

# *St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

3 MAPLE STREET, FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS  
508.875.5095 | STANDREWSFRAMMA.ORG



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

**CHURCH PROFILE - 2024**

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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## Welcome & Overview

St. Andrew's is a theologically diverse parish in the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. We have life-long members here and many families that are relatively new to St. Andrew's as our city and surrounding areas have grown. We have a deep respect for our history and traditions are poised to



transform further to meet God's path for us. We celebrate St. Andrew's Day faithfully with a bagpiper and festive coffee hour. We conclude each Easter worship service with a congregational singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

We seek to uphold our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, intellectual or physical ability, age, or any other characteristic that might be used to exclude or divide God's people. We welcome all people to this house of worship, to experience the good news of God's love and to participate fully in this community of faith.

### *Parish Mission Statement*

*In response to God's grace and love extended to us through his Son Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are called:*

- *to seek God's will in all that we do;*
- *to worship God as a Eucharistic community grounded in the Bible, using The Book of Common Prayer and enriching our liturgy with a variety of styles;*
- *to nurture one another in all stages of life through prayer and healing, education and study, pastoral care and action, and fellowship and program;*
- *to go into the community to serve, sharing the gifts God has given to us; and*
- *to invite others to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord, bearing witness to God's love for all and sharing experiences of God's work in our lives.*

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## *Our Discernment*

The Search Committee was commissioned by the Vestry in the spring of 2023 to lead the parish in the journey of finding its next rector. It consists of eight church parishioners including one Vestry member. A Diocesan consultant has been retained to provide valuable guidance in the process.

The congregation responded enthusiastically to the Search Committee's call for participation, feedback, and honest review of where we are as a church and what we want in the future. One initiative was administering a congregation assessment via online survey. This exercise provides a critical baseline to learn about member satisfaction, identify areas where we excel, gauge readiness for change and recognize opportunities for the parish.

To supplement the survey, we held small group sessions that provided a safe space for members to express candid, honest opinions. These energetic sessions reminded us of the passion and love we have for St. Andrew's.

Our members love that St. Andrew's has always been a welcoming community open to new ways and experiences of worship and music. We love our ministries and find spiritual meaning in the work that we do. We love our community, its people, and doing God's work for the benefit of all.



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## Our Worship

*"We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup."*

These words from the sending of Eucharistic visitors define what unites people at St. Andrew's. The sharing expanded during the challenges of COVID-19 with the introduction of online services which continue to this day, reaching worshipers unable to be at the church building.

Online broadcasts started from the former rector's home, moved to the church lawn, and then to inside the church before full return. One memorable occasion was Easter 2021 with the clergy on a flatbed truck in the parking lot, parishioners in their cars listening to the service on their radios, and the choir singing into microphones, enabled by the technical team. To pass the peace, we all turned on windshield wipers and waved to each other.

These are fond memories as Sunday morning Eucharist (Rite 2) at 10 a.m. in the church has returned. Pre-COVID, we also had an 8 a.m. Eucharist (Rite 1) and, in the far distant past, a folk mass in the late afternoon. Our congregation enjoys learning, and many value strong preaching and sermons that can be applied to daily lives.



We are open to change and growth. We welcomed former members of the Lutheran Church of Framingham, celebrating the Eucharist from their prayer book once a month while their church was in the process of closing. After LCF closed to our delight many of them chose to join St. Andrew's, making us a stronger faith

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community.

Music is significant to parishioners, and Dr. James Ferguson leads us as Music Director. Our hymns and singing are chosen to match the lessons and Psalm and selections are mainly from Hymnal 1982, its supplement Wonder, Love, and Praise, and Lift Every Voice and Sing. A variety of anthems are also sung on regular occasions throughout the year.

## Lay Participation

*"In all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, may we glorify thy holy Name..."*

*Book of Common Prayer*

The people of St. Andrew's are collaborative in worship and mission. Our members participate as acolytes, eucharistic ministers, readers, musicians, ushers, oblation bearers, altar guild—including arranging flowers and plants—and the technical team to name a few examples.

*Our people participate in several ways: (illustrative)*

- Trained laity occasionally conduct morning prayer services when clergy is not available.
- Members and guest preachers occasionally deliver sermons, and we look forward to hearing from youth returning from mission trips.
- Eucharistic Visitors take communion to those who are not able to attend church.
- Veterans' recognition, planned and conducted by a member.
- Stewardship talks, inspirational sharing on how God and St. Andrew's impacts their life



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*Especially for Youth: (illustrative)*

- Christmas Eve service includes children bringing figurines to the creche during the telling of the Christmas story.
- Burying (hiding) the Alleluia for Lent, then recovering it on Easter morning during the processional
- Lent activities for children on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.
- Older youth may sing with the choir or perform instrumentals.
- St Nicholas drops by the service in early Advent, with a message of sharing, caring, love, and candy canes.
- Recognition of organizations such as Scouts and Girl Scouts.

## Ministries Overview

We commission ministries throughout the year during Sunday service. Teams are presented by sponsors and each team member dedicates their service. Examples of our ministries include the following:



**Acolytes:** Acolytes have a

long tradition and history at St. Andrew's. Youth in grades 3 through 12 serve this ministry.

**Altar Guild:** Our Altar Guild is a vital part of worship preparation and church upkeep.

**Lay Eucharistic Ministry:** Licensed Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve at the altar as Chalice Bearers and serve parishioners unable to attend church on a rotating basis.

**Properties Ministry.** This ministry is responsible for cleaning, periodic maintenance and inspections, repairs and upgrades of the church building and grounds.

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**Stewardship Ministry:** This ministry drives the annual Stewardship Campaign and educates the parish about all opportunities for giving. This has included a recent and robust capital campaign.

**Fellowship Ministry:** Fellowship events include "deluxe" coffee hours, a "Happy Birthday Jesus" birthday party after our Christmas Eve service, Chocolate Sunday in February, Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras Party, simnel bread on Mothering Sunday and palm sandwiches on Palm Sunday

**Worship:** The Worship Ministry meets four times each year and coordinates all aspects of worship life at St. Andrew's including music, liturgy, and the worship schedule.

**Outreach:** Outreach ministries is covered in the in depth in the Outreach and Service to Others section.

**Ushers Ministry:** Ushers support worship by greeting guests and congregants, presenting gifts and in many other ways that ensure an enjoyable service.

## *Christian Formation*

St. Andrew's seeks to provide a warm and welcoming space for all of God's children to wonder, explore, question, and live the promises taken at our baptism. We invite all children and youth to engage with their church and to grow as followers of Jesus. We have a dedicated team of teachers that support our children and youth during Sunday morning formation. Our elementary school aged curriculum is Godly Play which nurtures our children's spiritual lives through "story, wonder and play." We have a beautiful, dedicated classroom for Godly Play which is an inspiration for our families.

Our middle school youth group meets monthly for activities and conversations relevant to middle school life. A key goal is to expand our engagement with this group.





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In addition to our curriculum, our children's and youth programming includes handmade Advent calendars, the beloved Christmas Pageant, Scout Sunday, amazing Agape Meal with a Last Supper re-enactment and Eucharist. Additional Lenten programs include pony rides on Palm Sunday morning and our children's stations of the cross.

With the support of volunteers, we recently joined with St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Natick to partner in Confirmation classes for five of our teens. We also have a small group that plans to participate with St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Sudbury in the Appalachia Service Project this summer.

## **Adult**

Our adult offerings include Education for Ministry (EFM), Bible study groups, and a book club program. More recently, Holy Grounds, our informal coffee get-together, meets before the 10 a.m. service to discuss and plan for the week ahead.

## *Outreach & Service to Others*

Outreach and service to others are a cornerstone at St. Andrew's. We have been designated as a mission hub by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and St. Andrew's hosts ProGente Connections, a mission of the diocese that provides ESL and much more to its students. It was recently featured in the diocese's profile seeking our new Bishop. We aspire to deepen this connection to enhance our links to both the diocese and the Brazilian community. St. Andrew's maintains our ties to *Daniel's Table*, the *Pearl St. Cupboard and Café*, and we continue to support *Family Promise*, including recently purchasing groceries to provide dinner for client families. Outreach members collect non-perishable items for the food pantry at United Way of Tri-County, sing at a local nursing home, and knit and quilt for those who need love, encouragement and acknowledgment. Additionally, Outreach supports the annual Christmas "Giving Tree" which provides gifts for many of the underserved in our community. Our Andrew's Angels ministry provides support to our parish through meals and rides. Several times a year, we hold church-wide collections of material goods that contribute to national and international charities.

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## *Our History & Location*

St. Andrews St. Andrew's started as a mission church in 1882 as an offshoot from St. John's, a former Episcopal church in Framingham. Services started in a rented space before the fledgling church moved into its first building in 1898. Framingham was then a factory town, attracting workers from a wide area. We moved to our present location at Buckminster Square in 1957. The church and its dedicated, long-tenured rectors have always been committed to meeting the needs of the Framingham area.

The City of Framingham, Massachusetts, twenty miles west of Boston, is the largest community in the Greater Boston area known as MetroWest. Framingham has both urban and suburban characteristics and is a diverse community. Past City Historian, Stephen Herring, wrote in his book *Framingham: An American Town* (2000) that Framingham has "been a reflection of this nation, even before it was a nation -- we are immigrants, long-time residents, rich, poor, educated, emerging learners, of varied political views."

St. Andrew's built its current facility in 1957 on approximately two acres of land in a primarily residential neighbourhood. The building is laid out in the shape of the letter "H" with the sanctuary on the right (from the street) and the parish house on the left, and a main entrance and welcoming lobby at center which is accessible for disabled parishioners. The sanctuary seats three hundred on the main floor and fifty in the balcony.

The parish house contains offices, a library, and the Harris Hall function area which seats 160 people. The lower level matches the main floor in size and configuration. It is used for church school and houses the choir room. The building is also used for a wide variety of community and non-parish activities with local organizations.

The church provides clean energy with two solar panel arrays, including a recently completed parking lot solar panel project. A memorial garden, dedicated in 2021, has remains of loved ones. We are blessed with several pieces of sculpture by Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, a parishioner and American sculptor, known for her depictions of the African and African-American experience.

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## Financial Profile

St Andrew's is fortunate to be in a sound financial position due to the generosity of its dedicated congregation, church leadership, and utilization of the building for supplemental income. We generate additional income by hosting several outside groups and with our two solar arrays. While the pandemic has posed challenges, our year-on-year pledging income has seen marginal increase, and the parish has maintained balanced budgets. Our stewardship committee collaborates with the treasurer, vestry, and finance committee to drive sound budget planning for the parish.

We successfully completed the fundraising portion of the capital campaign, have completed several of the projects under budget and are working to complete the remaining projects.

Budgeted operating income for 2024 is just over \$400,000, and a signal in the confidence of our finances to call a full-time rector. While our draw on the endowment has been larger than we would like, we understand the need for both investing in our growth efforts as well as continued financial vigilance as we face the coming years. We are fortunate to have an endowment with just over \$1.3 million dollars. We recognize that oversized dependence on the endowment is not sustainable. The vestry has earmarked church growth as a critical area for St. Andrew's worthy of bold investment.



*Our newly installed solar canopy*

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## *Opportunities for St. Andrew's*

We identified the following opportunities for St. Andrew's during our discernment:

### **Music**

The people of St. Andrew's love our worship and our music and are served by a dedicated and faithful choir. As we move forward, we hope to expand our music ministries to continue to serve our diverse congregation. We aim both to revive prior programs that existed, such as the Children's Choir and the Jesus Rocks Association Band, and to create new initiatives to strengthen our music in worship.



### **Youth & Families**

The effects of the pandemic touched all aspects of church life as in-person youth programs and church school were halted during lockdown. While our programs have since re-started, we recognize that more needs to be done to attract youth and young families and bring more folks back to church. Our church leadership understands the need for a concise strategy and involvement among all church groups. This is a key area moving forward.

### **Christian Education**

Christian Education is a high priority area, and our Vestry has recently signed off on hiring a Christian Education staff member. For us Christian education is not just youth focused but should be an offering in which all members of St. Andrew's can participate in.

### **Fellowship**

We recognize that widening fellowship opportunities is something that will benefit our church. As we witness changing demographics, we have an opportunity to review how we cater to our people in our church and our community and provide opportunities for groups of people to come together in our journey of serving Christ.

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## *Our Next Rector*

"So now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

We are looking and praying for YOU, our next rector!

Our hope is that our next rector will inspire our congregation through meaningful and liturgically strong preaching and a willingness to be bold as a leader of our church when needed. We want to learn and grow with you as we are well poised to transform further to meet God's call with you.

At St. Andrew's, we consider ourselves a community at our best when we create space for relationships and connection. We would want a rector to care for and be with us in times of need, help us to connect our individual gifts with further ministry, and to engage with parishioners and families across different backgrounds, demographics, experiences and diverse biblical beliefs. To this end, we think our rector should be a caring, compassionate example of God's love, as pastoral care and leadership are key needs for our members.

We look forward to welcoming you.

## *What We Offer*

St. Andrew's offers you a committed and loving congregation, strong lay leadership and support and a place where you can grow, one which you can call your church home.

## *Church Leadership*

Interim Rector: The Rev. Susan Sprowls

Director of Music: Dr. James Ferguson

Website & Media Coordinator: John Cento

Senior Warden: Tom Buie

Junior Warden: Brian Fanous

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## Contact Us

Interested candidates should send a copy of their resume and OTM portfolio and an example of a sermon or a link to a sermon to the co-chairs of the Search Committee by May 31st, 2024.

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Co-chairs of the Search Committee

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