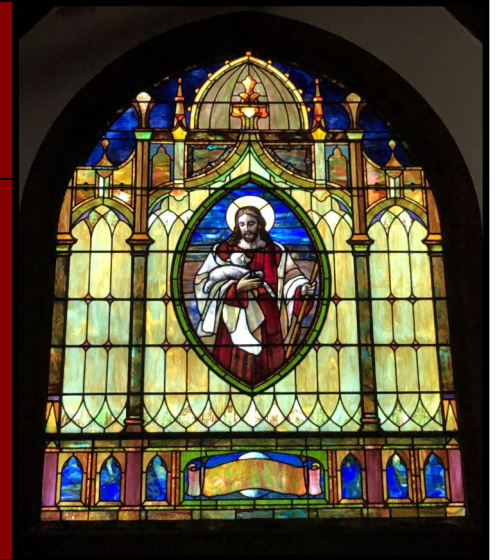


St. Anne's
Episcopal Church Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023



Dear Parish/People of Anne,

What a most amazing Celebration of Ministry we had together on November 10th, didn't we? I have heard from folks who were able to watch it online, and they are as much a part of the joy as we who were there! It was your generosity of spirit to try something new that encouraged the Holy Spirit to make us a new people. And then, our Bishop Gates proceeded to call us to our roots, our present, and our future. I have posted his charges to us elsewhere in this Newsletter.

With our foundation of joy set for the new year's Season of Advent and Christmas, won't you join us in any way you can?

With humble joy, gratitude, and expectation,

Mother Jennifer +

Worship:

9:00 am Sunday in person

First Sunday of each month: 8:00 am and 10:00 am in person
(Note that beginning January 2024, there will be one service, at 10am)

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

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

Wisdom for Worship in December 2023

From M. Jennifer

- Beware: no church service on the morning of Christmas Eve! See our schedule.
- Advent One begins on December 3. Advent III will be snuck in at the end of Advent II on December 10th.
- Try to spot the way that Advent prepares for the Incarnation (Jesus' birth) as well as the End Times. In your daily life, do you plan for tomorrow and for next year both at the same time?
- With a new season and new year, we shall begin a new eucharistic prayer (B), Prayers of the People, and service music.
- No Facebook Advent Wreath lighting, this year, during the middle of the week. Try other ideas for use at home, instead!

A different notion for Epiphany (To bless a home)

"Chalking the Door"

Caspar + Melchior + Balthazar 2024

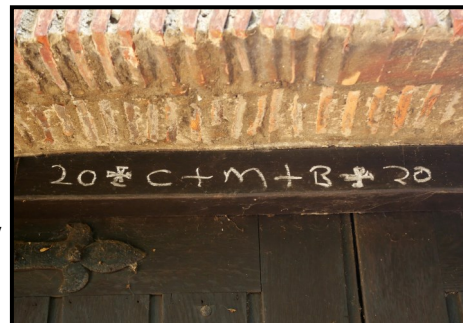
With a piece of chalk mark these names over the main entryway to your home.

--submitted by the Rev'd Richard Lewis

And M. Jennifer adds: Who were these three names? and Why would Christian tradition have us write these names over the entry to our homes?

Did you know that our Cathedral in Boston does this practice of using white chalk to mark the doorway of their spiritual home "C+M+B 2024"?

Photo: Epiphany door chalking at the Anglican Church of St Michael in Welling, London. By Ethan Doyle White - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=98628302>



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	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
And Dec 2, 9 & 16

12-Step Meetings:

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

Wardens' Message: Rosemary and *Mike*

This weekend, one of the Wardens – Rosemary – is participating in a Cursillo weekend which typically starts on a Friday evening and ends on the following Sunday. Many of the people at St. Anne's, including myself, are active in Cursillo and if you'd like some additional information just let us know.

Our Celebration of Ministry on November 10th was a great success. It included many of St. Anne's parishioners as well as representatives from the diocese and others in the community. As part of the service, parishioners involved in any activities at St. Anne's were invited to come to the altar with an article symbolic of their activities. For example, those involved with Stewardship brought a package of pledge envelopes, Building and Grounds a tool, Men's and Women's breakfast had coffee cups, the Vestry left a vestry guidebook. It demonstrated the amount of involvement of the parish in parish activities, committees, outreach and study groups and it was also clear that some individuals were involved in many different activities. I think most who attended were there for either the light meal prior to the service or the food at the reception after the service – and some attended both and there was plenty left over.

This is Stewardship month, so if you haven't gotten your pledge in yet, please consider doing so. We rely on the pledge to give us a good estimate of what our income will be for the following year. It's also an indication of the parish's commitment to keeping the church healthy and able to serve the community. We need your stewardship to keep us going.

Don't forget the Christmas Event coming up – December 10th. Some information was in the last newsletter and I'm sure more will appear this month. Contact Lisa Carpine at coffee hour or you can email her at Lisa.carpine@outlook.com if you have questions.

One last thing: the furnace in the Thrift shop developed a problem and stopped producing heat. Upon inspection, it became clear that the old furnace needed to be replaced. Not only was it replaced but the vestry approved adding Air Conditioning as part of the upgrade. I think this will be a tremendous help for both the workers and customers.

Pledge cards please! Any amount, no matter how small, will help St. Anne's thrive.

- *Mike*



- photo by Joseph Turner

ADVENT

Advent is the Church Season of preparation for Christmas. It starts on Sunday, December 3 this year. In your packet is a felt Advent wreath with felt flames you can glue on each Sunday until Christmas with your family as someone reads the prayer.

THE LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

An Advent wreath is customarily a circle of greens, sometimes with berries and blue or purple (violet) and rose ribbons, with four candles around the circumference. Candles may be all white, or three purple and one rose (for Rose Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent – sometimes called “*Gaudete* Sunday” when some lessons use the word “Rejoice” which is *Gaudete* in Latin). Each Sunday, one more candle is lit, with a prayer, until all are burning. A fifth, white Christ-candle may be put in the center of the wreath and lighted on Christmas Eve. One or more of that Sunday’s Scripture lessons may be read by members of the household when the candles are lighted. Each Sunday as the birth of Jesus the Christ draws nearer, the Light of Christ burns brighter from the Advent Wreath. May the light of Christ shine forth from you as we draw closer to the celebration of his birth!

NOTES (if you are using Real Candles and Greens):

If your candles burn too low, it’s fine to replace them. You may also replace the greens to keep them fresh, so they don’t dry out and become a fire hazard. Your candles could be tapered or columns, or votive lights in glass containers. If the candles are big enough, you might burn them during a Sunday family meal. Remember to extinguish all of the candles when you are finished.

These prayers were written by the Rev’d Jennifer M. Phillips. There is another set of prayers for a wreath in the [Book of Occasional Services](#) available from Church Publishing Inc.

-Written by the Rev’d Sarah Lewis

M. Jennifer adds that take-home felt wreaths are available from Brenda and Mother Sarah at church. Please let us know if you would like one (office email or phone).



Jennifer's Journal December

Messages from our Diocesan News for November

The Ministry of Immigration Partnership convened by the Office of Immigration and Multicultural Ministries invites all to save the date to join for a **Pilgrimage to the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center** in Mashantucket, Conn., on *Thursday, March 7, 2024, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* Lunch is included, and a transportation option is available. Cost is \$10, with scholarships available. Find registration information [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa, Canon for Immigration and Multicultural Ministries (jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

Anglican leaders call for global support of Diocese of Jerusalem's ministries as war intensifies [Episcopal News Service]: Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has joined with Archbishop Hosam Naoum in issuing a global appeal for support of Anglican ministries in the Holy Land as the war between Israel and Hamas intensifies. Welby and Naoum issued parallel [written statements on Oct. 24](#) lamenting the recent violence, including damage to an Anglican hospital in Gaza, while urging Anglicans to pray for and donate to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. They listed several global partners that are accepting donations on the diocese's behalf, including the [American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem](#). Read more [here](#).

The Diocese of Massachusetts bishops' statement is available [here](#), and the **Litany for Peace** written and shared by Bishop Carol J. Gallagher during the diocesan prayer vigil on Oct. 17 on Zoom is posted [here](#). Read additional perspective that Bishop Alan M. Gates offered in his annual Diocesan Convention address [here](#).

Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner & Service offered an evening of friendship with other faithful members of our town. It is always on the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving. Think about coming next year.

The **Interfaith Holiday Concert** on December 3rd at 6pm will hear a preview a week before of my cello quartet's "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" that we will offer at our December 10th Christmas Concert. I am looking forward to playing for you!

Continue your prayers and support for the **80 Haitian persons** living in our local hotel. They need so much. Especially pajamas! Find the flyer in this newsletter.

Genesis II program report from Rosemary discussed the difference to a newcomer between

finding an established congregation who are all **bonded** with each other
or finding an established congregation who knows how to **bridge** to others

One is hard to break into, and the other is curious about newness.

The Story of the Cross with the Memorial Book



The above referenced cross was donated to St. Anne's Church in North Billerica, MA in September of 1990 by MaryJo & Normand Zarella. It was given in appreciation for all the goodness that has been given to us by God.

The cross was purchased in Graciosa, one of the Azore islands of Portugal.

MJ spotted this cross which had a very red background & said it would look beautiful on the altar, I explained that St. Anne's color was blue so MJ glued on a blue ribbon background over the red.

Father Geoff Lennon graciously accepted this gift to beautify the altar.

-written by Norman Zarella for the Sunday bulletin November 5 of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Actions of the 238th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Oct. 27-28, 2023

Please go to this URL for details on elections, appointments, and resolutions:

<https://www.diomass.org/sites/diomass/files/documents/Diocesan%20Convention%202023%20Actions.pdf>

Please join us for
St. Anne's Episcopal Church's
 14 Treble Cove Road North Billerica

HOLIDAY EVENT

FUNDRAISER

December 10, 2023
 (1-5pm)



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PRIZES



Concert 2pm
 Tickets
 \$5



The King Josiah and Confirmation lesson is available for take-home now. Our next in-person lesson is Thursday, December 21. 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. Our December theme is Eli and Samuel and Ordination. If you have questions, please let Brenda know (bkomarinski@gmail.com).



Painting by LEONAERT BRAMER

“Shaphan Reading The Book Of Law To King Josiah”

Date	Person/Sacrament (or topic)
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

Celebration of Ministry

November 10, 2023



- Photo by Joseph Turner

A Collect for appropriate use at Celebrations of Ministry

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

St. Anne's Social Group

The December event is lunch at the Chateau, Burlington, MA on Saturday, December 2nd.

Bishop Alan's Charge to St. Anne's in His sermon to us on November 10, 2023, our Celebration of Ministry

In hard times (like those of the second-century Christians who told stories of Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim),

People of Anne, ground yourself in hope, hang on to it, and share it with others.

In regarding the Faith Community as an extension of family, remain embedded in this community, even when hard things happen. Anne and Joachim didn't get embarrassed and leave. In that emphatically non-traditional, non-nuclear family, they stayed in the faith community. Grandma Anne and Grandpa Joachim remained in community.



People of St. Anne, claim one another as family, and as the place for any family, no matter how it is shaped, or defined.

Knowing your family tree gives a sense of identity. You have a family tree too!

So, People of St. Anne, like those 2nd century Christians, claim your family tree. Remember the immigrants and laborers, and mission-minded members who were your own parish pioneers. And your siblings at St. Anne in Lowell who were collaborating with you, by sharing their rector, a 100 years before we started using the word, over and over again.

Honor that family tree, with YOUR commitment.

Bonus: Grannies love unconditionally.

People of St. Anne, be for one another (and for those in the world around you) the bearers of unconditional love.

Be Anne's people. This is our prayer for you this night.

-Transcribed by M. Jennifer and taken from the film of that service with the sermon beginning around minute 27 and this charge found around minute 31. It is worth hearing him deliver it 😊



Advent Wreath (Also used as the background photo on the volunteer schedule page) Photo: By Johann Jaritz - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0 at, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=29878754>

Movie Night



The December movie is “**Just Mercy**”. It will be shown on **Friday, December 8 at 6:00pm**. This film runs for 2 hours and 17 minutes. A discussion will follow.



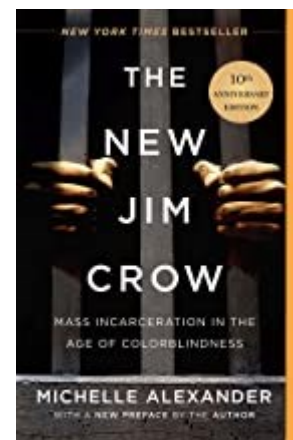
The January movie will be “**RBG**”. It will be shown on **Friday, January 12 at 7:00pm**. This documentary runs for 98 minutes. A discussion will follow.

—submitted by Brenda Komarinski

Social Conscience Book Group

Social Conscience Book group will finish reading *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander in December. Our next book is *Dinners with Ruth* by Nina Totenberg.

—submitted by Marguerite Massey



Thrift Shop News

—submitted by Marguerite Massey



Christmas has arrived at the thrift shop. Lots of decorations to make your holiday shopping complete. Lots of stocking stuffer items plus items to hold your holiday baking items. The thrift shop is open Wednesday through Friday 10 until 2 with special Saturday hours. Open Saturdays December 2, 9, and 16! 10AM until 2PM.

St. Anne's is collecting general donations (checks or gift cards) for the purchase of clothing and supplies for our **Haitian neighbors**. The needs are evolving, and we don't always have the specific items that are needed on hand. Donations can be dropped off at the church office. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

—submitted by Michele O'Shea, Refugee Ministry at St. Anne's

Act of Hope

Dearest Jesus Christ,
 in you I place all my hope.
 In you and you alone is found
 not just hope of a perfect and happy eternity,
 but also the promise of a life well lived now.
 Help me to trust ever more surely
 in your unfathomable Mercy,
 and please thwart all the snares of the enemy
 that would attempt to make me lose sight
 of your awesome, life-giving Goodness. Amen.

—a prayer, written by Orion Krause, an inmate

2023 St. Anne's Poinsettia and Greenery Request

We will be placing poinsettias and greenery in the church for Christmas this year. You are invited to make a donation towards these, in thanksgiving for or in memory of individuals. Please include those names on the form, and they will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may also call or email the church office with this information. All orders must be placed by Wednesday, December 13. Thank you!

Your name/given by: _____

Your phone number: _____

Donation amount (cash or check): _____

In memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____



Please return this form to the church office by December 13.

If you include a check, write "Christmas flowers" in the check memo.

Mail to: St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Attn.: Christmas Flowers, P.O. Box 134, No. Billerica, MA 01862

Greening of the church – December 9 at 5pm.

Come to help and for the great fellowship!

Annual Meeting—February 4th after church!

Reports due January 5th. Thank you for using a document format and Not a PDF format. Please list *all* participants in your group, and include your name.

Please send reports to Rich at stannesbillerica@gmail.com.

Invitation
Advent
Preparation
Sundays at 9am
for
Christmas Eve
at 1:00 & 9:00pm
Silver Tea 2:30pm



“We Are All Connected”

Anja Rožen, 13 years old, Slovenia

"My drawing represents the land that connects us and unites us. Humans are knit together. If one gives up, others fall. We are all connected to our planet and to each other... but we are intertwined together. Others weave beside me my own story; and I weave theirs."

Lions International 2021-2022 Peace Poster Contest Grand Prize Winner. *Sponsored by Slovenj Gradec Lions Club*

**St Anne's
Angel Tree
2023**



***St Anne's will be supporting our Haitian guests
with Pajamas this year.***

***A tree will be set up soon.
Please take a tag with the specific size requested.***

***Please return pajamas by December 3rd.
We need PJ's for 45 children ages 0-18years old.***

If you prefer cash - I will shop!

Thank you.

St. Anne's Group of the Month

Building and Grounds

"The building is designed to reflect our Christian faith, teach, and inspire through image, symbol and story, and to remind us of the glory of God in our midst."

- website of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem, NC



St. Anne's Episcopal Church, circa 1930's

You must do things you think you cannot do.

- Eleanor Roosevelt, *You Learn by Living: Eleven Keys for a More Fulfilling Life*, 1960.

Newsletter deadline schedule!

January newsletter submission deadline: December 17, 2023

January newsletter distributed: January 2, 2024

February newsletter submission deadline: January 21, 2024

February newsletter distributed: January 31 2024

Community Events

Billerica Interfaith

◆ ***Holiday Music Celebration*** Dec. 3, 6pm. The Church of Latter Day Saints.

* Carolisa's Classes * **Holiday 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 @ St Anne's

Tuesdays 6:30p thru Dec. 19

12/12 6:00pm start

Try it -Advance sign up required @moonlightdjz@gmail.com*

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

(almost) NEW YEARS FAMILY DANCE

Friday December 29 -6:00-7:30p

for Kids with adults

* Fun & Games * Musical Hoops * Limbo * Party Line Dances *

*Party favor for kids *Wear Neon!

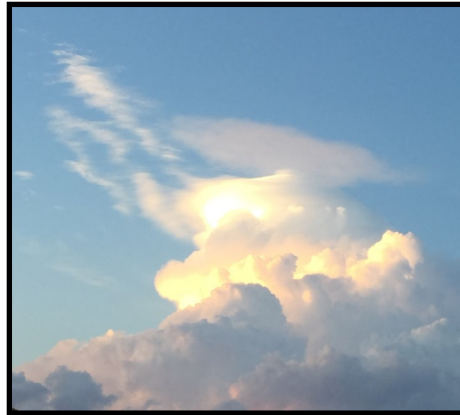
*\$6 pp; ages 3 & under FREE!

Space Limited * Reserve your spot by or before 12/22

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, Brian Hering, Chick Meech, Chris Hering, Clint, Dale, Don, Donald Fudge, George Lyna, Janet Lyna, Janet Strong, Jean Flight, José Soreso, Joshua Young, Josy Hering, Kathy Chang, Lee Conley, Linda E., Lucy Ann Young, Marie, Marie Horgan, Mary Lander, Michele O'Shea, Norm & MJ Zarella, Pat McCleave & granddaughter, Paul Hamner, Pete Jeffrey, Rebecca, Yvonne Hopkins, Our local friends from Haiti and their children



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)

David Carpine	11/2	Steve Hopkins	12/2	John Kusnierz	1/7
Maria Baldwin	11/3	Belinda Fletcher	12/5	Sandra Giroux	1/11
Eli Baldwin	11/4	Marguerite Massey	12/7	Mia Diaz	1/16
Norm & MJ Zarella	11/5	Pat Cregg	12/10	Jane & Dick Kotelly	1/22
Jennifer Stockton	11/19	Andrea Jeffery	12/18	Mike Hopkins	1/27
Amy O'Sullivan	11/20	Kathy Brewster	12/21		
Jose Torres	11/24	Lisa Carpine	12/25		
Keanna Crotty	11/25	Nicole Knowles	12/26		
Aster Komarinski	11/28				



December 2023 St. Anne's Ministers' Schedule

Date	Ushers	Lector	LEM/Prayers/ Server	Acolyte	Video	Audio
December 3 8am	George Cousens	Jane Kotelly	Kathy Brewster	None	No filming	No filming
December 3 10am	Russell Bent Linda Kusnierz	Norm Zarella	Mark Komarinski	Mike Hopkins	Sandra Giroux	Ed Giroux
December 10	Dotty Callihan Pat Cregg	Jane Kotelly	Marguerite Massey	John Geen	Eli Baldwin	Mark Komarinski
December 17	Russell Bent Marguerite Massey	Sue Geen	Dotty Callihan John Geen	Brenda Komarinski	Ron Desmarais	Ed Giroux
December 24 1pm	Dotty Callihan	Michele O'Shea	Ron Desmarais	None	TBD	TBD
December 24 9pm	Marguerite Massey	Norm Zarella	Sue Geen	John Geen	No filming	No filming
December 31 (Lessons & Carols)	Dotty Callihan Pat Cregg	Ed Giroux Norm Zarella Sue Geen John Geen	Officiant: Marguerite Massey	John Geen	Ken Kinser	Mark Komarinski

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.

DECEMBER

ST. ANNE'S CALENDAR 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 10-2 Thrift Shop	2 10-2 Thrift Shop 1 pm St. Anne's So- cial Group
3 8 am Sunday Service 10 am Sunday Service 6 pm Interfaith	4 6:30 pm Build- ing & Grounds	5 10 am Bible Study	6 10-2 Thrift Shop 9:30 am Craft Group	7 10-2 Thrift Shop 4 pm Wardens & Clergy	8 10-2 Thrift Shop 6 pm Movie Night	9 10-2 Thrift Shop
10 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Con- science Book 5 pm Greening of the church	11	12 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible Study (zoom) 7 pm Vestry	13 10-2 Thrift Shop	14 10-2 Thrift Shop 4 pm Wardens & Clergy	15 10-2 Thrift Shop	16 10-2 Thrift Shop
17 9 am Sunday Service 10:30 am Social Justice 5 pm Newsletter input deadline	18	19 10 am Bible Study 12 pm Billerica Interfaith lunch	20 10-2 Thrift Shop 9:30 am Craft Group	21 10-2 Thrift Shop 3:30 pm Church School	22 10-2 Thrift Shop	23 8:30 pm Men's Breakfast 9 am Ladies' Breakfast
24 1 pm Sunday Service 9 pm Sunday Service	25 Christmas Day	26 10 am Bible Study 7 pm Bible	27 10-2 Thrift Shop	28 10-2 Thrift Shop	29 10-2 Thrift Shop	30
31 9 am Sunday Service	<i>-background photo by Jessy Briton Hamilton, www.episcopalchurch.org</i>					