

tidings

A Monthly Newsletter from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Framingham, Massachusetts
 3 Maple Street, Framingham, MA | 508.875.5095 | standrewsframma.org
JANUARY 2019

Dear friends,

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I have never been a fan of New Year's resolutions. I often fail at whatever goal I set for myself, mostly because I am lured into believing that the turn of the calendar is all it takes for me to commit to a life change. After a quick web search, I learned a bit about the origin of New Year's resolutions. The Babylonians and the Roman Empire had a practice of making promises to the gods at the start of a new year, and in the Jewish tradition, the celebration of Yom Kippur offers a chance to atone for the sins of the past year before the new year begins on Rosh Hashanah. In America, the habit of making a New Year's resolution became more popular after the Great Depression, perhaps as a way to start over and prepare for better days ahead.

As I age and learn more about myself, I find that I need to place my energy on things I value, rather than on things I think I should value. Do I value having a pristine, green lawn that looks lovely and gives my home curb appeal, especially when a lawn company has sent me a coupon? Not really, but I do value having a tidy yard with interesting plants and space for my kids and pets to play. Do I value the benefit of group exercise and belong to a gym to participate in classes, even though the people in the gym commercials look so happy and healthy? No, but I do value time alone outside and always feel better when I'm in the habit of taking daily walks. Putting my money, my time, and my energy toward things I value is a way of ensuring my new habits will be successful.

By now, you have received your packet of information for pledging to the annual and capital campaigns at St. Andrew's. If you have already submitted your pledges, thank you. If you are still thinking and praying about your gifts, consider making a list of what you value. As a member of the congregation, you likely already agree with the core values of the congregation. How can your values speak to how you choose to share your treasure with St. Andrew's? As you approach the new year, will your values be expressed in your giving and your new habits?

With prayers for a blessed, surprising, exciting new year,

Julie

St. Andrew's Clergy and Staff

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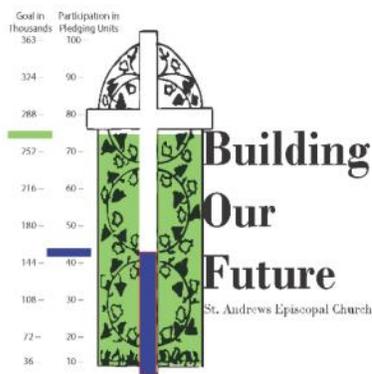
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Building Our Future Hope Promise And Faith

2019 promises to be filled with excitement as we work to meet our campaign goals. The beginning of January is also a time to reflect on our past year and consider how St. Andrew's has provided for all of us. Our church family has provided support to help us through times of sorrow and pain and to celebrate times of joy and thanksgiving. We have met new friends through our many fellowship and outreach programs, all that have brought tremendous meaning and generational connectedness. St. Andrew's is more than a building it's a "home." It is a bustling home that is open 7 days a week—arms open wide, welcoming all and sharing to provide important ministry. The "Building Our Future Campaign" is more than providing necessary upkeep to a building. We are caring for a community. It is a special opportunity for every person in our home to contribute to something bigger than ourselves. Giving to this campaign *is* a spiritual act.

Throughout scripture, we learn about the importance of having faith that God will provide. We learn how fishes and loaves of bread become plentiful by trusting in God. Participating in this campaign is an opportunity for you to deepen your faith, to understand that discomfort is a necessary part of growth, and that we do this not alone, but with all our church family and with the utmost guidance of Jesus. What would Jesus encourage us to do? Are we up to this challenge? The answer is yes!

To date, we are pleased to share we have \$255,450 in monetary contributions and 38 pledges! We are well on our way to reaching \$363,000 and strong progress towards our goal of 100 pledges.

If you have not yet committed to this community experience, we ask that you reflect and pray and consider the many ways your participation will help us succeed. In addition to the financial pledge (an amount that can be paid over a 3-year span), you may also increase contributions in the following ways:

- Coordinate a fundraiser with others and donate all the proceeds to "Building Our Future".
- Research and write a grant to offset the cost of any of our building projects.
- Assist by donating time and talent as we initiate each of these important projects in the future.

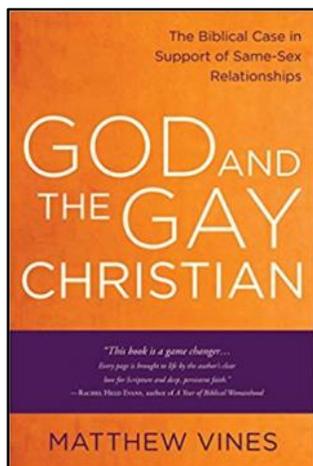
As we begin the 2019 year- let us fill with hope, excitement and possibilities. Our ability to successfully meet our campaign goals will no doubt fill us with unexpected wonder of how it was all possible. It may, just possibly make us come together, with great smiles, knowing that God is with us.

For any information or questions about Building our Future, please contact a member of the Capital Campaign team: David and Tammy Retalic, Co-Chairs, Catherine Corcoran, Heather Connolly, Rebecca Dagostino, Michelle Griffin-MacGregor, Esther Powell, Michel Puchulu, and many others.

Book Discussion

During Epiphany, on four consecutive Wednesdays, from January 9 through January 30, we will read and discuss *God and the Gay Christian*, at 7:00 p.m., in the Wilson Library.

Please join us.



God and the Gay Christian:
The Biblical Case
in Support of
Same-Sex Relationships,
by Matthew Vines

“Remarkable in its affirmation of both orthodox theology and full equality for sexual minorities, *God and the Gay Christian* has the potential to change the conversation about being Gay and being a full member of the body of Christ.”

(From godandthegaychristian.com)

As St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church and the Lutheran Church of Framingham journey toward publicly stating our welcome and acceptance of all people in this house of worship and this community of faith, you are invited to join in an upcoming book discussion.

More than any other issue of our times, the Church’s response to the LGBT socio-political and theological debate has alienated young people from God, Church, the Bible, and their own families. Conservative believers- Gay and Straight, increasingly face the painful dilemma created by what is traditionally understood Scripture, as opposed to what they know to be true, understood, and affirmed about their gay friends and loved ones.

This book, *God and the Gay Christian*, based on careful research done by Matthew Vines, shows a third way to understand—one that honors difference, and uses the authority of Scripture to undergird it. Vines offers a compelling case for biblically-grounded responses to such questions as: How can traditional beliefs have been wrong for thousands of years—and on such an important topic? What does the story of Sodom and Gomorrha really mean to relate? What did Paul have in mind when he warned against same-sex sexual intimacy? Do biblical teachings on the marriage covenant preclude same-sex marriage or not?

Copies of *God and the Gay Christian* are available in the Wilson Library, compliments of the Lutheran Church of Framingham. Please feel free to pick up a copy and read it before our discussion begins in January. You may keep the book for future reference or return it to the Library for someone else to borrow.

Staying Healthy during Flu Season

We have all become more cautious of staying healthy as the seasonal strains of the flu have been spreading. Here are some practices, recommended by a diocesan task force which will help us worship together without the fear of spreading illness.

- Shaking hands is an easy way to spread germs. Hugging is a more sanitary method of passing the peace or greeting one another, or, if you prefer to have no contact, a simple bow while holding your own hands together will give an obvious sign of peace or greeting.
- The practice of using the lavabo is an ancient symbolic ritual of the Eucharistic celebrant washing his or her hands immediately before reciting the Eucharistic prayers. It is no longer just symbolic, but an important step in staying healthy. The celebrant will use hand sanitizer after washing in the lavabo.
- The clergy and chalice bearers will all use hand sanitizer before handling the Communion elements, and bottles of hand sanitizer will be scattered throughout the Sanctuary and Harris Hall for all to use. Eucharistic Visitors will use hand sanitizer or will wash their hands with soap and water before unpacking the Communion kit.
- Dipping the Communion wafer into the chalice of wine ought to be discontinued. There is too much of a risk of fingers touching the wine during this practice to consider it a sanitary way of receiving the wine.
- Drinking from the common cup is the safer way of receiving communion wine. Scientists disagree over whether the alcohol or the reaction with silver causes more germs to be killed, but the chalice bearers have been asked to take extra care in thoroughly wiping the rim of the cup after each communicant has received.
- It is theologically sound to consume only the bread during the Eucharist. Simply by choice or if a communicant is not feeling well or is experiencing some symptoms of illness, you may receive only the bread and refrain from the cup, knowing that you have fully participated in the Eucharist.

These small changes in our worship life can keep us all from the fear of exchanging germs. Thank you for your participation!



Lutheran Church of Framingham
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

DEACON'S MESSAGE
JANUARY 2019

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:18 (NRSV)

"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."
Luke 2:21 (NRSV)

Names are important. Names provide our identity and reflect our uniqueness — we know ourselves and the world knows us through our names. Names offer a path to relationship and intimate knowledge of the other. Names remind us of who we are and where we belong in this world.

I write this message in the middle of the Christmas season — the liturgical time between Christmas and Epiphany. This is a time, for many of us, when our world slows down a bit, and we have a little more time to pause and to reflect more fully on the fulfillment of the angel's words to Joseph.

Mary had a son, and that son was named Jesus, and that son saves us — his people — from our sins.

That son is Emmanuel — God is with us. That son is the Word made flesh that dwells among us. That son is the light and life of the world. That son is present to us here and now — in this place and in this time — surrounding us with the love of God, surrounding us with peace and hope; surrounding us with joy.

That son is Jesus — the name given to him even before he was conceived; the name that reflects his divine nature — and, even now, he is waiting for us to call upon his name, to enter into a holy relationship through his name, and to claim God's redeeming love and grace in his name.

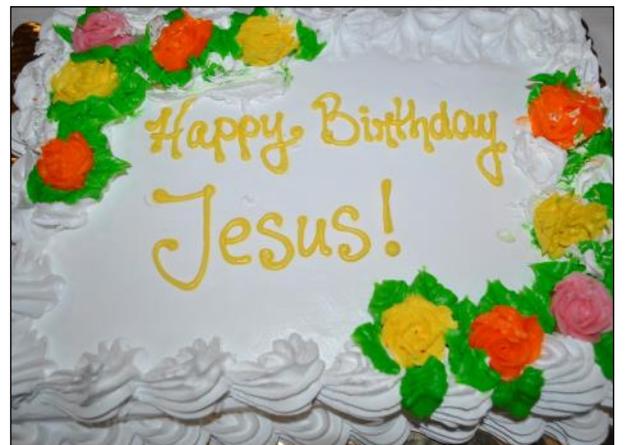
In this new year, I challenge you to call upon the name of Jesus as often as you can. It is in the strong name of Jesus that we are given power to love and to serve God, our neighbors, and all peoples — including our enemies. It is in the strong name of Jesus that we can be the light that shines in the gloominess of this broken world. It is in the strong name of Jesus that we can work for God's kingdom to come and God's will to be done. It is in the strong name of Jesus that we can point others towards Christ, who saves all people from their sins.

to God be the glory!

Deacon Susan

tidings photo gallery

Christmas Prep, Pageant, Christmas Eve, Campaign Kickoff, Caroling
Many thanks to photographer Elizabeth Kohler



January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Parish offices closed 6:30 PM Gateway Camera Club (H. Hall) 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal (Choir Rm.)	2 9:00 AM Katie's Quilters	3 6:45 PM Writing group (Library) 7:00 PM New Sound Assembly Barber Shop Harmony Chorus (Sanctuary)	4 7:00 AM Business Networking Group (H. Hall) 11:00 AM Your Job Now: Women's 12-step Program 7:00 PM Discernment Committee	5 9:00 AM ProGente English Plus (Rm. 1) 10:00 AM Portuguese Plus 10:00 AM Veteran's Acupuncture 11:00 AM Ruth Lawton Memorial service
6 Epiphany 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary) 9:00 AM Bible Study (Library) 9:00 AM Child care (Lower Level) 9:00 AM Church School (Lower level) 9:00 AM Holy Grounds (H. Hall) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (H. Hall) 4:00 PM Epiphany Pot Luck & Devotions 5:00 PM EfM (Library)	7 10:00 AM Bible Study (Heritage Assisted Living) 7:00 PM A.W.O.L. (Mem. Rm.) 7:00 PM Al-anon (H. Hall) 7:00 PM Alateen (Rm. 10)	8 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Library) 10:30 AM Brain Injury Support Group (H. Hall) 11:30 AM St. James Gathering 6:30 PM Gateway Camera Club (H. Hall) 6:30 PM ProGente English 7:10 PM LCF Council 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	9 9:00 AM Katie's Quilters 7:00 PM Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian (Library) 7:00 PM Church School teacher's meeting (Mem. Rm.)	10 7:00 PM New Sound Assembly Barber Shop Harmony Chorus (Sanctuary)	11 7:00 AM Business Networking Group (H. Hall) 11:00 AM Your Job Now: Women's 12-step Program (Mem. Rm.)	12 9:00 AM ProGente English Plus (Rm. 1) 10:00 AM Portuguese Plus (Lower Level) 10:00 AM Veteran's Acupuncture (Library)
13 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Bible Study (Library) 9:00 AM Childcare 9:00 AM Church School (Lower level) 9:00 AM Holy Grounds 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM OutReaching Together 1:30 PM Brownie Girl Scout troop #62488 (H. Hall) 5:00 PM EfM	14 10:00 AM Bible Study (Heritage Assisted Living) 7:00 PM A.W.O.L. 7:00 PM Al-anon 7:00 PM Alateen 7:00 PM LCF Annual Meeting 7:30 PM Vestry meeting	15 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Library) 6:30 PM Gateway Camera Club (H. Hall) 6:30 PM ProGente English Plus (Rm. 1) 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal (Choir Rm.)	16 9:00 AM Katie's Quilters 7:00 PM Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian (Library)	17 6:30 PM Stearns Farm Board Meeting (Mem. Rm.) 6:45 PM Writing group (Library) 7:00 PM New Sound Assembly Barber Shop Harmony Chorus (Sanctuary)	18 7:00 AM Business Networking Group (H. Hall) 11:00 AM Your Job Now: Women's 12-step Program (Mem. Rm.) 5:00 PM Pearl Street Kitchen dinner service	19 10:00 AM Veteran's Acupuncture (Library)
20 Annual Reports due to John 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Childcare 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist 11:00 AM Coffee Hour 12:30 PM PAC Recitals 5:00 PM EfM (Library)	21 7:00 PM A.W.O.L. (Mem. Rm.) 7:00 PM Al-anon (H. Hall) 7:00 PM Alateen (Rm. 10)	22 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Library) 10:30 AM Brain Injury Support Group (H. Hall) 6:30 PM Gateway Camera Club (H. Hall) 6:30 PM ProGente English Plus (Rm. 1) 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal	23 9:00 AM Katie's Quilters 7:00 PM Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian (Library)	24 7:00 PM New Sound Assembly Barber Shop Harmony Chorus (Sanctuary)	25 7:00 AM Business Networking Group (H. Hall) 11:00 AM Your Job Now: Women's 12-step Program (Mem. Rm.)	26 9:00 AM Craft-a-palooza (H. Hall) 9:00 AM ProGente English Plus (Rm. 1) 10:00 AM Portuguese Plus (Lower Level) 10:00 AM Veteran's Acupuncture (Library)
27 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 9:00 AM Bible Study (Library) 9:00 AM Childcare 9:00 AM Church School 9:00 AM Holy Grounds (H. Hall) 10:00 AM Holy Communion Lutheran Liturgy (Sanctuary) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (H. Hall) 11:30 AM LCF Potluck & Planning 12:30 PM PAC Recitals 1:30 PM Brownie Girl Scout troop 5:00 PM EfM (Library)	28 7:00 PM A.W.O.L. (Mem. Rm.) 7:00 PM Al-anon (H. Hall) 7:00 PM Alateen (Rm. 10)	29 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Library) 6:30 PM Gateway Camera Club (H. Hall) 6:30 PM ProGente English Plus (Rm. 1) 7:30 PM Choir rehearsal (Choir Rm.)	30 9:00 AM Katie's Quilters 7:00 PM Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian (Library)	31 6:45 PM Writing group (Library) 7:00 PM New Sound Assembly Barber Shop Harmony Chorus (Sanctuary)	1	2

January 2019

Date	10am Acolytes	Chalice Bearer	10am Eucharistic Visitor	Subdeacon	Lectors	Ushers	Altar Guild
January 6	Liam, Malcolm, Carly, Declan	8:00 a.m. Hayley Kosmatka	Eleanor Verrette and Colin Edgar to Mary Orendorf	Barbara Ward	8:00 a.m. Kathy Coates	8:00 a.m. Morris Rogers	J. Baldwin S. McConnell R. Noble K. Coates
		10:00 a.m. Cathy Corcoran			10:00 a.m. Jack Cahill Irene Fanous	10:00 a.m.	
January 13	Kelly, Ryan, Natalie, Thomason	8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Mazza		Joan Metcalfe	8:00 a.m. Melanie Levesque	8:00 a.m. Morris Rogers	J. Metcalfe J. Gay E. Copithorne R. der Garabedian
		10:00 a.m. Esther Powell			10:00 a.m. Chris Daniele Irene Fanous	10:00 a.m.	
Tuesday January 8 Monthly Eucharist & Lunch		Pam Hulme					
January 20	Nick, Caroline, Noah, AJ	8:00 a.m. Rob Adamson	Sandy McConnell to Judith Burke	Sandy McConnell	8:00 a.m. Wayne Levesque	8:00 a.m. Morris Rogers	J. Artley C. Corcoran C. Deluski-Walter Jane Scott
		10:00 a.m. Sophia Regan			10:00 a.m. Michele Griffin-MacGregor Anne O'Connell	10:00 a.m.	
January 27	Angelina, Clara, Warren, Carly	8:00 a.m. Harry Crosby	Joan Gay to Helen Garfield	Heather Marco	8:00 a.m. Allison Smith	8:00 a.m. Morris Rogers	B. Gouveia D. Kaskon I. Fanous M. Riis H. Marco E. Mazza S. Regan
		10:00 a.m. Wendy Lutz			10:00 a.m. Maria Milano Sam tyler	10:00 a.m.	

Upcoming Events

Epiphany —Potluck Lunch & Devotions (4:00 p.m.)	January 6
St. James Gathering Eucharist & Luncheon	January 8
Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian	January 9
Church School Teachers Meeting	January 9
OutReaching Together	January 13
LCF Annual Meeting	January 14
Vestry Meeting	January 14
Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian	January 16
Pearl Street Kitchen Dinner Service	January 18
Parish Offices Closed for MLK Day	January 21
Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian	January 23
Craft-a-palooza	January 26
Book Discussion: God & the Gay Christian	January 30

Craft-a-palooza

Craft-a-palooza (formerly Craft-a-thon), **Saturday, January 26**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We're creating quilts and afghans for charity. Come for an hour or for the day. Your help is needed to cut, sew, iron, knit, laugh, and more. We'll show you what to do. A light lunch will be served. All skill levels are welcome. Your friends are welcome, too. For more information, contact Judy Artley (judy.artley@gmail.com, 978.930.1544) or Anne O'Connell. The Craft-a-palooza is sponsored by the Outreach Ministry and St. Claire's Guild.

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