



St. Anne's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 134, Treble Cove Road
North Billerica, MA 01862

Jennifer's Mid-Summer News

July 29, 2021

Dear Parish of St. Anne's,

I write to you in the middle of summer during our break from a parish newsletter. I hope this finds you well.

You are in very capable and creative hands during these first three weeks in August, and our dear Rev'd Jonathan MacKenzie has agreed to respond to your pastoral emergencies. His mobile phone number is (978) 551-1544. I look forward to hearing your stories.

Some wise words from our PIC Consultant, Mark Gallagher, that I have enjoyed praying and reflecting upon:

- "Living things grow and change: otherwise, they stop living." Are we growing and changing at St. Anne's? Is there such a thing as too much? *We are alive!*
- "Shepherds don't beget sheep. It is sheep who beget sheep." Invite a ~~friend~~ parishioner to church with you, this summer and fall!

As we move forward together, I'm interested in your thoughts and opinions.

I've been thinking about post-pandemic opportunities for change. As we come back, what do we want the same, and what do we want to be different? How can we live creatively with the changes that are thrust upon us? These are my hopes:

- Church is the place I *want* to be.
- Church is the place I can't stay away from because I love it here!

What are your hopes for St. Anne's?

Regarding St. Anne's change from full-time clergy presence to half-time, we are still learning what that means. In a conversation this spring, a parishioner said, accurately, that the real question is not about a half-time *priest*. What does half-time *church* look like? Impossible! Yet, that's what we are finding out. With your help and your leadership, we can do it!

- Volunteer by email or phone call, don't always wait for an in-person ask.
- We have a Vestry opening just for four months. Why not try it out?
- We are all in our beloved St. Anne's boat of change as we see Jesus beckon to us about ministry right here. May we see Him and it together.

Remember to confirm your Realm electronic Parish Directory information.

We just passed St. Anne's Day in the church calendar (July 26). Remember when Bp Gayle suggested we have a party on that day for our church's neighborhood? Perhaps next year?

An important date has just been set for a Saturday in September 2021:

Rev'd Peggy Howell's Memorial Service will be on September 25th at 10:00 in the morning. This is a brand new time of day. Save the date! And tell others.

I shall close with one of my favorite prayers for you. It's in the Prayer Book, p. 291

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

With God's blessing and peace for a lovely August,


Mother Jennifer