

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

17 Church Street, Hanover, MA

www.standrewshanover.org

Parish Profile



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Mission of St. Andrew’s

We, the family of St. Andrew’s, strive to provide a sanctuary for prayerful worship within a respectful and welcoming environment and to meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners and community, using Christian ideas and values. We also strive to promote Christian fellowship and to build a strong and vibrant parish which serves God, supports the spiritual growth of its members, and teaches the word of Jesus Christ through worship, outreach, personal example, and respect for the spiritual growth of those around us.

Episcopal Diocese of MA Mission Statement, adopted November 2021

Our yearnings to be disciples of Jesus, seekers of justice and protectors of creation provide the foundation for us to do our shared work together. We will only reach these goals by becoming more completely the people Jesus calls us to be through the power of the Spirit.

First, last and always, we pray. We ask for God’s abiding presence with us and we allow the love of Jesus to transform us. From this place of unconditional grace, mercy, and love, we can trust in God’s abundance, knowing we will have everything we need. We receive the courage to be agents of reconciliation and justice.

Devotion to the way of love demands vigilance, as the evil powers working to destroy the creatures of God remain unyielding in their attempts to distract us from our relationship to the Almighty. We must address the history and persistent reality of injustice in our church with honesty and humility. We must pray, learn, act and advocate for the world we want to create.

We must be bold. We must be hopeful. We are committed to the tasks being given us by the Spirit. We trust that God is with us in the joys and challenges of this moment. We dedicate ourselves once again as the Body of Christ in this place and time to work for the glorious reign of Jesus.

What is St. Andrew's doing to address dwindling membership?

We recently conducted a parish wide survey and one consistent concern was that we need more parishioners. More members will help with everything we do, outreach, ministries, music.

Challenges:

- Covid has obviously affected the number of church members (and non-members) that could physically attend Sunday church services.
- Visibility (or lack thereof). The church property is on a side street and cannot be seen from Route 53. It is a physically beautiful church and property, but blends into it's surroundings so well that even some locals do not know where St. Andrew's is. The mature trees that help make the property beautiful also mask it from being seen from Route 53, which is busy at all times of day. Currently there are two metal street signs indicating that St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is close by.
- Christmas Fair - very popular, but does not necessarily attract new members.
- St. Andrews typically fills to the rafters during Christmas and Easter but then dwindles down to our typical membership after these high holidays.

How We Are Embracing These Challenges:

- St. Andrews has participated for several years in the popular community event, Hanover Days, a yearly community event held in Hanover, MA which helps to keep us visible in the community. hanoverday.com/
- We have held various events in the church parish hall such as book group discussions, country line dancing and community member profiles in order to attract a wider presence.
- The Hanover Four Corners Winter Festival: www.facebook.com/hanoverwinterfestival/

COVID-19

When the shut down happened, we were at a loss along with the entire country. We quickly figured out that we needed to readjust and keep moving forward. We continued to have services, albeit in an empty church with our priest, organist and 2 singers from the choir who also did the readings and Prayers of the People. We set up a phone on a tripod to record the services on FaceBook Live. We spaced ourselves around the church, much more than the required 10 feet and were masked.

The choir learned how to use an a capella app to record individual parts for hymns that were played during services. They were also posted on our YouTube channel. **We did not go one week without music and singing.**

Photos of our parishioners were printed and put on pews to remind ourselves of our loving church family.

Once the weather warmed up a bit, we moved our services outside. Our organist had a keyboard and folding chairs were brought out and spaced accordingly. Those services were also recorded on FaceBook Live.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is located in Hanover, Massachusetts, approximately 30 miles southeast of Boston and 34 miles north of Cape Cod. The area was first settled around 1649 and incorporated as the town of Hanover in 1727. The town was named in honor of the Duke of Hanover, who would become King George the first of England.

The first known gathering of worshipers was in 1725 at the home of John Damon in the town of Scituate, now known as the town of Norwell. In 1727 the parish of St. Andrew's was officially recognized and in 1731 a church building was constructed and dedicated in Scituate (Norwell). St. Andrew's is the third oldest Episcopalian parish in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Most parishioners at that time wanted to follow the beliefs and tenets of the Church of England (the Anglican Church) and not the more widely held and accepted teachings of the Puritan congregational churches in the area. Leading up to the American Revolution, some were thought to be loyalists to England (and perhaps some were!) and were imprisoned.

In the early 1800's it became apparent that the 1731 structure was not large enough for the growing parish. A site was chosen one mile away in the historic four-corners section of Hanover. In 1811 a beautiful Greek revival style church was built and remains our spiritual home today.

On Christmas night 1986, a fire from electrical wiring caused devastating damage to the sanctuary and office area in the undercroft. After almost 2 years of hard work, fundraising and prayers from parishioners, the community and beyond, our beautiful church was rebuilt, restored to its original grandeur and rededicated in October 1988.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is a parish that is unified in being a welcoming, open, and inclusive spiritual home for all. Parishioners come together as a caring community to promote Christian fellowship and to serve God through worship, outreach, personal example and respect for others.

St. Andrew's can be described as being a friendly, peaceful, tolerant, accepting faith-based community that is centered in God and focused on others. We serve the community of Hanover as well as numerous other neighboring towns.

Parish members come from all walks of life including various social and economic backgrounds. While many were born and raised on the South Shore of Massachusetts, we have members from other parts of the state and country as well. We have parishioners that have been with St. Andrew's anywhere from a few months to 50 years. Our community has welcomed and supported many parishioners who have found their way to St. Andrew's from other religions.

“St. Andrew's is made up of parishioners that are warm, welcoming and accepting of all differences. It bridges the history of the building with living the Episcopalian way in modern times.”

Families with young children and teens, along with adults of all ages, attend services. The parish offers one service, Holy Eucharist Rite II with Music at 9:30 a.m., conducted weekly.

We have a family oriented service with children's message at the beginning of the service. Children then have Sunday school and rejoin their families at the peace for Communion.

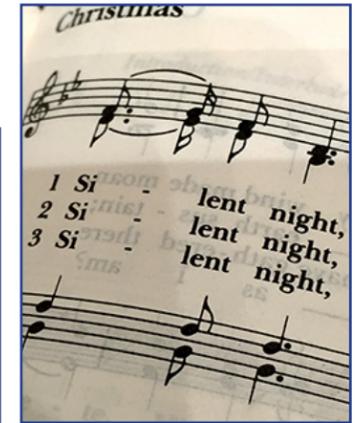
High holidays are very well attended.



Flowering of the Cross Easter Service



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



Blessing of the Animals

Yearly Confirmation Classes are coordinated with an average of 4-7 per class. The rector is responsible for the class and preparation for confirmation. Occasionally adults are also received.



(all photos are pre-covid)

Buildings & Grounds

Saint Andrew’s Church is located on a one acre property located at 17 Church Street, Hanover, MA. The church building contains the main sanctuary with main floor seating and a three sided balcony also with seating capacity. The basement area under the sanctuary consists of a 6 room rental area with ADA compliant access that is currently occupied.

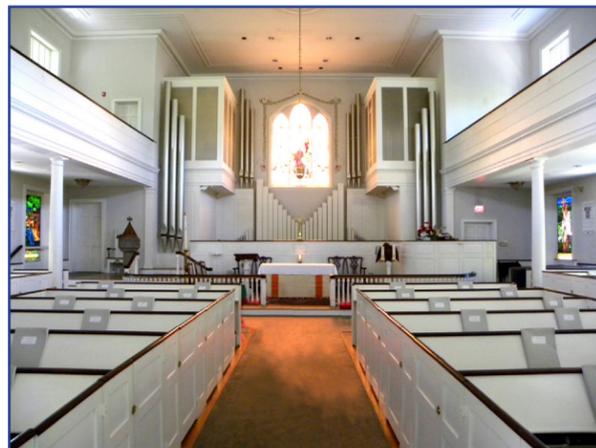
The church building also contains a sacristy area, full kitchen, parish hall, and choir room. The finished basement area beneath the parish hall is utilized for Sunday School, Christmas Fair and other church related activities.

A detached 4 bay storage shed serves for storage of maintenance tools and materials.

A one quarter acre lawn area with a children’s playground provides space for outside activities such as church services (during COVID) and other church related functions.

A Memorial Garden is maintained for the interment of ashes of deceased parishioners who may wish to choose this option.

Parking is provided on Church Street, along the driveway leading to the storage shed and in the adjacent commercial space parking lot.



Several outreach activities dominate parishioners focus:

Rosie’s Day – this is an annual summer event with Rosie’s Place, which is located in Boston. Each year, the parish hosts those who receive Rosie’s Place services, along with staff. Approximately 40-50 women enjoy a day at the beach, a barbecue, and an opportunity to “shop” at the parish’s informal boutique of donated clothes. Both participants and parishioners alike find purpose, acceptance, and renewal from this experience.



Food Pantry and Summer Garden – the parish accepts food donations weekly and provides a list of suggested items to donate. A vegetable garden is nurtured each summer with the results being donated to the Hanover Food Pantry.

Friendship Home – the parish has hosted home group members who have intellectual and learning disabilities for a “dinner and paint night.” The “masterpieces” are displayed for all to see.

Rehoboth Shelter – the parish has maintained a relationship with the Rehoboth shelters, providing labor for renovations, monetary donations, and hosting an annual “shower” where items such as sheets, blankets, etc. are donated.



Some of the other Activities and Organizations that St. Andrew’s parishioners have been involved with during Covid-19 and before:

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|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Angel Tree | Habitat for Humanity | Pennies for Peace |
| Boy Scouts | Haiti Outreach | Prayer Groups |
| Church Street Coffee Ministry | Heifer International | Quincy Crisis Center |
| City Reach | India Outreach (Hands of Hope) | Rosie’s Place Events |
| Common Cathedral | Kairos (Prison Ministry) | St. Paul’s Soup Kitchen (Brockton) |
| Concert Series | Lay Eucharistic Visitations | Soles for Souls |
| Cranberry Hospice Tree | Long Island Shelter | Special Worship Services |
| Girl Scouts | Music Ministries | Tutoring |
| Hanover, Pembroke,
Norwell & Hanson Food Pantries | “One Box at a Time” | VNA |
| | Over-eaters Anonymous | |

Jesus said “let the little children come to me”. The bible talks about how Jesus loved children. The children are the future of the church and that’s why the Sunday School program is so important at St. Andrews. We may be a smaller group (that unfortunately has to compete with organized sports held on Sundays) but we do a lot for so few members.

During the pandemic we were innovative, utilizing a Facebook page for on-line lessons (including bible stories, educational videos and activity ideas). We also had some socially distant gatherings that were held outside (our virtual pageant was so much fun to do!). We tried our best to stay connected during a challenging time for the whole world.

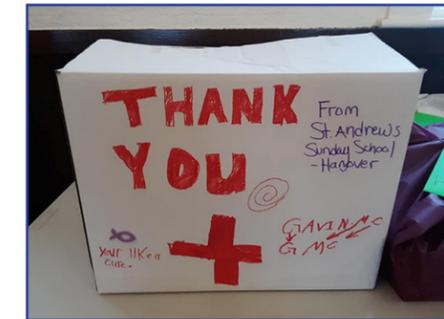
We had some fun times for the first part of the school year. We had a All Saints Day parade where the kids were able to learn about and dress like their favorite saint.



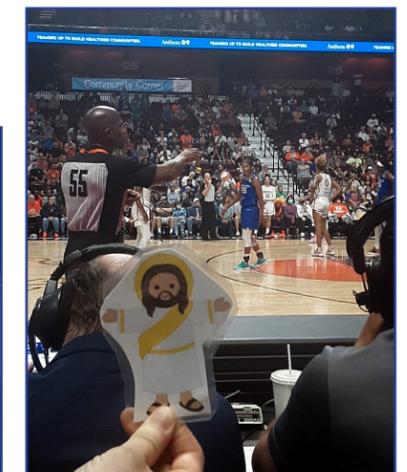
This year we brought back the traditional Christmas pageant and it was lots of fun. The Christmas pageant is always a great way to make the story of Jesus’ birth real and fun for Sunday School students.

An exciting update for St. Andrews Sunday School is that we have consolidated multiple closets of art materials, bibles, activity books and other fun stuff into 1 closet. The kids are so excited to pick through our supplies and find prizes and ideas for projects.

For the Lent and Easter seasons we kicked off a special Lent project that the whole congregation could participate in. The kids collected individually wrapped snacks and created care packages for hospital workers (who worked so hard during the pandemic). The kids had a blast decorating boxes and sorting snacks. The packages went to many local hospitals and were very appreciated.



We wrapped up the 2021-2022 school year with some clean up of the playground and a send off with “Flat Jesus”. The kids were given a “flat” Jesus to take home with them for the summer. They were encouraged to bring Jesus with them to camps, on vacation, to the beach and on camping trips. We’ve already had some pictures on our Facebook page of Jesus having a great time this summer.



Moving into the 2022-2023 school season we’d like to continue with the children’s sermons in the church service. We’re hoping to work closely with our new minister to put together a curriculum to educate the kids about the service (why do we say certain prayers, why do we sing songs, etc.) and get the children more involved in the service. We hope to continue to do outreach in the community as well as some recruiting events. We have a great group of kids and teachers and we’re hoping we can make church fun for the kids (so they can continue to worship at St. Andrews as they grow older and have families).

Please feel free to reach out to Courtney Hill (Courtney_L_turner@yahoo.com) or 617-990-2164 with any questions about the Sunday School program.

Music is a part of many Parishioners' hearts and souls.

Our music is led by Sean Glennon, an experienced organist/pianist who also conducts the adult choir.

During Covid Lockdown and after...

From January through mid-May 2021, we practiced holding/broadcasting services from the church exclusively via Facebook Live. We were limited to having 1-3 singers ("cantors") per service, which we had every Sunday as soon as it was allowed by the diocese.

St. Andrew's provided eight Holy Week offerings to our faith community; six of which included music. Not too shabby for a music ministry program in its second year in a global pandemic.



We joyously returned to in-person services (albeit outdoors) on May 16. We were then able to expand our music program from the previous use of cantors to a more modest "schola" (small choir.) On May 30, 2021, we had our first indoor in-person service since March 15, 2020, which was a period of 448 days. During this period, the schola sang socially-distanced from the pews and not from the chancel. They did not wear choir robes and they did not process, but it was still great to have singing back in the church, and it was wonderful to hear the organ again, rather than the digital piano that had been used for outdoor services.

October 3 gave witness to the glorious "formal" return of our choir. Alas, it was the first time in 567 days (since March 15, 2020) that the choir sang from the chancel, wearing their robes. Our gathering song was #420 "When in our music God is glorified."

Glorified, indeed!



Vestry

The Vestry is a mix of women and men with parish membership length from 4 – 50+ years. The Vestry is grounded in the belief and responsibility to lead and care for the parish through its words and actions. A respectful, joyful, and strong working relationship with the rector is of utmost importance. The wardens and treasurer work with the rector to oversee administrative and financial areas

The Vestry meets monthly on Sundays, usually the third week, following the 9:30 a.m. service. Topics range from finances to operations to outreach. Decisions are made by consensus.

Being visible and accessible to parishioners is a mainstay of the Vestry's management approach.

St. Andrew's Staff:

- Patricia Handloss, Interim Rector
- Sean Glennon, Director of Music
- Erica Mazenkas, Administrative Assistant
- Courtney Hill, Sunday School Director
- Jesse Avellino, Sexton

St. Andrew's Vestry:

- Kyle Egan, Senior Warden
- Dan Connick, Junior Warden
- Michelle Joyce, Co-Treasurer
- Joan Shaw, Co-Treasurer
- Susannah Leslie, Clerk
- Linda Gelinas
- Brian Joyce
- Gordon O'Reilly
- Chuck Rogers
- Janet Keane
- Sue Scopelleti

St. Andrew's Search Committee:

- Sherry Long
- Dane Ripellino
- Brian Joyce
- Linda Gelinas

Financials

	2019	2020	2021
INCOME	2019	2020	2021
Pledges, Plate.....	115,113.01	105,392.23	96,553.15
Property Use.....	24,651.63	17,010.32	13,019.00
Special Events, Fundraisers & Holidays.....	12,417.08	2,745.39	14,438.13
Investments.....	19,975.34	20,470.02	64,412.18*
Total Income	172,157.06	145,617.96	188,422.46
EXPENSES			
Salaries.....	45,415.01	42,564.00	37,446.43
Other Rector Expenses.....	53,726.39	56,689.78	45,754.39
Facilities and Equipment.....	55,341.68	26,308.34	38,533.72
Operations.....	13,524.20	22,754.31	22,469.40
Other Expenses.....	1,091.02	16,337.91	12,434.43
Total Expenses	169,098.30	164,654.34	156,638.37

* In 2021, St. Andrew's received a substantial bequest as beneficiary of a Trust established by a longtime parishioner.

The Town of Hanover

While St. Andrew's parishioners come from many towns on the South Shore (Hanover, Pembroke, Kingston, Halifax, Marshfield and others), the church itself sits in Hanover.

"Hanover was established in 1727, a little over 100 years after the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, 17 miles to our south. We have maintained our "country town" atmosphere over the years, yet combined it with the convenience of shopping malls, light industry, and, of course, technology."

"Today's population of nearly 14,000 still allows room for open space and woodlands, and most homeowners enjoy sizable lots, often with stone fences left over from a bygone era. Ponds, streams, and rivers, which join historic North River as it flows to the Atlantic Ocean, provide both summer and winter recreational opportunities."

"There are nearly 1,000 business and professional establishments in Hanover which range in size from home business and "mom-and-pop" stores to those employing one hundred or more. The Cardinal Cushing School & Training Center, although a "not-for-profit"

establishment, is one of the largest employers in Hanover. Their staff of 300+ educate a student body of 550 young handicapped persons. The majority of banking, professional, retail and service establishments are located on the four-mile stretch of Route 53 which runs north and south between the adjoining towns of Norwell and Pembroke. The two east and west main roads, Route 139 and Route 123, support an equally interesting variety of business and professional establishments. Light industry firms in Hanover are located mostly in West Hanover off Route 139. State Highway Route 3, one of the major links to Cape Cod and Boston, runs through the northeast corner of Hanover where it affords travelers easy access to the town. The availability of Boston's Logan International Airport via Route 3 and the Southeast Expressway greatly enhances Hanover's attractiveness as a business or residential site."

Community Profile, Town of Hanover, accessed March 30, 2017, <http://www.hanover-ma.gov/home/pages/community-profile>



Please use this link for another look at Hanover:

<http://realestate.boston.com/location-location-location/2017/02/14/like-live-hanover/>

**St. Andrew's is looking for a spiritual leader.
Someone who will walk with us, step by step.**

A Rector who:

- ✦ Is energetic, loves outreach and helping our communities and the world at large.
- ✦ Will lead the parish with empathy and vision.
- ✦ Will bring a vibrancy, energy, and passion through words and deeds.
- ✦ Relates to our children in their religious journey, little ones and teenagers with humor and understanding.
- ✦ Has the ability to take the Gospel and connect it to everyday life.
- ✦ Creates and maintains bonds with all ages and backgrounds, who knows our names and our families.
- ✦ Participates in the revitalization of our membership.
- ✦ Will help us to achieve financial stability.
- ✦ Has a gentle hand and a listening ear when times become burdensome, tragedy happens or sorrow becomes overwhelming.
- ✦ Sees the possibilities for St. Andrew's to make a difference for parishioners and surrounding communities and take action while navigating societal changes.

Contact Us

If you are interested, it would be great to hear from you. Please send us your Ministry Portfolio, CV or resume, links to sermons and any other materials you would like us to review. Please share this information with us by emailing Dane Ripellino, Search Chairperson at standrewsnewpriest@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in St. Andrews, Hanover.



This profile was compiled and written by the Profile Committee of St. Andrew's: Janet Keene, Sarah Kelbough and Rebecca Maki.