

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

April 2007

Dear Friends,

Spring is making every effort to emerge here in New England. It is making a lurching, to-and-fro appearance. Just when we start putting boots, scarves and heavy coats away for awhile, it snows or a cold wind blows through and reminds us that even though spring is inevitable its timing is not. No matter what the calendar says or what the vernal equinox means, if it doesn't feel like spring it's not fully here yet.

How we feel matters. Spring offers us the feeling of hope. The signs of new life in the world around us remind us that all things can be new again. "New again" doesn't mean the same as before though. As we look out at the renewed world each spring we may not notice the differences in the resurgent creation. It may look exactly the same as last spring but look closely and you will see that new life has brought something new in each plant, tree, shoreline, and the whole earthly terrain. Spring offers change and beauty together. Spring helps us feel the hope of new life in our selves as well.

In our world we are confronted with huge and small challenges that may make us lose sight of the newness of life that is offered in the hope of the Resurrection of our Lord. War, poverty, exclusion, the desire to dominate, the unwillingness to share power and authority, the imposition of one person's idea of righteousness on another, all of the things that separate us from each can blind us to the glorious hope of the Risen Christ.

Nevertheless, as Christians we are called to resist this darkness and see through it to the hope that God has for us and the faith that God has in us. We are called to participate in the dismantling of all those things that seem to destroy hope in the world. In our own ways we are called to end war, poverty. We are commanded to love one another as the living God loves us. In that love we are moved to act in the world to be instruments of hope.

During this Easter Season in which we celebrate what we believe and feel as Christians throughout the year, let's be mindful of the light of the world that began shining on us in a manger and continues to shine on us through the Resurrection. That light gives us hope. That light gives us courage and vision to see the work we must do to be Christ's hands in the world. That light gives us strength to go into the world carrying the hopes of God in Christ for the satisfaction and joy of all people.

Hope springs eternal for those who carry the light of Christ into the world.

Catechesis Corner



During the month of March, we have been preparing for Easter, with presentations on the Last Supper, the City of Jerusalem, and the joyous visitation to the tomb Easter morning. We also continue to present objects and activities relevant to the Eucharist, such as filling cruets and the Chalice (water activities continue to be popular!).

Because of Easter and other holidays, the schedule in April will be slightly different than typical. On April 1 (Palm Sunday), following the procession in church, all children will come out to the Hall and be treated to a puppet show on the Easter story by the older children. There will be NO CLASSES on Easter (April 8) or on April 15 (Patriot's Day weekend).

We will then return to our regular schedule starting April 22. This time of year we have a number of lessons involving 'light', including Baptism and a special 'Liturgy of the Light' on April 29.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

St. Paul's Elementary Sunday School Program



Spring has arrived, and with it Easter will soon be here. The first and second grade children have been very busy. Upon entering the Lenten season they generously painted beautiful boxes for the youth bottle and can drive. They heard the story of Moses and the burning bush and discussed how they too might listen for God. They heard the story of the prodigal son, and talked about how God loves us no matter what. In preparation for Holy week, the children will act out the Last supper and talk about how we celebrate the last supper each week in church.

The older elementary children, the third to fifth graders, have been rehearsing puppet skits about the last days of Jesus' life. They prepared skits of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, the Last supper, His arrest in the garden, Jesus' Trial, His crucifixion and resurrection. The children will perform the skits on Palm Sunday for the catechesis and younger elementary classes.

April brings a few unusual Sundays. Palm Sunday falls on April first this year. There will not be a children's sermon that Sunday. The children will gather in the parish hall with their classes, process into the church with their palms, then return to the parish hall. There will be no Sunday school on April 15, the first Sunday of school vacation.

Cathy Presti

Middle School Youth Update!

Well, Mother Nature did not cooperate with our planned snow tubing trip in early March - high temperatures and lots of rain meant a move to bowling! We took over 2 lanes at the Acton Bowladrome and had fun "little ball" bowling with the music blasting and strobe lights flashing. After 2 games, we headed over to the arcade and Jake Seymourian showed off his skills in winning hundreds of tickets which he later put toward a prize.

This month, we are involved with St. Paul's Tonight so be sure and watch for the singing and dancing skills of Emma Healey, Miranda Keane and Shea Kuhl. The group also gave input on how we should use the money raised during the bottle and can recycling effort - it will go toward buying a new tree to plant outside the church. There will be no class on Sunday, April 1 (Palm Sunday) so we'll next meet in class on Sunday, May 6. Happy Easter to all!

- *Carrie Mathews & Suzanne Johnson*

High School Youth

Thanks for coming to Movie Night! A good time was had by all.

It's time to start thinking about Youth Sunday! We'll have a planning meeting right after church on Sunday, April 15, to determine who's doing what this year. Youth Sunday will be **Mother's Day, May 13**. This service is always the crown of the youth group year -- a great chance for you to show the congregation what you can do, by offering this ministry of worship to them.

Happy spring!

-*John & Emily Mitchell*

St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School



Fifty-five children, ages 11 days old to 15 years, sat (and only for a few minutes!) in front of Carol Lebeaux and she produced with scissors a profile silhouette which most agreed captured their spirit and individuality. We thank you for supporting this very successful fundraiser for the Nursery School. It was truly a fun and very interesting experience having this artist with us for two days.

In other news, our curriculum returns to "Jobs People Do." Bedford Children's Librarian, Sharon McDonald, came to visit the younger children and then the older group made a trip to the library. Sharon always has songs, rhymes and this time it was stories about dogs. (Perhaps you noticed a few Clifford the Big Red Dogs and Emily Elizabeth on our boards last week.) Everyone is sure to remember seeing the "book hospital", brand new books in delivery boxes, and the wonderful book drop for after hours returns! We continue with other occupations into April, again thanking the parents who are willing to share a little of the work they do.

Stewardship Corner

Keep those bottles and cans coming! Our Bottle and Can Drive is well underway. We've had a tremendous show of support already, both from parishioners and from local businesses, which is gratifying for us all. The middle school youth has decided that proceeds from the drive will be split equally, with half going toward the purchase of a new tree for St. Paul's, and half going to Esperanza, a new school for low-income and at-risk girls in Lawrence, partly sponsored by the Episcopal Church. The drive will continue through the end of Lent. Don't forget to remove the pull tabs from your cans and donate them for our ongoing collection for Shriners' Hospital.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 6th**, for our first Time and Talent Fair, in the parish hall after church. All of St. Paul's many groups and ministries, from the men's group to choir to outreach and everything in between, are invited to set up a display to show off the work that they do -- and the whole parish is invited to visit the displays and learn more about St. Paul's many ministries. It will be a wonderful chance to celebrate all the ways we share our time and talents with one another and with the wider world. Please plan to stay after church on May 6th and enjoy the festivities!

FUNDRAISING

Vendors Wanted:

The Spring Bling is coming! On **May 5th**, St. Paul's will host a day of shopping and we need you. Do you know someone who sells jewelry, belts, handbags or other items that would make good Springtime presents? Then please tell them about our Spring Bling! We need vendors to rent space to sell their wares at our fundraising event. Please contact Sharon Healey for more information.

Spring Bling!

The Spring Bling is coming! Do you have birthdays, graduations, or Mothers Day to shop for? Then come do your One Stop Shopping at The Spring Bling! On Saturday, **May 5th** from 9 -2, the hall will be the place for you and your friends to shop for unique gifts for your loved ones, friends and yourself!

OUTREACH



May 6 – Linus Blanket Sunday

Sunday, May 6 St. Paul's will bless our blankets and present them to the Linus Project to distribute to needy children. Come see the results of a year of work by the St. Paul's Knitting Ministry.



BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY, GRADUATION GIFTS

Puzzled about what to give someone who really already has everything? Need a way to honor a new graduate, newlywed, teacher, friend, secretary or co-worker but don't want to give them another decorator candle, fragrant soap or meaningless gift certificate? Why not give the gift of self-reliance to a struggling family?

SEND A HEIFER CARD!

For any donation over \$10, you can get a Heifer card with an insert indicating your gift.

The Heifer Project works with communities around the world to end hunger and poverty by providing animals to needy families - giving them economic security and better nutrition. Since 1944, Heifer International has helped more than four million families in need, providing 29 types of animals and intensive training in animal management, environmentally-sound farming and community development in more than 125 countries.

Contact Caroline Larson.

ST. PAUL'S

TONIGHT! 2007



Lights up! Curtain up! It's almost time to start the show!

St. Paul's Tonight! 2007 takes the stage on **April 28 at 7:30pm** and **April 29 at 2:00pm** at the JGMS auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. Invite your friends! Invite your neighbors! It's not only great entertainment, but it's also a terrific fundraising opportunity for St. Paul's.

Thanks to the cast and crew for showing such heart and hustle, and especially to Chuck Frates, Joan Reddy, and Sharon Witbeck for pulling it all together.

Note your Calendar!

**ST. PAUL'S TONIGHT
REHEARSALS**

Sunday Rehearsals- Full Cast Rehearsal

Tuesday & Wednesday Rehearsals

Cast for rehearsal will be announced on
Sundays!

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

**Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Bedford MA 01730
Permit No. 11**

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

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

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Staff:

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Ron Presti, Senior Warden
Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Carol Hokana, Clerk

Vestry:

Sharon Keane Peter Ricci
Paul Kruger Sue Runkle
John MacPhee
Carrie Mathews

**Holy Week Worship Schedule
April 1st – April 8th**

Palm Sunday (April 1st)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Monday (April 2nd)

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday (April 3rd)

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday (April 4th)

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday (April 5th)

7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Foot washing and
Stripping of the altar

Good Friday (April 6th)

12:00 noon Way of the Cross

3:00 p.m. Children's Service

7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service

Saturday (April 7th)

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

Sunday (April 8th)

6:00 a.m. Bedford Ecumenical Service

Easter Sunday (April 8th)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

And the Glory

The silence breaks into morning.
That One Star lights the world.
The lily springs to life and
not even Solomon...

Let it begin with singing
and never end!
Oh, angels, quit lamenting!
Oh, pilgrims
upon your knees in tearful prayer,
rise up
and take your hearts
and run!

We who were no people
are named anew
God's people,
for he who was no more
is forevermore.

*Ann Weems
from Kneeling in Jerusalem*