

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

# THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2011

WELCOME HOME!



## FROM OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

Dear friends:

On Sunday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the parish of St. Anne's is holding its annual meeting at 10:30 A.M. For the first time we will experiment with doing the meeting within the context of the Eucharist and the only reason for doing so is to encourage all parishioners to participate in this important event.

The annual meeting provides an opportunity for you to learn about the financial health of your parish. I am pleased that many of you are beginning to show interest in the financial situation of the parish, your questions are always welcome; moreover, I encourage you to do so. My philosophy is that of "open book", I always believe that every parishioner is entitled to know how your vestry allocates the resources of the parish. Therefore, starting with this annual meeting your vestry will make every effort to present the financial statements in the simplest forms to make them available to everyone. You are encouraged to ask as many questions as necessary to clarify any doubts you may have. We will speak to each other in Christian charity and love with the objective of achieving full transparency in everything we do on behalf of the parish.

But the annual meeting is not only about finances, it is also an opportunity for everyone to participate in the election of your parish representative.

Last week I attended a monthly meeting, organized by the diocese, for new rectors and priest-in-charge, where the diocesan representative emphasized the importance for parishes to update their by-laws and rotate vestry members accordingly. We will review our current by-laws for compliance with diocesan standards. So as you can see the meeting will be interesting and we hope to see you there.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Ennis Duffis

Priest-in-charge

### INSIDE THE MESSENGER

Meet Peter Jeffrey	2
Diocesan Convention	3
Chocolate Festival	4
Altar Guild	5
Choir	5
Staff	6

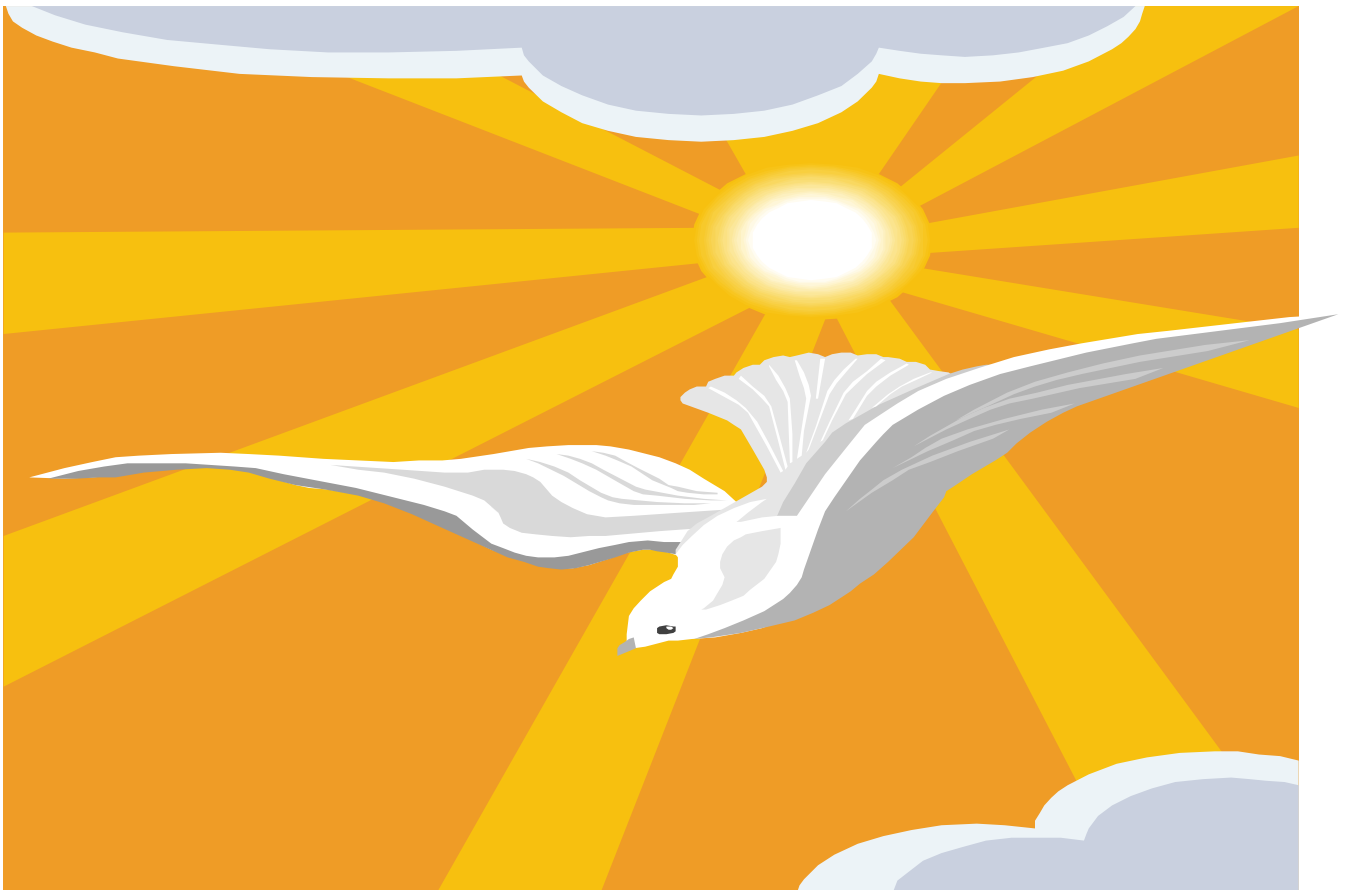
## Meet Pete Jeffrey, our Deacon-In-Training

A message from Pete Jeffrey...

I'm happy to be with you this year and excited to experience God's love with you, here at St. Anne's and St. John's. I thought you may be interested to know a little about me. I'm in the second year of the three year Diaconal formation process. The third weekend of each month I continue to have my training retreat which is held at St. Anne's convent in Arlington. My wife and I have lived in Tewksbury for over 30 years and I had been attending St. Anne's in North Billerica, my sponsoring parish. We have one married daughter who lives in Lowell. I had worked at Cobham in Lowell for 30 years until I was laid-off 18 months ago but I currently do contract work for M/A-com Technology Solutions in Lowell. I'm also a Hospice volunteer with the Lowell Visiting Nurses Association and plan to get involved in hospital chaplaincy. In my meetings with Fr. Ennis, we decided to start a Men's breakfast group starting after the holidays. If anyone may be interested, please let me know. My email is [pj11672@gmail.com](mailto:pj11672@gmail.com) and my cell is 978.376.0641.

Blessings to you all,

Pete



*Note: Last Fall, Pru Brighton attended the Diocese of Massachusetts' Annual Convention. Here is her report to our congregation.*

The beauty of God, creation and the environment were the focus of the messages from Bishop Tom Shaw and Bishop Bud Cederholm at diocesan convention on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. And Bishop Gayle Harris reported on her three-week mission to the diocese of Jerusalem.

Nearly 700 delegates packed St. Stephen's Church in Lynn as well as many others who could not vote. Representing St. Anne's were the Rev. Ennis Duffis, Gloria Adigwe and Prudence Brighton. Our senior warden, Rick Warner, attended as a non-voting representative. Julia Huestis and David Stuhr represented St. John's.

It was a chance for St. Stephen's to showcase its many multicultural and youth ministries. The parish does impressive work.

Bishop Shaw led the convention in a meditation on the beauty of God in which he drew on the works of the Baroque painter Caravaggio and the poets Edna St. Vincent Millay and R.S. Thomas.

Bishop Cederholm retold the Genesis story of creation with a twist. In his retelling, creation is not finished. We are called to be God's partner in completing creation, he said. And he described the diocese's new "green grants initiative" in which parishes can receive up to \$10,000 for projects that improve energy efficiency.

Bishop Cederholm has asked all parishes in the diocese to consider the period leading up to the first Sunday in Advent as "the season of creation" and to donate some of part of plate offerings to the green grants initiative. While the initiative has most of its funding, the diocese would like to raise \$50,000 from parish contributions.

Bishop Harris reported on the work being done in Jerusalem to maintain an indigenous Arab Christian population in the land of Jesus. The Christian population is dwindling rapidly in the face of conflict in the Holy Land.

Our diocese has partnered with the diocese of Jerusalem over the last several years to support this mission.

Episcopal  
Diocese of  
Massachusetts



*Answering God's urgent call. Together.*

# Chocolate Festival

Unlimited Sampling of Some of the  
Best Chocolate in the Area!

**Vote for your favorite!**

**St Anne's Episcopal Church Hall**

(located behind the church)

**Corner of Kirk and Merrimack St**

**Lowell, MA**

**Saturday, Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 11-4**

**Admission \$5**

**Children under 5 free- free kids' activities**

and while you're in Lowell:



## **THE LOWELL OPEN PANTRY NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS!**

Donations have fallen off, and the need is greater than ever; the food banks do not have as great a supply as they once did.

Please help!



February 4 and 5

Downtown Lowell

Don 't miss the fun!

**Make a joyful noise...**

**Choir members wanted!**

**All voices, all abilities!**

**Please see Beth if you are  
interested in this very  
important ministry**

### **St. Anne's Altar Guild Needs Your Help**

Now that our Altar Guild Director Extraordinaire, Dolores Santos, has left us for sunny North Carolina, we have even less hands to help ready the church for worship and Holy Communion. With the holidays fast approaching, we need help.

Won't you consider signing on to this gentle quiet ministry? Readyng the Altar for services can be a quiet peaceful time in our beautiful church. Once a month or so, you can be scheduled to help an experienced Altar Guild member prepare the table for the Eucharist. Sunday morning the Altar is reset for the next service or tidied up for the following week.

On the job training is provided. No experience necessary!

Please see Carla Boucher or call or email with any questions.  
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# *Welcome Home!*



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