

# The Good News

St. Anne's in-the-Fields Episcopal Church

Advent 2023

## Advent Worship

Our complete service schedule through to the new year is as follows:



Sunday, November 26	8 am, Holy Eucharist 10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir 11 am, Advent Wreath-Making
Advent I: Sunday, December 3	8 am, Holy Eucharist 10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir 4:30 pm, <b>Memorial Tree Lighting</b> 5 pm, <b>Blue Christmas Service</b>
Advent II: Sunday, December 10	8 am, Holy Eucharist 10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir
Advent III: Sunday, December 17	8 am, Holy Eucharist 10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir 5 pm, <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>
<b>Advent IV: Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24</b>	9 am, Morning Prayer 3 pm, <b>Daylight Eucharist with Pageant</b> 5 pm, <b>Holy Eucharist with Choir</b> 8 pm, <b>Holy Eucharist with Choir</b>
Sunday, December 31	9 am, Morning Prayer

## Special Advent Events

Mark your calendar for these St. Anne's events that engage us in the holiness and spirit of Christmas:

### Advent Wreath-Making: November 26 at 11 am

This cherished St. Anne's tradition continues in-person in Flint Hall during Coffee Hour or as a take-home kit. You can choose from two wreath sizes, 12" and 8.5", and two candles sizes, 12" or 10", with each kit then including candles holders and a plate. Packages of new candles will also be available. For those making their wreaths in Flint Hall, please bring greens to share and a pair of clippers (though we will have both on-hand). If you cannot attend on the 26th but would like a kit, please email Jennie.

### Memorial Tree Lighting: December 3 at 4:30 pm

Planted many years ago in memory of three young parishioners who tragically lost their lives in a car accident, the Memorial Tree is the centerpiece of a short but poignant service at which we remember those who will no longer be with us at Christmastime. We hang ornaments in their honor and marvel at the Tree when the light switch is flipped.

### Blue Christmas Service: December 3 at 5 pm

For those who have lost loved ones, Christmas can be a very difficult time. St. Anne's honors those in mourning with a special Blue Christmas service following the Memorial Tree lighting. Candles, quiet, and prayers allow participants to reflect in love and remembrance during this short evening service held in the Sanctuary.

### Lessons & Carols: December 17 at 5 pm

Please join us on the evening of Sunday, December 17 at 5 pm when we celebrate the coming of Christmas with our traditional Lessons & Carols service. Our adult choir will sing anthems old and new, we all will sing familiar carols together, and again we'll listen to the prophecies of Christ's coming and the story of his birth. Join us for this beautiful candlelit service!



## Moth Radio Forums: December 3 & 17

Once again, St. Anne's will host the Moth Radio Hour for two Sunday Forums in Advent: December 3 (at 9 am) and 17 (at 11:15 am). This year's theme is "All Will Be Well," and we invite you to share a story about a time in your life when you knew all would be well despite difficult circumstances. As a useful prompt, think about these questions: What were some difficult circumstances in your life? When, how, and why did you know that all would work out okay? Did you have this sense from the outset or did it develop over time? Please consider sharing your story with us in the spirit of community and learning! Contact Gary Poisson ([garypoisson@gmail.com](mailto:garypoisson@gmail.com)) for questions and/or logistics.



## Christmas Eve Flower Tributes

Every Christmas the Altar Guild invites parishioners to donate towards the greening of the church on Christmas Eve. Donations can be in thanksgiving for someone, in memory of a loved one, and/or to celebrate a milestone birthday, graduation, or anniversary. A list of tributes will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletins. An Altar Guild member will be taking donations after the 8 and 10 am services on December 3, 10, and 17. A donation of \$45 is suggested via cash or check (made out to St. Anne's Altar Guild). Please reach out to Tara Mitchell at [taramitchell365@gmail.com](mailto:taramitchell365@gmail.com) with questions or to submit your request. The deadline for donations is Monday, December 18.

## Outreach & Community

### December Diaper Drive: Donate "Swaddling Clothes" for Jesus' Birthday!

Please help our Atrium Students  
with their

#### Diaper Drive

to benefit the Concord Shelter



we are collecting:

- diapers of all sizes, from newborns to toddlers
- pull-ups and swimmies for older kids
- packages of underwear for older kids
- packages of adult underwear
- new adult t-shirts
- packages of socks for adults and/or kids

St. Anne's Sunday School students are collecting gifts of diapers in our own St. Anne's manger, located in the church foyer, in cooperation with Concord-Carlisle Community Chest and the staff of Making Opportunities Count, the managing agency of the Concord Shelter (at the former Best Western Hotel on Rte. 2). When you come to church, Pageant rehearsals, and weekday meetings, please consider dropping off a package of diapers, new socks, underwear, and/or t-shirts (all sizes are needed — baby, toddler, adults too — but larger size diapers are especially so). There are thousands of unhoused Massachusetts citizens and immigrant families now living in new emergency shelters. To learn more about the Concord Shelter, the MA "right to shelter" law, and other ways you can help these tenants, [click here](#). Our drive will continue through the 3 pm Christmas Eve service with Pageant.

### 150th Anniversary Outreach Initiative: Resettling a Refugee Family

In honor of our 150th Anniversary in 2024, St. Anne's has joined a coalition of six other churches — Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal, Acton; First Parish of Stow & Acton Unitarian Universalist; Apple Valley Catholic Collaborative, Acton; St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, Acton; South Acton Congregational; and, Trinity Chapel, Episcopal, Shirley — to form the Interfaith Partnership for Resettling Refugees (IPRR); these churches include: We will be working with the International Institute of New England (IINE), an experienced resettlement agency, to welcome and support an immigrant family who will move to the Lowell area.

We expect to be assigned a family (vetted by the U.S. government) in mid-January. Our initial support will include assistance with housing, furnishings, clothing, transportation, and cultural orientation. The IINE will find an apartment but we will furnish and stock it with groceries prior to the family's arrival. We will meet the family at the airport and provide an appropriate first meal. Our commitment is for 12-15 months, including collectively raising between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per family. Other ways we may assist are with learning to drive, job searches, résumé writing, and college applications.

Until we know the specifics of our family, the best way we can prepare now is to fundraise. The IINE prefers that we raise half the funds prior to the family's arrival in order to assist with a security deposit and first and last month's rent. **We will dedicate December's Swift to Love collection to this cause, with all that month's online and mail-in donations, as well as the December 10 plate count, going to our family.** St. Matthew's will host a Winter Festival on December 2 with a portion of the proceeds going to the IPRR.

The heartbreaking plight of migrant families is now featured nightly on our local news. Our choice to join the IPRR reflects our desire to make a significant difference for one family, but to also experience, together, just how challenging it is to migrate. As of this week, 33 Haitian families will be sheltered at The Minuteman Inn on Route 2 in Acton, in addition to those currently housed at The Best Western in Concord. We are actively seeking ways to support these new neighbors, too. For more information, to get involved as a volunteer, or if you have quality furnishings such as a gently-used rug or a queen size bed to donate, please contact Anne Jones ([annemoylanjones@gmail.com](mailto:annemoylanjones@gmail.com)) or Patrice Barton ([patriceburnsbarton@gmail.com](mailto:patriceburnsbarton@gmail.com)).

## The B-Love Pantry

Since June 2020, every month St. Anne's has provided 50 bags of nutritious food to families challenged by food insecurity. This ministry for St. Stephen's, located in the South End of Boston, meets an immediate need for this community's families, helping them to live less stressful and healthier lives.

When you do your shopping, please consider adding some items that will help ease the struggles at St. Stephen's. Copies of the shopping list are available at our B-Love Pantry in the St. Anne's Foyer, and you can drop off donations at any time. At the end of each month, a small group of St. Anne's volunteers purchases the remaining items needed and packs the bags — please join us if you'd like! For more information, contact Patrice Barton at [patriceburnsbarton@gmail.com](mailto:patriceburnsbarton@gmail.com).



## Gifts for Life



Again this year, St. Anne's Church Service League (CSL) will sponsor the "Gifts For Life" drive on behalf of the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. Please pick up a catalog at the display outside the Sanctuary to choose from the wide variety of gifts — from a flock of chickens to a Namibian family to clean water for a Nicaraguan farmer to a microloan for Sri Lankan business woman — then purchase one or more on behalf of someone you love. Your gift is tax deductible and gives health, income, and a sense of purpose to those who greatly need such support. Thank you!

## Social Justice Commission Updates

This Thanksgiving Day, November 23, some members of the St. Anne's Social Justice Commission (SJC) will travel to Plymouth for the **54th Annual National Day of Mourning** to show solidarity with our Indigenous neighbors in lamenting the destruction of native peoples and cultures. We welcome you to join us! The event begins at 12 pm, wraps up by 2 pm, and we will carpool from St. Anne's at 10 am.

The next day, Friday November 24, the SJC will host an **Alternative Meal of Gratitude at 6 pm** in Flint Hall. While open to all who wish to attend, we will reflect on the previous day's event and the context, history, and future of Indigenous peoples here in Massachusetts and in the U.S. Please contact Joe ([joe@stanneslincoln.org](mailto:joe@stanneslincoln.org)) to RSVP.

Then, in the **first half of 2024**, the SJC will lead and/or support several events including: a reunion of past Sacred Ground participants, more justice-focused movie nights, ongoing opposition to Hanscom expansion, and continued support of Indigenous rights in the Massachusetts legislature. We also aim to host local Indigenous leader Strong Bear Medicine, along with Dan Boudillion (author of the *Nashobah Praying Indians*), for an event focused on the rights of the Indigenous communities of the greater Boston area.

We invite you to join our group, receive our SJC email alerts, or just learn more about what we do! Email Heather Martino ([h\\_m\\_martino@hotmail.com](mailto:h_m_martino@hotmail.com)) or Dave Gronewold ([dgronewold@verizon.net](mailto:dgronewold@verizon.net)) to connect with us.

## Fellowship

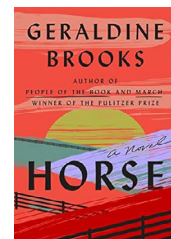
### Coffee Hour Hosting

Hosting Coffee Hour after the 10 am service is a wonderful ministry, one that knits members of all ages together in fellowship and good conversation. We've had so many volunteers in 2023, many of them having never hosted before - thank you!

The process is easier than ever: the coffee urn is prepared for you, tablecloths are not required, and hosts are encouraged to work in teams. Just bring a quart of half-and-half (or cream or milk or combination) and snacks for about 50 people — these can center around a theme, reflect your cultural heritage or the season, or be comprised of something you just pick up on the way to church! If you are interested in hosting a Coffee Hour, please select a date on our sign-up board at church or email Christie Kozak ([christiekozak@comcast.net](mailto:christiekozak@comcast.net)).

### Women's Book Group: Dates for the New Year!

The Women's Book Group meets every six weeks and devotes an evening to discussing a book chosen at the previous meeting. The Group's **next meeting is Tuesday, January 24** when the Group will tackle *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. The remaining meeting dates are Monday, March 6; Tuesday, April 25; and, Monday, June 5. All are welcome to join us! For more information, email Jen Varney ([jenniferannevarney@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferannevarney@gmail.com)) or Katie Yates ([katharinemcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:katharinemcampbell@gmail.com)).



# Adult Formation

## 2024 Lenten Booklet

Since Lent arrives early this year (Ash Wednesday is February 14!), the St. Anne's Lenten Booklet Committee has already met to plan out the timeline to complete the 2024 Booklet. The year's theme is "Everyday Saints," and all are invited to add a story, poem, or piece of scripture. At the beginning of the new year, Garrett will offer a forum on what constitutes a "saint," and how we recognize them in our everyday world, and we will then offer four writing workshops in January:

Thursday, January 11, from 10 to 11:30 am in Flint Hall  
Wednesday, January 17, from 8:30 to 10 am in the Library  
Thursday, January 18, from 6:45 to 7:30 pm in the Library  
Sunday, January 19, from 9 to 10 am in Flint Hall

Submissions are due to Jennie via email ([jennie@stanneslincoln.org](mailto:jennie@stanneslincoln.org)) by January 31, 2024. The Booklet will be available for in-person pick-up on February 11 — which is also the date of Annual Meeting! — and mailed out to all other parishioners on Monday, February 12. We encourage any and all to submit something reflective about what "everyday saints" means to you.

## Women's Bible Study

After a break for the holidays, WBS resumes on January 11 with a Writing Workshop for the 2024 Lenten Booklet. On January 18, we begin our study of Romans with an introduction by Garrett. All are welcome!

# Children's Formation

## Atria & Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

We have a busy Advent in the St. Anne's Atria! Sunday School, Pageant Rehearsals, an outreach project, and our presentation on Christmas Eve. Here are the important Advent dates and events:

### November 26 (Christ the King)

**No Sunday School**

**Wreath-Making**, 11:15 am, Flint Hall (take-home kits will be available)

Confirmation Class, 11:15 am Library

**Diaper Collection** for Concord Shelter begins (includes underwear and socks for children & adults)

### December 3 (Advent I)

Atrium, 9:30 am

**Pageant Rehearsal**, 11:20 to 12:15 pm, Sanctuary

**Memorial Tree Lighting**, 4:30 pm, top of the church driveway

**Blue Christmas Service**, 5 pm, Sanctuary

Continued **Diaper Collection!**

### December 10 (Advent II)

Atrium, 9:30

**Pageant Rehearsal**, 11:20 to 12:15 pm, Sanctuary

Continued **Diaper Collection!**



### December 17 (Advent III)

Atrium, 9:30

**Pageant Rehearsal**, 11:20 to 12:15 pm, Sanctuary

**Continued Diaper Collection!**

**Teen Formation Cookie Party**, 4 pm

**Lessons & Carols**, 5 pm in the Sanctuary

### December 24 (Advent IV): Christmas Eve

**Pageant Rehearsal**, 1:30 pm

**Christmas Eve service with Pageant**, 3 pm

**Diaper Collection** concludes

# Parish News

## 2023 Pledge Payments

If you've paid your 2023 pledge in full, thank you! If you haven't yet, we encourage you to do that as soon as you are able, and **especially before December 18, 2023** which gives us sufficient time to process your gift before year-end. Pledge statements were emailed or mailed and indicate your 2023 pledge payment status. Contact our Finance Manager, Beth Thompson, if you need further information.

As you think about year-end giving: please remember if you have IRA accounts and are over the age of 70.5, you are permitted to use retirement assets to support St. Anne's while avoiding taxes at the same time. This is referred to as a "qualified charitable distribution" (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of money from an IRA to an eligible charitable organization. Unlike regular withdrawals from your IRA, QCDs (limited to \$100,000/year) are excluded from taxable income and, if you are over age 72, can count toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). As with all personal tax-related decisions, please contact your financial advisor or tax adviser to discuss a charitable giving strategy that will work best for you and your family (and please note that this is an issue on which Beth, our Finance Manager, cannot advise).

## Stewardship 2024

Stewardship season for 2024 is on-going! In-gathering Sunday happened on November 19, and we thank ALL who communicated their pledge intentions at that time. To date, we have received pledge information from approximately 100 parishioners, which is about on par with this time last year but still well below where we'd like to be.

## From the Parish Manager

This is the time of year when all the cute little field mice search for warmer quarters, and, when crumbs from Coffee Hour treats are sitting right there, the critters are doubly excited to wander into church! While I have a very effective plan to keep these mice "in the fields," I do need the help of all St. Anne's parishioners and staff, so here are some friendly reminders from your "no-mouse-in-our-house!" Parish Manager:

- **Please deposit all food trash in lidded containers** — this includes napkins that have crumbs tucked inside, cups with a little juice or coffee residue, empty sugar packets, etc. There are lidded trash bins in both kitchens. **Parents:** please double-check that your kids haven't left half-eaten treats in a corner of the building.
- Though our recycling "program" still needs a little fine-tuning, most people are great at putting bottles and cans in the correct bins. However, **please quickly rinse out your container before tossing it in the recycle bin** (I once found a mouse INSIDE a recycled can!) and please do NOT put items like napkins, sugar packets, wrappers, or pizza or cake boxes in the recycling bins — not only can they not be recycled per Town of Lincoln rules, but they attract vermin.



- **If you are host** to a Coffee Hour, dinner party rental, or St. Anne's food event, please assume the responsibility of collecting trash, taking or giving away extra food, drying and putting away any dishes used, wiping down all tables and kitchen counters, and doing a quick carpet sweep of crumbs off the floor (a carpet sweeper is in the Broom Closet across from the Kitchen). When a few days go by before Paul or I catch that these tasks haven't been done, the mice have already had their par-tay.

I take pride in our **six-year mouseless streak** and am grateful for everyone's continued help! The secret was shared by another PA at her church's rummage sale: use those plug-in high-frequency units, but take them out after two weeks (mice get used to the sound after awhile); then, two weeks later, put 'em back in. Following this cycle from October through April really works!

## Looking toward 2024

We've got a LOT planned for 2024, especially since it's **St. Anne's 150th birthday!** Keep a lookout for news on how we will celebrate, a **special outreach project**, and a **visit from the Bishop**. We also have **Annual Meeting** slated for February 11, a hefty **Lenten Booklet** writing workshop schedule, many **Children & Youth** events, and a full **Holy Week** which begins with Palm Sunday on March 24.

So stay tuned for our *Lenten Good News* which will be out in mid-February. If you have news you'd like to include, please email Jennie (jennie@stanneslincoln.org) by February 5.

# Advent 2024 Calendar

## Sunday, November 26

8 am, Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)  
9 am, Forum: Julian of Norwich  
10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir (Sanctuary & Livestream)  
11 am, Coffee Hour hosted by Jennie & Sarah  
11 am, **Advent Wreath-Making** (Flint Hall)  
11:15 am, Confirmation Class (Library)  
5 pm, Breathe-Move-Pray (Sanctuary)

## Tuesday, November 28

2 pm, Church Service League (Library)

## Wednesday, November 29

8:30 am, Men's Group (Library & Zoom)  
7 pm, Education for Ministry (Library)

## Thursday, November 30

9 am, Women's Bible Study Quiet Day (Flint, Sanctuary)  
7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal (Flint Hall, Sanctuary)

## Saturday, December 2

9 am, Companions of the Holy Cross (Library, Youth Room)

## Sunday, December 3: Advent I

8 am, Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)  
9 am, Moth Radio Hour (Flint Hall)  
9:30 am, Sunday School (Atria)  
10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir (Sanctuary & Livestream)  
11 am, Coffee Hour (Flint Hall)  
11:15 am, Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
4:30 pm, **Memorial Tree Lighting** (Parking Lot)  
5 pm, **Blue Christmas Service** (Sanctuary)

## Wednesday, December 6

8:30 am, Men's Group (Library & Zoom)  
6 pm, Centering Prayer (Library)  
7 pm, Education for Ministry (Library)

## Thursday, December 7

10 am, Women's Bible Study (Flint Hall & Zoom)  
7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal (Flint Hall, Sanctuary)

## Sunday, December 10: Advent II

8 am, Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)  
9 am, Forum: Israel & Gaza (Flint Hall)  
9:30 am, Sunday School (Library)  
10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir (Sanctuary & Livestream)  
11 am, Coffee Hour hosted by Christy & Emma (Flint Hall)  
11:15 am, Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

## Monday, December 11

7 pm, Education for Ministry (Library)

## Tuesday, December 12

11:30 am, CSL Christmas Luncheon (Flint Hall)  
7 pm, Women's Book Club (Library)

## Wednesday, December 13

8:30 am, Men's Group (Library & Zoom)

## Thursday, December 14

10 am, Women's Bible Study (Flint Hall & Zoom)  
7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal (Flint Hall & Sanctuary)

## Sunday, December 17: Advent III

8 am, Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)  
9:30 am, Sunday School (Atria)  
10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir (Sanctuary & Livestream)  
11 am, Coffee Hour hosted by (Flint)  
11:15 am, Moth Radio Hour (Flint Hall)  
11:15 am, Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)  
5 pm, **Lessons & Carols** (Sanctuary)  
6 pm, Lessons & Carols Reception (Flint Hall)  
6 pm, Teen Formation (Flint Hall)

## Monday, December 18

7 pm, Vestry Meeting (Library & Zoom)

## Tuesday, December 19

11 am, Pastoral Care Commission Meeting (Library)

## Wednesday, December 20

8:30 am, Men's Group (Library & Zoom)  
6 pm, Centering Prayer (Library)  
7 pm, Education for Ministry (Library)

## Thursday, December 21

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal (Flint Hall & Sanctuary)

## Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve

9 am, **Morning Prayer** (Sanctuary)  
3 pm, **Daylight Service with Pageant** (Sanctuary)  
5 pm, **Holy Eucharist with Choir** (Sanctuary)  
8 pm, **Holy Eucharist with Choir** (Sanctuary)

**The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, December 25, 2022 through to Tuesday, January 2, 2023**

## Sunday, December 31

9 am, Morning Prayer (Sanctuary & Livestream)

## Wednesday, January 3

8:30 am, Men's Group (Library & Zoom)  
7 pm, Education for Ministry (Library)

## Thursday, January 4

7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal (Flint Hall & Sanctuary)

## Sunday, January 7

8 am, Holy Eucharist (Sanctuary)  
9 am, Forum: What is a Saint and How Do We Know Them  
9:30 am, Sunday School (Library)  
10 am, Holy Eucharist with Choir (Sanctuary & Livestream)

## Tuesday, January 9

2 pm, Church Service League (Library & Zoom)

## Wednesday, January 10

8:30 am, Men's Group (Library & Zoom)  
7 pm, Education for Ministry (Library)

## Thursday, January 11

10 am, Lenten Booklet Writing Workshop (Flint Hall)  
7:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal (Flint Hall, Sanctuary)



**St. Anne's in-the-Fields**  
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