

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

NOVEMBER 2021 Newsletter

Dear St. Anne's,

Thank you, Sandra, for all your years and care with keeping us informed and inspired with your editing of our Newsletter! You made a difference in our parish life. **Thank You!**

In church on the 24th, we **thanked the Volunteers in the Thrift Shop** for their endless hours of dedicated service to the people of Billerica and beyond. Our Volunteers provide a much-needed gift to our community, and we are **Grateful!**

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will find information about our upcoming Annual Diocesan Convention on November 12-13. Also, find the dates and times of our Christmas services, as decided by the congregation at Coffee Hour on October 24th. Also, find learnings from our brand-new Book Group, and information about our soon-to-be-experienced Parish Movie Nights. Hooray for new ideas!

I am grateful to be among you serving Christ through the world around us.

With grace,
Mother Jennifer

Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

Weekly worship on our YouTube Channel: "[St. Anne's Episcopal Church, N. Billerica MA](#)" (Subscribe and see videos of our services!)

Our services are replayed on BATV

Check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StAnnesBillerica ("Like" to see videos of our services as well as other news and information!)

Check our website (stannes-billerica.org) for a link to the services.

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
rector@stannes-billerica.org

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

Mother Jennifer's Office Hours:

Tuesdays	12-4 pm
Thursdays	2-5 pm

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.

Church Office Hours:

Thursdays	2-5 pm
-----------	--------

Note that for the week of Thanksgiving, church office hours will be 2-5 pm on Tuesday, November 23rd.

Billerica Community Pantry

by Sandra Giroux

Thank you to the people of St Anne's for always supporting the Billerica Community Pantry. You don't realize how much your assistance is appreciated. St Anne's parishioners donate time, talent and treasure, and you make me proud when I say Church Has Left the Building.

This holiday season, the Pantry is asking for your assistance again. As we strive to supply those in need with a holiday meal, we are seeking 250-500 cans of Cranberry Sauce. I know that sounds like a lot but that would be two cans for each family in November & December.

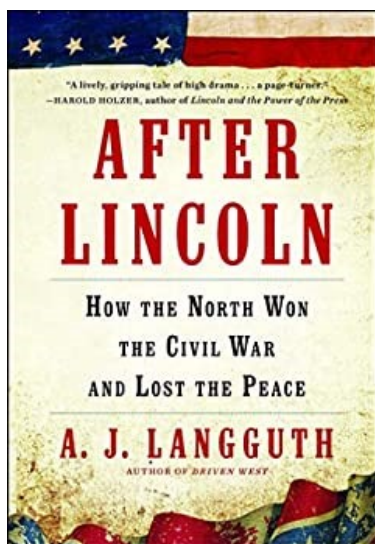
There is a bin in the hallway or the narthex on Sundays to receive your donations. If you prefer to make a cash donation please let me know and I can make purchases in your name.

Any questions please let me know. And again thank you for your support.



St. Anne's Book Group

by Marguerite Massey



St. Anne's Book Group is now reading *After Lincoln: How the North Won the Civil War and Lost the Peace* by A.J. Langguth. We just started this book on October 25 with the first chapter, so there's still time to buy the book and join our next discussion on Monday, November 8, at 5:30 PM.

We are reading about past history and how it impacts the world today with respect to social justice.

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 need help completing your Safe Church training, please let Brenda know. If you have completed your Safe Church training recently, please email your Certificate to Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com).





It's rewarding to play the music for the services throughout the church year. It's very good having the music reflect the Gospel, the readings, and Mother Jennifer's preaching!

It was good to have open discussion about the Christmas Eve and Christmas Season services at coffee hour on October 24th.

There have been a few requests for hymns / songs...and some of that music has already been part of recent services. There will be more requested hymns & songs in upcoming services.

Much thanks to Maria Martin, for offering her beautiful singing each week, and to Michele O'Shea, John Geen, and John Chang for often contributing their fine singing & playing talent as well!

Much thanks to Mother Jennifer for her leadership! And much thanks to the recording team for all they do!

Cursillo Update

A Message from Ellen Harland, Lay director, MECM:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, our weekends have been on hold. However, as the number of people who are vaccinated continues to rise, the secretariat is very happy to confirm that we are in the planning stages of a Co-Ed Cursillo weekend this coming spring. The date is March 10-13, at the LaSalette Retreat Center in Attleboro, MA. The center has assured us that they are following all the latest guidelines for cleanliness, as will our team. Each person has their own room. God willing, these past months will be a faint memory for us long before then.

So....NOW is the time to start praying about who, in your circle of friends and acquaintances, you could sponsor. I am personally so grateful that my sponsor gave me a "Christ nudge" to attend a weekend those many years ago. Cursillo has been life changing for me, and I know that's true for many people. But if we don't have the courage to approach people about the weekend, they definitely won't go. Christ is counting on us! Perhaps you and another Cursillista could co-sponsor someone.

One way to approach people is to let them know that this is a "spiritual vacation" for them, leaving all the stress of work and demands of life behind them, and focusing on their faith. Cursillo is inclusive and liturgical.

If you have questions on how to sponsor, or if we can be of any support for you, please feel free to contact anyone on the secretariat. Our contact info is on the website: www.masscursillo.org



From the Wardens

Mike Hopkins & Ed Giroux

November is Stewardship month most years at St. Anne's, and this year's Stewardship Sunday will be November 7th. Everyone should have received a Stewardship letter by now, along with a pledge form to be filled out and returned to the pledge treasurer. We'll be having a budget committee meeting in the next couple of months to come up with a budget for 2022, and any information we can get prior to the meeting regarding pledges will be greatly appreciated.



Speaking of Stewardship, the Thrift Shop has been doing a great job. It makes up a considerable percentage of our income at St. Anne's. Looking back over the last 5 years, it has accounted for 22% of our income in 2020 (pandemic year) and 31% back in 2016. Over the last 5 years its average contribution has been 26% of our income, and it's looking to be higher than that for 2021.

Congratulations, and thanks to all who have worked so hard to keep it going—but it's going to need more help moving forward. Keeping it in operation is not only a benefit to the church's financial health, it is a service to the community at large.

Thrift Shop

by Marguerite Massey

THE THRIFT SHOP TEAM NEEDS YOU

The members of the thrift shop team could use more help from members of St. Anne's.

Things that you could do:

- take book donations that aren't needed to the Used Book Superstore
- take electronics to Best Buy
- learn to be a cashier to cover a couple of hours when the shop is open
- be available to unlock the shop when non-member volunteers are available to work
- if you are only available at night let Kathy or I know and we can work with you to get you trained.

Many hands make light work.



Billerica Interfaith Association

The Thanksgiving Billerica Interfaith Association video will be posted to our St. Anne's website this month.



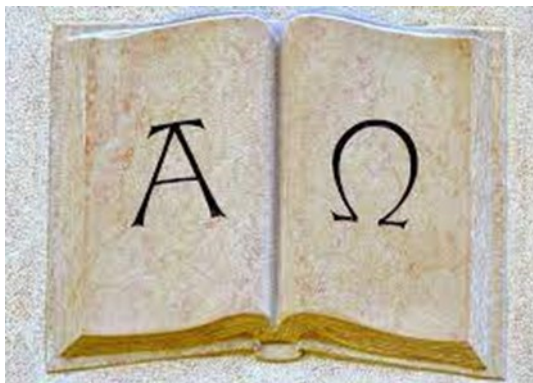
Church School

by Brenda Komarinski



Take-home lessons from October are available now. If you'd like one, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com).

For those interested in in-person lessons, we are going to be switching to Thursdays. Our next in-person lesson will be Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 3:30 pm. 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. The symbol we will be looking at is the Alpha Omega.



From the desk of the parish administrator

by Jayleigh Lewis

This is my first month designing and compiling the newsletter as well as writing for it, and there is a lot to keep track of! Thank you to those who are sending your contributions to me.

I wrote last month about the St. Anne's calendar, which has filled with new events, activities, and meetings this season. It has been very helpful to hear from you about your group meetings, especially those which are recurring. On our Google calendar, I have included all recurring meetings of which I am aware, so that each month, keeping track gets a little easier. Of course, schedules are going to shift slightly with the upcoming holidays, so thank you for letting me know when a group has decided to skip a meeting or change to a different date.

You may be wondering: why did I volunteer to compile the newsletter, when working in the office already gives me more than enough to do each week? I have found, in my soon to be nine months working here, that the parish office functions well when it can serve as an information hub for the entire parish. Need to know if there is a schedule conflict with a reserved meeting time? Wondering whether a group is having regular meetings? I can likely tell you the answers to those questions, because my work already involves gathering and disseminating information for the calendar and the weekly bulletins. The newsletter is an extension of that, and my taking it on will eliminate some duplication of effort, and also make certain processes (such as maintaining the prayer and birthday lists) more streamlined. I am grateful to Sandra for leaving me her template and instructions!



(where all the magic happens!)

Angel Tree

by Sandra Giroux

The Small but Mighty church of St Anne's has again chosen to support the House of Hope as the recipient of our 2021 Angel Tree efforts. I am asking us all to take a step back and consider how fortunate we are to have a community that supports us and acknowledge that others are not as fortunate.



For those not familiar with House of Hope: located in Lowell, this organization is dedicated to individuals and families who are housing / shelter insecure. They help with transitioning into stable housing options through support, healing and education, in order to build economic sufficiency to support a stable home life. House of Hope in our local area can handle 58 families and up to 200 homeless individuals each night.

In speaking with our contact, I learned that they would prefer that we purchase the items they have listed on their online wish list (thanks Covid) and have the items delivered directly to their home-base. I am asking St Anne's to again be generous in their support of the Angel Tree efforts. Our admins of Realm will be setting up an Angel Tree giving option within Realm to make giving easy. If you prefer the cash method, please feel free to see me after church, or leave an envelope for me in the donation basket (please mark it as Angel Tree). Also this year, a young assistant, Ms. Emma Baldwin, will be helping choose the gifts we purchase.

Advent and Christmas at St. Anne's

Advent Plans:

Mother Jennifer's Advent Wreath lighting plus poetry, singing, and prose.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings 7:00-7:20 pm

If you have ideas, comments, or suggestions for me to use, send them to me at rector@stannes-billerica.org



Christmas Plans:

Friday, December 24th 1:00 pm Mass Followed by the Silver Tea, open to everyone

Friday, December 24th 9:00 pm Candlelight Mass

No service on Saturday the 25th

Sunday, December 26th No Service.

But there will be a pre-recorded service of lessons and carols posted at 9:00 am.

Sunday, January 2nd 9:00 am Lessons & Carols for our in-person service

Jennifer's Journal

You are invited to come to our Diocesan Convention on November 12th. You will see how many there are of us in this Diocese of Massachusetts! Our parish delegates are Todd Baldwin, Lisa Lavoie, Michele O'Shea, and Marguerite Massey.

For more information about Convention, visit the website: www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021



The climate crisis, racial justice and a renewed mission strategy are at the top of the agenda, as the annual Diocesan Convention prepares to gather next month, deliberating under the theme "Members One of Another" taken from Romans 12:5 and an invitation to celebrate and explore interdependence as members of the Body of Christ. With COVID-19 precautions still in play, the Nov. 12-13 event will take place fully online again this year.

The virtual format makes it possible to open Friday's full line-up of learning sessions and worship to anyone who would like to participate. **(See the following page for a list of sessions and programs.)**

Convention's annual business sessions follow on Saturday. Delegates and clergy will participate via Zoom, with a livestream available for those who wish to observe the proceedings.

(All convention Zoom sessions and the Saturday livestream will be presented via a virtual event management platform, so pre-registration will be necessary to access them. **You can register through the website listed above.**)

- Resolutions that will be voted on include those for carbon drawdown commitments and the embrace of sustainable burial practices, as well as accountability and action on the diocesan commitment to repentance and reparations for the sin and legacy of slavery, including the creation by 2024 of a diocesan reparations fund.
- The convention will also vote on a request to the 80th Episcopal Church General Convention in 2022 to add the late Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris, first female bishop in the worldwide Anglican Communion, to the church calendar for commemoration on March 13.
- There will also be a revised mission strategy proposal (the current strategy was adopted in 2016). The proposed revision draws on the core themes of discipleship, justice seeking and care for creation that emerged from survey and conversation responses collected from congregations and groups earlier this year by the Mission Strategy Committee of Diocesan Council.
- Finally, Convention will vote on the proposed \$9.4-million [diocesan budget for 2022](#).





“Members One of Another”

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

Friday, Nov. 12, 2021

Save the date and spread the word!

As part of our Diocesan Convention weekend, everyone is invited to take part in Friday programs for our whole diocesan community.

All sessions virtual and **OPEN TO ALL**

Option to participate Friday evening via in-person deanery gatherings may be offered depending on COVID-19 metrics. Stay tuned!

Plenary & break-out sessions: 1-3:45 p.m.

Plenary session: The Rev. Lydia Kelsey Bucklin, Canon to the Ordinary for Discipleship and Vitality, Diocese of Northern Michigan, followed by six break-out sessions exploring our interdependence as members of the Body of Christ



Associated break-out sessions:

- Tell Me a Story of Where I Belong
- Worship: God's Invitation to Heal from Loneliness and Disconnection
- Interdependence in Action: Sharing Ministry and Mission through Collaboration
- Repair/Renew: Mending as Spiritual & Institutional Reform
- In Those Days There Was No King in Israel: Exploring Non-Hierarchical Community Leadership
- Building a Beloved Community of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Holy Eucharist: 5-6 p.m.

Guest preacher: The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop, Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Evening program: 7-8 p.m.

Keynote speaker: Dr. Catherine Meeks, Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, Diocese of Atlanta



For more details and to register, visit:

www.diomass.org/diocesan-convention-2021

Movie Night



Join us Friday, November 5, at 7:00 pm!

We will be watching 2 very short clips from Bishop Curry.

One is on the church's work for racial healing, and the other is a statement in this time of waiting for the Chauvin trial verdict.

We will spend time discussing them after we watch.

Please join in!

Remarks from Bishop Alan M. Gates

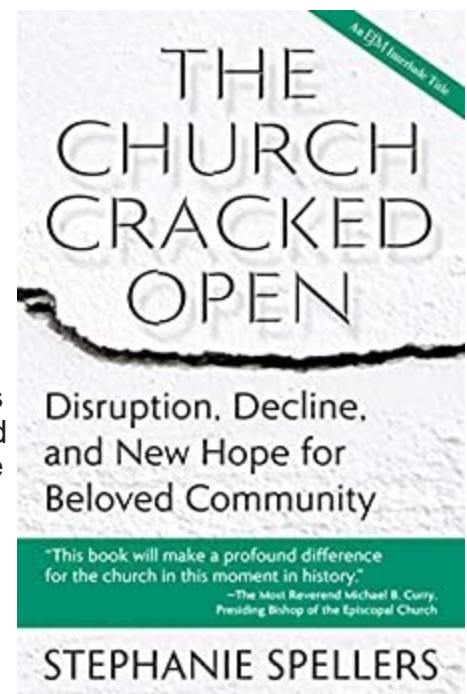
Excerpt from remarks made at the Episcopal City Mission 177th Annual Meeting, October 16, 2021:

Among the books I read during my sabbatical was the latest offering from our colleague and friend, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers. On Tuesday of this week, Canon Spellers joined clergy of our diocese to share wisdom from her book, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline and New Hope for Beloved Community*. She reflects on the COVID-19 pandemic, racial reckoning and the immense transformations taking place within the church. Like the alabaster jar cracked open by a woman in Bethany in order to anoint Jesus with its oil, the church – says Stephanie – is a vessel bearing a precious gift of grace; however, for that grace to be extended, for the vessel to fulfill its purpose, it will have to be cracked open. Things that may define what we think it means to be intact or complete will have to be set aside, even shattered, in order to fulfill our truest calling as agents of God's love.

Individually and collectively, this is hard. For some of us, perhaps, excruciating. Commenting upon the passage we heard in last Sunday's gospel, Stephanie says this:

[The rich young man] did not know how to survive without his possessions and position, not just because of greed, but because they defined him. Jesus offered to train him out of ... self-seeking behaviors, toward self-giving and self-emptying. The young man did not want that freedom or ultimately that joy. Most human beings don't [But] Beloved community is the community animated by this non-clinging, self-emptying, persistent love. ... [A]s the individual and the collective strive and sacrifice for the sake of the flourishing of the greater whole, and for the end of all forms of domination and oppression that diminish the children of God ... God's creation [becomes] a community of love.²

All of this, of course, connects with why we are here today. Episcopal City Mission, the Diocesan Racial Justice Commission, the Creation Care Justice Network, our two dioceses in the Commonwealth, and all Christians are called to this all-encompassing and transformative journey: giving our hearts, minds and whole selves to God.



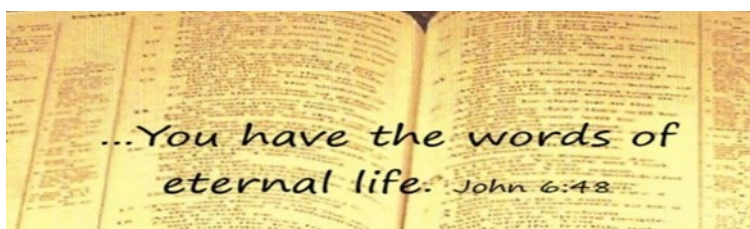
² Stephanie Spellers, *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for the Beloved Community* (NY, Church Publishing, Inc., 2021), pp. 32-34.

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 _____. 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.

Barbara Rogers, Cyndi, Dianne Brown, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton, Sr.,
Elaine Howland, Elaine McLaughlin, Fred Brown, Helen, Irene Mouradian, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight,
John Phillips, Jose Torres, Sr., Joseph Pleva, Joshua Young, Kathy Chang, Linda E., Marie Figenbaum,
Marie Horgan, Mark Figenbaum, Mary Hyatt, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella,
Pat McCleave & family, Paul Hamner, Sally DiRocco, Sarah Komarinski, Susan Fader, Tammy, Tom,
Vicki Mahoney



Let us remember those from our community who have died in 2020 and 2021:

June Burke
Michael Conroy
Dinah Holman
Peggy Howell
Natalie Hunt
Richard Hyatt
Katherine Jeffrey
Martin Kennedy
Nicolette Lazar
Al Longuemare
Delores (Dolly) Longuemare

Kenneth Mouradian
Donald Needham, Sr.
John Trickett
Julia Trickett
Laura Trickett
Al Westerlund
Margaret Westerlund
Doug Williams
Cathy Zechner



Father of all, we pray to you for _____, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Birthday and 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

Amy Desmarais	10/2	David Carpine	11/2	Steve Hopkins	12/2
Lucy Ann Young	10/5	Norm & MJ Zarella	11/5	Belinda Fletcher	12/5
Yvonne Hopkins	10/6	Eli Baldwin	11/14	Marguerite Massey	12/7
Sue Kennedy	10/8	Jennifer Stockton	11/19	Pat Cregg	12/10
Julian Cole	10/19	Amy O'Sullivan	11/20	Andrea Jeffrey	12/18
		Jose Torres	11/24	Lisa Carpine	12/25
		Julie Komarinski	11/28	Nicole Knowles	12/26

If you or a loved one are celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, and want it to be included in the next newsletter, please email stannesbillerica@gmail.com and let us know.



ZUMBA with Carolisa Mini-session@ St Anne's
Thursdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm Dec 2, 9, 16
 Advance sign up required @ moonlightdjz@gmail.com

Move, Groove, be Fit & Have FUN! Get funky to a fantastic mix of dance classics to current plus plenty of 80's, 90's, plus latin and Bollywood; learn an Irish & a barn dance! It's easy to catch on; adjust the workout to suit you. Optional: Bring your therabands to use for a couple songs to target bi's & tri's. Best are sneakers without much tread. **Beginners & all fitness levels welcome – try it!** Dance off holiday in this **FUN & friendly class!**



**** Masks are required at all times in the building. Participants will be spaced apart in accordance with current CDC guidelines.**

Further info & Sign up: moonlightdjz@gmail.com