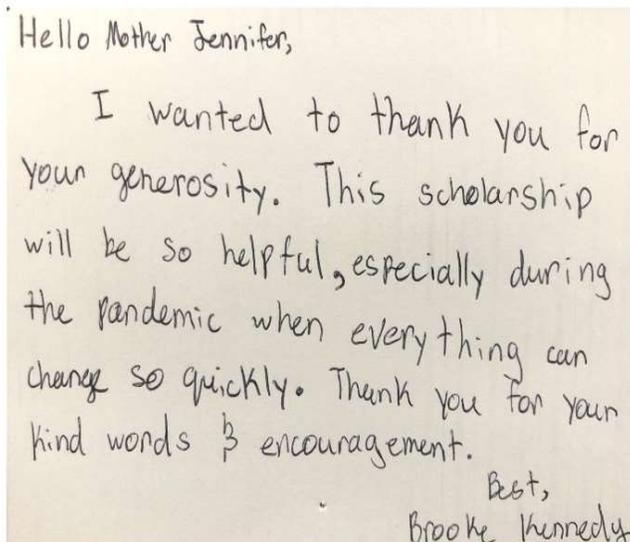
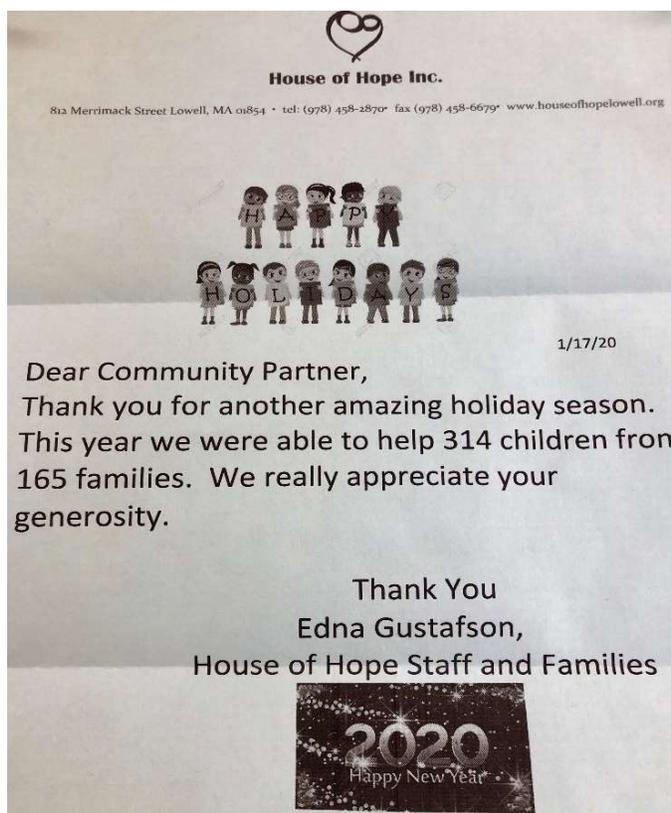
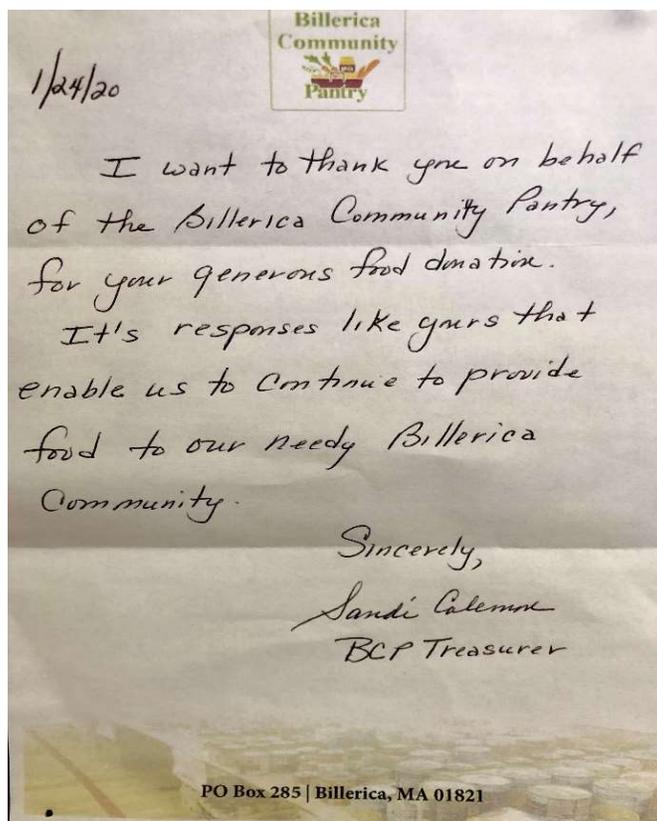
Here is part of the note from Marguerite Massey

I'm writing to everyone today to let you know that the long promised sign for the parking lot was installed on Tuesday afternoon. I received a call from the sign maker, Mike Gath, that he had installed in Tuesday afternoon before the snow. I was very surprised and overjoyed that he had completed the job. He did apologize for the length of time that it took him to get it completed. There were lots of setbacks and delays but I am thrilled that it has been installed and completed.

Photo credits to Ed.



THANK YOU NOTES RECEIVED:



Diocesan Events



This is your invitation to Diocesan Compline held each Friday at 8 pm. Visit www.stpaulsboston.org to register

Each week we pray for churches listed in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We use the David Hurd setting of Compline outlined in S321-337 in the Hymnal 1982.

After the scripture reading we hear a reflection and an anthem from a church in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Contact Louise Munding for further information. lmunding@diomass.org

Diocesan Compline at the Cathedral. Fridays at 8



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 ~ This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen. BCP, p. 461



Stay Safe – Stay Healthy until we can meet again.



A friend is the nicest thing to have and the best thing to be.