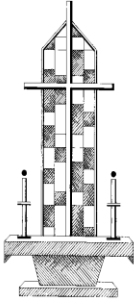


# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

*December 2010*



**“For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.” Psalm 62: 5**

Dear Friends,

Advent is the season before Christmas when we prepare for the birth of Christ; we are invited to wait in silence and prepare a place for the Christ child in our own hearts. That can be a challenge in the busy-ness of the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Many people spend that time rushing around buying presents, worrying about money, and cooking and cleaning frantically as family begins to arrive. We are invited into a different rhythm. We who are Christian are invited to make room in our hearts. There is meant to be an empty place in our hearts on December 25<sup>th</sup> so that the Christ child can begin to fill it when he arrives. Less is more in Advent.

The weeks of Advent are about preparing a place. I invite you to spend five minutes in silence each day, to have one hour a week when you take a silent walk – with or without a dog (!). Maybe it will be singing, or giving, or cooking that will give you some peace and some perspective on your own life. What do you lack? Where are you weary? Those places are the places Christ longs to be, gently bringing his new life to restore and renew.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Blessings to all as the season unfolds; may you find yourself in silence.

Peace in Christ,

Margaret

## Vestry Corner

Dear friends,

Fifty-five years ago this month, on December 18, 1955, the very first service of St. Paul's Mission Church was held at the American Legion Hall on Great Road in Bedford. Leading the service was Mr. Henry Bird, a young seminarian who would eventually be ordained and become St. Paul's first priest-in-charge. From those humble beginnings, our parish has grown and changed through the decades to become the welcoming, vibrant place we know and love today.

As we enter this season of Advent—a season of waiting and reflection—we are reminded of the bravery, faith, and patience our founding members showed in the early years of St. Paul's. Having spent many months in study and prayer, they embarked on a new adventure: bringing an Episcopal church to a growing suburb, not knowing whether it would succeed or fail. This Advent we too are spending time in study and prayer, trusting in the work of our search committee as they review and prepare to interview candidates for our next rector, the seventh person to lead our parish fulltime since its founding.

Amid the busy-ness of all the various missions, initiatives, celebrations, and ministries that St. Paul's engages in every December—from the Advent Fair to our caroling and progressive supper, from the pageant to our Christmas Eve services, from the Giving Tree to our Christmas offering—we encourage you to find a moment to give thanks for those men and women in 1955 who took a leap of faith and created St. Paul's. We are blessed to be part of their legacy.

With blessings,

Emily and Paul



## HYMNAL SURVEY

St. Paul's has been asked to participate in a nationwide survey about a proposed new Episcopal hymnal. By now those of you on our parish email list have received a message from Emily with the link to the survey. If you haven't filled yours out yet, we encourage you to take the time to do so. It takes around 20 minutes, and it must be done in one sitting. Choir members have the chance to answer a few additional questions after the full parish questionnaire.

Please visit [www.cpg.org/hymnalstudy](http://www.cpg.org/hymnalstudy) and use St. Paul's identification code, 8141-2710. If you are uncomfortable using online survey technology and would like someone to walk you through the process, please let Emily know.

## Search Committee News

The Search Committee has begun reading the resumes of the 30 + applicants for our open rector position. Our task is to narrow this field down to ten to twelve candidates. Please continue to pray for us as we complete this task. Thanks.



## Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who has returned their 2011 pledge card. If you haven't turned in your card please do so as soon as possible. If you need a card, please contact Paul Ciaccia.



## Catechesis Corner

Dear Catechesis families,

This will be a short note, since the main announcement about Catechesis for December is that, unfortunately, **there will be no regular classes this month.**

This is due to the pageant and rehearsals, which begin Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and in which we hope all children will want to participate in some way. (see the separate item for details). However, we will keep the Catechesis I atrium open and available on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> in case any younger children don't want to join in, or find the rehearsal too much.

We say 'unfortunately' since there are so many wonderful advent and nativity stories and prophecies we'd love to spend time on. But, we have presented a few in November, as well as used various globes and maps to help the children become familiar with the places where the blessed events took place. And, they will learn the most important story of all, the Nativity, in the best way – by telling it to the parish on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

We wish all families, catechists and assistants a wonder Christmas season. We'll resume our regular schedule, hopefully well rested, on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

## Notes from the Nursery School

November was a busy month for the preschool. We started with a unit on Fall. We had lots of activities with leaves, moss, milkweed pods and other seeds. We planted some bulbs both indoors and out which we will watch grow. Then we moved on to Thanksgiving, talking about harvest, Native Americans, and how families celebrate the holiday. We will enjoy our annual "Thanksgiving Tea" on the day before the holiday. We will all have a special snack together, sing some songs and listen to a Thanksgiving story.

We have been very lucky this month to have enjoyed all the construction. Many little pairs of eyes have been glued to the back parking lot watching the action. All the trucks and equipment have made for an exciting few weeks.

We are starting enrollment for next year. If you know of any little ones ready for preschool, please send them our way. Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holidays.

Lee Frank

## High School Youth

Thanks to all the high school and middle school youth who helped out with this year's Cookie Baking (er, Cookie Decorating and Packaging) Extravaganza! As is our custom, we will take a break from activities in December and regroup in the new year.

If you are interested in confirmation this year, please let Emily or Arthur know. Any baptized member in grade 9 or higher is eligible for confirmation. Confirmation classes will begin in January; our deanery confirmation is Saturday, April 30, at Christ Church, Cambridge.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

We hope you all had a very happy thanksgiving....and didn't eat too much turkey and apple pie! It's shaping up to be a busy December for us:

**December 4:** We are looking for helpers during the Advent Fair to run some of the children's activities, including face-painting and tattoos. Please contact Mrs. Baker if you can help out for a 1/2 hour block of time between 9:00 and 1:30.

**December 5:** We will be meeting for our in-class discussion during the children's service.

**December 12:** Middle schoolers are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Caroling event where we will hand out plates of cookies to members of St. Paul's Church that we visit during the evening. It's a fun social activity so please try and join us.

**December 19:** Many of us will be participating in the Christmas pageant!

Merry Christmas!

~ Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker

### **Save the date!**

MA Special Olympics tournament will be held in Worcester on Sunday, March 13, and St. Paul's will again volunteer at one of the basketball venues. More info will come after the first of the year.

### Christmas Service Schedule



December is always a busy time at St. Paul's! Please mark your calendars for these parish events (some are noted in further detail elsewhere in this Epistle).

**December 4:** Advent Fair

**December 12:** Caroling and Progressive Supper

**December 19:** Christmas Pageant

**December 24:** Christmas Eve services  
3:00pm Children's service  
9:30pm Carol sing  
10:00pm Holy Eucharist

**December 25:** Christmas Day service  
10:00am Holy Eucharist

**December 26:** Regular 10:00am Eucharist

### FROM THE PLEDGE RECORDER

As the end of the year approaches, we'd like to remind everyone that any pledge payments received after the last Sunday in December (December 26<sup>th</sup>, this year) will not be counted and recorded until the first Sunday in January. Therefore they will appear on your 2011 pledge record sheet, even if they are final payments for 2010. If you do make any 2010 payments after December 26<sup>th</sup>, please clearly note on your check that it is a payment on your 2010 pledge. This will allow the Sunday counters and the pledge recorder to record your contributions accurately.

Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Wolf, Pledge Recorder, or Betsey Anderson, Treasurer.



A heartfelt thank you to all who helped out and participated in the **Oktoberfest**. Not only did we have a "wunderbar" time, but the event made a little over \$1000 for St. Paul's. Hurray!

### Parishioners Corner



**Happy birthday to John W. Mitchell on December 29!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
Best wishes to David Wolf and Megan Kilduff Wolf who have moved to Reston, VA. Dave has a new job as a Percussion Director with the Fairfax County Public Schools, working with two high schools and three middle schools in McLean and Vienna, just outside of Washington, D.C. Meg is practicing veterinary medicine at a Banfield Pet Hospital in the nearby town of Sterling.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Thank you** to everyone at St. Paul's for your support and encouragement during my recent knee surgery. I so appreciate the delicious meals, cards, flowers, visits, phone calls and most of all your prayers. A special thanks to all who have been working so hard to prepare for the Advent Fair while I have been recuperating. St. Paul's is truly a special place.

*Betsey Anderson*



### SHOP AMAZON, HELP ST. PAUL'S!

If you're using Amazon.com for your Christmas shopping, please remember to visit [www.stpaulsbedford.org](http://www.stpaulsbedford.org) first, and click the Amazon link on the left-hand navigation bar. A portion of every purchase you make will go to St. Paul's, as part of the Amazon Associates program. Shop early, shop often!



### 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.

# OUTREACH NEWS

## THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, HELP OUR VA RESIDENTS AND A REFUGEE FAMILY IN BEDFORD



Help us “UNDECORATE” our Giving Tree and help make the holidays brighter for residents of the Bedford VA and a Bedford family who are refugees from Togo (W. Africa).

On the First Sunday of Advent, our Giving Tree will be decorated with ornaments listing specific requests. Please sign up to purchase a gift and take the ornament to attach to your gift.

Gift cards to CVS, Kohl’s, Market Basket or Stop and Shop are always welcome.

All gifts must be returned by Sunday, December 12.



## A REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Kathie Interesse, from Winchester, is our Project Linus contact. She has participated in our services to bless blankets and has delivered them to pediatric patients for us. Recently she sent us this note:

Dear Linus Knitters of St. Paul’s,

I’ll be most grateful if St. Paul’s would place me on their prayer list for healing. In July I crashed, head first, into a door and broke a bone in my neck, at the 2nd cervical vertebra. Hospital x-rays at that time did not discover it. Eight weeks later, after not much improvement, I had an MRI and there it was. I’ve been in a rigid neck brace 24/7 since then, in the hopes it will heal. If not, I will require surgery, which I desperately want to avoid.

The power of prayer is remarkable, and I ask my friends at St. Paul’s if they will include me in their prayers for healing. I so want to get back to taking care of my family, and our 1 yr. old granddaughter, and Project Linus. These past months have been a real challenge; two lessons I am learning is patience and letting others have control. I am working to remain open to other lessons our Lord has to teach me through this challenging time.

Many Thanks!  
Love, Kathie Interesse

## HOLIDAY GIFTS BENEFIT HEIFER PROJECT AND BOSTON HOMELESS



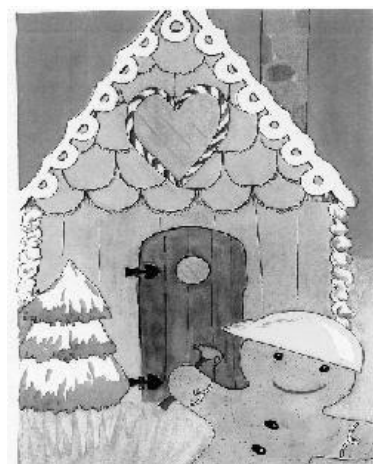
Stop by the Outreach table at the fair to pick up Heifer cards and items made by the homeless outreach project in Boston, Ecclesia Ministries/Common Cathedral.

## GINGERBREAD DREAM HOUSES HELP HABITAT BUILD DREAMS

Celebrate the holidays with a visit to the Gingerbread House Village Display supporting Greater Lowell Habitat for Humanity. Lunch and dinner served. Gingerbread house raffle.

All Saint's Episcopal Church, 10 Billerica Rd, Chelmsford  
Saturday, Dec 4 10am to 4pm  
Sunday, Dec 5 3pm to 8pm

Maybe St. Paul's will have a "Dream House" entry!  
Go to [www.allsaintschelmsford.org](http://www.allsaintschelmsford.org)



**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.

**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

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**Bedford MA 01730**  
**Permit No. 11**

*Staff:*

The Reverend Ms. Margaret Schwarzer, Interim Priest  
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator  
Joan Reddy, Music Director  
Bob Godoy, Sexton

*Officers:*

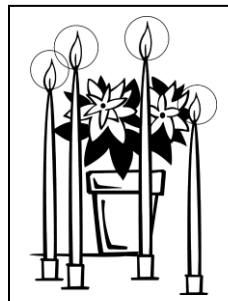
Emily Mitchell and Paul Ciaccia, Co-Wardens  
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer  
Dori Pulizzi, Clerk

*Vestry:*

Lisa Hafer,  
Sharon Healey  
Carol Hokana  
John MacPhee  
Natalie Wicks  
David Woodward

*Advent Prayer*

Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am ...  
Be still and know...  
Be still...  
Be...







**Kid's Corner**

Enjoy the Angel. Keep her, or bring her to me, and I will put her on my door. Love in Christ  
Reverend Margaret

Y - Yellow  
B - Blue

P - Pink  
W - White