

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY



St. Anne's
Episcopal Church

JANUARY 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We loved God this Christmas! Thank you, one and all, for what you have done to welcome Christ and one another into this season of Christmas. The baby came. The Son was born. God comes near, to each of us. Alleluia! Amen.

Wherever you are, I pray for your health, strength, and faith journey. Happy, happy New Year! I hope you're able to join us, either online or in-person. Tell me what feeds you. Tell us more about what you would like.

As the Omicron variant is teaching us, we are settling in to being a community that lives equally between being in-person and being together online. How can we get better at both?

Make sure to put the date of our Annual Meeting, February 6th, at 10:45 am, on your calendar.

With joy in our life together,

M. Jennifer



Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

Weekly worship on our YouTube

Channel: "[St. Anne's Episcopal Church, N. Billerica MA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStAnneBillerica)"

(Subscribe and see videos of our services!)

Our services are replayed on
BATV

Check out our Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/
StAnnesBillerica](https://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.

Church Office Hours:

Thursdays 2-5 pm

Newsletter Submissions:

For February newsletter, please send articles by January 25 to stannesbillerica@gmail.com.

Thrift Shop Update

St. Anne's Thrift Shop will be closed until Wednesday, January 12, 2022. The shop will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 AM until 2 PM.

Well St. Anne's you did it again!



You have demonstrated your generosity and willingness to put others before yourself; with your combined generosity we raised a little over \$700 for Angel Tree in a mere 4 weeks. Thanks to creative shopping and incentive discounts, 55 Christmas wishes were granted, ranging from sheets, comforters, and towel sets to arts & crafts to Jenga & Battleship games.



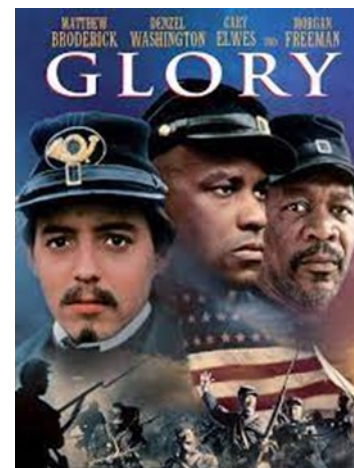
House of Hope Inc.

You may never see the faces of the lives you have affected, but know you have made a difference. The House of Hope is there to help others and you are always there to lend support. Thank you.

Movie Night



You are invited to join us on Friday, January 7, at 7:00 pm, for popcorn and a movie! We will be watching *Glory*, the inspiring story of the first Black regiment to fight for the North in the Civil War. This movie runs for 120 minutes.



There's more to fighting than rest, sir. There's character. There's strength of heart. You should have seen us in action two days ago. We were a sight to see! We'll be ready, sir. When do you want us?

- Col. Robert Gould Shaw

Wardens' Report

by Mike Hopkins and Ed Giroux



We hope everyone had a good Christmas, and by the time you read this, it's probably 2022 already, so HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone.

First of all, our thanks goes out to all those who served during the past year. Not only vestry members but everyone who worked hard to keep things going, from working at the Thrift Shop,

ushering, producing our online service, helping with coffee hour, changing batteries and more. It seems like there's always something that needs to be done and because of all of you, there's always someone willing to take care of it.

As some of you know, we have been renting space to a few outside groups for their meetings at St. Anne's, but with COVID, the only groups that were meeting regularly at St. Anne's during the pandemic were AA and the Explorers pre-school. Now we have a kindergarten Girl Scout troop meeting twice a month on Tuesday evenings, and Carolisa's dance class is trying to get going again. There is also an NA group meeting on Thursday evenings, and another NA group thinking about getting back. Al-Anon is planning to continue their meetings on Zoom for now but would like to come back once the COVID situation improves. Rental of space to these groups provides a service to the community as well as contributing financially to our church. If you have any questions about any of these outside groups, please let us know.

On to 2022! In the face of all the changes and challenges we will face in the coming year, we need to remember that Jesus and his teaching remains constant. "I bring all my plans for the year to you to approve only if they are in line with your plan for me." (Based on Proverbs 19:21)



Re-Gathering Report

As a New Year of hopefulness and promise begins, the Re-Gathering Team continues to follow the guidance of the Diocese, the CDC, and the State as well as the requirements of the Town of Billerica. With winter upon us and a new variant spreading, it is important that we take care of ourselves and be mindful that in doing so, we are also taking care of others.

The Re-Gathering Team will meet on January 11th to discuss our current practices. The Diocese has not altered their recommendations, although they are also constantly evaluating the current conditions. During our meeting, we will discuss options for the Annual Meeting to be held either in-person or virtually. The Diocese has reminded us of the recommendations of the Commonwealth, which legally allow for Annual Meetings to be held remotely through April 1, 2022. We will make a recommendation regarding meeting virtually or in-person to the Rector, Wardens and Vestry.

Peace and good health to all in the New Year.

Kathy Brewster Ken Kinser Linda Kusnierz Marguerite Massey

Cursillo

An excerpt from a message sent from Ellen Harland, Lay Director of the Secretariat, to the Cursillo Community:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Secretariat has decided to postpone the March weekend indefinitely. The bishops have recently updated their guidelines regarding services and activities in the church during this pandemic, and those guidelines place limitations on physical distancing and the requirement of wearing masks indoors. The guidelines are obviously meant to protect the health of everyone. However, these guidelines would limit our normal manner in which a weekend is conducted.

The number of people being infected is still terribly high, in spite of many people being vaccinated. Thus, we cannot structure a weekend that would be meaningful and yet safe for our candidates and teams.

I hope it will not be too long before we can resume having weekends. In the meantime, we will continue to do our Ultreyas on Zoom on the third Saturday of every month. It is so important that we keep the spirit of Cursillo thriving during this time. I highly encourage you all to participate in the Ultreyas. Mark your calendar, call your sponsor, spread the word to people who haven't been to one recently. Christ is counting on us!

I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us in our ministries.

Wishing you and your families a Joyous Christmas and Blessed New Year!

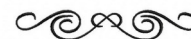


If you are interested in hosting an Ultreya on Zoom, please make the Secretariat aware and we will help you organize the program and assist you with the technical portion.

Social Conscience Book Group

Our meetings have been moved to Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. We hope the new time will allow more people to join us.

We are continuing to read *After Lincoln: How the North Won the Civil War and Lost the Peace* by A. J. Langguth. If you have any questions, please contact Marguerite Massey (mammassey@aol.com), Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com), or Russell Bent (bentr49@gmail.com).

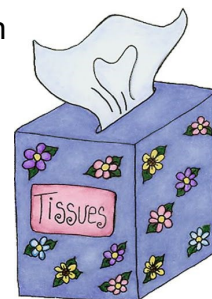


Community Outreach

by Sandra Giroux

You may have figured out by now I thoroughly believe Church doesn't or shouldn't remain in a closed building that you visit once a week, but Church should thrive in the community every day. And by now you may have figured out that I am fully committed to the Billerica Community Pantry and helping the food insecure of Billerica.

And many times, I drag you into product drives, to help others. Well, I am at it again! **I am asking you to commit to 250 boxes of tissues for the pantry.** 250 sounds like a lot but I have faith that the small but mighty St. Anne's can handle it over the next 2 months.



I want to challenge you to find your passion within the community. Bring forth your Community Mission and let us, the congregation, help shine a spotlight on your passion.

A Note on Music

by Peter Morelli

I wish you all peace and happiness this holiday season and in this New Year!



And thanks so much to Maria Martin, Michele O'Shea, John Geen, and John Chang for their fine singing (& playing!) in the Christmas Eve services!

Best,
Peter

This Christmas, mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion and replace it with trust. Write a letter. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Find time. Keep a promise. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Be kind; be gentle. Appreciate. Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Express your gratitude. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it yet once again.

- Howard Hunter, 14th President of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints,
1994 Christmas message, updated anonymously

<https://samoaglobalnews.com/this-christmas-by-howard-w-hunter/>

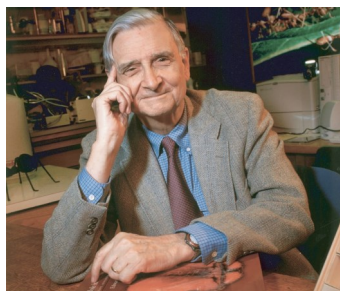
Jennifer's Journal

1. M L King, Jr. Breakfast Zoom event, hosted by First Congregational Church, Billerica. At 10:00 am on Monday, January 17, a fantastic program will begin: **Building the Beloved Community - Multiculturalism in Billerica**. Look for more information about this elsewhere in this Newsletter, and in our weekly bulletins. Register to get the zoom link for it.
2. Our Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at 10:45 am.
3. I'm thinking about having one service a month that is NOT filmed. What would that mean to our home-bound parishioners? Please let me know.
4. I wonder what outsiders see when they pass by our church.
5. Let me know what you thought of my Advent Wreath Lighting Facebook Live events. I wonder if I should do them again next year, or whether and how I should change them. What did you think?
6. I have been enthralled with the "Letters from Mary" to her Aunt Elizabeth or to her Mama, as written by our Central Regional Canon, the Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher. They can be found on her blog at mamabishop.blogspot.com. Reading these journal entries of a young girl and her reactions to the task God gave to her has opened my eyes, my heart, and my faith. I recommend them to you.

Significant deaths in our society:

On the same day, December 26, 2021, our world lost E.O. Wilson, the climate advocate, and Desmond Tutu, former Archbishop of Cape Town and Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Archbishop Tutu lived a formidable presence of God's love in a world of racial chaos as he influenced his country of South Africa away from the two citizen system of apartheid. He made our world better.

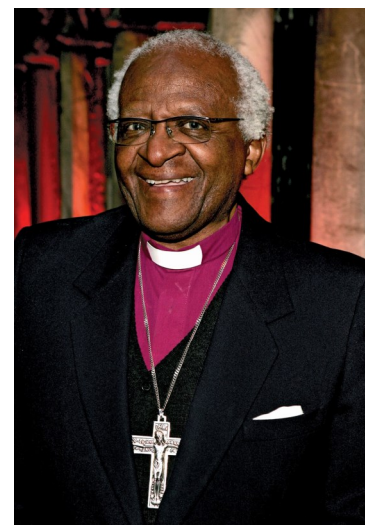


Perhaps the time has come to cease calling it the 'environmentalist' view, as though it were a lobbying effort outside the mainstream of human activity, and to start calling it the real-world view.

- E. O. Wilson

God's dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.

- Desmond Tutu



Here is an excellent tribute from someone who knew Archbishop Tutu personally: ["The Father I knew: A tribute to Desmond Tutu"](#) by The Rev'd Canon Professor Richard A. Burrige. (If you cannot click the link, search for this phrase online.)

Building the Beloved Community

Multiculturalism in Billerica

Monday, January 17, 2022 – 10:00am

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Billerica Interfaith Association is sponsoring this virtual event on Zoom. A diverse panel of your friends and neighbors share their dreams of Billerica's future as a community that celebrates the contributions of all the people that call this town their home.

To register for the event go to

<https://tinyurl.com/y5ukauru> or use the QR code.

If you have questions, email socialjusticefccb@gmail.com



“Love is creative and redemptive, Love builds up and unites; hate tears down and destroys. The aftermath of the ‘fight with fire’ method is bitterness and chaos; the aftermath of the love method is reconciliation and creation of the beloved community.”

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A Fresh Look at Celtic Spirituality



Sponsored by Lower Merrimack Valley Collaborative

Saturday, January 29th

from 9:45am-12 noon



We will look at how the Celts faced the Triumph Through Trauma. Even they began to have their doubts. Learn about their disrupted world and history of perseverance of the Celtic people. Consider their practice of intimacy while they experienced social distance. Come join us as we spend the time together to see what our Celtic ancestors can teach us today.

Our Celtic Guide is Fr. Paul Bresnahan, a semi-retired priest who shares Celtic Spirituality around the US. He is a member and presenter for the Anamchara Fellowship, a dispersed religious community founded in the tradition of the Episcopal Church, with a Celtic spirit, an inclusive community, welcoming men and women, clergy and lay, married, single, or partners in a committed relationship. Check out Fr. Paul's website (frpaul.com) and his blog (frpaulsplace.blogspot.com). Find his Facebook live post on Celtic Spirituality for the rich and poor here: www.facebook.com/pbbresnahan/videos/10216550568611315.

This event is Virtual. RSVP for the Zoom Link mapickard1@verizon.net, 978-681-9915, or with your parish administrator. Public Welcome! No cost.

From the desk of the parish administrator

by Jayleigh Lewis

Not much to report this month, as I am still recovering from the very busy Christmas season in the office! (Although I want to offer special thanks to Marie Figenbaum and Dotty Callihan, without whose help I would not have been able to send out the Christmas letters or prepare the Christmas Eve bulletins on time. They volunteered to help fold, stamp, stuff, and staple what felt like a mountain of paper. As Marie said, “many hands make light work!”)

I do want to note that we have received a new batch of custom-made envelopes, both business size and donation size, that feature the pencil drawing of St. Anne's as well as our return address. Did you know that we actually have two different pencil drawings of the church? I discovered this in the process of ordering the envelopes. They are only very slightly different (looking at them side by side feels like a “spot the difference” challenge), but different they are. I do not know the origins of either, but if anyone does know, please tell me! (The drawing I have been using for the front cover of our bulletins is one version, and the drawing that has been printed on our envelopes is the other version)

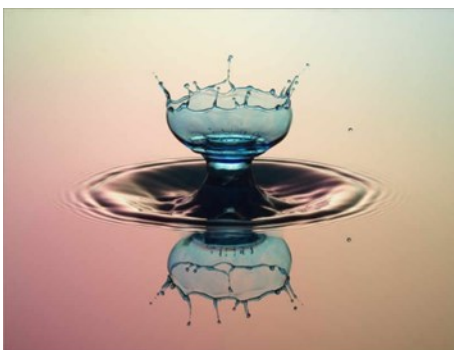


Church School

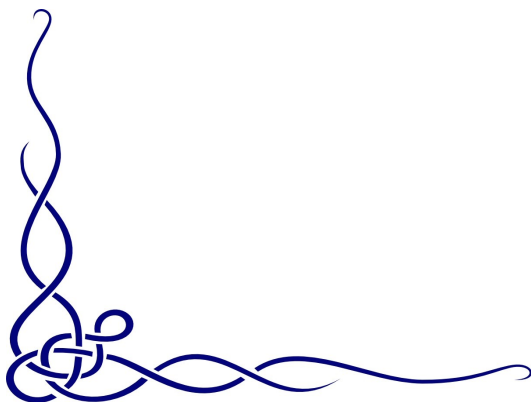
by Brenda Komarinski



Take-home lessons from December are available now. If you'd like one, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com). **For those interested in in-person lessons, our next in-person lesson will be Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 3:30pm.** 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 is water.



'Water drop chalice' by Stephan Geist

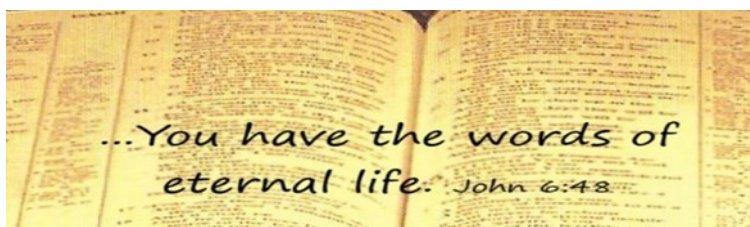


St. Anne's Prayer List

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.

Ana Blesso, Barbara Rogers, Cyndi, Debbie Blesso, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine McLaughlin, Helen, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, José Soreso, José Torres, Sr., Joseph Pleva, Joshua Young, Kathy Chang, Leonard Youens, 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, Tammy, Tom, Vicki Mahoney

We also keep in our prayers all who are ill with COVID-19, the families of those who have died, and all who are grieving.



**In this new year, may you arise
through the strength of heaven,
the light of the sun, the radiance of the moon,
the splendor of fire, the speed of lightning,
the swiftness of wind, the depth of the sea,
the stability of the earth.**

**In this new year, may you arise
through a mighty strength,
through the invocation
of the Trinity,
through belief
in the Threeness,
through confession
of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.**



- adapted from the Lorica of St. Patrick

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

Steve Hopkins	12/2	John Kusnierz	1/7	Norm Zarella	2/15
Belinda Fletcher	12/5	Sandra Giroux	1/11	Todd Baldwin	2/20
Marguerite Massey	12/7	Dick & Jane Kotelly	1/22		
Pat Cregg	12/10	Carol MacKenzie	1/25		
Andrea Jeffrey	12/18	Mike Hopkins	1/27		
Kathy Brewster	12/21				
Lisa Carpine	12/25				
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 & LINE DANCE with Carolisa * Mini-session @ St. Anne's

Mondays 6:00 -7:00p * four weeks starting January 23

Advance sign up required @ moonlightdjz@gmail.com

\$38 for the series * Gift Cards available



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. Mix it up with different line dances each week; Learn an Irish & a barn dance! It's easy to catch on; adjust the level to suit you. Best are sneakers without much tread. **Beginners & all fitness levels welcome – come with friends!** Get moving in the New Year * Dance off calories in this **FUN & friendly class!**



New Classes on ZOOM!

*Zumba -Tuesdays 6:30p * starts Jan 4

*Bellydance -Wednesdays 6:30 pm starts Jan 5

Try it New Year's week!

** 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

FB: [Carolisa Moonlightdjz](#) * [Carolisa's Classes](#)