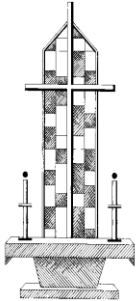


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

April, 2011



The Lenten Journey

Dear Friends,

During our journey through Lent, I have been struck by how many of us are finding a chance to listen for God in a new way, or are responding to God's invitation of love. The large number of groceries gathering by Tracy's office door, heading off to the Bedford food pantry, the Esperanza poster, with Esperanza-bound supplies nestled next to it, and the conversations unfolding during our Adult Education Class let me know that many of us are deepening our Christian practice this season. My most meaningful Lenten moment to date unfolded in my car on the way home from church a week ago. It wasn't what I experienced, but the story I was told, that has mattered most to me. Ben and I were talking together, and he was letting me know what Church School was like for him. "We learned a lot about how Jesus suffered for us," he said, "you know... that time in the wilderness, when Jesus didn't eat bread because there was something more important?" "Mmmmmmm," I offered, as I drove down Pine Hill and kept my eyes on the road. And then Ben told me of his first grade teacher (Sima Seymourian) who brought jelly beans to class, and put them in a dish on the table. She told the children the wilderness story in a way that let them understand it, and then she invited each of them to practice experiencing what Jesus did. She invited them to resist eating the jelly beans – "for the WHOLE time," said my son. The children drew pictures- Ben's was called "Even the weirdest things can come true with God's help" - and they talked about temptation, and what it means to resist it. I saw Ben flash a smile in the car mirror as he said... "and then, at the end of class, she let us EAT them!"

I found myself marveling at a teacher who could challenge first graders to experience just the right amount of temptation, and then reward them with delicious candy at the end. Somehow, Sima found just the right amount of temptation, and just the right amount of encouragement, to bring first graders an important revelation about Jesus and his church. I'm so grateful for her and her wisdom. I'm so thankful to all our teachers and musicians who miss part of "big church" to make our children's Christian education so meaningful.

Blessing to each teacher, and to all the rest of us, as we move forward into the Lenten journey,

VESTRY CORNER

Dear friends,

At our March meeting, the vestry voted to approve our 2011 goals, which we had developed over the past several weeks. Those goals are listed below, and posted on the vestry bulletin board in the parish hall as well. We hope you'll take the time to read and reflect on them. If you have any questions about our goals, please feel free to speak to any vestry member.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 12, at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

With blessings,

Emily and Paul

Vestry Goals 2011

I. CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- a. Expand lay leadership development—new volunteers, leaders, and mentors to prepare for future transitions
- b. Support and direct parish ministries and committees of the vestry through improved use of vestry liaisons
- c. Focus on Christian formation to sustain spiritual growth for members of all ages

II. FINANCIAL HEALTH AND STABILITY

- a. Foster awareness of our fiscal needs, both operational expenses and mission support
- b. Explore ideas for short- and long-term savings, such as improving energy efficiency

III. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PARISH

- a. Provide open communication to the parish via multiple media
- b. Continue to increase awareness of St. Paul's within the larger community

IV. LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

- a. Support and direct the Search Committee as needed
- b. Plan and manage a smooth and welcoming transition for the new rector

New Vestry Members



Katie West

Katie lives in Bedford with her husband, Paul, and her cat, Amelia. She is a 'native New Englander', growing up in Worcester. She did her undergraduate studies at Worcester State University and her graduate work at The State University of New York at Geneseo. Katie is a pediatric audiologist and is currently the Coordinator of Audiology Services at Children's Hospital Boston at Lexington. She works with infants and young children, diagnosing hearing loss, recommending hearing aids and guiding parents through the habilitation process. She also evaluates children with suspected central auditory processing disorders which has become an area of specialty for her.

Prior to her position in Lexington, Katie worked at The Fernald Center in Waltham, Children's Hospital Boston and Franciscan Children's Hospital in Brighton. She recently received her Doctor of Audiology degree from the Arizona School of Health Sciences of A.T. Still University-----congratulations!

Katie was raised a Roman Catholic but later became an Episcopalian. When she was a member of the Parish of the Messiah in Auburndale, Massachusetts, she served in a variety of capacities, including vestry.

Katie married Paul in 1981 and moved to Bedford in 2007. Katie and Paul joined St Paul's in 2008. In addition to her vestry duties, Katie serves on the altar and has recently joined the Outreach Committee. In her spare time she enjoys working in the garden, cooking, baking, and hiking.



Rene Seaton

Rene is a new member of our vestry. She lives in Bedford with her husband, Jim, and the feline member of the household, Kit.

Rene is a "cradle Episcopalian". She was born and grew up in the Panama Canal Zone, the daughter of British parents. Rene came to Boston as a young woman to pursue a degree in nursing from Boston University. After graduation she stayed in the area and worked as a pediatric nurse at Children's Hospital Boston. She settled on the South Shore and raised a family of 2 children.

In 1990 she and Jim were married and are now a blended household of 4 children and 6 grandchildren. The newest member of the family is one month old Owen, son of Rene's daughter, Catherine, and husband.

Jim and Rene moved to Oregon for 11 years where Rene became a geriatric case manager for a home health care agency. Her career thus spanned the ages from pediatric to geriatric. While in Oregon the Seatons were members of a large Episcopal church with a health ministry. Rene became parish nurse for this ministry.

The Seatons returned to the Northeast in 2005 and have lived in Bedford since 2007, becoming members of St Paul's 4 years ago.

Along with vestry membership Rene is in charge of the parish garden. She loves to spend time with family and friends, enjoys entertaining, walking and travel.

High School Youth

The high school youth is invited to a showing of CARBON NATION, a film in the tradition of AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH, about the effects of climate change and the many ways individuals can make a difference in their homes and communities by reducing their carbon footprint. The movie will be shown at 4:00pm on Sunday, April 3, in the church library, and a light dinner will be served.

After the movie presentation, we'll be assigning roles for Youth Sunday (May 8, Mother's Day)—so if you don't want to preach the sermon, please come watch CARBON NATION on April 3.

May dates to mark in your calendar:
Sunday, May 1: Movie Night at the Mitchells'. We'll be watching JESUS CAMP.

Sunday, May 8: Youth Sunday

—Emily and Arthur

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

In our March in-class discussion, we talked about preparing for Lent, and also shared our thoughts about some of the negative effects of celebrity and fame. Although some of us still think it would be pretty cool to be famous!

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered at the Special Olympics on March 13th - we had about 25 people from St. Paul's and had a wonderful time packing lunches, scoring games and rooting on the athletes. Attending from St. Paul's were the Schalicks, the Hafers, the Seymouriens, the Thompsons, the Pulizzis, the Waits, the Adamiks, Shanie and Allen, Felicia, Suzanne, and Karin.

Coming up this month:

- April 3: In-class discussion during the family service. And still more....join the high school youth and other members of the parish to watch the film "Carbon Nation" and learn more about what you can do to help slow the effects of climate change. Each one of us can make a difference. The movie will be shown at 4:00 PM on Sunday, April 3rd and dinner will be served.

- April 24: Happy Easter...and happy egg hunt! We will once again be organizing an Easter egg hunt for all children of the parish after the service concludes. Please watch your email for details about when we will stuff the eggs with candy (and maybe a few quarters) and then plan to arrive at church a bit early on Easter morning to help hide them.

~ Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker

Elementary Sunday School

A great thank you to all the children who worked so quickly after our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner removing the Alleluia decorations from the sanctuary to prepare for Lent. Through Lent we hear stories from the end of Jesus ministry. The children learn that Lent is a time to deepen their relationships with God. Many children have taken daffodil bulbs home to care and nurture through Lent and return on Palm Sunday to be placed in our Holy Week garden.

Throughout Lent, our 4-5th graders learn about the passion by acting it out with puppets. On Palm Sunday they will share these stories with all the younger elementary children. This year Palm Sunday falls on the first Sunday of April vacation. Typically we do not meet on the first Sunday of a school vacation week, but the Elementary children will have Sunday school on April 17.

With the beginning of April, comes the beginning of our last session of Sunday school. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out this session. It is such a joy to work with the children. The session 4 planning meeting scheduled for March 27th will be postponed, as it was set to meet at the same time as the Lenten adult forum.

Cathy Presti



CATECHESIS CORNER

Dear Catechesis families,

The children's beautiful felt Alleluia banners are tucked away as we are in the heart of our Lenten season. Ask them why? Catechesis II has prepared a Lenten Garden which is in the Narthex for all to admire and will be placed in the Garden of Repose come Maundy Thursday. Both Catechesis 1 and 2 have acted out the Last Supper and discussed what Jerusalem was like at the time of Jesus.

Our last session begins Sunday, April 3rd. Due to Easter and April vacation our classes are few. We will discuss Jesus and the Tomb and on **Palm Sunday the children will be treated to an amazing puppet show prepared and performed by the 4th and 5th graders.** The skits present the story beginning with Jesus' entrance to Jerusalem & ending with his resurrection; a very moving summation to all our lessons during this Lenten time. We urge all the children to attend.

April 3rd will be a Family Sunday, with all children starting in church. The younger group is welcomed back to its Atrium after the sermon.

We also have a Catechesis overview program offered in Beverly on Saturday, April 9th from 9AM – 1PM. It is a free offering for all of those who might like to know more about the program or those interested in participating. Please see or contact Ellen Ryan or Amanda Hubbard for more details.

The Catechesis program is **much in need of more people willing to learn and to lead** and we are looking into arranging more training opportunities. To make this worthwhile we need to know who may be interested, and would love to discuss this with anyone at St. Paul's.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, April 3 – Family Sunday
Saturday, April 9 – FREE Catechesis Overview
Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday – puppet show
Sunday, April 24 – Easter Sunday

Sincerely,

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard

Notes from the Nursery School



As we look forward to April the nursery school begins to bloom like the flowers. The huge snow banks are finally gone and we have made it back to the playground for the first time since early January. The swings seem like a novelty to us. We will enjoy taking the bikes outside, planting flowers, making kites and blowing bubbles in the upcoming weeks. The hint of spring has put huge smiles on all our faces.

This month we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of St Paul's Weekday Nursery School. It is an amazing achievement for a small half day preschool to reach this milestone. On the evening of April 26th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM we will have a Celebration/Art Show. Children's art work will be displayed and refreshments will be served. It is free and open to the public. We hope members of the parish would stop by for a visit. Without the support of the parish, St Paul's Nursery School would not have made it to such a huge milestone and we would like you to celebrate with us.

Enrollment for next year continues. We have openings in our two day program. Our three day program is almost full and our five day program is full. We have received a number of inquiries about school the past few weeks. Hopefully, these will lead to additional applicants. If you know of someone with a three or four year old child looking for a preschool, please send them our way. Thank you.

Lee Frank



ST. PAUL'S FINE ARTS AUCTION SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Save the date, Saturday, May 7th, for the first ever St. Paul's Fine Arts Auction.

Open to all of St. Paul's and to the general public, this exciting evening will feature paintings and artwork by our very own Mary-Amy Cross. Mary-Amy's family donated the paintings in her memory with the idea that we would use them to raise funds for the new parking lot and the beautiful new trees.

Also available for sale will be other items and services donated by the parish and local artisans. Bedford Selectman Mike Rosenberg will grace us with his wit and skill as our auctioneer, while we enjoy a perfect evening of wine, cheese, sweets, and fellowship.

Stay tuned for more details on how you can contribute to this amazing event!

Annual Women's Brunch

Please join the women of St. Paul's Church on Sunday, April 3, 2011 at Noon for fellowship and brunch at the home of Mary Curlew.

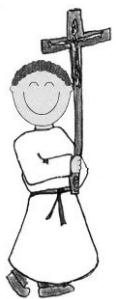
We will enjoy brunch and discuss future activities of the Women's Group. All women and girls of the parish are welcome at this annual event. Please sign up at the church. Cost \$3.

THE GARDEN OF REPOSE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



For the past several years, we have transformed the chapel in the back of the sanctuary into a Garden of Repose for Holy Week, with flowers and greens covering the space. This is where we host The Watch from Maundy Thursday into Good Friday, and the beauty and fragrance of the flowers helps remind us that, even in the darkest hours, the love of Christ still blooms within and among us.

We would like to continue this tradition, but we will need extra hands and extra dollars to make it happen this year. If you would like to help coordinate the creation of the garden, please let Emily, Paul, or Margaret know. Additionally, if you would like to make a special donation for flowers for the garden, please feel free to do so, marking "Garden of Repose" on the memo line of your check. Thank you!



Attention Altar servers (and their parents)

New and experienced servers, we thank you for your faithful service. Note that **orchbearers, gossellers and crucifers will be scheduled throughout the summer**. If you will be away, please let Caroline know. Remember, once scheduled, it will be your responsibility to find a replacement if you cannot serve.

Please remember to make a note on the schedule in the robe closet if you make a switch.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 17 – April 24th



April 17 – Palm Sunday

Holy Eucharist and Procession of Palms, 10:00am

April 21 – Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist and Foot Washing, 7:30pm

April 21–April 22: The Watch, 9:00pm–6:00am

April 22 – Good Friday

Stations of the Cross, 12:00pm.

Children's service, 3:00pm.

Holy Eucharist, 7:30pm

April 23 – Easter Vigil

Holy Eucharist, 7:30pm

April 24 – Easter Sunday

Festal Eucharist, 10:00am

EASTER DAWN SERVICE

As in years past, lay people from Bedford's churches will hold an Easter Dawn service at Fawn Lake on Easter morning at 6:30am



Parking Lot!

Please remember that the clergy space in the parking lot is reserved only during the week, not on Sunday mornings. Feel free to park there before the worship service, particularly if you need to be closer to the front door. Overflow parking is also available along Dana Road or Heritage Road.



Search Committee

Members of the Search Committee have visited the parishes of the five remaining rector candidates. We were able to witness the candidates celebrating and preaching at these visits. Our next steps include deciding who we will face to face interview and holding those interviews. Please continue to pray for us as we complete these steps on our search journey.

Parishioners Corner

Happy birthday to **Ellie Mitchell** on April 12! 

Happy birthday to **Quinn Ricci** on April 2nd! 



Happy Birthday to **Charles** on April 17th...with love from Carrie, Avery and Bell-Bell.



Emma Healey is a featured dancer in 42ND STREET, to be performed at Billerica Memorial High School on April 7, 8, and 9. Come show your support!



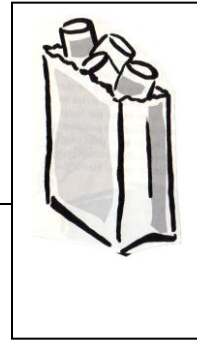
If you planning to do a any Amazon shopping in the near future, don't forget to visit the St. Paul's website first! Go to www.stpaulsbedford.org and click the Amazon link on the left sidebar. You'll be directed to Amazon's site, where you can shop as usual -- but every purchase you make will earn a little money for St. Paul's. Thanks for your support!



EASTER BONNETS

The women of St. Paul's are invited to wear their favorite Easter bonnets on Easter Sunday. We'll gather in the sanctuary after the service to take a picture. Put on your Sunday finest!

OUTREACH NEWS



Bedford Food Panty

This Lent, as you do your weekly grocery shopping, please remember the Bedford Food Panty. Pick up a suggested shopping list in the Narthex. Non-perishable items including canned goods, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, and shampoo are needed. Financial contributions are always welcome.

Project ♥ Linus



Project Linus needs people to deliver blankets to hospitals or other recipients. Please contact Kathie Interest in Winchester at if you can help.



Girl Scouts®

Scouts Collect School Supplies for Students in Lawrence

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection of school supplies for Esperanza Academy, School of Hope. We will be delivering several boxes of items on their wish list. Thank you to all who support our St. Paul's Girl Scouts and their efforts to Make the World a Better Place.

Keep those tab tops coming!



Thanks to all who continue to participate in the "Tab" program, which supports the Shriner's Burn Hospital.

Keep them coming!

Also, Ed Lawrence continues to collect cans and bottles for the deposits, which helps assist the National Guard Veterans with their expenses.

Bedford Community Table

With leadership from Armen Zildjian, St. Paul's will provide a meal at the Bedford Community Table in April. Please contact Armen if you are interested in helping prepare, serve or clean up.



United Thank Offering

The mission of the United Thank Offering (UTO) is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God, and to offer outward and visible signs of those prayers by dropping coins into a small box. These coins of thanksgiving are used to benefit others through grants distributed domestically and internationally.

UTO grants support projects that address poverty of women and children. The grants focus particularly on projects that help alleviate profound human suffering—part of the Church's Millennium Development Goals.

UTO began in 1889 at the General Convention (which meets every three years). The Women's Auxiliary collected the money at the General Convention and their focus was on expanding the mission of the church. Grants supported training women in the church, supporting and sending women missionaries domestically and overseas and funding the building of schools, hospitals and church buildings all over the United States. UTO has since grown from a triennial disbursement to an annual disbursement, from a women's only initiative to a men's, women's, and children's initiative. In 1952, Bishop Gordon of Alaska was awarded a UTO grant for an airplane so that he may reach the parishes within his vast diocese. He coined the phrase "Blue Box" for the little boxes in which the coins are placed. In tribute, he dubbed the airplane "Blue Box" as well.

All the money collected in the Blue Boxes is granted once per year. The funds collected from January 1 – December 31, 2011 are awarded for use during September 2012 and September 2013. The United Thank Offering Board makes the grant awards in the two years between General Convention. In a convention year, the Board, after research and review, recommends grants to the delegates of the Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women.

Last year, UTO approved 69 grants globally, either fully or partially for a total of over **\$2 million!** In the US a couple of the grants went towards rebuilding a handicapped-accessible playground and purchasing a walk-in refrigerator to support a parish's food pantry. In Maseno, Kenya, where our Jubilee initiative is centered, UTO provided a grant in 2009 to the local mission hospital for the maternity ward.

We have UTO boxes ("Blue Boxes") in the Narthex for you to bring home. St. Paul's annual United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering will be **October 2, 2011**. Please count your own offering from your UTO box, write a check for the equivalent amount made payable to St. Paul's, marked "UTO" in the memo space (this is important). Place the check in a UTO offering envelope (found on the table in the Narthex) and put it in the offertory. If you have questions about UTO, contact Carol Hokana.



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

**Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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 Ms. Margaret Schwarzer, Interim Priest
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Emily Mitchell, Co-Warden
Paul Ciaccia, Co-Warden
David Woodward, Treasurer
Katie West, Clerk

Vestry:

Betsey Anderson
Cassie Baker
Arthur Fergusson
Lisa Hafer
Sharon Healey
Carol Hokana
Rene Seaton

A Lenten Prayer

Loving God,
I hear your invitation: "Come, follow me."
And I am filled with such a longing to follow.
Show me the way.
Send me opportunities to do good works in your name.
Send your Spirit to guide me and strengthen my faith.
I ask all this for love's sake. Amen