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# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

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2006

Dear Friends,

I am writing on the first day of spring. It's not as warm as I would expect but I know that is going to change. I know that slowly the signs of a new season will be evident all around us. The warmth of the air, the new leaves on the trees and the earth bound flowers will be freed from their rest.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are the enlivening change that God has given to all of creation. No one is left out of the boundless gift of God's freedom as death is forever shattered by the cross and the resurrection of our brother Jesus. What do we make of this gift of love?

Bishop Barbara Harris often says, "We are a Resurrection people living in a Good Friday world." This saying is filled with challenge, mission, hope and grace. God has given us, through Jesus, the gift of grace to go into the world and be instruments of change. It is our mission to bring light and hope into a world that has pain and suffering in it. We are also called to enhance and encourage the joy and grace in the lives of those we love and cherish.

The life of Jesus, his teachings, his hopes have changed the world for all eternity. His bold proclamation that God has no outcasts in the idea of a perfect world caused Jesus to be killed by those who felt otherwise. God would not let that be that last word! God always has the last word and that is always a word of love, compassion and welcome. The cross and resurrection guarantees it for all persons, past, present and to come.

As we enter into these last days of Lent, let us keep the knowledge of God's love for us, and for all, in our hearts and minds. In knowing and holding this love we are compelled to share it with the world around us as best we can, when we can.

The last days of Jesus' earthly life are filled with the drama and commitment of a man who is relentless in his desire to be an instrument, the Ultimate Instrument, of God's love for all. As we approach the commemoration of these days, remember the world that God loves so much, think of those who feel unloved, pray for those who are suffering and in pain, oppressed by war and natural disaster. Remember, too, yourselves and your loved ones. Be assured, that even as the world changes around us, the perfect and undying love of God in Jesus Christ is permanent and forever.

*Frank +*

## St. Paul's Christian Education

### Elementary School

Our students have been busy during Lent, preparing for Easter. During Session III the third graders put together a Lenten Crossword puzzle\* and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders made rainbow pictures as a sign of a covenant with God. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have used the puppets from last year to tell the stories of Jesus and his disciples, Palm Sunday and the Last Supper.

Thanks so much to all our teachers and helpers! A great thank you to Sharon and Sima for doing early morning music with the children.

### April Sunday School Calendar

|                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Apr. 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Family Sermon              |
| Apr. 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Class 6, Palm Sunday       |
| Apr. 16 <sup>th</sup> | Easter                     |
| Apr. 26 <sup>th</sup> | Class 1, Session IV Begins |
| Apr. 30 <sup>th</sup> | Class 2                    |

Please call us if you have any questions.

Karin Baker  
Cathy Presti

\* How much do you know about Lent?

Try this Lent Crossword Puzzle (see next page), created by St. Paul's third graders:  
Alex Healey, Aisling Keane, Natalie Schalick, Connor Young, Clayton Hafer, and Ben Johnson.

*Karin Baker*

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## High School and Middle School Youth

Attention all St. Paul's members between 6th and 12th grades! We will hold a PLANNING MEETING for this year's YOUTH SUNDAY directly after church on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday). Youth Sunday will be held on Mother's Day, May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Please plan to be in church on Palm Sunday and stay afterwards to help plan our annual youth-led service. We'll have resources for finding appropriate hymns, choosing prayers to lead, and understanding the readings for the day, as well as a sign-up sheet for you to indicate your preferences for participating in Youth Sunday.

So, SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>, AFTER CHURCH: Show up, or you're doing the sermon!

*John & Emily Mitchell*

## Women's Group

### APRIL FOOL'S FUN:

April Fool's Pops  
Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
Westford Performing Arts Center  
Tickets \$29.70 (less if more than 25 people sign up)

Join us as Bruce Hangen and The Orchestra of Indian Hill let their hair down for some serious fun with PDQ Bach, Beethoven, and pops favorites. The concert will be preceded by a light supper at 5:30 pm at the home of Jan Gurley in North Chelmsford. We will carpool from the church. There will be a small charge, to be determined, to help defray dinner expenses.

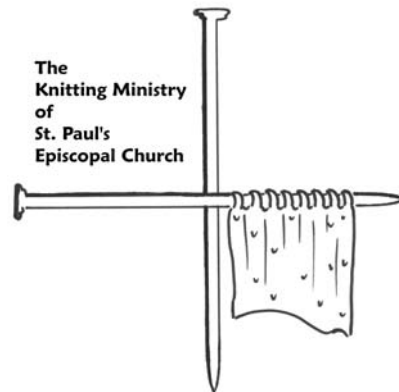
This event is sponsored by St. Paul's Women's Group, but open to all parishioners. Come one, come all!

*Betsy Anderson  
Lynne Wolf*

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## Knitting Ministry

KNITTERS AND NON-KNITTERS!



### KNITTING IN CHURCH

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

No, not knitting during the sermon!!! The Knitting Ministry is having a meeting after church in the library. Pick up your coffee and join us!

Do you want to learn to knit? Or purl? Or crochet?

Have you got spare yarn to contribute?

Can you help us assemble blankets?

Who do you think should receive a shawl?

New knitters - Bring size 8 needles. Questions? Contact Caroline Larson

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| <p>KNITTING IN CHURCH</p> <p>Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service<br/>St. Paul's Church</p> |
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## **Girl Scout Collection**

Eight huge crates of shampoo, snacks, games, magazines and Girl Scout cookies were sent off to our military troops overseas as part of our celebration of Girl Scout Sunday. The Girl Scouts of St. Paul's thank all parishioners for their contributions and to Whole Foods for providing us with bags.

*Caroline Larson*

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## **2006 Ecumenical Easter Dawn Service Announcement**

Don't forget the Ecumenical Dawn Service on Easter morning, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m. at Fawn Lake. Following the brief service, attendees are cordially invited to enjoy a free Easter breakfast prepared by the Congregational Church Senior High Youth Group and their resource adults at the Congregational Church, Upper Fellowship Hall, 25 Great Road. This is the 56<sup>th</sup> year of this ecumenical event faithfully planned and presented on Easter morning by representatives of Bedford's Christian communities. Each year Christian churches in town are asked to send a lay representative to present a particular portion of the service. This year St. Paul's will be represented by Sharon Healey.

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## **Deanery News**

My feeling is that many lay people do not understand what a Deanery is and why we elect Deanery Representatives each year, so, I am setting out to enlighten you who wish to understand.

The Diocese of Massachusetts is divided into twelve deaneries. St. Paul's is in the Alewife Deanery. Each deanery is formed in order to: strengthen relationships among congregations; promote communication among congregations, the office of the bishop, diocesan council and diocesan committees and commissions; facilitate the preparation of convention delegates and respond to convention initiatives; help provide pastoral oversight; initiate and respond to opportunities for joint ministry.

Each year each congregation elects five lay persons as voting delegates to the deanery assemblies. Anyone who is actively involved in the life of the congregation may be a delegate; however, deanery meetings are open to all, and all people interested in the church beyond the parish are invited to attend.

The current focus of the Alewife Deanery is to build and strengthen a community drawn from the parishes for the purpose of implementing Diocesan Mission Strategy goals. Plans for 2006 include: a morning of workshops on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>; June Jubilee --- a walk and worship service for HIV/AIDS relief in Africa (June 24<sup>th</sup>) with Bishop Shaw leading the worship service; Summer Youth Programs (Youth Leadership Program and Vacation Bible School) eight days in mid-August.

Attending deanery meetings, which are held at least four times a year, makes clearer the workings of the church beyond St. Paul's. If you have an interest in meeting those from other congregations and working with them to accomplish the work of the deanery, feel free to speak to your current representatives or to Frank.

Current Deanery Representatives:

Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Edward Lawrence, Dori Sutton and Lynne Wolf

*Dori Sutton*

## U.T.O. Ingathering - April 30, 2006

It is time again for the Spring U.T.O. Ingathering at St. Paul's, to be held on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The United Thank Offering (U.T.O.) is an organization founded by women (1889) that originally supported women missionaries. Since that time, it has evolved into a worldwide effort to meet compelling human needs and to expand the mission and ministry of the Church through grants supported by the funds collected. Your response to this annual ingathering makes it possible to continue to award grants which are gifts of love and which change lives. The discipline of offering prayers of thanksgiving on a daily basis for our many blessings and then dropping coins into our U.T.O. boxes is a blessing to countless people in need.

There will be envelopes available in the narthex for you to use for your offering. Just empty your box of its coins, write a check for that amount (or more if you are so moved) and place your check in an envelope by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please make your check payable to St. Paul's and earmark it U.T.O.

Thank you for sharing generously with others who are less fortunate.

*Dori Sutton*

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## News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School

Last week, the children engaged in an exploration of MUSIC. All ages celebrated the variety of music we can hear, learned a bit about what makes sound, and constructed a few handmade instruments themselves. They were also privileged to be the audience for two musicians in our midst! Miss Courtney Faulkner, high school daughter of teacher Tracey Faulkner, brought her flute to demonstrate for the younger children. She is performing her Senior Recital at Burlington High School at the end of the month. Then, the older classes had a lot of fun singing along with Robert Keane (current student Rose's Dad) as he played the guitar.

The upcoming weeks will be all about "Jobs People Do". Librarians, store keepers, carpenters, police officers, dentists & doctors – these workers are a part of the children's experience in the community. Peter Ricci will visit to bring lots of items to help describe his job as a Firefighter/EMT. Patti Shelmire & Kristen Manning are nurses in nearby hospitals and they are preparing a "hands-on" visit. The older classes will go to the Bedford Library for a tour and story-time with Sharon MacDonald. Everyone has fun playing in a pretend grocery store that has been set up in the Big Room. The invitation is open! If you have a job or talent you would like to share some morning, just contact us. It's not difficult – 3, 4 & 5 year olds just love to see & touch anything you bring.

*Beth Taylor*

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## Parish Directory Update

The new parish directory is now complete!

All of the remaining directories (i.e. those that were not picked up at the parish) have now been mailed. If you have not received a copy and would like one, please contact the parish office at 781 275-8262 or via e-mail at [info@stpaulsbedford.org](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org).

*Anne Gardner*

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**100 Pine Hill Road**  
**Bedford, MA 01730**

Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Telephone: 781 275-8262

Fax: 781 687-9070

E-mail: [info@stpaulsbedford.org](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org)

*Staff:*

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

The Reverend Daniel Collier

William Kemeza, Seminarian/Postulant for Holy Orders

Anne Gardner, Candidate for Holy Orders/Parish

Administrator

Joan Reddy, Music Director

Bob Godoy, Sexton

*Officers:*

Ron Presti, Senior Warden

Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden

Betsey Anderson, Treasurer

Michael Ryan, Assistant Treasurer

Dori Sutton, Clerk

*Vestry:*

Sharon Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Andy Saladino

Carol Hokana

Robert Thomas

Carrie Mathews

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