

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

SEPTEMBER 2021 Newsletter

Dear People of St. Anne's~

It is always my privilege to serve God with you here at home in N. Billerica. During my recent vacation, I loved finding other places where God meets His people, and they take shelter in Him.

1. Village church



2 Mountain church



3. Pulpit's more important than the altar (where is the Table?!)



4. A carved disgruntled listener.



5. A happy congregant



It is the sense of humor about themselves that I love so much in this little building dedicated to worship. Hanging off the pulpit is an hourglass encased in a black metal cage for the purpose of reminding the preacher that the farmers had to get back to their fields! I laughed! Maybe I need an imaginary one!

May we return to a new year of church together with laughter heard in our own building for worship of an ever-so-patient-and-loving God.

Hooray for God's beckoning each of us to His home. May grace be with you in your journey.

Faithfully & gratefully,
Mother 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
Brenda Komarinski	2022
Rosemary Kinser	2022
Jose Torres	2022
Russell Bent	2022
Linda Kusnierz	2023
Dorothy Callihan	2023
Janet Lyna	2023
Marie Figenbaum	2024

Worship:

- 9:30 am Sunday in person
- Weekly worship on our YouTube Channel
- Our services are replayed on BATV
- Check out our Facebook page for our services.
- Check our website for a link to the services.



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

Mike Hopkins & Ed Giroux

You might have guessed by now that Ed and I take turns writing the "From the Wardens". In the July-August newsletter, Ed equated the changes in weather – heatwave to cooler temperatures -- with the constant changes we've been going through at St. Anne's. The only constant seems to be change itself. After some hope of positive changes with fewer Covid cases and less restrictions, we're moving back to higher Covid rates and unfortunately, re-instatement of some restrictions at the church regarding mask wearing and social distancing. I'm an optimist, so I know the next change will again be positive, but only if everyone does their part – get the shot, wear your mask and practice social distancing.

The doors remain open at St. Anne's for in-person worship and coffee hour and we expect to be able to keep them open, albeit with reinstated restrictions from the diocese and state. Our Sunday service continues to be broadcast on YouTube and on the web and if you're having trouble getting the virtual service, let us know and we'll find help for you. Leave a message at the church or call one of the Wardens or a vestry member and we'll get you watching.

In other news, we made it through 3 Sunday's without a hitch while Mother Jennifer was on vacation. One Sunday led by Rev. Jonathan, one Sunday led by me with an excellent talk by Rosemary Kinser and one led by Ed with a sermon by me. All three are still available on the web and YouTube as are all our previously recorded services.

Change continues and with everyone's help, we can make much of it positive. We understand some things are out of our control, but it's how we handle those changes that matter.

Church School Time

by Brenda Komarinski



We're going to try something different this year! We are going to meet once a month on Wednesday afternoon at the church. We will do a joint class on September 22 at 3:30pm. This will allow us to see how many kids and what ages are coming. We



will wear masks due to the pandemic. We will still offer take-home packets to those interested. This year's theme is Symbols of the Church and our first lesson will look at the Lamb. If you have any questions, please email Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

by John & Sue Geen

We will resume on the first Tuesday of September at 10am. As several of the group suggested, we will work on the Lord's Prayer. The study guides have been delivered and cost \$8 each. When we meet at the church, we will need to wear masks to conform to the Billerica Town guidance. We will examine each section of this, the most familiar of all prayers, and try, with God's help, to relate it to our lives so that it becomes more than mere recitation but a thoughtful point of contact between those lives and God's will. As always, we are open to anyone who wishes to come along to try our way of study, not necessarily parishioners, and will provide the warm welcome so characteristic of St. Anne's.

Peace be with you,
John and Sue Geen.

Book Club

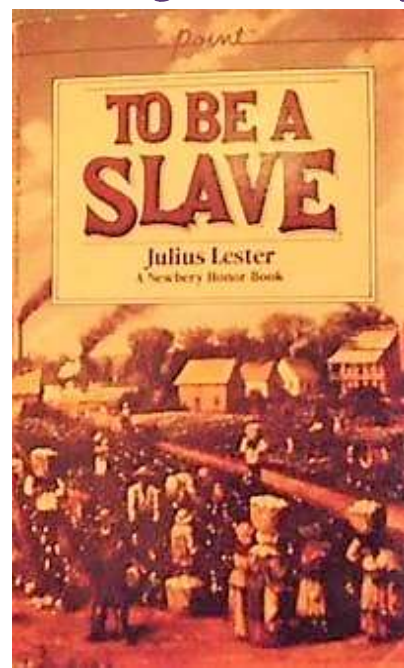
Marguerite Massey

Book Club Starting in September

The Social Justice Committee is **attempting to see what the problems are** in the area of social justice by starting a book club this fall. Our first meeting will be Monday, September 13 at 5:30pm at St. Anne's. At our first meeting we will determine the best time to meet in the future.

We plan to read as our first book, To Be A Slave by Julius Lester. Please join us with a copy of the book and an open mind. If you need assistance to obtain a copy of the book please contact me (mammasssey@aol.com) by September 6 and I will work with you to get the book.

I leave you with the words from Julius Lester "History is also a pain in the heart and we repeat history until we are able to make another's pain in the heart our own." This quote is from Lester's book To Be A Slave, page 8.



St. Anne's Realm Connect Update

By Ron Desmarais

Realm, as we have come to know over the past few months, is the new, computerized way that we can manage our parish, and communicate with one another. Realm is here not to completely replace things we have come accustomed to. Realm is here as a new tool that can make things easier, simpler and even quicker.

One way that we are using Realm is by having it house our parish directory, in an online environment. Everyone should have received an (email) invitation to join Realm. Accepting the invitation allows you not only access the parish directory, but also maintain your profile (e.g., change your address or phone number), and many other things. One of those things that Realm is going to allow us to do this year is for you to be able to send in your 2022 Pledge Drive submission via your computer or mobile phone later this year.

Now, you still will be able to fill out a paper, pledge card for 2022, and send it in via the collection plate or mail it in. And if you do that, it's completely fine. However, if you use Realm, you will find it quite simple, and takes only a few minutes of your time. You simply log onto your Realm account, and then go to the Giving page. There you will see the option to make your pledge (+Pledge), and when you select that, you will be taken to the 'Pledge Now' page. You'd simply enter your pledge amount and then click the 'Save Pledge' button. That's it! You're done!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://onrealm.org/StAnnesNorthBillerica/Pledge/AddPledge/20a6d17a-7a5e-4179-a1a2-ad4701289a1b?isUpcoming=false>. The page title is "Pledge Now" under the heading "Ronald Desmarais's Giving". The form includes a sidebar with navigation links: Community, Communications, Events, Giving, Groups, Serving, and Directory. The main form area has the following fields: "I pledge" with a value of 1,000.00, "to Pledge 2021 - 01/01/2021 until 12/31/2021", "to be given" set to "As can", "from" date 01/01/2021, "until" date 12/31/2021, and "for a total pledge of \$1,000.00". At the bottom of the form are three buttons: "Save Pledge", "Save & Set Up Online Gift", and "or Cancel".

It's just as easy on your mobile phone, once you install the Realm application. Open the Realm application, make your way to the Giving section, select 'Make a Pledge', and just enter your pledge amount and save it. Done!

The screenshot shows the mobile application interface for the Realm Connect app. The status bar at the top shows the time as 07:39 and the app name as "Realm Connect". The URL bar shows "onrealm.org". The form fields are: "I pledge" with a value of 0.00, "to Pledge 2021 - 01/01/2021 until 12/31/2021", "to be given" set to "As can", "from" date 08/15/2021, "until" date 12/31/2021, and "for a total pledge of \$0.00". At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Save Pledge" and "or Cancel".

Don't forget that with Realm, all of your information, like this, is safe, secure, and confidential.

As the 2022 Pledge Campaign gets nearer, we'll provide you with more details on how you can use this new option.

A Note on Music...

By Peter Morelli



I hope you are all doing well.

With the return to services with communion, starting September 5th, some changes will be made with the music. We're moving the placement of the hymns in the service to the offertory, and at communion. That means there will be no processional or recessional hymn...but of course there will be a prelude and postlude.

We're also going to have chimes played on the words "Holy, holy, holy" of the Sanctus.

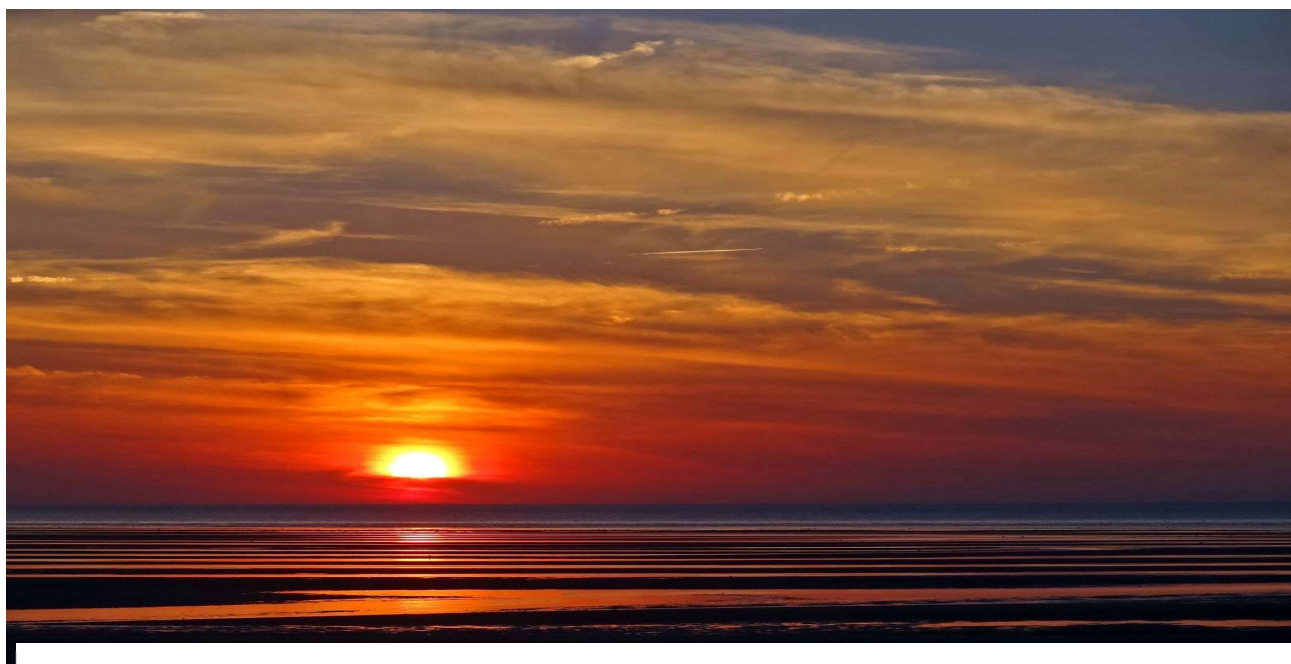
We'll continue to keep to 10 minutes of silence before the services (before the prelude begins).

We're looking into the possibility of having any choir members lead the offertory hymn once each month. The singers would sit socially distanced in the first three pews by the organ...facing forward and with masks on.

I'm looking forward to the upcoming services!

Cursillo

By Rosemary Kinser



Cursillo Update

The National Grand Ultreya was held on August 21, 2021.

The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry delivered the opening remarks.

Here is the link:

[Episcopal National Cursillo Ultreya 2021](#)

St. Anne's Social Group

by Dotty Callihan

Welcome back to St. Anne's Social Group meeting on Saturday,
September 11, at 7:00 PM, in Bixby Hall.

A few words from the Re-Gathering Team

The Re-Gathering Team met on August 24 to review the updated requirements and recommendations issued by the Diocese related to Covid and the recent increase in the Delta variant.



Effective as of August 25, 2021:

- **Now Required:** Maintain physical distancing (6ft. or more) between households at all indoor gatherings.
- **Now Required:** Mask wearing by everyone (except children age 2 and under) at all indoor gatherings.
- **Now required:** Covid vaccination is required of all persons, clergy or lay, who are engaged in ministries with the vulnerable, including children age 12 and under, homebound or immune-compromised persons, and those in hospitals and care facilities.
- We strongly urge vaccinations against the coronavirus for all members as soon as they are eligible. We reiterate, however, that our congregation must not require vaccination, nor documentation thereof, for attendance at worship services.

The full communication is available on the Diocesan website at:

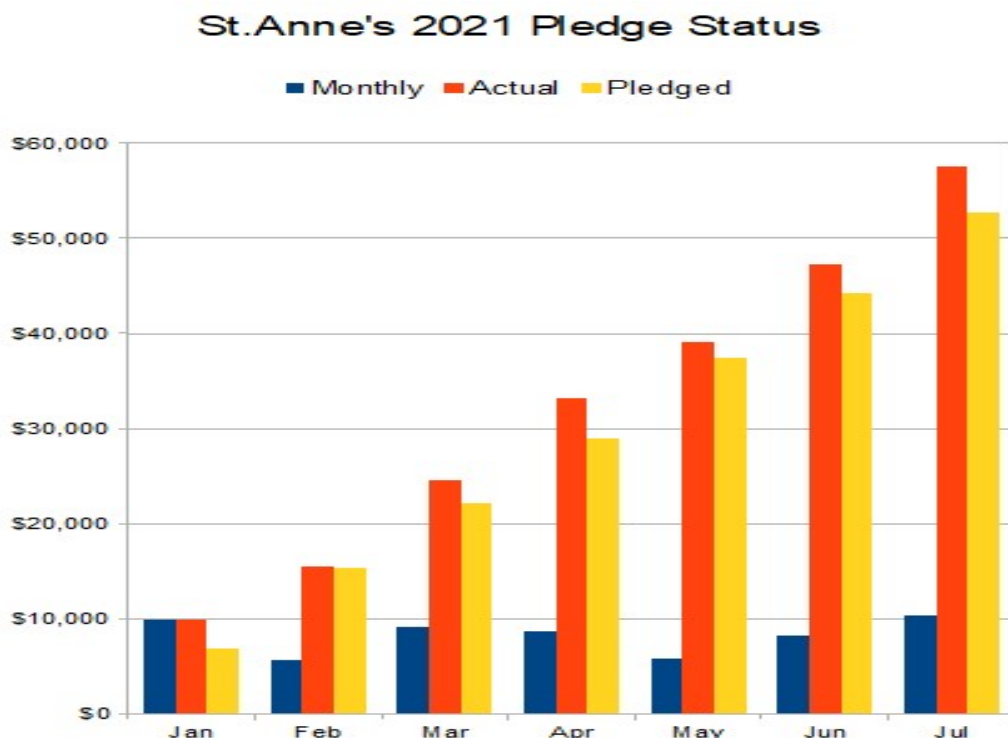
<https://www.diomass.org/news/diocesan-news/aug-16-pastoral-message-covid-19-requirements-recommendations>

Effective August 24, 2021, The Town of Billerica has issued an indoor mask order for indoor public spaces and private places.

St. Anne's will require mask wearing at services and when in our buildings. We will also encourage physical distancing to be maintained. Notices will be posted to advise mask wearing and physical distancing. Renters and other groups who meet in our buildings will be advised of these requirements. The use of the Mister Disinfector following services will continue. Coffee Hour will be modified to include a designated person to pour coffee which will reduce the number of persons touching the carafe. And again, during coffee hour, physical distancing between households is strongly recommended.

Pledge Report

by John Geen



Community Outreach

Sandra Giroux

The pantry is putting a cookbook together and needs your help. Cookbooks will be given to our clients and will also be for sale at Yankee Doodle weekend (**Sept. 18, 2021**) with any profit going back to the pantry. The Pantry cookbook will also include business card advertising; St Anne's as always supported the Pantry and submitted an ad.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church
<http://stannes-billerica.org>
 14 Treble Cove Rd North Billerica
 Worship Education Fellowship Service
 Sunday morning at 9:30, but check website for update

Come to our Thrift Shop W-F 10-2

Also, at Yankee Doodle St Anne's will also be hosting a booth. We are seeking volunteers to be at the booth for a couple of hours. Please see Ed Giroux to sign up; this is a great way to engage with the community. We will be pulling details of what to offer on the table for take away items. This is always a great family event. Come share your enthusiasm for St Anne's with the Billerica Community.



Jennifer's Journal

Unfortunately, **masks** must go back on our faces for protection of ourselves and others against the unknowns of the Corona virus illness. I am disappointed about this.

Communion is coming in September! We will try our first one on September 5th and learn from it. We will continue to have one shortened service beginning at 9:30am. Perhaps, we will move it to 9:00. Our filmed services are still available online at <http://stannes-billerica.org>

The **Financial giving** in our parish has continued to bolster our confidence, our ministries, and our joy at being with one another. Thank you, everyone, for your gifts to our church.

At last, we will have **Reverend Peggy's Memorial Service**. Saturday, September 25, 2021, at 10:00am. Her son and daughter, Michael and Alison, cordially invite us all to attend here at St. Anne's.

Blessing of the Animals service for the town will be at 3:00 at the Dog Park. Our brief service at our church will be at 1:00pm. Both services will be on Sunday, October 3.

The next **Vestry meeting** will happen in person and by Zoom at 7:00pm on September 16th. We meet the third Thursday of every month. Are you curious? Come fill our four-month slot! Let the priest or wardens know of your interest.

Gardening Angels

by Judy Peck



The Gardening Angels gathered on a nice day in June to do some cleanup, weeding, and planting in and around the outside of the Memorial Garden and around the church sign. We are a small but mighty group who joyously work together to maintain the flowers, rose bushes, clematis vines, and the lawn. members of our group are Bob Peck, Marguerite Massey, Kathy Brewster, Linda Kusnierz, John and Sue Geen, Judy R. New members are always welcome.

Happy Gardening

Wearing a
mask shows...

Love



Virtual Worship Committee / Technical Committee

Mark, Sandra, Brenda, Ed, Peter, Maria, Mike, & Ron

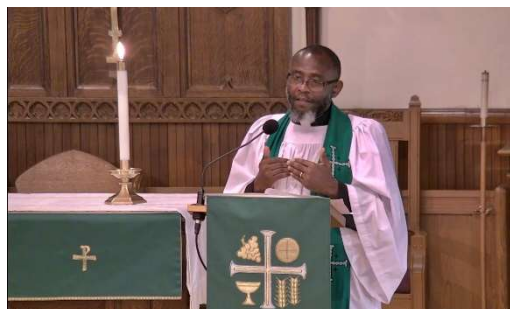


Hello August!

The primary team (Sandra and Mark) took a much-needed break in the end of July and handed off duties to our new Team (Mike and Ron). As often happens, there was a technology failure and the microphones got all messed up. Yes, 'messed up' is a technical term. Lessons learned – back up the configuration!

That aside you may notice some other changes. New track lights were put in and pointed to focus on the lectern, behind the altar, in front of the altar, and at the prayer desk. There were some behind-the-scenes changes to the microphone room which not only made the room a lot quieter but also allowed us in the control booth to have better control over the cameras.

Doing some futzing (yes, also a technical term) with the brightness and color has made a huge difference in the lighting situation now that things are brighter. The colors look a lot more even between the two cameras also, so this is a huge improvement. We hope you enjoy the better picture.



After the success of our recordings for the Diocese a few months ago we were asked to record a sermon by The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Th.D. (Canon for Immigration & Multicultural Ministries) in mid-August. We had a great time with him as always and his sermon went out to the Diocese a few days later. A grant from the Diocese helped fund the cameras and it's great that we can help pay it back in such a small way.

As concerns over the Delta variant rise and masking requirements make their return, we're going to do what we can to keep the streaming going. We have multiple teams that can back each other up and we're set up to go to YouTube and Facebook at the same time so you can watch us on your preferred site.

Your Virtual Worship/Technology Committee

Mark Komarinski ~ Virtual Worship/Technical person



From the Desk of the Parish Administrator – by Jayleigh

September 2021

Since these past few weeks of late summer have been fairly quiet in the office, I've had a chance to reflect on what it has been like to be your parish administrator for the last six months. I have certainly learned a lot about what keeps a church running behind the scenes! I have also learned that, even when things are quiet, I should expect surprises.

I never know what I will come across in the church's files and storage areas (even those that are in relatively plain sight). Working at St. Anne's sometimes feels like being on a perpetual treasure hunt, as I find forgotten parish directories inside filing cabinet drawers, typed notes from meetings that took place thirty years ago, and more. I have enjoyed connecting the names and faces in these discoveries—as they greet me from the past—with those I know from the present day, thus filling out my mental model of the people of this parish.

Surprises can also take the form of unexpected events. I have learned to seek the buried treasure in these, as well. Memorably, for me, I unexpectedly ordered the wrong copy paper twice last month and had to leave a return package outside our office doors during a rainstorm...prompting a very creative and unexpected use of the green cooler that sits next to the copier and is often used only for propping up cardboard boxes! I had fun with that one.

Auspicious connections are possible if I pay attention to what comes my way. Last week, I unexpectedly hosted a mini tour of our church building for someone from the North Billerica Baptist Church and her grandson. They were looking for ideas for setting up a nursery space inside their own church building. The flexible partitions inside Bixby Hall inspired her to think in new ways about how they could use their space. Meanwhile, her grandson loved peeking into the preschool classrooms. Church cross-pollination is a good thing!

Being your parish administrator has been a satisfying adventure so far, and I look forward to its continuation.





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:

Barbara Rogers, Cathie & Greg Harper, Cyndi, Dianne Brown, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton St., Elaine Howland, Elaine McLaughlin, Fred Brown, Greg D., Irene Mouradian, Janet Lyna, John Phillips, Jose Torres Sr. Joseph Pleva, Joshua Young, Kathy Change, Linda E., Marie Figenbaum, Mary Hyatt, Mary Lander & daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Pat McCleave & family, Patricia Mobley, Paul Hamner, Sally DiRocco, Sarah Komarinski, Susan Fader, Vicki Mahoney.

For those in nursing homes or with ongoing illnesses:

Marie Horgan, Joshua Young, Christine Lander



Birthday & Anniversary Prayers

O God our times are in your hand; Look with favor we pray, on your servant _____, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jennifer+ Beal	8/1	Maureen Thibeault	9/7
Neil Hopkins	8/2	Jose & Doris Torres & Hamner	9/8
Dotty Callihan	8/3	Brenda Komarinski	9/10
Peter Morelli	8/5	Michelle O'Shea	9/11
Mark & Brenda Komarinski	8/5	Cindy Fawcett	9/24
Lisa & David Carpine	8/8	Jon McKenzie	9/27
Lisa Higgins	8/8	Pete Jeffrey	9/27
Mark Komarinski	8/15	Nancy Packard	9/30
Jane Clark	8/19		
Ed Giroux	8/23	Amy Desmarais	10/2
Camryn Stockton	8/24	Yvonne Hopkins	10/6
Kathy Jeffrey	8/27	Sue Kennedy	10/8
Mark Figenbaum	8/31	Julien Beal	10/19

If you or a loved one are celebrating a birthday or special occasions like graduations 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. **If you don't tell ME.....I can't include.**



Weekly announcements will continue to be listed in the bulletin for those who are unable or not ready to return to in-person worship. Our services will continue to be streamed on YouTube and posted to both our website and Facebook page.



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.



The Reverend Peggy Howell, who died April 6, 2020, and was our rector from 1996 until 2014, will be remembered at a memorial service at St. Anne's Church on Saturday, September 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

All persons are invited; Please wear masks and follow physical distancing between households. The service will also be livestreamed and archived, and may be found on our church website at <http://stannes-billerica.org>.

*St. Anne's Church
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