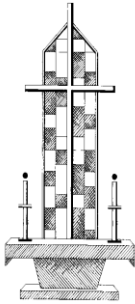


# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

*February, 2011*

## **The Other Christian Holiday**



Dear Friends,

Lent usually begins in February, but this year both Lent and Easter are as late as they can be. Ash Wednesday falls on March 9<sup>th</sup> and Easter doesn't arrive until April 24<sup>th</sup>. We have a wide open stretch of Epiphany during the whole month of February, and that allows us plenty of time to reflect upon the other Christian holiday: Valentine's Day.

Most people have forgotten that the day itself is officially Saint Valentine's Day, not just Valentine's Day, and its celebration is rooted in the Christian calendar of Saints. Our modern Valentine's Day is held on February 14<sup>th</sup>, but the day was first established by Pope Gelasius I in 500 A.D. The day now celebrates love and affection between intimate companions, but it wasn't always limited to romantic love alone. Valentine's Day first became associated with romantic love in the High Middle Ages (1001-1300) when the tradition of courtly love flourished. Until that time, the holiday celebrated love of a broader variety, and it most particularly held up the honor of sacrificial love, the kind of love that causes us to love others more than our own safety or security.

The day is named after one or more Christian martyrs named Valentine, all of whom were a huge inspiration in the early church, but neither oral tradition nor the written word has preserved their stories intact. Some believe that Valentine was a sincere Christian martyr who sent a love note to his intended just before he was martyred, signing the note "your Valentine." Others claim that St. Valentine secretly married Roman soldiers (who were meant to remain single to make them better fighters) to their sweethearts just before the Legion shipped out. But no romantic elements are present in the earliest medieval biographies of the three Saint Valentines of the early church. Instead, what is clear is that they lived faithful, compassionate, kind lives, spreading all sorts of love in all sorts of ways. The Early Church seems to have founded Valentine's Day to call our attention to the noble and essential virtue of love, and the way in which it fuels- and inspires- almost all elements of a whole and well-lived life. I think the church wanted us to remember that Love is worth the effort and worth the risks; it is one of the most soulful dimensions of our lives.

In a season where nor'easter after nor'easter dumps buckets of snow into our towns and driveways, we are also getting a day that is meant to warm the cockles of our hearts. May your Valentine's Day bring you an opportunity to reflect on the many loves of our lives – sweethearts, husbands and wives, children and family, friends and beloved animals, neighbors, schools, communities, and even the love we have for the country in which we live.

Happy Valentine's Day!  
Your Friend in Christ,  
Margaret

## Vestry Corner

At the Annual Meeting on January 30, the vestry said goodbye to three members, John MacPhee, Dori Pulizzi, and Natalie Wicks. We are grateful to each of them for their faithful service to the vestry, their willingness to speak their minds, and their dedication to the work of St. Paul's.

The 2011 vestry features both familiar faces in new roles and brand-new faces, as we welcome two newcomers to the executive board and three new members to the vestry. Katie West joins us as clerk, and David Woodward takes over the reins of treasurer from Betsey Anderson, who faithfully served us for six years. Betsey will fill the remaining two years of David's term, so we will continue to benefit from her wisdom and experience. Sharon Healey, whose three-year term expired this year, has agreed to fill the last year of Natalie's term; Sharon also continues her fine work as our search committee chair. We welcome Arthur Fergusson and Rene Seaton as new vestry members, and are particularly glad to have Cassie Baker joining us this year as our youth member. We look forward to continuing the good work of the church in the year to come.

The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, February 15, at 7:30pm in the parish library. All are welcome to attend. The vestry will hold its annual retreat on Saturday, March 5, from 9:00am to 3:00pm at St. Anne's Convent in Arlington. We will meet at the church in the morning to carpool and caravan to the convent.

With best regards,

Emily Mitchell and Paul Ciaccia  
Co-Wardens

## THE GARDEN OF REPOSE NEEDS YOUR HELP!



We are continuing our journey through Epiphany, and beginning to think forward to Lent. 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!

## ART AUCTION



Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 7! St. Paul's is planning an art auction, featuring eight paintings by Mary Amy Cross, which were donated by her family to St. Paul's.

We are also looking for other high-quality artwork—paintings, photographs, fabric work, pottery, sculpture, etc.—to include in the auction. If you have artwork to donate, please contact Lori Murphy by APRIL 1.

More information about the auction will be available in the coming months. If you are interested in helping with this event (publicity, decorations, art review, logistics, and more), please contact Louisa Saladino-Kuhl.



## CATECHESIS CORNER

We are back together again! January 9<sup>th</sup> we met and what better way to follow up to our Pageant than to combine classes and hear the Nativity story and discuss Epiphany. We finished up session 2 with the Presentation in the Temple and the parable of The Leaven.

As Lent and Easter approach, our classes will hear an extension of the Good Shepherd introducing the wolf and the hired hand. The children will create colorful and festive Alleluia banners to adorn our church as well as a Lenten garden. As the season changes so do the linens and Margaret's chasuble. We will discuss the significance of purple and "waiting".

### Reminders:

+**February 6<sup>th</sup> is Family Sunday.** On Family Service Sunday, children start in church. Those who wish may come back to the Atrium following the Children's sermon.

+Catechesis planning meeting February 6<sup>th</sup>.

+**No classes on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> (start of February vacation)**

+March 13<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Lent

+April 24<sup>th</sup> is Easter Sunday

+It is **ALWAYS** a pleasure to spend time with your children!

Sincerely,

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard

## High School Youth

A million thanks to Cassie Baker, Emma Healey, Miranda Keane, Helen Kissel, Shea Kuhl, and Tim Ryan, who volunteered with the children at Emmaus, Inc., in Haverhill on January 21. We drew pictures, made valentines, played highly competitive games of Uno, and made approximately seventy thousand cootie catchers (most courtesy of Tim). Emmaus provides housing and services to homeless adults and families, and we were blessed to be able to offer our gifts to the residents.

The high school youth will host coffee hour on Sunday, February 13. Please watch your email for more details – we may want to have a baking night that weekend (or just invite ourselves over to Shea's or Miranda's house and watch them cook). Please plan to be at church by 9:30 on the 13<sup>th</sup> for setup.

—Emily & Arthur

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who attended the discussion last month - we had a great turnout of 12 kids! Since we are at the halfway point of the school year, we discussed pieces of advice to pass onto the fifth graders who will attend middle school next fall. Here are some key dates to keep in mind this month:

### > February 6th:

- Our monthly in-class discussion

- We will be collecting money at the end of the service for the Emmaus Shelter in Haverhill on Souper Bowl Sunday. This is the same shelter where the High School Youth Group is volunteering. Please contact Karin Baker if you can make a poster to hang at the church to let everyone know.

> **February 9th:** Please join us at 3:00 at the church to decorate cupcakes for the Bedford Community Table. Providing dessert is an annual tradition of the youth group, and we look forward to getting into the Valentine's Day spirit with some fun cupcake decorations.

> **Late February:** Let's take advantage of all this snow (and ice) with a trip to the Nashoba Valley Snow Tubing park. Please watch your emails for the exact date and time - it promises to be a fun time!

> **March 13th:** We will again be supporting the Special Olympics athletes at Assumption College. Look for an email from Suzanne Johnson shortly for registration information. This is a truly wonderful event and we hope that all of you can make it.

~ Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker

## Elementary Sunday School

**Alleluia** Jesus is here. Throughout Epiphany the children will be saying, painting, drawing, coloring, singing and signing “Alleluia” to show how very thankful we are that God send Jesus to be just like us; to live with us and teach us to live in God’s ways and spread God’s love everywhere we go and in everything we do. In Epiphany we learn about Jesus and his life. We hear that even as a baby Jesus was so special that very learned men traveled great distances to see him. We learn about where Jesus lived, and what a day might have been like when he was a boy. We learn about his baptism and our baptism. We hear stories about Jesus growing up, choosing his friends and beginning to teach Gods love to all of us.

Our next session of Sunday school, session 3, begins on January 30<sup>th</sup>. I’d like to welcome anyone interested in helping in our Sunday school program to contact me.

Many people make St. Paul’s Sunday School program possible. I’d like to thank Paul West for leading an invaluable discussion of the lectionary that helps shape our curriculum each session. I thank Margaret for so very generously sharing written versions of all her sermons with all the teachers who would otherwise miss her sermons while teaching the children. I’d like to thank John Mitchell, his dad, Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard for making our gathering music such a wonderful joyous treat each Sunday morning. And a great thank you to all the teachers who teach each Sunday: Lorraine Campbell, Judy Wright, Christine Thompson, Sima Seymourian, Sue MacPhee, Carol Wait, Felicia Barber, Dori Pulizzi, Shanie George, Justin Hafer, Ben Johnson, Carly Martin, Hunter Hayes, Sonia Presti, Clayton Hafer, Susan Adamik, Andrea Hayes, and Chris Adamik.

Cathy Presti

### Our Prayer for Epiphany

*Dear Jesus, you are our friend and we are so glad you were born just like us. Every day we say "Alleluia" because we are happy to know you. Thank you for teaching us how to be friendly and kind to everyone. Please, keep helping me every day in my life. Amen.*

## Notes from the Nursery School

The snowbanks are high and getting higher. The nursery school children are enjoying adventurous play on the snowbanks in the back parking lot. They have been climbing all over the snowbanks, creating slippery slides and digging little caves for chipmunks and squirrels to visit. St Paul’s certainly has long icicles, we have brought a few inside to watch what happens to an icicle inside of school. It has led to some interesting observations by the children.

Our month will soon change from the cold, white winter to a pink and red Valentine’s Day. We will celebrate with a week of “friends and friendship”, culminating with Valentine Day parties. February will end with the theme “transportation”. We have several children obsessed with trains and we hope to add to their interest with a field trip to ride on the train from Concord.

Enrollment is ongoing. We have openings in our two day and our three day program. If you know of any nursery school age children, please send them our way.

Lee Frank

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



The St. Paul's Men's group is happy to announce that they will be sponsoring the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. As in past years, this event will be free to all members of St Paul's. Come join us as we prepare pancakes, sausages, bacon and dessert.

This year Sharon McDonald, our town's Children's Librarian, will be joining us to read and tell stories to our children.

The festivities begin at 6:00 PM. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up so we know how many people are planning to attend.

## Brooks School invites you to attend An Evening with Reverend Canon Sally Grover Bingham



Rev. Canon Sally Grover Bingham will discuss the connection between religion and protecting the environment with the general public on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011.

Bingham is an Episcopal priest and Canon for the Environment in the Diocese of California. In 1993, she formed the Regeneration Project, an environmental ministry whose faith-based movement for climate policy now boasts 10,000 increasingly-green congregations. The ministry's Interfaith Power & Light campaign, which advocates for sensible energy and global warming policy, has received an U.S. EPA Climate Protection Award, the Purpose Prize and the Energy Globe Award.

Bingham is active on numerous committees and boards, including President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Forum on Children and Nature. She's advised numerous political and religious leaders around the world, including Prince Phillip and the Archbishop of Sweden. Recently, she received a sought-after invitation to the World Economic Forum that will take place in Switzerland later this month.

To register for this free event, please click [here](#). For more information on Bingham's work, please click [here](#). For directions to campus, click [here](#). Questions? Contact Sustainability Director [Brian Palm](#) at 978-725-6251.

FEBRUARY 16, 2011



## 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.

## PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please take extra care in the parking lot these days. Our huge snowfalls have created huge snow mountains, which are hard for both drivers and pedestrians to see around. Stay warm and stay safe!

## 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.

## Women's Group

Women's Group will have a day retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp in NH on February 12, 2011. We will gather at the church at 8:15 for those who would like to carpool to the camp. Any woman interested in attending should sign up on the bulletin board or contact Mary Curlew.



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](http://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!

# OUTREACH NEWS

## Help St. Paul's serve up dinner

Celebrate your love for others by helping provide dinner, February 10 for our local food pantry, Bedford Community Table. Adults are needed to help prepare the meal in the afternoon and to help serve in the evening. Middle School Youth will be baking their fabulous dessert. For more information, contact Dori Pulizzi.



## Girl Scout Sunday is on March 6



All Girl Scouts, past and present, who would like to participate in Girl Scout Sunday, let's get together on February 6 after church to plan for our service and service project. For more info contact Caroline Larson.



## Giving Tree Thank You

Dear Congregation at St. Paul's,

Our family would like to thank you for the many gifts that were delivered to us. We were happy and surprised! You made our Christmas very special. Your kindness and generosity will always be with us. Each present was something we can use. We feel God's presence in your kindness toward us. We indeed feel welcomed to our new community and truly blessed. We thank each and every person who extended their blessings upon us. We wish you happiness in the new year. May God bless you.

Akpe (Thank you in Mina)  
From the Kponou family  
Jean-Marie, Ajdo, Ayoko, Joseph and Marc

Dear St. Paul's,

On behalf of the Veterans at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of assorted clothing, calendars and recreational items on December 20, 2010. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country. Without your support, we could not provide for the smaller niceties that make hospitalization more comfortable. Your thoughtfulness also reflects the concern and compassion that our community feels for our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Joseph P Dooley  
Chief Voluntary Service

Dear Children of St. Paul's,

Love comes in many shapes and sizes. The word search below focuses on the great unyielding love of God, and the way we are called to love God back.

Have fun.

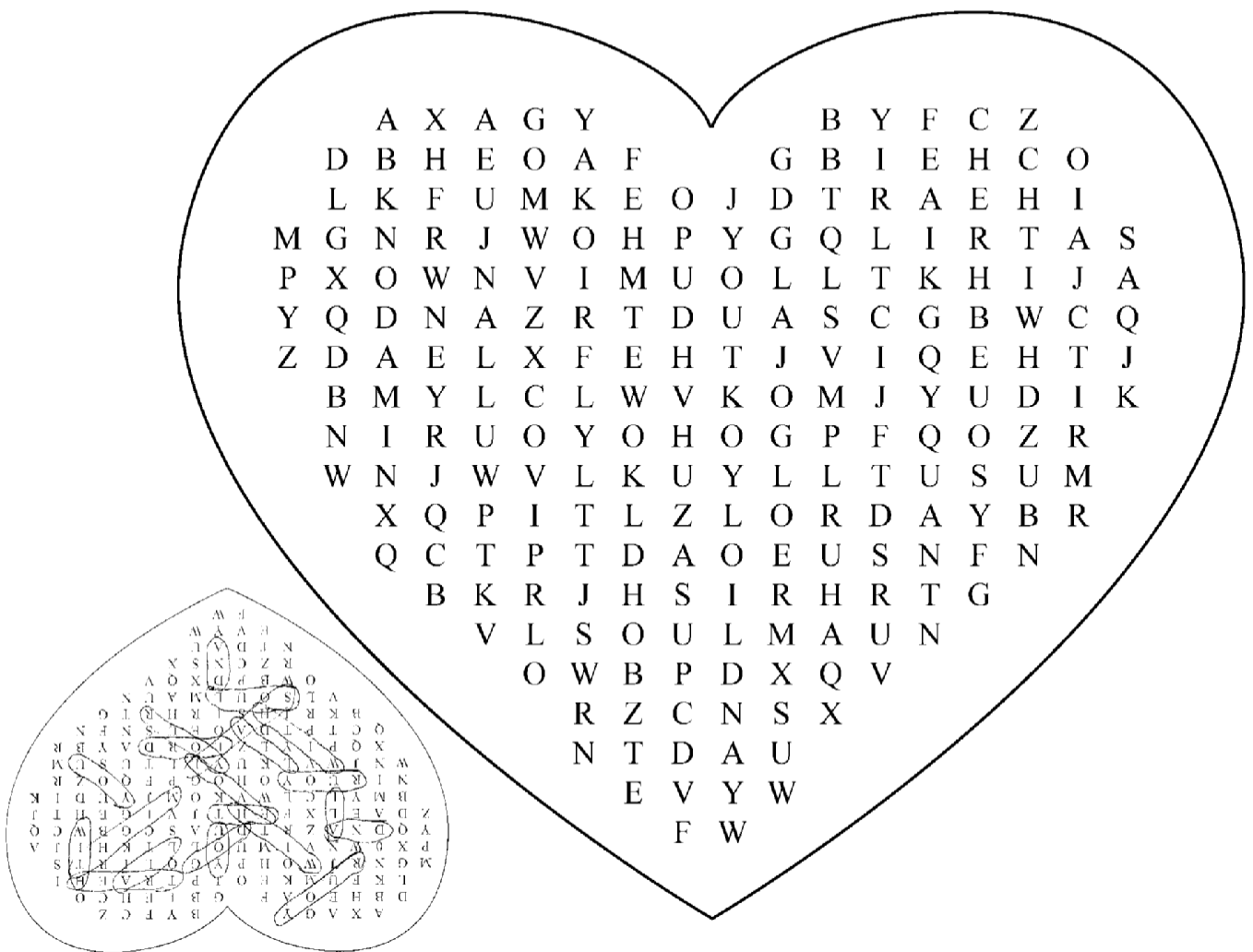
Your friend in Christ,

Margaret

## Word Find

Find the words from Deuteronomy 6:5 in the heart shape.

YOU  
SHALL  
LOVE  
THE  
LORD  
YOUR  
GOD  
WITH  
ALL  
YOUR  
HEART  
AND  
WITH  
ALL  
YOUR  
SOUL  
AND  
WITH  
ALL  
YOUR  
MIGHT



**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

**Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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, 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

***Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi***

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love...