

the Epistle

A Newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Worshipping God ~ Serving Our Community

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Reverend Kathleen Cullen, Priest in Charge
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February ~ 2015

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Forgiveness

You will be reading this newsletter as we enter Lent. It arrives on February 18th with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday in the liturgical calendar. While most peoples' initial reaction to this piece of information might well be a negative shrug or a mournful "Oh no!", Lent is really a joyful time. Well, it can be a joyful time!

Lent is an opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God in Christ. By so doing it is hoped that we will renew, refresh, and deepen that relationship.

Speaking of relationships, perhaps one of the most important, dare I say critical, elements in relationship is forgiveness.

Not one of us can escape the fact that we are human and therefore not perfect. We've all made mistakes, we've all caused harm – some intentional, some not meant. We are all in need of forgiveness.

We are all in need of forgiving others. No matter the relationship, there are those times when forgiveness is needed to be given and/or received.

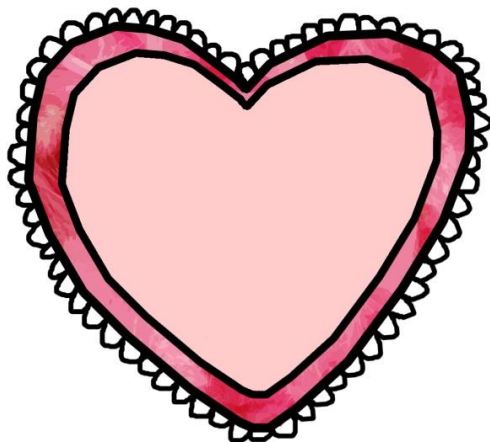
This Lent we will set sail on a journey of forgiveness. Forgiveness: what it is and what it is not. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton will lead us through "Embracing Forgiveness" – a five session study part of the Embracing Series published by Morehouse Education Resources which includes video presentation, discussion panel, and discussion among our St. Andrew's participants. The program will include Table Eucharist as well.

All are welcome and encouraged to take part in this significant series. The schedule will be announced as we draw closer to Lent.

Blessings,
Rev. Kathleen

January 2015 has arrived with a bang and resulted in terrible weather for our first Sunday service of the New Year. There were some 20 people who braved the weather and made it to church that day. Most of them stayed to help remove the holiday decorations. Since I was involved with the finances in the church office during that time, everyone had finished and left when I returned to the church. I want to extend the gratitude of the Vestry and Rev. Kathleen for all those who so willing stayed and helped take everything down and put things away. While I was able to connect with some of you by using email, there are many who do not use a computer so this is your 'Thank You Note'.

You are all what makes St. Andrew's such a special place.



**SAINT ANDREW'S
VALENTINE
POT-LUCK DINNER PARTY
Bring a dish to share Sat., Feb. 7th* at 6 pm
With a scrumptious and homemade
CHOCOLATE DESSERT
AUCTION**

**Please think about baking and/or bidding!!
Friends and family are all welcome!**

***Note - Snow date will be February 14**

Altar Flower Chart for 2015

The flower chart is filling up. Please take a minute to look for dates you may be interested in reserving. Remember we are now using a new florist. If you have a special request, call them and discuss your ideas. An additional cost may be involved. Following is their contact and billing information:

Royal Bouquet at 254 Wallace Rd, Bedford NH 03110 – PH: 603.657.7220. They also have a website and email address: www.royalbouquet.net and Richard.mein@royalbouquet.com

In addition, this year we are asking whoever has the flowers listed that Sunday, if they wish the opportunity to join an usher to bring up the wine & wafers from the back of the church and present them at the Altar. There is no pressure for anyone who would be uncomfortable doing this, but a head's up that an usher will approach you for your participation. This is an honor and we hope folks will enjoy!

The Five Practices outlined by +Bishop Rob will be appear one by one each month. The first one we addressed was actually the second on the list.

We splash water, which we highlighted in January for the baptism of Gage Crotty. Now let us continue...

We tell the Story:

- Of creation, fall, deliverance.
- Of God's passion for justice, peace, holiness, humanity, life.
- Of Jesus and the disciples.

We know how those stories are woven into our stories, here and now.

We study because we are disciples, learners.

We find our life hidden with Christ and reveal it through storytelling—our evangelism.

The Word is very near you... (Deuteronomy 30:14). In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1). But, there are also many things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that could be written. (John 21:25)

As you read the 'Five Practices' in the months to come, please take time to reflect on their meaning, not only how this relates to our church and how we incorporate them in worship and our ministries but what they mean for you personally and how you use them in your daily life. Perhaps some enlightenment will develop and you too, can feel a deeper associate to them as we move forward in this new direction.

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Parish News

Annual Meeting held Sunday January 18 following our church service was well attended. Some parishioners were not able to make it that day however full reports are available on the table at the front of the church.

The only Vestry member in need of renewal or a vote was Jack Fowles who will begin his second three-year term 2015-through until annual meeting 2018.

The Food Pantry

For JANUARY, the pantry requests that we bring **Soup** for the food collection. With the departure of Pat & Jack, the food pantry is being run now by Jack Fowles. Jack also makes a trip to the NH Food Bank on the Monday before Food Pantry and could certainly do with some help. If you are available around 10 o'clock, consider yourself invited to join him and if you own a truck or van, that would be an added benefit.

Thank you to all who volunteer and for donations provided to us by St. Andrew's parishioners and by St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Londonderry.

Honors for the month of February

Birthstone: Amethyst

Flower: Violet

BIRTHDAYS

03	Alicia Pickett-Hale	05	Jack Koller
05	Katelyn Riley	10	Jeff Riley
11	Rev Alan MacKillop	14	Irene Wageling
17	Monica Lajoie	27	Alexandra Carlton

ANNIVERSARIES

12 Beverly & Dick Brown

REMEMBERANCES

Richard Langer – Kenneth Langer by the Langer Family
Archie Firby, father of Fran LaSalle

Eucharist Minister and Reader Schedule

DATE	ACOLYTE	1 ST READER	2 ND READER	LEM
Feb 1	Phil	RP	Mariette	John
Feb 8	Kim	Lisa	Barbara	Fran
Feb 15	Phil	John	Jack	Mariette
Feb 22	Open	RP	Mariette	George

First Readers say the First Lesson and the Psalm.

Second Readers say the Second Lesson and the Prayers of the People and the Military List Prayer list

If you are unable to attend the service for which you are scheduled, please arrange for a replacement to cover that obligation. Thank you.

**Vestry Meeting Highlights
December 2014**

PRESENT: Rev. Kathleen Cullen, George Lajoie, Fran LaSalle, Jack Fowles, Lynda Bennett, Brian Sullivan, Phil Petts – ABSENT: Mariette Roux

Rev. Kathleen opened the meeting with a prayer: A prayer to be freed from 'tizzies' and distributed copies for us to read as the holiday busyness occurs...

The Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Brian, seconded by George.

Rev. Kathleen led a discussion about the current situation and the challenges ahead.

Senior Warden Report

The treasurer's position is still unfilled. George is proposing that we establish a finance committee to share the duties of the treasurer. The chair of this committee would be the treasurer and would be part

of the executive committee. A motion was made by Fran, seconded by Lynda, to seek the guidance of the Diocese for such a plan. All approved.

A budget committee was formed to work on the 2015 budget that needs to be approved by the Vestry before the annual meeting at the end of January. Members of the committee include: George, Jack and Lynda.

Other matters included the pastor's housing allowance. This was tabled until we have more information....Bills will be submitted biweekly to Sarah, the bookkeeper, by George.

Junior Warden Report

- A church cleaning is scheduled for Sat. Dec. 13.
- The Greening of the church will be after the service on Dec. 21.
- A new florist has been hired, beginning Jan. 2015
- Letters to vendors with corrected mailing and contact information have been drafted.

Priest Report

- -A spreadsheet of church contracts was distributed
- -Pastoral Care Team: Monica Lajoie has volunteered.
- -Christmas services will be at 3:30 and 10PM on Dec. 24
- -Rev. Kathleen has 2 weeks' vacation remaining.

Outreach

- -Food Pantry: Jack F. will need assistance in the loading/unloading of food for the pantry when picking up from the Food Bank
- -Thrift Shop: Some patrons are helping to staff the shop.
- -Facebook now has 90 "likes"
- -AA representative meeting: 1/28/15 Rev. Kathleen, George, Fran & Jack F will attend.

Capital, Buildings and Property

- -Marquis Gosselin assisted by Ed Barrea, have been hired to clear walks and steps during the winter
- -Jack F. has placed buckets of sand/salt at Church Office and church ramp door

Calendar Review will be emailed to Vestry members Tuesday

The monthly Profit and Loss statement was distributed at the end of the meeting.

New Business

RP has requested an unspecified, but reasonable expenditure for organ service. This was approved on a motion by George, seconded by Fran.

Next Executive Meeting on Jan 5 at 5 PM - Next Vestry Meeting on Jan. 12 at 6 PM

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Phil Petts for Mariette Roux, Clerk

Vestry Members (three year terms)

Fran LaSalle, Jr. Warden: 2017 - Mariette Roux, Clerk of the Vestry: 2016
Lynda Bennett: 2017 - Jack Fowles: 2018 - Phil Petts: 2016 - Brian Sullivan: 2017
Senior Warden & Treasurer positions are open

Remember with having hired a bookkeeper, the treasurer's 'job description' has been greatly reduced. See Rev. Kathleen for details of either position, and how your talent could benefit the church.

Delegates to the Southern Convocation (two year terms)

Monica Lajoie – Jackie Schorling – Sue Critz

An alternate spot is still open

CMC Parish Nurse Program at the Parish of Transfiguration
107 Alsace St, Manchester, NH ~ 603-663-8004 for questions or to Register

The CMC Parish Nurse Program is about to roll out a new "Prayer Bear" program for youth (no set age) who are stressed at school, peer pressure, bullied, dealing with chronic illness, death of parent or grandparent, or folks undergoing divorce etc.

Also, it has been suggested that the "Prayer Bear" would be great for those with Alzheimer's. The bears and "quilted" blanket come attached with a card to let them know they are cared for and prayed for.

Please contact the CMC Parish Nurse office if you need one.

Chair Exercise Classes:

Tuesday's at Bedford Presbyterian, 10AM

Tuesday's at St. Elizabeth Seton 9-10AM

Thursday's at Transfiguration, 9:30AM

Knitting Group: Tuesday's at Transfiguration, 1:00-3:00 PM

Massage: call 603-663-8004 to register

Chair Massage,

2/12 Transfiguration, 9:30-11:30 AM, fee

2/25 Transfiguration, 9:30-11:30 AM, fee

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Parish of Transfiguration, 2/4 @ 10:30AM

2nd Tuesday at St. Joseph Cathedral Rectory, 1-2 PM

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church - Goffstown

1st Monday @ St. Elizabeth Seaton, 6-7:30PM

1st Friday @ St. Pius X, 9 AM

Senior Group: St. Joseph Cathedral, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 10 AM

SHINE (Supportive Services for Older Adults)

St, Matthew's in Goffstown NH on Wednesday's 10:30-11:45AM

T'ai Chi for Health: Parish of Transfiguration, Tues. 6-7 PM

Contact 603- 289-0927 or nhtaichi@comcast.net to register

Walking Groups:

Tuesdays at Transfiguration, 9:30 AM

Wednesdays at Transfiguration, 9:30-10AM

Yoga: Sundays 3PM Bedford Presbyterian – Free will offering

From Conant Street:

As reported earlier my workload has increased a great deal. The next few months are going to be difficult. We are very lucky that others are willing to open the shop when I have to work. In order to accommodate the schedule and drive distance of our volunteers we will open at 9am.

Thank you all for your understanding.

Lisa

Closing thoughts

Our church, like many other churches large, or small is in a state of transition. Change seems to be the only thing that remains constant. While we continue to see a decent attendance and some new people have joined our congregation, we find that our resources both financially and physically are in need of more help.

We do so appreciate your support in any fashion; those who volunteer in any ministry in an ongoing way – we thank you for your time and efforts more than these mere words can express.

If at any time anyone has an hour or two on a weekend or weekday, there is a place for you to help us fill a void. As in any business, and we are a small business, we have much to do in a short period of time and with limited resources. Please consider the many ways your talents could help us continue to be a viable influence in our community.

May I also add that for the many people who have for years, or just recently become involved in any ministry, we offer our deepest gratitude and thank you for your commitments!

With Peace As Always,

Fran