

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

October
2021

Newsletter

Parish of St. Anne's ~

October greetings to you as our weather turns cooler. May you find, in these pages, a hint of the spiritual life that sustains us throughout the complicated time in which we live in.

Find nourishment to keep you going through another winter of restrict-ed public contact.

Help St. Anne's Vestry think about the ministries we have and those we want to offer.

At our Town's 9/11 Memorial Commemoration, our Town Manager said this, "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." I looked up and found that this saying has been around for a long time. Voltaire's biographer, Evelyn Hall, wrote it in 1903, but it is as needed today as it was then.

I connect this fierce defense of democracy to God's fierce defense of love for every single person. Jesus defended, to his death, the right of God to love everyone.

You are loved with forever faith
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
_____ - 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 11:00 – 4:00pm (later by appointment)

Wednesdays 11:00 – 4:00pm (later by appointment)

Thursdays 11:00 – 4:00pm (later by appointment)

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

Jayleigh's Office hours are:

Thursdays 11:00 – 4:00pm (later by appointment)

Safe Church

by Brenda Komarinski



St. Anne's Safe Church Policy can be found on our website (<http://stannes-billerica.org/safe-church/>). If you have completed your Safe Church training recently, please email your Certificate to Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com).

St. Anne's Thrift Shop

by Marguerite Massey & Kathy Brewster

Fall fashions have arrived at the Thrift Shop. Stop by for a warm sweatshirt or sweater and a pair of jeans. Halloween decorations are also on sale. Costumes will be available as well. Shop hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10AM until 2PM.



From the Wardens

By Ed Giroux & Mike Hopkins

We were very pleased to host the celebration of life of our long-term Rector, Marguerite (Peggy) Howell. For those who are new to St. Anne's, Rev. Peggy served as our Rector from 1996 until she retired in 2014. We all miss her dearly as she meant so much to some many of us. Personally, for Sandra and I, she married us back in May of 2001. She made us feel so welcome at St. Anne's, we never left and have become involved more than we could have ever imagined. She will never be forgotten. It was certainly an honor for us to host this service for her family and closets friends. May she rest in peace.

In other news, as the weather cools, normally at St. Anne's we start a new program year. It's early October and I'm sure Brenda is hard at work coming up with an interesting and educational curriculum for the 21-22 church school year. And thank you to all of those who visited and spent some time at the St. Anne's booth at Billerica's annual Yankee Doodle weekend on Saturday, September 18. The weather cooperated and we could tell that many people were quite pleased to be out and about with things getting back to some sense of "normal".

Our doors remain open for in person worship even as the Covid-19 numbers aren't getting much better. We have also resumed offering a weekly Eucharist service, although the way we all receive communion is quite different. If you have been away from church for a while, please know that we continue to strive to keep everyone as safe as possible. The Eucharist is now offered in plastic individually sealed cups to reduce contact. We are also continuing to wear masks while indoors, and we're practicing physical distancing by household while in church.

In addition, we continue to record and live stream our Sunday service. Anyone with internet access can watch our Sunday service live on YouTube, Facebook and we'll be back on Billerica Access Television (BATV) soon. There are several ways to stay in touch with YOUR spiritual home. Traditionally this time of year is when we welcome back to church those who may have taken some time away for the summer. But this year, we welcome everyone back to Church and the Eucharist whether you're coming to the building or watching online.... Either way, please note that beginning in October, our Sunday service will begin at 9:00 am. Please continue to worship with us whichever way you are most comfortable.

Welcome Back!



Altar Guild Update

By Lisa Lavoie

Just a quick update on the single serve communion. We will be continuing with the single serve communion for as long as the diocese requires it. The altar guild worked hard to find the chalice design with wine. The first order has been consumed so we ordered more. This is without a doubt the best available, and therefore, is back-ordered. If you were in church this weekend, you might have celebrated with the cup style containing juice and a gluten free wafer. We ordered the gluten free to allow all of Rev Peggy's family to receive communion at her memorial service. Please let us know if you are gluten free, and we will order a small amount for you. Everyone should be able to receive if they wish. That being said, unless requested we will not be ordering that variety again. We have ordered some cups with the "typical" wafer to get Saint Anne's through until the preferred chalice and wine comes in (yes, we had to order communion through Amazon). The preferred chalice wafer and wine should be received by the end of October. Thank you for your support and patience as we navigate the pandemic supply issues. Suggestions are always welcome.



by Brenda Komarinski

Take-home lessons from September are available now. If you'd like one, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com). For those interested in in-person lessons this is our current schedule:

Date	Symbol Topic
September 22, 2021, Wednesday 3:30pm	Lamb
October 13, 2021, Wednesday 3:30pm	Dove
November 17, 2021, Wednesday 3:30pm	Alpha Omega
December 15, 2021, Wednesday 3:30pm	IHS/X
January 12, 2022 Wednesday 3:30pm	Water
February 16, 2022 Wednesday 3:30pm	Grape
March 16, 2022 Wednesday 3:30pm	Wheat
April 13, 2022 Wednesday 3:30pm	Cross
May 18, 2022 Wednesday 3:30pm	Trinity
June 8, 2022 Wednesday 3:30pm	Flame



In-person lessons will require wearing masks due to the pandemic. If you are interested in assisting with in-person lessons, please let Brenda know.

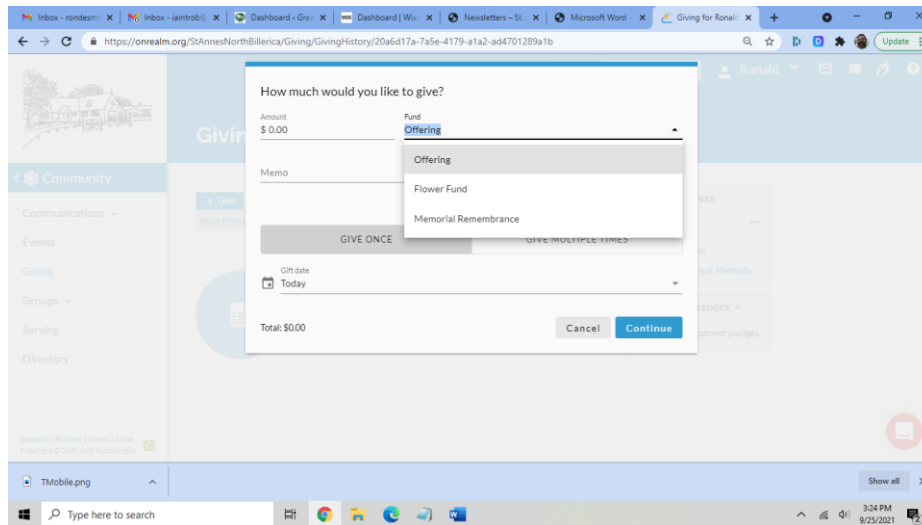
Our next lesson is the Dove.

St. Anne's Realm Connect Update

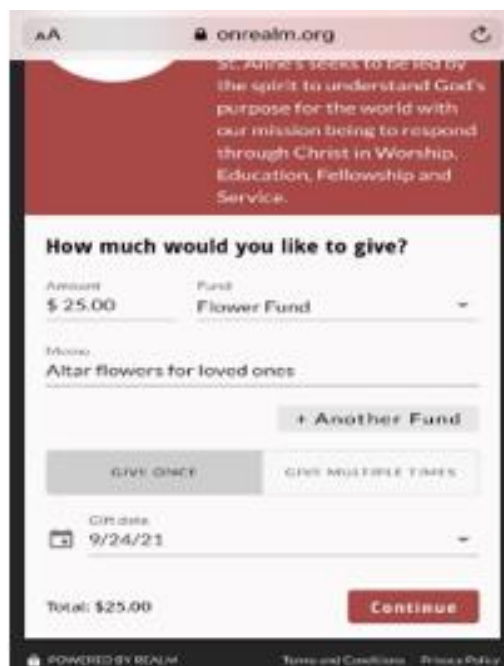
By Rosemary Kinser

In our last newsletter, we mentioned how Realm can alternatively be used to do your 2022 pledge. We plan on having that as a pledging option later on this Fall.

Another feature of Realm that we would like to introduce is its online, donation feature. You access it after you log into your Realm account, and landing on the Giving page. There you will see the option to give (+Give), which brings you to the online Giving page. As you can see, you can donate for an offering, flowers, or a memorial remembrance, with options of one-time, or multiple, on a certain date, and add a small memo.



On your mobile phone, once you install the Realm application, you click on the Giving button at the bottom of your screen, select 'Make a Gift', and then select what type of donation you would like to make.



My roller coaster ride with the Covid pandemic through the open church doors of St. Anne's Church. By Yvonne Hopkins

The first time on a ride was with my mom at Revere Beach in MA. It was a beautiful beach day and aunts from Maine were visiting my Grandparents. The three sisters were always adventurous, and they drove in their cars and trucks so transportation for my mom (who didn't drive) was available for them. I was tall enough to ride the Roller Coaster, Yea!

My first ride brought on anxiety & fear of the unknown. Waiting for our turn to ride, I prayed one Hail Mary and the Lord's Prayer quietly in French.

Our turn came and we were strapped in and a bar came down in front of us. We could put hands on the bar but not push the bar forward. As we climbed slowly to the top, it was beautiful to see the Ocean, the sand and how small people appeared to be. With the height at the top, could I touch God in Heaven?

Mom said, "scream when you go down", Vonnie – the only name anyone used for me at the time. My stomach had butterfly feelings throughout the ride. I enjoyed it!

The ride with the Covid pandemic all around me brought feelings of isolation, loneliness, anger and the loss of many beautiful, loving and caring people in our church, our country and around the world.

I have lived my life and been blessed with beautiful children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A husband who shopped for food, meds, gifts, and mailed packages to keep me safe from Covid. The church doors and the Thrift Shop, with its outreach to the community, were all closed.

The world was different, and I was different. Reaching out for help was difficult. I come from an era of "Pull yourself out it". I was deeply concerned not only for my family and children but for all the precious children of the world. Young children today are tech-savvy, have compassion for each other and start out blind to ethnicity, religious differences and gender issues and I have learned to appreciate all of them. They are the future and I believe our Lord is guiding them. I've written down my anger, prayed over it, shred it and threw it away. My tears are tears of Joy now with humor and love. I still have some frustration with my iPhone (poor Michael) and the techy stuff.

My ability to get over that last steep climb on the roller coaster was due to St. Anne's: Church service videos on YouTube and Mother Jennifer – thank you for being there and getting us through the pandemic with words of comfort and joy with a smile, with the Lord's words of Praise and Prayer on Sunday, at meetings or through messages or texts.

The doors were physically closed, but not the Church. Every Sunday I was in church with the videos, music, solo singing, and lit candles. Pictures of the Good Shepherd, the Descending Dove, the hanging cross, and more. I prayed and looked forward to the day I would be in church with my brothers and sisters in communion at St. Anne's. I'm still working on the feelings.

St. Anne's community through Tuesday bible study groups, our Bishops encouraging words and prayers for all of us and the world have given me hope to remember we have free will and that God loves us more than we can understand.

Psalm 145 v. 8-9

**The Lord is Gracious and Merciful
Slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love
The Lord is Good to all
And his mercy is over
All he has made**



The Lord is alive and operating the Roller Coaster

a note on music...

By Peter Morelli



The recent preludes and postludes have been mostly organ works, and in the weeks ahead I'll play an occasional prelude on the piano.

Any hymn requests are welcome. Sandra Giroux requested Lift High the Cross, which will be in one of the upcoming services.

Much thanks to the choir for their fine singing at recent services. It's great to have choral singing at St. Anne's again! And much thanks to John Chang for both singing and playing bass at a recent service!

Thanks so much to Maria Martin for offering her beautiful singing each week and for singing at the service for Reverend Peggy.

St. Anne's Thrift Shop

by Marguerite Massey & Kathy Brewster

Fall fashions have arrived at the Thrift Shop. Stop by for a warm sweatshirt or sweater and a pair of jeans. Halloween decorations are also on sale. Costumes will be available as well. Shop hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 10AM until 2PM.



Virtual Worship / Tech Team

by Mark Komarinski



September rolls in with.....much of the same things we had last month.

Stability has its nice points and with the recent issues with sound we thought it best to keep things somewhat the same. The new lights have brightened things up and tied in with some adjustments to the camera's things look a lot nicer.

We usually stream so the service looks almost exactly the same as what you'd see if you were there in person. But it's almost. There are parts in the moment of quiet, the prayers of the people, or even during communion now that it's started back up where a photo or the church or something that Mother Jennifer found gets put up to let you ponder over and look at. We do this at a few different points, so we'd love to hear your thoughts on this.

Another thing we tried out mid-September was putting lyrics up for some of the songs. It's a bit more work but if you don't have your book with you this could be a good way to sing along. We'd also like your feedback on this as well.

In the meantime, we'll keep trying new things so tell us what you like, what you don't like, and what you'd want to see if you're regularly watching St. Anne's remotely.

A few words from the Re-Gathering Team

by Ken Kinser

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

The Re-Gathering Team continues meeting to examine and discuss available information from our Diocese and local government. We review the latest trends and recommendations of possible strategies that we may employ to reduce the effects of the ever-changing pandemic. These meetings always start and end with prayer and we will continue to pray for God's protective and healing hand to touch not only St. Anne's immediate family, but also for our world-wide family.

Some of our time is spent examining data such as local percentages of vaccinations and rates of positive test results. We also discuss personal restrictions such as mask requirements and physical distancing that we may recommend or implement in an effort to keep us safe. There are always comments about what we are missing. There are even a few times, not many, when we collectively indulge in a Team "Pity Party" of what we have been forced to give up and how much we wished things could be back to normal. We are always aware that sometimes we just have to put numbers in the back of our mind and concentrate on what is really important to us, enabling and enhancing our ability to have fellowship and worship together.

Some personal thoughts. Recently, there have been some significant changes in our Worship Service. We have progressed from Morning Prayer to The Holy Eucharist. With modifications, we are back to the service that many of us have longed for. Even though I personally prefer a spontaneous prayer, I didn't realize how much I missed the traditional prayers said in unison by the congregation as written for us. We are wearing masks, but, we can sing as soft or as loud as we choose to fully be a part of the Service. We are able to partake in the Holy Eucharist, although the method of delivery has changed, the gift, meaning and symbolism remains unchanged. If you haven't attended recently in person or on-line, please join us.

The Re-Gathering Team will continue to meet so that hopefully, at the earliest possible time, we may completely return to life as normal at St. Anne's.





Jennifer's Journal

Recently in church, we heard the following Collect of the Day.

“O God, For as much as without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

This prayer was my grandmother's favorite table grace. I heard it prayed many times throughout my childhood. I have loved and remembered this prayer for many decades. Perhaps its appeal to me is the stark nature of its truths. It says, so plainly, these four things:

1. Without God in my life, I can't be sure of anything I do
2. God gives with mercy
3. The Holy Spirit knows how to direct and rule in all of me
4. Ruling my heart – yeah, that's where life is at

What do you think of it? Can you see using it as a daily prayer, or, perhaps, even as a table grace? Try it. Enjoy it. What other prayers have you loved? I'd love to hear.

The 236th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts will meet November 12-13, 2021.

There will be four Resolutions put before us for which St. Anne's delegates will need to vote. Our five delegates (only two of whom will actually vote) have begun considering the Resolutions, and they would like to hear your opinions.

Resolution One. A Call to include and enter Barbara Clementine Harris in the Calendar of the Church Year. This will need to be voted by two consecutive conventions.

Resolution Two. A Call to carbon drawdown. This encourages not just a carbon zero footprint, but a carbon negative footprint, which means efforts toward removing carbon from one's community (all by natural means, such as planting trees).

Resolution Three. Burying the dead: A Resolution to Encourage Sustainable Christian Death Practices. This resolution educates more than it recommends any particular practice.

Resolution Four. Charting the Long Road towards Reparations. Put forward by the newly established Racial Justice Commission, this resolution gives a plan forward for our Diocesan response to racial inequities in our current and our historical life. Toolkits and audits will become available this year for use in parishes to learn more about the issues. The resolution attempts a balance between voices saying 'not enough' and voices saying 'too much'. It sets 2024 as the year for our Diocesan structure to begin paying some form of restitution and reparation. To whom and how much are very much the questions meant to be discussed and decided as, together, we chart the long road forward.

At a Diocesan open comment session, I suggested our own Vestry Subcommittee's foundation for considering the radical concept of reparations: "Because we all have a responsibility to do justice". This was affirmed in the session, and someone responded with Isabel Wilkerson's analogy in her book *Caste*. "If one were to buy a house that is 150 years old and the wiring had never been updated, one would fix it." I find this an interesting way to look at the idea of reparations. I invite you in to this difficult, challenging, and seemingly irrelevant conversation.



Preparing for Rev. Peggy's memorial service delighted me with so many offers and ideas for doing this together. You all pitched in and made it our celebration of the gifts she gave us. Thank you for lifting up Rev. Peggy's memory among us.

Sunday morning worship will begin at 9:00am, starting October 3rd. After many conversations, the service start time that is fair to both of our previously separate congregations of 8:00 and 10:00 services is the 9:00 hour exactly in the middle. We will see how this goes, as everyone adjusts to a shift.

We now have gluten-free communion wafers. Please don't hesitate to ask for it. Let me know any other comments you may have about communion during Covid.

Do you have thoughts about Advent and Christmas this year, our second year of being affected by the pandemic? Please speak up.

Community Outreach

Sandra Giroux

The Billerica Community Pantry is asking all the Religious Organizations in town to donate one item to their recipients Holiday Distributions. **Can ALL the members of St Anne's please bring in a can of Cranberry Sauce every time they come?** We have approximately 250 families, and we would so appreciate your support.

The Pantry has produced a Cookbook – please let me know and I will bring some to the church, The cost is \$5.00.

If you choose to make a monetary donation –

please know your \$5.00 cash donation can purchase 24 cans of Pasta Sauce
 your \$10.00 cash donation can purchase 16 boxes of Raisin Bran Cereal
 your \$15.00 cash donation can purchase 30 dozen fresh eggs

Checks can be mailed to: **P.O. Box 285, Billerica MA 01821.** We also have Paypal and Venmo on our website: www.billericacommunitypantry.com. Please note St Anne's on the Memo line.

Thank you for always being generous to the pantry.

Social Justice–

by Brenda Komarinski



The Social Justice Book Club started September 13 at 5:30 pm.

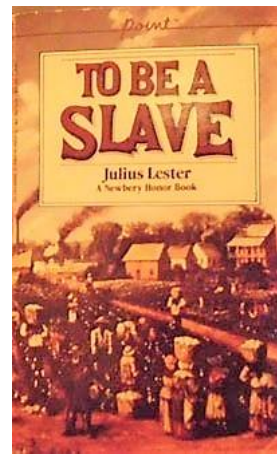
We are planning a Movie Night starting Friday, November 5 at 7:00pm. The first movie shown will be a series of short films by Bishop Curry.

As with the book club, we want to educate ourselves and make our world more just. Put it on your calendar and join in!

Book Club

Marguerite Massey

St. Anne's book club is meeting every other Monday at 5:30pm. Our **next meeting is Monday, October 11**. We are currently reading To Be A Slave by Julius Lester. The next book will be selected by the group. Please come and join us to see what this new group is all about. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage, snack, or dinner. For more information contact Marguerite Massey.



From the Desk of the Parish Administrator – by Jayleigh

Fall is here! The light has begun to change, even if the weather has not (quite) yet, and with the shift in season has come a shift in pace in the office. Activities of many kinds are starting or resuming. Since more groups from both inside and outside the parish have now begun to meet in person at St. Anne's, maintaining an up-to-date parish calendar has become a more urgent need. I have been working on this in two ways.

In the hallway across from the preschool classroom, on what had formerly been a little-used bulletin board, there is now posted a monthly calendar. It includes group meetings within our parish, special events, regular thrift shop and office hours, and AA/NA group meetings. In this location, it can be seen not only by members of St. Anne's who are using the building, but also by members of other groups (and preschool parents!) who may be curious about what we are up to.

I have also updated our Google calendar, which is currently posted online with limited access. It has not yet been opened to the public, or to the congregation at large, because I am still researching the best ways to make this calendar—which includes not only the events of the current month but also those of future months—available to you. This is where your feedback will be helpful. Where do you want to be able to access our calendar? Would you like to see it on our public website? On Realm? Would you like a monthly “snapshot” or printout to be part of our newsletter or otherwise accessible on paper? Where do you want to go to find out what's happening at St. Anne's? Please let me know—you can email me or call me in the office anytime or stop by during office hours.

Finally, I want to mention that, beginning with the November 2021 newsletter, I will be taking over the monthly newsletter production, giving Sandra a well-deserved break! There will be further reminders about this but note that from now on all newsletter submissions should be sent to stannesbillerica@gmail.com.

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

Maureen Thibeault	9/7	Amy Desmarais	10/2
Jose & Doris Torres & Hamner	9/8	Lucy Ann Young (88 years young)	10/5/1933
Brenda Komarinski	9/10	Yvonne Hopkins	10/6
Michelle O'Shea	9/11	Sue Kennedy	10/8
Cindy Fawcett	9/24	Julien Beal	10/19
Jon McKenzie	9/27		
Pete Jeffrey	9/27	David Carpine	11/2
Nancy Packard	9/30	Eli Baldwin	11/14
		Jennifer Stockton	11/19
		Amy O'Sullivan	11/20
		Julie Komarinski	11/28



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, Cyndi, Dianne Brown, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton, Sr., Doug Williams, Elaine Howland, Elaine McLaughlin, Fred Brown, Irene Mouradian, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, John Phillips, Jose Torres, Sr., Joshua Young, Kathy Chang, Linda E., Marie Figenbaum, Marie Horgan, Mark Figenbaum, Mary Hyatt, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Nicolette Lazar, Norm & MJ Zarella, Pat McCleave & family, Paul Hamner, Sally DiRocco, Sarah Komarinski, Susan Fader, Vicki Mahoney and those fighting Covid-19

For those in nursing homes or with ongoing illnesses:

Marie Horgan, Joshua Young, Christine Lander



In Memory - Rev Peggy Howell



On September 25th, we celebrated the life and ministry of our beloved former rector, the Rev'd Peggy Howell (St. Anne's 1996-2014). On a warm and sunny morning, 80 friends and family of Peggy gathered to share memories, readings, songs, and Holy Communion. There were many stars of the day, but her six grandchildren shone the brightest.

The feast Peggy had instructed welcomed and nourished us all. We will be telling stories for years to come as we all move in to new ministries. May her legacy of love and care last forever.

To view our recording of the service, you can click here. https://youtu.be/drKC_XZk2wk

To view photo memorial, you can click here: <https://youtu.be/iv58B-RTzVQ>

***Something missing in our hearts tonight
has made our eyes so soft,
our voice so tender,
our need for God absolutely clear.
Persian poet, Hafez (1315-1390)***

Words from Rev Kit Lonergan, Dean of the Merrimack Valley Deanery

To the St. Anne's, via Mother Jennifer—

What a beautiful, touching, and personal service of remembrance you offered the Rev. Peggy Howell on Saturday. It was an honor to be there and be part of it in a small way-- your thoughtfulness in the details, in the welcome and blessings you offered your congregation and Peggy's family were deep and real.

It has been a privilege to walk with St Anne's (from afar) as Dean and Assembly Co-Convener for the past few years, and I keep those lines from Mary Oliver cited in Linda Rickett's words in mind-- to love what is mortal and then let it go.

Blessings to you and yours on your journey, and please know you have a sisterhood of churches keeping you in prayer.

All best, much peace--

Kit Lonergan

St James Groveland/ Dean of the Merrimack Valley

PS_- thank you for letting me see your video/ streaming system! WOW!

Words from Reverend Linda Ricketts (retired) from Christ Episcopal Church Andover

What a beautiful Service! It was lovely. LOVELY! We were able to watch it live, as you skillfully directed me to the website.

You handled everything with grace and hospitality. Peggy would have been pleased! I certainly am. There were so many details to consider, pieces of the puzzle to be put in place that you artfully included in difficult pandemic circumstances.

I am so happy you asked Kay Evans to read my reflection and that she was able to offer a few words of her own.

The flowers were lovely. The live streaming was done so well. Your technician does a wonderful job! The photographs shown during Holy Communion were just right.....yes, I was crying at all the lovely pictures of her.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I can't thank you enough! This meant so much to me.

I hope and pray your time at St. Anne's will be richly blessed, as you bless this St. Anne's congregation with your gracious ministry in Jesus' name.

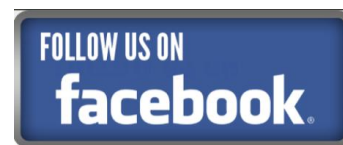
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers for Robert and me, as we walk this proton therapy journey again.

Blessings and love,
Linda



Please leave your mask on while speaking at the lectern.

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.

