

ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY

St. Anne's Episcopal Church

MARCH
2023
Newsletter



Dear Parish,

I asked to include Rev'd Richard's article about Lenten practices again this month, so that you can have the reference during this Lent. He presents the three classical Lenten practices that can support your own spiritual growth. Choose one, and do it :)

An encouraging note from our Parochial Report: our 2022 Average Sunday Attendance at worship is **up by more than 25%**! St. Anne's is becoming our new self, as I mentioned in my spoken remarks to the Annual Meeting! The Parochial Report will be available in the Office after it is completed on March 1st. Anyone is free to read it, and discover other interesting facts about us.

It was a WONDERFUL All-Parish Annual Meeting! I loved the ease with which everyone listened and questioned and cared about who we are to become.

In this month's Wardens' report, you will read about the next and last part of my Priest-in-charge journey with you. It is time for us both to decide, you the parish and me the priest, if we are a good fit for St. Anne's future. I look forward to the concrete goals for our future that the process will name.

Our new Vestry will meet for the first time in March. All parishioners are invited to attend. If you have an idea or a hope, speaking to the wardens is the best route. Then, bring it to the bi-weekly meeting of the Wardens & Clergy (& Treasurer). My leadership style for St. Anne's believes that we are all better off if as many people as possible know and share in leadership. This is necessary for a part-time-clergy parish, which decision has solidified the financial stability of our parish. May we continue in this growth, with God's help.

As I have said in many ways, I am thrilled to be among you, vibrant and compassionate St. Anne's!

Faithfully,

Mthr Jennifer

Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

**First Sunday of each month: 8:00 am and 10:00 am in person
(8:00 am service is not filmed)**

Weekly worship on our YouTube Channel:

["St. Anne's Episcopal Church, N. Billerica MA"](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCStAnneEpiscopalChurch)
(Subscribe and see videos of our services!)

Our services are replayed on BATV

Check out our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/StAnnesBillerica

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

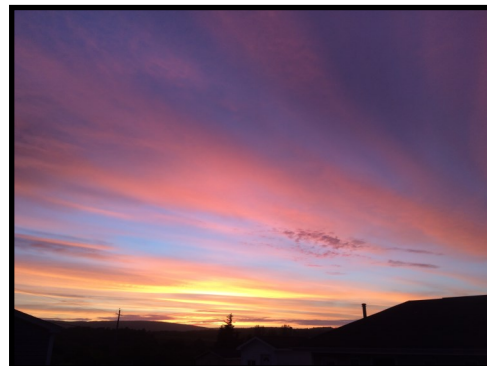
Website:

[stannes-billerica.org](https://www.stannes-billerica.org)

A message from the Rev'd Richard H. Lewis

The days of Lent are just over the horizon and we might give thought to what we might do in that time of Easter Preparation. Three notes are sounded in the services of Ash Wednesday:

- Prayer
- Fasting
- Alms giving



Prayer is a prime practice in that it makes time for us to listen for God in our daily life. Make it a practice to pray at a regular time each day: say at 7 each morning for 10 minutes. Give thanks for the night's rest and for a new day. Call to mind your family members and pray for God's blessing on each by name. Ask God's healing for those you know to have health issues. Pray for those who teach and those who learn. You might use prayers from the Prayer Book or go free-lance. But- do pray, daily.

Fasting is an ancient practice (not just done by Christians or only in Lent) of self-regulating food in-take. Bodily care and discipline are of importance in personal health. We are asked to consider modifying our intake so as to be self-disciplined. How to do this can as basic as not having lunch twice a week. Other types of fasting are sometimes practiced: turn off your cell phone at 8 PM or quit social media two days a week. You might choose other options.

Alms Giving is another hallmark of Lenten practice. This is to benefit those beyond ourselves. It might mean putting the cost of those not eaten lunches in a jar each week and then sending the total savings to Episcopal Relief & Development. ER&D is our way to give help to folks in other places. Hurricane Relief, for example in Florida. Or sending funds to provide literacy programs for girls where none are in place. Or helping provide funds to develop a loan program so that women might begin small businesses and provide better for their families.

Lent may be a time to pray or fast, as an act of self-control, or equally it may be a special time to do something that benefits others. In any case- try one or all of the long-time Lenten Practices.

Trust this may give you a boost for Lent !

The Revd. Richard H Lewis

Vestry:

Rosemary Kinser	Warden
Michael Hopkins	Warden
Linda Kusnierz	Treasurer
Russell Bent	Clerk
Sandra Giroux	2026
Brenda Komarinski	2026
Maria Martin	2024
Marie Figenbaum	2024
Lisa Carpine	2025
Todd Baldwin	2025

Mother Jennifer's Office Hours:

Tuesdays	11-5 pm
Thursdays	2-5 pm

Church Office Hours:

Tuesdays	11-5 pm
Thursdays	2-5 pm

Thrift Shop Hours:

Wednesdays,
Thursdays, Fridays 10 am-2 pm

12-Step Meetings:

Wednesdays (AA) 7:30 pm
Thursdays (NA) 7 pm

Discernment Process:

- John Geen
- Mark Komarinski
- Linda Kusnierz
- Michele O'Shea

Annual Meeting:

Mike & Rosemary

- On March 5th, come to either the 8am or 10am service!
- Daylight Saving Time starts March 12th!

Jennifer's Journal March 2023

- I'm wondering about inviting children to church. What would that look and feel like? Where would you want them to sit? Why? Is it worth the change?
- Lots of ministry to others is happening (Community Pantry, Haitian refugees). Per month, in our report to the national church, we reported that we serve 650 persons!
- St. Anne's Thrift Shop can always use a friendly 'hello'
- 2022 Parochial Report is almost completed (as of 02/16/23)! Our Average Sunday Attendance, throughout the whole year, is 31 persons. We are growing :)
- Our new Vestry will meet in retreat on March 11, and then regular meeting 03/21.

We might be small, but we are mighty!

LENT at St. Anne's

Mthr Jennifer will lead a Zoom session, every Wednesday night 8:30-9pm, March 1- April 12. I will post the recorded session that can be watched at your convenience.

Using the book, The Week that Changed the World: The Complete Easter Story by Timothy Dean Roth, 2009, I will take about 20 pages per week (1-2 days) and show photos of the places from my recent trip to the Holy Land.

For Families with all ages of children, coming from our Diocese

40 Days Together

40 Days Together is to Cultivate Faith's Lenten initiative for families. In a nutshell, 40 Days Together is a chance to help equip families to *take on* regular spiritual practices together (rather than giving up something for the season). There will be two parts to it:

- **for everyone:** table tents with mealtime prayers for families to use all through Lent and conversation questions for the car, for family group text threads, for the table, or whenever. These will be released on our website for all to freely use.
- **for subscribers/one time (minimal fee involved- being paid by DioMA):** more comprehensive materials for families to use, towards the goal of spending 40 Hours Together throughout the Lenten season. Materials will include:
 1. book lists for read-alouds/read-togethers for every developmental stage
 2. ideas for simple family hikes
 3. lunchbox notes (for parents/caregivers to slip into their kids' bags AND for kids to slip into their parents'/caregivers' bags)
 4. ideas for midweek simple sabbath rests together (can also be done together virtually)
 5. ideas for family collaborative art prompts using materials found around the home
 6. suggestions for family devotionals/prayers
 7. bedtime blessing ideas for every developmental level
 8. paper tracker of the 40 Hours Spent Together

These are being designed for a variety of family settings, including families that do not always live together and families that are away from home during the week a LOT. We want to help *you*, the congregation, help *families*. These are not in place of your faith formation times, but to augment them and support parents/caregivers as they continue to nurture their loved ones in spiritual practices. *Everything will be phrased so that forty hours together is the goal, not forty hours together muddling through activities that are not speaking to their souls. The Holy Spirit meets us whenever and however, so every moment truly is sacred. Folding laundry together counts. Brushing teeth together counts. Looking for the teen's lost phone charger together counts. A text thread with ridiculous memes counts.*

Jennifer's Journal March 2023

Continued...

News from our global church

From the meeting just concluded of the **Anglican Consultative Council**, which meets every 2-3 years in between the every-ten-years worldwide meeting of all Bishops at the Lambeth Conference, held last summer.

<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2023/02/15/visit-to-castles-dungeon-in-ghana-offers-acc-lessons-on-churchs-historic-complicity-in-the-trans-atlantic-slave-trade/>

[Episcopal News Service] Anglican Consultative Council members from 39 provinces, including The Episcopal Church, paused their week of business sessions in Ghana to spend Feb. 15 visiting Cape Coast Castle, [a United Nations World Heritage site](#) where centuries ago enslaved Africans were held before being loaded onto ships bound for colonies in North and South America and the Caribbean.

Leading the visit, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby was joined by Archbishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, who is hosting this ACC meeting as head of the Province of West Africa, and West Indies Archbishop Howard Gregory, who is a descendant of African slaves.

Cape Coast Castle was built in the 1650s and passed through Swedish, Danish and Dutch possession until becoming a headquarters for British colonial administration in the 1660s. Africans were taken from their homes and held in dungeons at the castle, with squalid, overcrowded conditions and little ventilation. It was one of 50 castles on Africa's west coast, 39 of them in Ghana, that served as points of embarkation for slave ships. An estimated 12 million to 25 million Africans passed through Ghana's ports to be sold across the Atlantic as slaves.

The ACC members' visit to the castle "was a reminder that the abomination of transatlantic chattel slavery was blasphemy: Those who imprisoned men and women in those dungeons saw them as less than human," Welby said in [written remarks released after the trip](#). *Much more is said in the article whose link is at the top.*



A Poem For Lent From Rev'd Richard Lewis

Wilt thou forgive the sin.
 where I begun,
 which is my sin,
 though it were done before ?
 Wilt thou forgive those sins
 through which I run,
 and do run still,
 though still I do deplore ?
 When thou hast done,
 thou hast not done ,
 for I still have more .

Wilt thou forgive that sin,
 by which I won others to sin,
 and made my sin their door ?
 Wilt thou forgive that sin
 which I did shun a year or two,
 but wallowed in a score ?
 When thou hast done
 thou has not done,
 for I have more.

I have a sin of fear
 That when I've spun
 my last thread, I shall
 perish on the shore;
 Swear by thyself,
 that at my death
 thy Son shall shine,
 As he shines now ,
 and heretofore ,
 and having done that,
 thou hast done,
 I fear no more

-J Donne [d. 1631]



Thrift Shop Updates

St. Patrick Day items are now on sale in the thrift shop. Shop is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 10AM until 2PM. Come in and see what items are on special sales.

Social Group March 4th at 1pm at Princeton Station in N. Chelmsford!

Cursillo Update



Hosted by Ellen Harland.

The prayer of Thomas Merton:

"My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that my desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

We hope you'll join us as we continue in fellowship and praise our Lord in this new year.

Ultreyas are the 3rd Saturday of the month @ 7pm. All are Welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: November 16th-19th Cursillo Weekend.

Peace, Rosemary

Social Conscience Book Group

Social Conscience book club meets the second and fourth Sunday after coffee hour. We haven't decided on our next book yet so check the Sunday bulletin for the title.



New members of St. Anne's vestry will need to complete their Safe Church training as well as any existing members who haven't finished theirs. If you need help with your Safe Church training, or are unsure of your status, please let Brenda know. If you have completed your Safe Church training recently, please email your Certificate to Brenda Komarinski (bkomarinski@gmail.com). St. Anne's Safe Church Policy can be found on our website (<http://stannes-billerica.org/safe-church/>).

A Note on Music...

I hope you're finding that the preludes & postludes enhance the liturgy each week, along with the hymns and service music. And I hope the music this Season of Lent enhances the time leading up to Easter. Please let me know if you have any requests.



For the Easter services, please consider participating in the choir. It would be great to have a larger group lead the singing this Easter!! Please touch base with me if you have interest!

Many thanks to Maria Martin for continuing to be cantor each week...the time and talent Maria shares with St. Anne's is greatly valued and appreciated! And much thanks to Michele O'Shea, John Geen, Ken Kinser, and John Chang for occasionally sharing your fine singing (& playing)!

Mother Jennifer and the Filming Team continue to be a big help with the music program...I'm very appreciative for that!

Peter Morelli

Newsletter deadline schedule!

April newsletter submission deadline: March 19, 2023

April newsletter distributed: March 29, 2023

May newsletter submission deadline: April 16, 2023

May newsletter distributed: April 26, 2023

Community Events

*** Carolisa's Classes * Gift Certificates Available! ***

*** Schedule a Workshop @ St Anne's for a special occasion or just for fun!**

Further info on all classes & Sign up: moonlightdjz@gmail.com

Fb: Carolisa Moonlightdjz Fb: Carolisa's Classes

~Zumba Mix ~ Tuesdays 6:15p

**3/21 will be 6:00p*

~ Line Dance 101- 1 Fun Night on Monday March 27~ 6:30-8:00p

Need Covid Tests?

To help keep everyone safe, please test for Covid-19. If anyone is in need of (free) rapid tests for Covid-19, we have them! Please contact the church office or pick them up at the back of the church.

From the Parish Administrator...

As I took the picture of the ancient stone carving at the base of a cliff in Utah I pondered what the ancient soul who carved it was trying to say. I was a bit distracted though as I was keeping an eye open for rattlesnakes and long horn cattle in the area. I've seen pictures of spiral carvings but I didn't think I had seen one with the straight lines leading toward and out of the spiral. I certainly don't know the artist's intent but I felt a connection with the long ago artist who felt compelled to carefully carve on the wall from where I was now standing. Maybe the artist was keeping an eye out for rattlesnakes too. The spiral with the lines made me think of a temporary situation, and I found the spiral also a bit meditative and similar to the labyrinths used in prayer. You have most likely seen labyrinths since you can sometimes find them in churches or outdoors, such as the one on the right. I don't always walk them when I see them, but I do like to view them or stand inside them. I find it interesting how the perspective from inside makes me think only about the immediate path in front of me, but from outside a labyrinth my perspective sees orderliness and peacefulness.

-Rich



Movie Night

In March, we will be watching the documentary **"The Price of Fairness"**. We look forward to seeing you on Friday, March 10 at **6:00pm**. This is documentary runs 1 hour and 16 minutes. A discussion will follow.

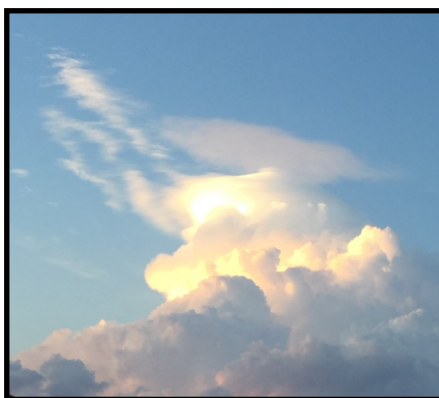


The Women of the Bible lesson is available for take home now. We looked at how families are different but still precious. Our next in-person lesson is Thursday, March 16. We will have classes for the 3-6 year-olds from 3:30-4:30pm and then for the 7-12 year-olds from 4:30-5:30pm. In April, we will be looking at the Revelation to St. John. If you have questions, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com).

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 & her son Kevin, Brian Hering, Chris Hering, Chick Meech, Cindy Z., Cyndi, Dale, David Hering, Diane Brown, Don, Donald Fudge, Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine McLaughlin, George Lyna, Helen, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, Janet Strong, José Soreso, José Torres, Sr., Joshua Young, Kathy Chang, Lee Conley, Linda E., Lucy Ann Young & her daughter Paula, Marie Horgan, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Paul Hamner, Tammy, Vicki Mahoney, Yvonne Hopkins



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.

Book of Common Prayer pages 830 (*For a Birthday*) and 430-1 (*Blessing of a Marriage*)

Levi Elder	2/7	John & Sue Geen	3/1	Jane Kotelly	4/1
Zachary Farmer	2/12	Colin Baldwin	3/7	Rosemary Kinser	4/2
Norm Zarella	2/15	Laurie Holman	3/8	Rose Packard Crotty	4/6
Todd Baldwin	2/20	Linda Kusnierz	3/26	Jackson Elder	4/10
				Ron Desmarais	4/25
				Doreen Knowles	4/26
				Elaine Guzzetta	4/30



March 2023 St. Anne's Ministers' Schedule

Date	Ushers	Lector	LEM/Prayers/ Server	Acolyte	Video	Audio
March 5 8am	Marguerite Massey	Ron Desmarais	Kathy Brewster	None	None	None
March 5 10am	Dotty Callihan Pat Cregg	Lisa Carpine	Sue Geen	Brenda Komarinski	Eli Baldwin	Mike Hopkins
March 12	Russell Bent Marguerite Massey	John Geen	Ed Giroux	Mike Hopkins	Sandra Giroux	Mark Komarinski
March 19	Ken Kinser Rosemary Kinser	Jane Kotelly	Kathy Brewster	Brenda Komarinski	Ron Desmarais	Mark Komarinski
March 26	George Cousens Linda Kusnierz	Russel Bent	Ron Desmarais	Mike Hopkins	Eli Baldwin	Ed Giroux

March 2023 St. Anne's Church Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:30 am Craft Group 10-2 Thrift Shop	2 10-2 Thrift Shop	3 10-2 Thrift Shop	4 1pm St. Anne's Social Group
5 8 am Sunday Service 10am Sunday Service	6	7 10 am Bible Study	8 10-2 Thrift Shop	9 10-2 Thrift Shop 4 pm Wardens and Clergy	10 10-2 Thrift Shop 6 pm Parish Movie Night	11
12 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Conscience Book Group	13	14 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study on Zoom	15 9:30 am Craft Group 10-2 Thrift Shop	16 10-2 Thrift Shop 3:30-5:30 Church School	17 10-2 Thrift Shop	18
19 April newsletter deadline 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Justice	20	21 10 am Bible Study 12 pm Billerica Interfaith Meeting 7 pm Vestry	22 10-2 Thrift Shop	23 10-2 Thrift Shop 4 pm Wardens and Clergy	24 10-2 Thrift Shop	25 8:30 pm Men's Breakfast 9 am Ladies' Breakfast
26 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Conscience Book Group	27	28 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study on Zoom	29 9:30 am Craft Group 10-2 Thrift Shop	30 10-2 Thrift Shop	31 10-2 Thrift Shop	