ST ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - SMALL BUT MIGHTY

St. Anne's Episcopal Church Newsletter

AUGUST 2023



Dear St. Anne's,

Thank you for all your support as we hosted an event for our Diocese. It takes work and coordination to do so, and you all helped. Thank you! It was magnificent!

We have a stained-glass window whose story is almost one of the Sunday scripture lessons this summer. Take a look at it. Carefully. Do you see where Jesus is standing? Ah. This is the resurrection story of Jesus preparing a meal for his hungry friends. In John 21, there's a 2nd story about Peter in the water racing to his Jesus. "But when Peter noticed the strong wind, he became frightened. And began to sink" (Matt 14:21-33). Jesus calmly meets us where we are and offers a hand.

How much we all notice that something is hard, and then we begin to doubt. But, I see you offering hands to each other. St. Anne's is not sinking! We are replacing doubt by trusting each other's hands. We even thrive Hooray for our parish!

With Jesus appearing and calling to us, we can run forward into any future with Him! Have a restful and replenishing rest of the summer.

With joy at being your Rector,

Mother Jennifer +

Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

Weekly worship on our YouTube Channel:

<u>"St. Anne's Episcopal Church, N. Billerica MA"</u>

(Subscribe and see videos of our services!)

Our services are replayed on BATV

Check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StAnnesBillerica

Contact information:

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Wisdom for Worship in August 2023

From M. Jennifer

- ♦ Summertime worship at St. Anne's awesomely demonstrates the power of our community to share the tasks and enjoy each other as we do. Thank you!
- ♦ **We blessed** new corporals and a new Fair Linen for our altar on July 16th. Watch the first ten minutes of that service to learn more. Thank you, Louise Boyce!
- ♦ Morning Prayer comes back for 3 Sundays. Remember when it used to be the main service ¾ of the month? Discover its emphasis on several kinds of group prayer that developed in our Anglican denomination over the last 5 centuries. What speaks now?
- ◆ The place and use of the **Psalm** is different between Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer. In one it comes in between lessons as a moment for reflection. In the other, the psalms are used as the continuous prayers of the believer that we say together at the beginning in order to unite us all right away.
- ♦ Morning Prayer can omit one of the readings, as we will do this summer.
- ♦ Sometime soon, we will try singing a song in Spanish. We can do it!
- ♦ If you visit **another church** on your vacations, travels, or Sunday off, please bring me a bulletin. I love to see how other communities do things. What did you like? What ideas do you have for St. Anne's?
- ◆ Covid restrictions are now permanently relaxed. Hooray! However, I still want to be mindful of our community's health. Let's keep our communication aware, open and frequent. (see article in this newsletter)

St Anne's purchased reusable bags for outreach.

If you would like, you too can spread the word of St Anne's buy carrying one. For a \$5.00 donation we can replenish the outreach fund. Please see Sandra or Ed if interested in purchasing a bag or two.

Vestry:

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

Mother Jennifer's Office Hours:

Tuesdays 12-5 pm Thursdays 2-5 pm

Church Office Hours:

Tuesdays 12-5 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 The **Social Conscience Book club** has been reading <u>Ink Knows No Borders, Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience</u>. The following poem from the book was ready on Sunday July 9 at the beginning of the service.

Immigrant

By Lena Khalaf Tuffaha

I am not buckled safely into my seat I am watching the road unravel behind us like a ribbon of dust.

Through the back window of my uncle's Datsun Amman looks like a tender little place the color of my teddy bear's fur. Its houses crowded into one another on its seven parched hills are the shades of my family's skin -- almond of my mother's brow, wheat of my father's arms, tea-with-cream of my grandmother's palms.

We are driving away on the only road to the airport. We are driving away from this doll house town and my storybook childhood of tree-climbing, and laughter of too many cousins to count. We are driving away from impending war.

We are driving away because we can leave on the magic carpet of our navy blue US passports that carry us to safety and no bomb drills, to the place where the planes are made and the place where the President will make the call to send the planes into my storybook childhood, over the seven hills, next door to neighbors who will now become refugees.

We are driving and I am not safe driving away from myself and everything I know into the great miracle of a country so large wars are kept thousands of miles at bay. My young life is coming undone on the road behind me where I know all the names of the trees in Arabic rumman, saru, zayzafoon and I know the spot on each dry hilltop where the crimson poppies return in spring. and I know the best bakery to line up for Ramadan pancakes before breaking the fast.

In the backseat of my uncle's Datsun
I want to float through the window
and run towards yesterday
when August was just late afternoon ice cream
and late night card games
and the crinkle of brown paper and tape
covering copybooks,
fresh as this morning's bread,
ready to receive the school year ahead;
math equations,
poems,
histories of battle.



Movie Night

We will be watching the movie "Encanto". It will be shown on Friday, September 15 at 6:00pm. Note the corrected date. This movie runs for 1 hour and 42 minutes. A discussion will follow.

From the Administrator...

As I noticed the motorcycle in my left mirror coming up quickly behind me on a sweeping curve, I pushed my right grip forward just slightly so my bike would move to the right side of the lane. The young man behind me deftly swerved to the left a bit, passed me, then swerved back into the lane in front of me. As he did this he put his left hand behind his back forming an upside down peace sign. I raised my left arm out to my side and pointed two fingers down in acknowledgement. The young man was riding what I



would call a "spirited" ride, whereas I was riding in a way I would describe as rather casual. So I wasn't offended by being passed. We were both just trying to enjoy the day in our own way and in a way unique to motorcycling. I rolled the throttle on a tad though since maybe I was dilly dallying just a bit. Motorcyclists often feel a bond with other riders, even ones they don't know at all. This common bond is often indicated with what usually looks like an upside down peace sign exchanged between passing riders, but is commonly said to mean "keep the rubber side down", that is, "have a safe ride, my friend."



My transient motorcycle friend reminded me of the sign of peace exchange we do during an Episcopal service, initiated by the celebrant saying "The peace of the Lord be always with you." I don't know the theology or history behind the exchange, and I didn't experience it in my original denomination, but I like that part of the service. I don't walk down the aisle giving bear hugs, but I'm not offended if someone wants to either. What strikes me about it is that this is when we as the congregation directly address all those who happen to be around us, whoever they are. We rec-

ognize our common bond with others, and as directed in the Book of Common Prayer, we "may greet one another in the name of the Lord." It seems a small and simple part of our service, and it may be the only place in our services where the congregation does something like this, but I find it's an important piece to expressing our bond and commitment.

Billerica's Farmer's Market is back up and running for the 2023 Season at its new location 793 Boston Road (Pinehurst) Billerica 3pm to dusk on Mondays.

A Note on Music...



A Note on Music...

Following is the hymn story for "Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun" (H544) that we sang in the 7/9 service!

It was written by the prolific hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748) in England. H474, H680, H100. Mr. Liddell is the hero of "Chariots of Fire (1981).

-Peter Morelli & M. Jennifer

Jesus Shall Reign

1719

His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed. Psalm 72:17



hile living on the Abney estate, Isaac devoted himself to a massive project, adapting the Book of Psalms for Christian worship. In 1719, The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament was published. In it, Watts worked his way through most of the 150 Psalms,

paraphrasing them, injecting them with New Testament truth, and framing them in singing form.

He explained his approach with these words: "Where the Psalmist describes religion by the fear of God, I have often joined faith and love to it. Where he speaks of the pardon of sin through the mercies of God, I have added the merits of a Savior. Where he talks of sacrificing goats or bullocks, I rather choose to mention the sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God. Where He promises abundance of wealth, honor, and long life, I have changed some of these typical blessings for grace, glory, and life eternal, which are brought to light by the gospel, and promised in the New Testament."

Several of these have become favorites that have withstood the ages. His rendition of Psalm 72, for example, has been called the first missions hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er The Sun."

This hymn played a role in the life of Eric Liddell, Scottish Olympic hero of the 1924 games in Paris, who became a missionary to China with the London Missionary Society. His departure from Edinburgh was never-to-be-forgotten. His friends escorted him in a festooned carriage from Scottish Congregational Church to Waverley Station where multitudes had gathered. Before boarding the train, Eric spoke to the crowds, saying he was going abroad to endeavor to do his part in trying to unify the countries of the world under Christ. "Let our motto be 'Christ for the World, for the World Needs Christ," he shouted. He then led in two verses of "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun."*

If, on that memorable day, Eric had sang all the verses of "Jesus Shall Reign," he would have come to this one:

The saints shall flourish in His days, Dressed in the robes of joy and praise; Peace, like a river, from His throne Shall flow to nations yet unknown.

Jennifer's Journal August 2023

Look carefully at Brenda's **Church School program** announcement. She is creative and brilliant! Do you know any children who could benefit?

Altar Guild Meeting with M. Jennifer– September 16 or 30 (depending on when the Parish Clean-up will be). All are welcome. We will go over altar preparation for funerals and baptisms.

Annual Calendar meeting of the church at the end of August. Our Co-Warden Rosemary brought back this event last summer. All those who plan events at the church gather to put them on one coordinated calendar. We iron out conflicts before they happen – or try to!

Musings about summer lectionary Sunday readings

We have left the stories of Abraham, but are continuing through the stories of the patriarchs. We hear how they established pillars of the relationship between God and God's people. This is the plan in Track One of the Old Testament readings for the green growing season of Pentecost (as our Church School children call it).

Now begins Year A's Parables of Jesus! We have had The Sower, and The Weeds of the Field. Now The Mustard Seed and Treasure.

Parables are followed by The Miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 (on the shores of the Sea of Galilee), and powerful stories of Jesus: Jesus walks on water while Peter sinks, the Canaanite Woman's Faith, and Peter's Confession at Caesarea Philippi.

Perhaps the next time that Yr A comes around (in 2026), I will focus on the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Perhaps we have TOO MANY great scripture lessons in our services!

Deanery Grant Challenge from our Delegate Ed Giroux in last month's Newsletter? Have you thought up a ministry for women or children we could do if we had a grant from the Diocese to support it? Bring your ideas to Ed and the Wardens and Clergy.

Yankee Doodle town homecoming Day will be September 23, 2023. If you can volunteer for an hour or two at St. Anne's table, you will get to meet and greet many Billericans! Speak to the Kinsers to sign up.

Our Air Conditioning works in all of our meeting spaces, now! That is an accomplishment. Our Buildings & Grounds Committee deserves continual gratitude for their persistent hard work at caring for us and our ministries. Hearing the cheer that went up from down the hall from my Office when the AA group learned that they could be cool for the evening was a true delight!

Our Phenomenal Thrift Shop just keeps doing an amazing job, even through high heat and huge volume of donations. Thank you, all, for your knowledge and dedication. You make a difference to our church!

We're the Episcopal Church! That means..... We elect our own leaders. The Presiding Bishop's Search Committee is asking for nominations. Our Diocesan Bishop's Search Committee is waiting to be appointed by our diocesan Standing Committee (the equivalent of a parish Vestry, or Board of Directors). And, St. Anne's Vestry has just elected me as your Rector (for which I am very pleased!).

Along with the privilege of choosing our leaders comes the responsibility to do so carefully. Those who give their time to these committees deserve our gratitude and our prayers.

Re-Gathering Update

Dear Parishioners.

Below is the recent update communication from the Bishops regarding COVID-19.

Throughout the "public health emergency" St Anne's has been cautiously following the protocols while being particularly mindful of the most vulnerable among us. We have relaxed and stopped many of the early protocols while some protocols and practices will continue.

- Face masks and hand sanitizer are available.
- ♦ The Alcove is available for those that may want to worship with physical distancing.
- ♦ Continue to offer single serve wine and wafer communion kits.
- ♦ Intinction is not an option at St Anne's.
- ♦ Those that serve on the Altar continue to mask during distribution of communion.
- Wrapped foods are available at coffee hour and other gatherings.
- ♦ Collection plates are made available at the entry to church and on the piano.
- ♦ Online worship continues for those unable to attend services in person.

Since the very beginning of our ever-changing experiences with COVID, St. Anne's has and will continue to strive to meet and surpass the needs of our Church Family and the community relying on available data, official recommendations, and prayerful discussions.

Kathy Brewster Ken Kinser Linda Kusnierz Marguerite Massey



June 22, 2023

Dear Colleagues in the Diocese of Massachusetts,

Last month, both the <u>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</u> and the <u>World Health Organization</u> declared an end to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. COVID-19 is now classified as an established and ongoing public health concern. Vaccines and booster shots are widely available, our medical care system is able to respond to local surges and hospitalizations and deaths have declined significantly. We rejoice in this great progress.

We also remain mindful of our responsibilities to those among us who are most vulnerable. We know that the coronavirus is still evolving and that seniors, people who are immunocompromised and people with disabilities are at greatest risk for severe outcomes when the illness is contracted.

When we last communicated with you about COVID protocols on <u>Aug. 29, 2022</u>, we urged caution in church gatherings, while supporting our clergy and lay leaders in their decisions about safety practices in their local contexts.

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As we live together into this transition of COVID-19 from "public health emergency" to "established and ongoing public health concern," we continue to emphasize public health awareness and local decision making. Stay alert to the presence of COVID-19 in your community and exercise caution for those who are most vulnerable. We remain supportive of clergy and lay leaders as you determine appropriate safety measures for your local congregation, your church buildings and your community engagement.

In particular, we commend the following practices:

- Encourage vaccinations and boosters, especially for those who minister among those most vulnerable because of age, illness or disability;
- Designate a seating area in your worship space where physical distancing is maintained;
- Discourage intinction but, if it is to be practiced, use a small, shallow cup (similar to that found in a home communion kit) separate from the full-sized, principal chalice;
- Keep a supply of face masks and hand sanitizers at all gatherings;
 Stay abreast of public health concerns in your community.
 In all things, we extend our gratitude for your careful and compassionate concern for one another, and

for your tireless adaptations during these challenging past three years.

Grateful blessings to you,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates The Rt. Rev. Carol J. Gallagher

Canon Bill Parnell is available to respond to questions and concerns and can be reached at bparnell@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 205.



A stained glass window that can be seen at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Lowell, MA

Wardens' Message: Rosemary and Mike

It's summertime and things are slowing down a bit. People are on vacation or sometimes just going away for weekends when they can, but not everything stops.



We're just at the finish line getting documents to the diocese that are required for Mother Jennifer's transition to Rector from PIC and expect that to be done this week.

Several parishioners are getting ready to conduct Morning Prayer services during those weeks that Mother Jennifer will be on vacation. We've done this before so we are confident that those services will go on without a hitch.

B&G is moving along as well, getting a dehumidifier for the Rectors office, getting rid of unwanted (and un-usable) furniture donated to the Thrift shop and doing other odd repair/fix-up jobs.

So, as you can see, things keep moving even in the heat (and rain) of the summer.

That's it for this month. By the time you get the next newsletter even more will be done thanks to the efforts of all of you. All of these efforts fall under what's called mutual ministry, something you'll be hearing more about as we move along.

Peace to all,

The Wardens

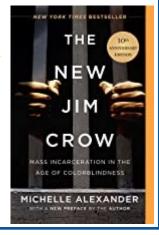
Thrift Shop News

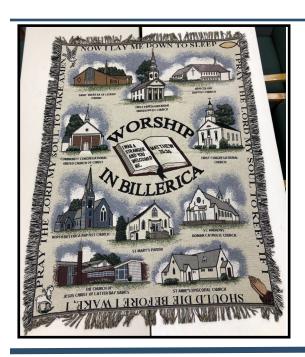
St. Anne's Thrift Shop is a family to volunteers and customers. The shop is a weekly and sometimes daily shopping destination for some customers. In August our theme is Back to School from preschool to college. We have clothes, books, school supplies, book bags, dishes, glasses, mugs, and pots and pans to meet the needs of students of all ages.



Social Conscience Book Group

The Social Conscience Book Club will be reading The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander in September. Get your copy now so you can join in our discussion.





If you are interested, St Anne's found four (4) of the **interfaith blankets** you see in the Nichols Room. If you would like to own one please see Sandra or Ed. We currently have them on consignment from another church. The price is \$25.00 each....

Newsletter deadline schedule!

September newsletter submission deadline: August 20, 2023

September newsletter distributed: August 30, 2023

October newsletter submission deadline: September 17, 2023

October newsletter distributed: September 27 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 & Dign up: moonlightdjz@gmail.com

Fb: Carolisa Moonlightdjz Fb: Carolisa's Classes

ZUMBA MIX @ St Anne's

Tuesdays 6:00p-7:00p

Try it -\$10 ~ seven weeks \$64. Advance sign up required

@moonlightdjz@gmail.com * NO CLASS August 1

LINE DANCE MIX - 1 Fun Night! Date TBD* or by arrangement!

Bellydance -Beginners at the Billerica COA!

July & August THURSDAYS @ 1:00p .. \$5 at the door!

Advance Sign up required @978-671-0916

No class 8/1 *non-residents welcome!

Bellydance 101 * Girls Night * Moms Night * Friends Night * Line Dance Mix

*Schedule a Workshop @ St Anne's! *Also on zoom ~ join friends from anywhere!

FAMILY FUN DANCE.. Dancing, Fun & Games!



Our theme for the coming year is People of the Bible with the Sacraments of the church. The schedule is below. If you have questions, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com).

Date	Person/Sacrament (or topic)
September 21, 2023 Thursday	Jesus/Holy Eucharist
October 19, 2023 Thursday	John the Baptist/Baptism
November 16,2023 Thursday	King Josiah/Confirmation
December 21, 2023 Thursday	Eli and Samuel/Ordination
January 18, 2024 Thursday	Esther/Holy Matrimony
February 15, 2024 Thursday	Jonah/Reconciliation of a penitent
March 21, 2024 Thursday	Naaman and Elisha/Unction
March 30, 2024 Saturday	Children's Easter Service on Holy Saturday
April 18, 2024 Thursday	Jacob/Hope
May 4, 2024 Saturday	Early/First Communion formation for children
May 5, 2024 Sunday	Early/First Communion Sunday
May 16, 2024 Thursday	Dorcas/Gifts of the Holy Spirit



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, Chick Meech, Chris Hering, Dale, Don, Donald Fudge, George Lyna, Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, Janet Strong, Rev. Jonathan, José Soreso, Joshua Young, Josy Herring, Kathy Chang, Lee Conley, Linda E., Lucy Ann Young & her daughter Paula, Marie Horgan, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Paul Hamner, Rebecca, Yvonne Hopkins

Pastoral Care Prayers for Rev. Jonathan.

Please also keep in our prayers the families who have recently lost their loved ones: Onorio Cerrato, Vicky Mahoney, Norman Nicolson



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)

Suzanne Geen	7/3	Jennifer+ Beal	8/1	Maureen Thibeault	9/7
Flains James	7/00	Neil Hopkins	8/2	Jose & Doris Torres &	9/8
Elaine Jones	7/28	Dotty Callihan	8/3	Hamner	3/0
Austin Mannetta	7/29	Peter Morelli	8/5	Brenda Komarinski	9/10
• <u>• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • </u>	1	Mark & Brenda	8/5		
		Komarinski		Michelle O'Shea	9/11
		Lisa & David Carpine	8/8	Judy Peck	9/20
		Lisa Higgins	8/8	Cindy Fawcett	9/24
		Mark Komarinski	8/15	Jon McKenzie	9/27
* J.	• •	Robert Stockton	8/19	Pete Jeffrey	9/27
*	*	Jane Clark	8/19	*	
	# 6	Ed Giroux	8/23	Nancy Packard	9/30
	*	Camryn Stockton	8/24		* *
		Mark Figenbaum	8/31	***	
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August 2023 St. Anne's Ministers' Schedule

Date	Ushers	Lector	LEM/Prayers/ Server	Acolyte	Video	Audio
August	Ken Kinser Rosemary Kinser	Sue Geen	Mark Komarinski	Brenda Komarinski	Eli Baldwin	Mike Hopkins
August 1	Marguerite Massey 3 Russell Bent	Jane Kotelly	Marguerite Massey <i>Officiant</i> : Sue Geen <i>Preacher:</i> John Geen	Brenda Komarinski	Ron Desmarais	Mark Komarinski
August 2	Dotty Callihan Patt Cregg 0	Michele O'Shea	Ron Desmarais Officiant: Kathy Brewster Preacher: Marguerite Massey	Mike Hopkins	Sandra Giroux	Ed Giroux
August 2	George Cousens Linda Kusznierz	Mark Komarinski	Kathy Brewster	Brenda Komarinski	Eli Baldwin	Mike Hopkins

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.

August

St. Anne's Calendar 2023

Sunday	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday		Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	5
			10-2 Thrift Shop 9:30 am Craft Group	10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9 am Sunday Ser- vice			10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9 am Sunday Ser- vice (Morning Prayer)			10-2 Thrift Shop 9:30 am Craft Group	10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9 am Sunday Service (Morning Prayer) September newsletter deadline			10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop	8:30 pm Men's Breakfast 9 am Ladies' Breakfast
27	28	29	30	31		
9 am Sunday Ser- vice			10-2 Thrift Shop	10-2 Thrift Shop 4 pm Wardens & Clergy 6 pm Calendar Meeting		