

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

April 2008

Dear Friends,

The Easter celebration is the principal feast of the church year. It is the celebration from which all of our worship, prayers and Christian living stem. We celebrate Easter every Sunday at our Eucharistic Service. The event of the Resurrection is central to all we are and all we do.

It is such an important part of who we are as a Christian community that we celebrate it for fifty days. These fifty days leading to Pentecost Sunday is called the Paschal Tide; it is a time of joy. Each day we move deeper into the mystery of God's power over the darkest moment in human history. We do this year after year as we celebrate the unimaginable gift of life that God has given us through the Risen Christ. The Resurrection of Jesus is not simply the promise of eternal life. We have had that already. The Resurrection of Jesus is the promise of a new life. It is no wonder the Church established the Easter Vigil as the primary time for baptism! It is through this mighty act of life that God has called us into our own newness, our own resurrection. This is not about a later time only; it is about now. We are now living in our resurrection as baptized people. Through baptism we died with Christ and through baptism we rose with Christ. That is, we died to one way of living (bound only to earthly things) and rose to a new way of living (embracing heavenly things).

Resurrection prompts joy, celebration and hope. Being in the community of people of the Resurrection, we also are called to be different in the world. We are called to reorder those things on which we are dependent. In our joy we are called to give up centering our lives on earthly things. We are called to see and live into those things that truly give life. As Resurrection is central to the worship community, it should become central to our daily life. What are the things that are truly and essentially necessary to give life to each of us? The mandate of Maundy Thursday to love God and love neighbor is the guide for it. If we make that the central theme of our daily life we will surely be changed from glory to glory. How would our priorities change? How would our world view change? How would our commitments deepen? If loving God and loving neighbor were the standards by which we lived with our loved ones and in the world community, how marvelous a world we would be creating with God! The Resurrection of Jesus which has been given to us by God draws us into this new way of life.

During these fifty days of joy and celebration we are invited to remember the great celebration we had at St. Paul's. We are invited to be in touch with the great joy of that day. Remember the joy of community, music, ministry and care that we all shared with one another. And we are prompted by that celebration to bring it all into the world. This is the gift that we have to offer the world. Resurrection is ours now. Live it! Celebrate it! Know that God's love permeates all life at all times and that nothing can stop God's loving desire to raise us all up in joy. It is surely reason to continue the shout of Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Elementary Sunday School News



March was a very short Sunday school month with only 2 classes. During our first class the 1-3rd graders Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem making paper Palm leaves and a banner for the Palm Sunday procession. Jacob Seymourian and Eric Wicks led the 4-5th graders through a puppet re-enactment of the passion. On Palm Sunday, the elementary grades 1-5 gathered together with everyone participating in a reading of the passion.

Coming up....On Sunday April 13th we'll have a special treat. Frank will come back to the Sunday school rooms and teach us about the Eucharist. We will gather to prepare for our fourth and final session of Sunday school on Thursday April 3th at 7:30. All are welcome to come and share in Franks wonderfully led discussion of the upcoming liturgy, and help shape our curriculum for the new session.

There have been some changes to the Sunday school calendar. Here are some dates to mark in your calendar:

Mar. 30	We will hold Sunday school
Apr. 3	Session 4 planning meeting
Apr. 6	Family Sunday
Apr. 13	Instructed Eucharist

Cathy Presti

Catechesis Corner



In March we enjoyed sharing with the children some of the events in the Lenten and Easter season. Both classes worked with the figures of the Last Supper, and shared their own juice & matzo snacks. We used the big wooden puzzle/models of Jerusalem to visualize the places where events occurred. And we wondered at the story of the two Marys and the angel on Easter morning. We hope all of this made Easter Sunday, when we were glad to see so many children in church, more meaningful and enjoyable. Many thanks to all who led or assisted with these classes (I count 18 different people last session so won't list all the names, you know who you are!). We have also been pleased to welcome new children – Leo and Ani – in both classes this session.

In April we will move on to a new church season, and start the final Session of church school. There will be new lessons focusing on the Good Shepherd – Psalm 23 for the younger class, and for the older group a connection to the Eucharist. Later in the month we will focus on Baptism and the symbols of Light.

A special event will be an Instructed Eucharist with Frank on April 13th, with the older children in the hall, where he will walk them through the Communion liturgy and its meaning. I still recall the awe on some children's faces the last time he did this: "How does it happen?!" This will take the place of our usual class that day. We would appreciate a couple of volunteers – parents or teachers – to help supervise the Catechesis children.

April 13 will also be a special day for the adults and youth involved in Catechesis. We are planning a training session after church with Rev. Louise Forrest. Plans are still being finalized, but we may be able to visit the Atria at Church of Our Redeemer in Lexington where she is a Catechist, and some of us may observe a class there (hence the call for other volunteers that day). Anyone interested in learning more about the Catechesis program, which is offered at parishes around the world, is very welcome! Please let Amanda know (781-275-7857 or hubbard@psfc.mit.edu) so we can keep you informed about the exact place and time.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

Middle School Youth Group Update

Happy Spring!

On Sunday, March 2nd, we arrived at the church bright and early to head out to Worcester for a day of volunteering at the Special Olympics. We volunteered at one of the basketball tournament sites and helped out in many ways: packaged lunch for over 200 athletes, handed out lunches to teams as they had a break in tournament play, served as scorekeepers and timers during the games, helped at the medals ceremony, and acted as cheerleaders for teams as they went up and down the court. Seventeen members of St. Paul's participated: Suzanne, Jeff and Ben Johnson, Sima, Ariana, and Jacob Seymourian, Dan and Eric Wicks, Miranda Keane, Elle Thompson, Cassie Baker, Hailey Millar Helen Kissel, Briana Champion, Tim Ryan, Emma Healey and Carrie Mathews. Read on for their first-hand feedback below!

What I enjoyed the most was getting to meet such up-beat and friendly people. Thanks for bringing us. It was so fun! -Elle Thompson

One of my favorite parts of volunteering for the special Olympics was cheering on the athletes. Also, I enjoyed learning how to keep track of the score and use the scoreboard. -Miranda Keane

My favorite part of volunteering for the Special Olympics was cheering for the players and keeping score/time. -Hailey Millar

My favorite part of the Special Olympics was getting to interact with all the mentally disabled people. Everyone always seemed so excited, and watching their reactions while they were playing just would make you smile!! - Cassie Baker

My favorite time of the day was just being there. Having to see those amazing people do that stuff was really astonishing to me. After doing this event I told my mom that I want to help them as much as I can. Not for the support but to just be there and to be their friend. When they say special disabilities they're not kidding they are special people. - Ariana Seymourian

My favorite part was seeing all the kids and adults playing and having fun. I love that even if you have a disability, you don't have to miss out on anything someone like me could do. - Jacob Seymourian

My favorite part about the Special Olympics was cheering on the players and seeing how happy they were. - Helen Kissel

My favorite part was when we were scorekeepers for the game and watched the kids play and have fun. - Eric Wicks

My favorite part was seeing the expressions on the kids' faces when they were having fun playing basketball!! - Tim Ryan

Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Johnson

High School Youth Update



We are gearing up for Relay for Life, a two-day walkathon to benefit the American Cancer Society. The St. Paul's team, called Walkers in the Spirit, includes high school students, middle school students, parents, and friends. The Relay, to be held May 17 and 18 at the BHS track, raises money to fund cancer research. If you or anyone you know has been touched by cancer, please consider making a donation toward this important cause. See any of our student walkers -- Heather Marasa, Ariana Seymourian, Kim Runkle, or Briana Champion -- to make a donation or pledge.

The team is also sponsoring two fundraising events here at church. On Friday, April 18th, at 7:30pm, we'll host a Trivia Challenge Night. Twelve players will compete in three rounds of Trivial Pursuit, for a chance at the ultimate bragging rights: who's wicker smarter than everyone else? We'll have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the parish hall. \$10 to play, plus whatever freewill offering you may choose to give.

Looking for something nice to do for your mom on Mother's Day? Mark your calendars: On Sunday, May 11, at 2:00pm, Emily Mitchell will perform showtunes from past and present in a recital all about being female. "Girlhood, Womanhood, Wifehood, Motherhood" will feature songs from CAMELOT, GUYS AND DOLLS, AVENUE Q, and more. Suggestion donation is \$10 per person, and all proceeds will be given to Relay for Life.

In non-Relay news, please note that our annual Youth Sunday service has been moved to June 15, Father's Day. John and Emily will be in touch in late April to assign parts and plan the service.

Emily and John Mitchell

Sharon Healey brings many valuable skills to St. Paul's, and is certainly a valued member of the vestry. She earned a BA in Religious Studies from Holy Cross and a Master's in Pastoral Ministries from Boston College. Her goals at the time were to organize college ministries and retreats. Her diverse abilities have led to a career as an office manager for a computer services company, and currently, a preschool teacher in Lexington. At St. Paul's, she currently serves on the Fundraising Committee as chair and is also a counter.

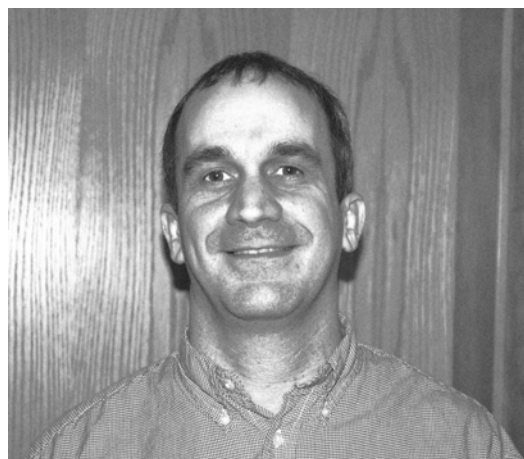
A key skill she remembers being taught while in college was the necessity to question and not just to accept the status quo. She was raised in a Roman Catholic family, but her ability to question is what finally brought her to St. Paul's. Sharon made the switch in spring 2002, while her children were attending preschool here. Since then, she has been actively involved with our parish and feels much more comfortable knowing that it provides a better example for her children.

She was born and grew up in Waltham and now lives in Billerica, where she started her family. Sharon is married to Jack, who has been a middle school math teacher for more than 20 years. She has two children. Emma, who is 12, enjoys ballet, karate and basketball. Emma is also a crucifer, as well as St. Paul's own violinist, as she sometimes grants us beautiful music for the service. Alex, who is 11, enjoys soccer, baseball, and basketball, and is an avid trombone player. In her spare time, Sharon likes to read thriller mysteries. One of her favorite authors is Dennis Lehane. She also enjoys scrapbooking all those family pictures, downhill skiing, or just enjoying the sun at the beach. She and her family have found a close connection with St. Paul's, and we are blessed to have her in our parish.



Andre Barber came to Bedford about six years ago by way of Michigan, Connecticut and Waltham. He grew up in Ontario, Canada. He has been attending St. Paul's for three years with his daughters: Felicia, who is nine, and Calista, who is six. Felicia's name means "happy" and she enjoys ballet, soccer and Girl Scouts, while Calista, which means "beautiful," enjoys gymnastics and is also a Girl Scout. Andre chose St. Paul's after being raised Roman Catholic because in his opinion, it is a theologically better example for his girls with respect to equal rights and allowing the clergy to marry. Andre and his children enjoy camping and skiing in The White Mountains, and biking and inline skating on the Minuteman Trail. He has recently started running and has just completed a half marathon.

Professionally, Andre has a BSc. Physics-Mathematics degree from the University of Ottawa. He was once a teacher and also worked in quality assurance. He moved to the United States in 1995 when he accepted a position with a computer consulting firm. Currently, he is employed as an application developer at the Massachusetts Medical Society in Waltham. At St. Paul's Andre has been active in the Men's Group and is an usher. His first time ever on stage was in "St. Paul's Tonight" last spring. He credits the patience of the director and the enthusiasm of the other performers as prime reasons why he was able to perform in this manner, as he was never inclined to do so before. Overall, Andre and his daughters enjoy participating in the events of St. Paul's and feel a close connection to the church and its members.



Meet the Vestry

The 2008 vestry (from right: Emily Mitchell, Frank Fornaro, Carol Hokana, Carrie Mathews, Betsey Anderson, John MacPhee, Andre Barber, Peter Ricci, Sharon Healey, Ron Presti, Sue Runkle; not pictured: Heather Marasa).



News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School



“SPRING IS HERE!” And we welcome it with activities about the changes we will experience in the outdoor world. Our “school bus” board in the big room has a flock of robins now and we will continue with art projects from nature....rainbows, pussywillows, worms and a variety of spring flowers. Using natural items will be one challenge as the children learn to make paper, and find ways to be creative with rocks, shells, branches, seeds, etc.

Our unit about Ways to Travel did include for the older children a very successful ride aboard the MBTA commuter rail from Concord to Waltham and back. It made an interesting experience (and new for many), on a very damp cool day.

At this point in the year, we note that the children who are heading to kindergarten typically are seeming very independent of the teachers (we are just “background”)! They have skills coming together that they will need next year and have formed some nice friendships. The younger group, at school only twice a week, are becoming more self-assured too but still are typically self-focused and teacher intervention is quite necessary to insure a smooth morning.

The invitation is always open to anyone to visit us!

OUTREACH NEWS



Girl Scouts®

Celebrating Girl Scout Sunday

Eleven Girl Scouts of St. Paul's participated in the service on GS Sunday along with 13 Girl Scout adults. Thank you to everyone who donated books to Children's Hospital. We delivered 6 cartons of gently used and new books to the town-wide collection.

Thank You!!!



On behalf of the parents and youth who attended the Special Olympics event held in Worcester on March 2nd, I would like to extend a special thank you to Suzanne and Jeff Johnson, and Carrie Mathews for organizing this trip. We were assigned to a basketball venue. From the moment I began to watch, I was struck by the generosity of these players. They consistently passed the ball to one another. None had a need to glorify themselves. When a player fell, there were five concerned friends nearby to lend a hand. If you haven't already been, I highly recommend that you attend one of these events. Our youth received far more than a day of community service, they witnessed a spirit of cooperation that is rarely seen at sporting events today.

Sima Seymourian

TAB TOP PROGRAM



Keep those tab tops coming!

Keep those tab tops coming! Tabs continue to be sent to the Shriner's Burn Hospital, which in turn are combined with other organizations tabs. The tabs contain metal which the Shriner's Hospital extracts and sells. All proceeds are used to help pay bills for the families that incur debts when they stay at various hotels to be near their children, who are in the Shriner's Hospital.

An estimated two thousand pounds of tabs have been turned in to the Shriner's Hospital so far by Edward Lawrence so keep them coming! Thank you.

LIBRARY CORNER



New to our Amazon Wish List: HERE IF YOU NEED ME by Kate Braestrup. This year's One Book, One Bedford selection is the true story of a woman who fulfills her late husband's desire to become an ordained minister, becoming the first chaplain for Maine's Game Warden service. Touching and funny, Braestrup's story of loss, hope, and grace offers inspiration without sentiment, with an accessible, thoughtful tone that resonates with anyone who has ever wondered where God is in the face of tragedy. Highly recommended.



Please join the women of St. Paul's
Church

on Sunday, April 6th at Noon

for fellowship and brunch

at the home of Sue Runkle
7 Cobblestone Way, Billerica

(From St. Paul's, turn left on Pine Hill Road. Turn right on North Road (Route 4) bearing left at the fork at Renzo's. Cross the Concord River and travel .6 miles. Turn right on Kenwood Street which becomes Rexhame Street at top of hill. Take next right onto Cobblestone Way. #7 is the 4th house on the right.)

New!

Parishioners Corner

Share your news with the
parish!

Each month we would like to publish any news that parishioners may want to share with the parish. It could be a graduation, engagement, wedding, new born baby, personal achievement, etc..

Please e-mail your entry to info@stpaulsbedford.org titled "Epistle Entry" on or before the 20th of the month. Your entry will be entered in the following month's Edition. Please keep your entry to 25 words or less. Thanks!

SCHUBERT MASS IN F

On Sunday, April 6th, the St. Paul's adult choir will perform Schubert's Mass in F with choirs from other Bedford churches. The performance, which runs less than an hour, will be at 3:30pm at First Parish, 75 Great Road.

COMMUNITY TABLE

May 15th - 2008

Don't forget to check out goodsearch.com. Our church is registered with this search engine and every time you search, a few pennies will be donated to the church. Just go to goodsearch.com, choose "St. Pauls Episcopal Church (Bedford, MA)" from a scroll down menu and remember to use this search engine when you are looking for a site on the Web.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Bedford, MA 01730**

**Non-profit
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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.

Telephone: 781 275-8262

Fax: 781 687-9070

E-mail: info@stpaulsbedford.org

Staff:

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

The Reverend Michael Hamilton, Deacon

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:

Andre Barber

Peter Ricci

Sharon Healey

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews



A Blessing for Paschal Tide

May you recognize in your life the presence, power, and light
of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,
that your soul in its brightness and belonging connects you
intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your own individuality and
difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique, that
you have a special destiny here,
that behind the façade of your life there is something
beautiful, good, and eternal happening.

May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride,
and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

John O'Donohue

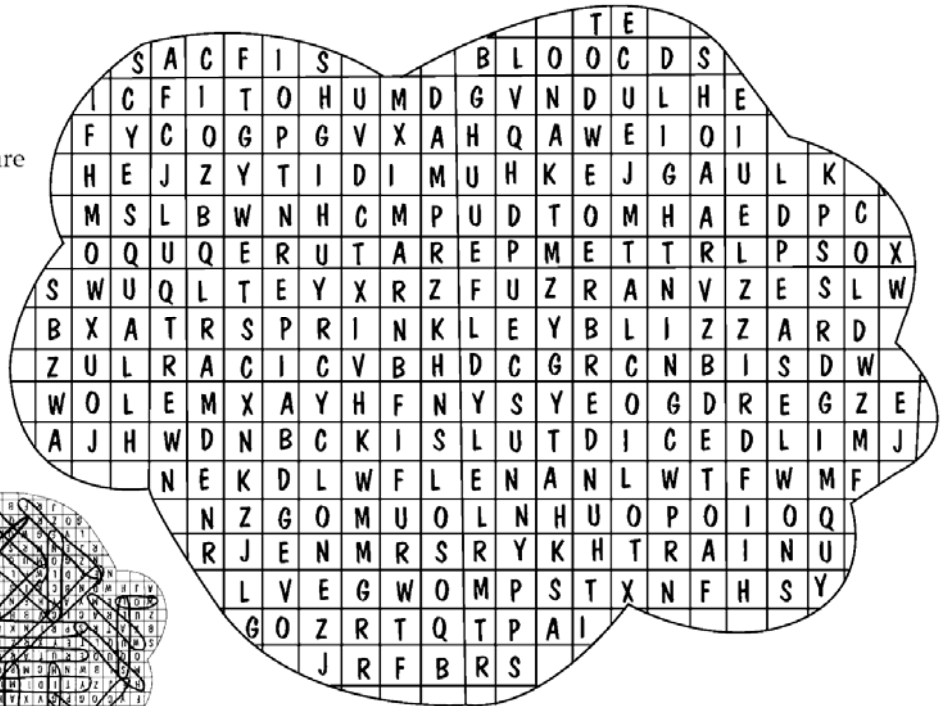
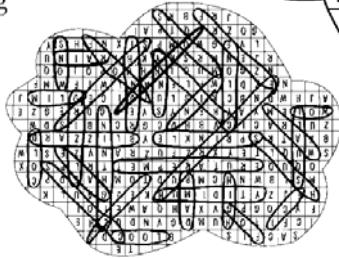
from *Anam Cara; A Book of Celtic Wisdom*

April 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Word Find

Here are some words that describe weather. See if you can find them in the cloud.

Blizzard	Mild
Chilly	Rain
Clouds	Sleet
Cold	Slush
Cool	Sunny
Cyclone	Temperature
Damp	Thunder
Drizzle	Tornado
Fog	Showers
Freeze	Snow
Front	Sprinkle
Gale	Squall
High	Storm
Humidity	Warm
Hurricane	Wind
Ice	
Lighting	
Low	



Color

Color by number.

1 = yellow	4 = blue
2 = red	5 = green
3 = purple	6 = grey

