

# GRAPEVINE

Sept/Oct/Nov

2020 Issue



## **GENERAL OFFICE HOURS:**

By Appointment Only  
Due to COVID 19 Restrictions

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Huib Walta

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*Please do not hesitate to call Rev. Bill  
or Krista at any time at the above  
numbers with pastoral emergencies.  
Be sure to inform them if you or  
anyone you know in the parish is ill  
and/or in the hospital.*

## **GREETINGS FROM REV. BILL, BRIDGE PRIEST**

My senior English teacher in high school signed the notes he wrote on our essays, "Courage", followed by his initials, "DTL". If ever there was a season we needed courage, this is it. Entering its seventh month, this pandemic floods us with fear. Not the fear of a imaginary monster under the bed or a ghost in the closet, but fear of a real, though invisible, enemy that wrecks health, jobs, schools, and our way of life.

When I watch old University of Georgia football games on TV, I'm struck by how those 92,000 screaming fans are blissfully unconcerned about the germs they are passing among themselves.

And when we're given permission to gather like that again, I wonder how long it will take to unlearn our fear of being close to strangers. But that's to get ahead of ourselves, because those in other states who have tried such things have been rewarded with a spike in the virus and another shutdown.

If courage isn't the same thing as blind faith or folly, what is it? As first written in a poem in 1921,



**"Courage is fear that has said its prayers."** This is the time we practice growing our prayer from reading words on a page to a whole-hearted openness to God who IS, so that we may grow in awareness of God's Presence, not now and then, but now and always. Then we can follow this advice from Timothy Tyson for faithful and courageous living: "You read yourself full, you pray yourself hot, and then you turn yourself loose."

Our fear will never disappear, but it can be moved out of the driver's seat and put in the backseat, where it can still make noise, but no longer control where courage says we need to go to love.

Courage,

Bill Bradbury



## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

### “How Can We BE a Church When We Cannot GO to Church?”

This is one of the many questions that we are all asking as we work through the daily challenges of living in this altered world of the global pandemic. At a time when we already feel tested by change, social and political division, economic inequality, fear about climate disruption, and so many other challenges, why has God also thrown in the isolation, pain and anxiety of COVID-19 as sort of a “cherry-on-the-top?” Well, I definitely do not have the answer to that question, and despite the fact of reading about and pondering on the related “why do bad things happen to good people” question for many years, I don’t think I am going to come up with any answers now.

However I do feel prepared to talk about how we can continue to be a church in these difficult times, because I feel I am living through that, and am getting a fair amount of experience! I am seeing ways we can continue to be church all around me at St. Andrew’s this year. I am grateful for the support of Reverend Bill Bradbury who came on board as our Bridge Priest under the most challenging of circumstances this summer. His quick adaptation to conducting virtual services, his willingness to make phone calls to many of our parishioners whom he has not even met, and his exceptional preaching, are all examples of how having the right clergyperson in place can continue to connect our parish community through worship and service. Obviously worship is at the center of what we do, and for me it is an anchor in my week...it refreshes me and gives me time to reflect on God’s place in my life. We all choose to attend worship for our own reasons, but whatever the reason, having that opportunity to participate in church services is a vital part of our life as a church.

I also see our Vestry working hard to keep our church active, solvent and moving forward during this time. This summer we have accomplished several things—hired our Bridge Priest, managed to complete some long-planned financial planning goals, and begun to work on our plan for re-opening the church for regular worship. So, the work of running the church goes on, and the church as an entity and local institution continues. As challenging and worrisome as leading a small church can be during this time, our Vestry and our staff continue to soldier on optimistically. Our parish secretary, Eileen, and our Sexton Wayne are also continuing to take care of our church building and operations as well.

The work of our community outreach continues through these times as well. While some of this is more planning-focused these days, we know that at some point in the future we will be picking up our mission tasks and projects again, and the need will be greater than ever. The pandemic has halted our progress on the well in Nghumbi, Tanzania, but the planning for that project continues. Locally, we are still connected with our friends at the Methuen-Arlington Neighborhood, Inc, and of course our community gardeners are beginning to harvest their crops.

And last, but by no means least, the work of being church is in large part found in our relationships with each other. Always a bit less connected in the summer, we are still meeting the challenges of the pandemic by keeping in touch with each other and showing our caring and support for everyone in our parish family. I have received nice notes and emails from so many of you, and felt connected through prayer as well. In the fall we will resume Virtual Coffee Hours after church, re-start our book group conversations, and introduce some Sermon Talk-Backs and Bible Study-type programming with Rev. Bill. These personal connections are vital at all times, but more important than ever nowadays.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN (CONTINUED)

So, indeed in all the important ways, St. Andrew's continues to "be church" for our parish, our community and most importantly, for God. I pray for all of you, and look forward to being in touch, working together and worshipping collectively (whether that is in-person or on-line) in the months ahead.

Krista I. McLeod  
Senior Warden

## CHURCH BOOK CLUB

Our St. Andrew's Book Group is resuming book discussions in September! Like everything else in our world, it will be a little different, and we will be meeting via ZOOM until we are able to meet in person again. We will be reading and discussing the book "The Bean Trees" by Barbara Kingsolver. The meeting will take place on Wednesday September 23rd at 7pm. If you are interested in participating in this group, contact Krista at 508-451-5283 or via email at [kmcleod111@yahoo.com](mailto:kmcleod111@yahoo.com) to get a copy of the book, and be on the list for the ZOOM link.

### UPCOMING DATES & SELECTIONS

Wednesday September 23rd 7:00pm  
The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver

### OCTOBER

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman

NOVEMBER  
TBD



### The Food Pantry



I would like to update everyone on what has taken place with our neighbors in the Arlington neighborhood. At the beginning of the pandemic I continued to give food until it was not safe for me to go shopping. Since then I have, at MAN's request, given gift cards so people can purchase what they feel is best for them.

Without having the proceeds from the St. Patrick's dinner the food pantry fund is low. If you can help out, especially if you had been a faithful donor of food items before the pandemic, please consider sending checks for the food pantry account. I will then get gift cards and see they are taken to MAN.

Thank you for your help, we all need to work to help one another during this difficult time.

*Bev Brown*



### MEMORIAL DONORS



#### Memorial Fund

George and Gertrude Driscoll  
Laura and Lisa Worthy  
Edward and Kathleen Sampson  
Claire Cavanaugh & Family  
Rosemary and Peter Picarillo  
Virginia Palmieri  
Daniel and Christine Mahoney

#### Music Fund

Gail and Dick Ratcliffe  
Elizabeth MacKay

#### Organ Memorial Fund

Blanche Campbell  
Sharon and Erik Chase  
Joanne and John Markavitch  
Frank and Jim Ball  
Bertha Rothwell

## MESSAGE FROM THE PLEDGE CLERK

I have just sent out the quarter 2 pledge reports to those for whom I have email addresses. Please check your email. I am not sending out letters to the others. I will call the others with their status this week. This document has all the information that was in the letter.

I apologize for my tardiness, but since I am relying on the mail with a once weekly pickup, and not on the collection plate, there is an inherent delay in the system. Many of you will note that your status at the end of the quarter is not really representative of your standing, for instance some of you made a payment in July that included June (two different quarters), so you are shown as behind, or paid the July payment at the end of June, so you look like you are ahead. Please look at the July record, as well, to see where you stand. Also, since this is coming out in late August, with data recorded up to the end of August, looking at the third quarter total will tell you what remains to be paid in the next month to keep you up to date. If you have any questions, please contact me.

At the end of the quarter, we showed that we were \$1353 ahead of schedule for pledge payments. Thank you to all who kept up their pledge payments in this difficult time. It shows how much you consider yourself part of the faith family of St. Andrew's, even though we are not able to meet. There are a number of reasons for this overage. Three families paid their entire pledge off before the end of the second quarter. We are especially grateful to some others who have been generously sending in extra to help with our other losses in income. Others are ahead, as noted above, due to timing. The breakdown is that we are ahead by \$1353, with 13 pledgers ahead by \$3727, 14 behind by \$2374, and 11 even with their pledge. In the last two months, our donation picture has somewhat eroded, with pledge receipts through July vs. pledged amounts at + \$642 and through August at -\$541.

I thank you for sending in your pledge offering in a way other than you are used to giving it. I appreciate that many prefer weekly cash offerings, but are sending monthly checks, which are safer for me and for the bank personnel.

I have not heard from anyone about their inability to pay during the pandemic. However, there are a number with significant shortages. I fear that those people may not be able to make up their pledges. If you are behind, please try to catch up. Our expenses are ongoing, even if our doors are not open. We have had shortages in rent as well, and you know how we depend on rent for over half our income. We are very grateful to those who have paid off their pledges already, but have to recognize that is income we will not receive in the second half of the year. That is an example of how I have to advise the vestry of not just the income figure, but of underlying particulars that affect their understanding of our total income picture.

If you are short and feel that you will not be able to make up the difference, please get in touch with me, in confidence, so that I may update the vestry about our anticipated income picture. As you all know, it is so hard to plan when you are unsure of your income. Your honest evaluation and communication about your pledge would be a big help to your wardens and vestry.

Like you, I look forward to the time when we can be together in our worship service. However, when we reopen, I will not be able to go because of my medical situation. We all have challenges because of the pandemic. Just as we have the live streamed services to help with remote worship, we want to make sure all can participate to the best of their abilities in our worship and fellowship. Please do your part to make sure that happens.

Peace to you,

Jim Beagan,  
Pledge Clerk





## FACES of OUR FRIENDS

### At St. John's Anglican Church in Nghumbi, Tanzania

Janeth Chimaisi Malekela



Janeth is 50 years old. She is married to Mr. Loti Malekela. They have 6 children- 3 boys and 3 girls. She completed 7th grade and now she grows sunflower seeds and spinach in the community. She dreams of a larger house for her family. She is anticipating the arrival of water that is clean and safe for drinking. She's excited to be able to use uncontaminated water for her gardening activities.

## A MESSAGE CONCERNING ST. ANDREWS RE-OPENING

Your **re-opening** committee, Harry Noorigian, Patti Eldred and Jim Beagan, has written a plan in response to diocesan guidelines and requirements, have amended it with the help from vestry and the Reverend Bill Bradbury, have received vestry approval, and have submitted it to the regathering shepherd who has been assigned by the diocese. Early in August, the committee, along with Krista McLeod, our Senior Warden, had a zoom meeting with the shepherd to explain our plan with the situations at St. Andrew's that may deviate from guidelines. For instance, guidelines say prayer books must be removed. We have proposed having assigned seats for several reasons: our small congregation in a big church, and we sit in the same seats every week anyway, so if only one person would ever use the book, might we be allowed to use the prayer book. We also hope assigned seats with assigned doors help with social distancing in entry and exit, not to mention not having to rope off pews, and mark up the floors.

We have prepared samples of signage that will direct people on how to comply with the diocesan guidelines. We are also suggesting the use of the outdoors and hall for services as we have done in the past. That may allow, while the weather cooperates, for greater social distancing, ventilation and safety for our service personnel and our parishioners.

Our shepherd, Rev. Jen Vath, has reviewed and commented on our plan. The committee is preparing a response. Once we have an agreement, we may submit the plan to the diocese. We were hoping for re-opening on the scheduled Welcome Back Sunday (with no sundaes, sorry) September 13. But we are aware a lot of parishes want that date, and that only a very few have already re-opened. It is probable we will not yet be approved by that date.

Before we assign seats, we have to contact all our expected congregants, those who have come regularly in the past. We have to let them know that services, once we re-open, must be very different than what they are used to, with possibly no reception of Communion, and no shared Peace, no coffee hour, and no singing. Masks will be required. We ask each member, before we call, to prayerfully consider whether their health, risk factors and family situations mean they will be able to join in church worship - and please note that we will continue to live stream. Right now, one of the committee realizes that his health and immunological challenges mean he should continue to participate using the live streams. When we know who is coming, we can assign seats. We also have to plan for visitors and other unexpected congregants. Once again we ask, if you have not been a regular attendee, participating at least once a month, and plan to start coming weekly, please contact us to let us know to include you in the plans.

We are extremely fortunate to have the work of those preparing for the live streams, Huib Walta, who does the video and posts it for you, Craig Seaman, who prepares and performs the music, and the lectors Kathy Hillis, Madeleine McKeon, and Krista McLeod, and LEMs Laura Walta, Bev Brown, and Matt McKeon, who do the readings. Our administrator, Eileen Woelfel, has recently taken on the work that Jim Beagan did in preparing the weekly order of service. And of course, we thank Reverend Bill Bradbury for leading the services. The committee thanks all of these people whose dedication has provided the support for the church services you could join in with all spring and summer.

If you have any questions, or concerns you want included in our design of a plan, please contact us via the church office or Jim Beagan at [jimgoomba@yahoo.com](mailto:jimgoomba@yahoo.com) or Krista McLeod at [kmcleod111@yahoo.com](mailto:kmcleod111@yahoo.com). Please keep our efforts in your prayers. Thank you.



REV. JOE'S FAREWELL PARADE



*Best Wishes*



## GLOBAL MISSION UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2020

Water Project with St. John's in Nghumbi, Tanzania

Submitted by Laura Walta, Global Missioner



Hajambo! Hello everyone!

I hope that this update finds you and your loved ones well- physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It is a blessing to see some of your names on the Sunday Morning Live Stream, and to know that we are worshipping and praying together in spirit, if not in person. But the one thing we can't really do is make announcements or provide updates after the peace, so the Grapevine will have to be our method of keeping in touch.

Our friends in Nghumbi are doing well. St. John's has been spared any infection. They have been very fearful that the virus might get into the village, as they do not have the equipment or facilities to care for COVID-19 patients. One infection could spread rapidly and would mean certain death. They are wearing masks, socially distancing, and washing their hands as well as possible with a shortage of clean water and soap. Please keep our friends in your prayers? My friend Tobias tells me they are keeping us in theirs.



Sadly, Tobias also reports that his 10 year old son is very ill, and needs a liver transplant. You can imagine his fear of traveling to a big city hospital where the COVID infection rate is very high. I found a prayer that I sent to him, and thought perhaps you would like to use it as well:

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 *Edison Mande*. Relieve *his* pain, guard *him* from all danger, restore to *him* your gifts of gladness and strength, and raise *him* up to a life of service to you. Hear us, we pray, for your dear Name's sake. *Amen*

Needless to say, COVID has not only disrupted our lives here, but has put the entire water project on hold. We were not able to install the temporary pump nor make our trip planned for May, and we haven't been able to plan anything yet for the future. But all has not been lost. Despite being remotely connected, I have been communicating with Bill from the Boston Professional Chapter of Engineers Without Borders, as well as the team from the UNH Student Chapter. They completed an Assessment Report, and an Alternatives Report that were both accepted by EWB USA. They are currently in the middle of designing the specifications for the water tank, solar system, and the first phase of the distribution system. So the work goes on! Thank God for the determination of these young people!

In Nghumbi, the work has also continued. The village elected the members of its Community Owned Water Supply Organization (COWSO) who successfully completed the weeklong government required training, and will now function as a Board to set and collect water fees, resolve issues, see that the well is maintained and repaired when necessary.



## GLOBAL MISSION UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2020 (CONT.)

With Bill and the UNH Team, we talked to EWB USA and convinced them to allow us to move forward with a remote installation. That is, the EWB engineers will design the water system and put out the specifications, and then hire a local company to follow the instructions and complete the installation. They will communicate over Zoom, or WhatsApp, and the engineers here in the US will be able to see the work as it is being completed. This is wonderful news, as it is not usually an option and it will permit the installation to take place this fall- hopefully in October. We cannot know how life will be in January, but it is our hope that travel might be allowed next year.



Despite the many unknowns that surround us in these COVID times, I cannot ignore God's faithfulness to His people- here and on the other side of the world. It is more than coincidence that all members of this global partnership are still healthy, and able to work together on this important project. The Holy Spirit is certainly inspiring people at all levels of the project to find solutions to the issues that block progress. Thank YOU, friends of St. Andrew's for your past and continued prayers and support.



I'd like to offer my services as a

**Notary Public**

to all Parishioners.  
Please call the office  
to make an  
appointment.

*Eileen Woelfel,  
Parish Secretary*



### Prayer Shawl Drive-Up Blessing September 15th, 2020

**From: 1:00 to 2:30 PM**

*Location:* Drive thru Horseshoe in front of the  
Trinitarian Congregational Church,  
72 Elm Street North Andover Ma

*Rain or Shine*

We invite you to use the circular driveway in the front of the church to drive thru and drop off your prayer shawls. A minister will greet you at your car, accept your shawls and offer a prayer for both you and the recipient.

*May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.  
Romans 15:13*



### DID YOU KNOW...

*That it's possible to make electronic donations to Saint Andrew's? It's as easy as using the bill pay feature that most banks now offer free of charge to their checking account customers. You simply set up Saint Andrew's as a payee with our name and address and then schedule payments in the amounts and at the times you desire. Be sure to direct the payment to the attention of our pledge recorder and include your envelope number in the account number field.*

*If you have any questions, please speak with Jim Beagan.*

## St. Andrew's Community Garden for the Methuen Arlington Neighborhood

September 2020 Garden Update

Submitted by Laura Walta



There was a lot of discussion about the status of the Community Garden back in March and early April, when the world went into lock-down, and there was more that we didn't know about COVID-19 than what we did know. Infections were increasing throughout the State, and nobody wanted to get sick.

After many text, phone, and email messages, we decided to take a "hybrid" approach. Some people felt comfortable gardening alone. Some were willing to come 3 or 4 at a time while masked. Some didn't feel safe gardening at all. But everyone agreed to respect the needs of each other. In the end, we decided we would plant 12 of the beds with vegetables, and dedicate the last two as memorial gardens in honor of all those from Methuen that had died as a result of Covid-19.

With a plan in mind, we set to preparing our beds, removing exhausted soil, adding compost, aerating the soil, and using an organic method to kill the beetle grubs. We all discovered that the garden provided a place to escape, to meditate, and to pray.

It seems many others in Methuen had discovered the therapeutic value of gardening. Nurseries were empty, and we were afraid we'd have nothing to plant. Thanks to the enormous generosity of Farmer Val Carey, we had an abundance of vegetables, and we planted, safely, on Memorial Day.

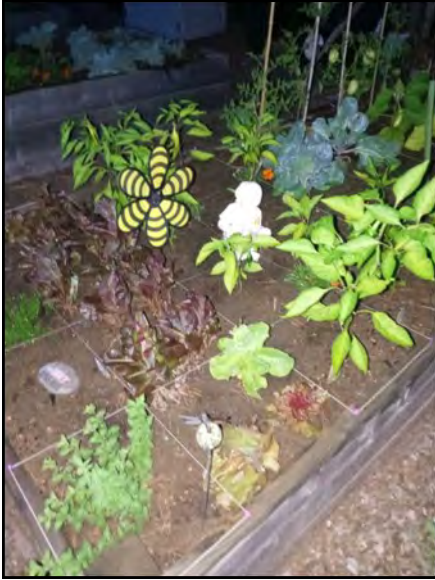


Over the summer, we notified each other when we would be watering and weeding. It's been a hot summer, but the vegetables have loved it and we have been harvesting an abundance of vegetables for our friends and families in the neighborhood.





## St. Andrew's Community Garden (Continued)



A million thanks to all from St. Andrew's who make this garden possible. This ministry has been a blessing to so many- including me! My heart is filled and my spirit rejoices to see people working hard on their beds. It is so wonderful to talk to people about what they're growing, how they fertilize, what they think we need to do. If you see folks in the garden, take a minute to stop and ask them about their bed. They LOVE to talk about their garden!

As I've mentioned in the past, there are lots of ways to join the "community" that is the Community Garden. Whether you like to garden, used to garden but don't have the time and energy, or just like to get outside and enjoy God's creation, there are ways to get involved in the Community Garden.

If you have any questions, or would like to become more involved in any way, please contact me at [Laura@Walta.org](mailto:Laura@Walta.org). J



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY! (SINCE OUR LAST GRAPEVINE)

Ashia Miller	4/1
Ryan Carey	4/2
Landon Nix	4/3
Jameson Falk	4/4
Sarah Ratcliffe	4/8
Charlie Currie	4/9
Julia Rourke	4/9
Alex Wunderlich	4/23
Christopher Miller	5/2
Jadalyce Bulgala	5/6
Haley Allbee	5/7
Gian Gomez	5/9
Molly Maguire	5/10
Kailon Miller	5/10
Denise Clooney	5/12
Laura Walta	5/12
Callie McGrail	5/19
Ella Lynn Collopy	5/22
Blanche Campbell	5/23
Andrew Fleming	5/24
Virginia Palmieri	5/27
William Hoegen	5/28
Hailey Wizboski	5/28
Nicole Clooney	5/29
Kaylah Kelly	5/29
Ryan Paul Prescott	5/29
Amanda Clooney	6/1
Kimberly Barker	6/1
Olivia Marie Collopy	6/1
Nathan Carey	6/2
Deborah Wunderlich	6/4
Sebastian DeLima	6/9
Casey Burns	6/10
Connor Michael Malynn	6/11
Jamison McKenzie	6/12
Zoe Robinson	6/12
Bertha Rothwell	6/17
Meghan Emery	6/20
Julia Anne Robarge	6/23
Kara Rourke	6/24
Finn Lira-Surette	6/25
Neula Lira-Surette	6/25
Alexis Mercier	6/25
Zoe Ratcliffe	7/2
Justin Bruce McKenzie	7/2



Jordan Polmatier	7/7
Emma Susan Covatis	7/10
Harry Noorigian	7/11
Norma Lee	7/11
Christopher Carey	7/13
Elizabeth MacKay	7/16
Kayla Allbee	7/18
Dawn Schmidt	7/20
William Robinson	7/21
James Carey	7/22
Isaiah Gomez	7/24
Liam Joseph Robinson	7/26
Evelyn Margaret Nix	7/31
Dylan Mercier	7/31
Gary Sifferlen	8/4
Beth Regan	8/8
Eric Prescott	8/10
James Beagan	8/31
Victoria Milo	9/1
Patrick Kane	9/7
Paul Sparta	9/15
Kendra Cooley	9/18
Gwen Rosengelb	9/27
Ariella Egan	9/30
Dick Ratcliffe	10/2
Molly Ratcliffe	10/2
Rev. Bill Bradbury	10/12
Evan McDermott	10/19
Natasha Lee	10/20
Peter Kwakye, Jr.	10/22
Victoria Dion	10/22
Kortnee Bulgala	11/4
Dee Henry	11/6
Michael Wizboski	11/13
Mark Hillis	11/15
Barbara Hill	11/15
Keith Hillis	11/17
Val Carey	11/18
Wayne Simone	11/18
Karl Wunderlich	11/19
Chelsey Blanchette	11/24
Kimberly Hillis	11/24
Matt McKeon	11/25
Justice McGrail	11/26
Amanda Robinson	11/29

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

About ten years ago I received a phone call from Elaine Morrisette strongly encouraging me to apply for the organist position at St. Andrew's. I had seen the vacancy notice, but was reluctant to apply because the application timeframe was limited, and I was scheduled for a business trip that week, and vacation the following week. And when I called, I learned that the secretary and rector were both on vacation that week. But despite all the scheduling obstacles, I did interview with Rev. Joe and was offered (and accepted) the position, and started on Labor Day weekend 2010.

As we all know, our lives changed last March. We knew about the pandemic, and wondered how it would affect us even as we went about our regular activities. The choir rehearsed on their regular schedule, preparing anthems for upcoming worship services. Cathie and I were anticipating the Irish sing-a-long at the annual St. Patrick's dinner.

And then our whole way of life was changed. That Sunday Rev. Joe led a service of Morning Prayer without any music. He subsequently asked me to provide organ music for the services, with Bob Burke singing hymns and anthems. We all expected this to be over by Easter, and then by Pentecost, and then at least by September. But when we do finally gather together, it will be without two favorite activities: singing and fellowship.

Throughout all of this, I feel very fortunate that my Sunday routine is mostly unchanged. I still select hymns, and play the organ for the services, even though everyone listening (and singing along) are remote. Without a regular soloist, I decided to try singing while I play, but needed a microphone. Rev. Bill found a wireless microphone in the sacristy cabinet, and which I can use to sing through the sound system, but that does not seem to pickup very well with the iPhone. Our next step will be to use the portable speaker aimed directly at the iPhone.

The next project is getting the choir back together. I know that some other churches have put together a "virtual" choir, where each singer makes a recording while listening to an accompaniment track, and then the producer puts all the recordings together into a single video. I didn't know how this could be incorporated into the livestream service, but perhaps if we start using a speaker for a singer, it would be easy enough to plug in a playback device and at least hear the virtual choir, even without a video. But this still requires each singer to sing individually, not as a group.

Another idea I have is to start a handbell or handchime choir, which would not involve anyone singing, although it would still be necessary to space everyone the proper distance. One aspect of a handbell or handchime choir is that it would require the exact right number of ringers, not too many and not too few. But this could also be an opportunity to include parishioners who have not joined the voice choir.

We are all anxiously waiting for our lives to return to normal, even though we know the normal will be different from before.

Respectfully submitted by Craig Seaman, Organist/Music Director

