
ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

January 2006

Dear Friends,

We begin the second half of our first century! What a time we had! Not just the 50th Celebration, although it was a TIME! Not just Christmas Celebrations, although it too was a TIME. But what a TIME we had in our first 50 years. Most of us were present only as hearers of the story. We heard the stories and we witness the many people who have brought the story forward. This story of hope and vision!

Because of the season, I suppose; because of the experience of listening that we all had over these past weeks, I am mindful of the power of telling and listening which is at the heart of the Christmas story. It is at the heart of all we do as people of God in the world.

We listened to former clergy tell the stories of their time at St. Paul's. We are blessed to continue to hear, first hand, the stories of the original founders of our church. As in the Christmas story, they all tell of hope; they tell of vision and confidence; they tell of joy and prophecy. These stories are like the birth of Jesus and, in a very special way, the story of St. Paul's has parallels to this miraculous tale. It is the story of the birth of a part of the Body of Christ in Bedford. In that there are similarities. St. Paul's is a gift to the town, the church and the world. It is a gift that brings comfort and joy to all who come here. It is a gift that reaches beyond our borders, as the Magi did, to honor God by serving God's people in the world. It is a gift formed by the prayer and hope of the people looking for a place to worship and to build a faith community. The gifts of vision, the gifts of hope and the gifts of the births of a new place were inspired, encouraged and enlivened by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Truly, as you know, St. Paul's is a sign of God's love for us. But in that gift we are called, as Jesus was, to go into the world and tell the story of the Good News. As the Body of Christ here we are called to continue to share the Good News in all we do and say. As the Body of Christ we are called to bring peace and joy to the world as best we can.

We have been brought into this new TIME, continuing the journey of those who came before us. As the bishop said on Sunday, some people present will be here at the end of our first century to celebrate the next fifty years. Let us pray and strive always to continue to deepen the story within us, to continue to reach out to the world in love, to continue the life of hope and vision given to us first at the manger in Bethlehem. Let us pray that those who celebrate in 2055 will continue to hear God's voice of love, God's hope and joy in this place. Let us go into this second half of our first century with joy, vision and pride in all that we have accomplished in fifty years. Let us go forth in the name of Christ to do the work God has given us to do. We do this in the constant knowledge that God continues to create us, Jesus continues to save us and the Holy Spirit continues to give us strength and guidance for the journey.

A New Year is upon us. Blessings to you and all those you love in your journeys this year. May God's overpowering, boundless and relentless love embrace you, give you joy and encourage your dreams of joy.

Frank +

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

I am so grateful to you all for your gifts, cards and kindnesses during this joyous season of Christmas. Your support of my ministry among you is overwhelming. The gift of the community of St. Paul's Church enriches my life every day of the year.

Faithfully,

Catechesis Corner

December was very busy with the pageant and St. Paul's 50th anniversary. We were proud to see so many Catechesis children participating as lambs, shepherds and angels. They (and we) very much appreciated the time Bishop Harris spent with them while dedicating the Atria, explaining her lovely vestments and staff.

We should be getting back to a more regular schedule starting January 8th. Session III starts on January 29th – we're still working on the schedule for that, so do let us know if anyone else would like to help. This seems a good time to thank all of the people who have contributed for the first half of the year. Lead teachers include Sharon Keane and Amanda Hubbard (Catechesis I) along with Christine Thompson, Louisa Saladino and Ellen Ryan (Catechesis II). Assistants in both rooms include Jan Blake, Lisa Hafer, Andrea Hayes, Helen Kissel, Suzanne Laffely, Lori Murphy, Barbara Perry, Ron Presti, Deborah Regan, Andy Saladino, Elle Thompson, Tommy Waghorne and Valerie Wolfe. Quite a team; sorry if we forgot anyone!

A special thank you to **Paul Kruger**, who has very kindly taken on the big job of assembling the twenty little chairs we ordered for our new rooms – to our dismay they arrived in fourteen pieces each, without instructions! (Please let him or us know if you'd be willing to help out.)

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

St. Paul's Christian Education

Elementary School

What a wonderful Christmas season we have had! The Pageant was wonderful, the 50th Celebration a fantastic event, and the Christmas services a blessing. It was beautiful to see the students interacting with the Bishop when she blessed our classrooms.

Session II will continue into January and finish on Jan. 22nd. We will have a **Parent/Teacher workshop on January 10th at 7:30 p.m.** to prepare for Session III, Lent and Easter. Please note the **date change** and let us know if you can come.

We are looking for lead teachers for the 3rd and 4th sessions beginning in January, so if teaching is something you are interested in, please let us know. Teachers are needed for the 3rd grade as well as helpers for each week. Please be in touch with Karin if you'd like to assist.

Please call us if you have any questions.

Karin Baker
Cathy Presti

Karin Baker

High School Youth

We hope you had a wonderful time at the 50th celebration and over Christmas. It was great to see so many of you in church.

We are planning our quasi-annual “Other Church Visit”, and we're looking for ideas. The tentative date is Sunday, February 12th. The location is yet to be determined: options include another church in Bedford, Trinity Church in Concord, Redeemer in Lexington, or even the Cathedral downtown. Other suggestions? Preferences? Let us know!

John & Emily Mitchell

Women's Group

The Women's Group is sponsoring an evening describing Mission in Honduras

Wednesday, January 11th (in the library at St. Paul's)

7:00 p.m. – Coffee and refreshments

7:30 p.m. – Program begins

Matt Kruger and Dr. Eric Anderson will present a program on their mission trips to Honduras. Matt has been to Honduras twice with a group from our Diocese. Their focus has been on various construction and work projects. Eric has made three trips to Honduras with a group from The Church of the Redeemer of Baltimore. Their program has two parts. The medical professionals run clinics for children and adults while the youth work on building projects and as interpreters in the clinics. Plan to join us to hear about their experiences. All parishioners are welcome to join us

Breakfast at the Riverview Restaurant

Saturday, January 28th

8:30 a.m.

Note the change of date to allow some to attend Dan Collier's ordination on January 7th. Join us for fellowship and food – this is a great way to break up the long winter.

Save the Date

On Wednesday, February 13th

7:00 p.m.

Louisa Saladino Kuhl will lead the group in a discussion of the book, The Giver written by Lois Lowry. Copies of the book will be available to purchase in January. It is also available at Amazon or at the Bedford Public Library. Join us for a thought provoking discussion.

Betsy Anderson

50th Anniversary Update

What a weekend! What a year! What a privilege to be part of St. Paul's golden anniversary celebration! 2005 was an amazing year, full of blessings and fellowship, activity and reflection, good times and good friends.

Do you remember...?

WE ATE. The Beanpot Dinner in January, the cookout at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in August, the fabulous gala brunch in December - the Lord gave us great bounty and we packed it away.

WE SANG. -- And played instruments, at two wonderful concerts last winter, by our own Joan Reddy and her son Conall Ryan in February, and the Holden Camerata chamber choir in March. What a treat those performances were on a wintry afternoon!

WE DANCED. Everyone who still has his or her tap shoes from the Revue, please raise your right hand. Everyone who had to return a borrowed pair of taps but still finds him (or her) -self humming songs and doing a little soft-shoe now and then, please raise your right foot and stomp.

WE BID. Our auction raised tons of money for the Capital Campaign and our ongoing mission work. Who can forget the frenzied bidding for a home-cooked meal with Frank and Chuck?

WE LOOKED. The historical display, now a permanent feature of our main hallway, commemorates past and present people and events at St. Paul's. Look for the 50th Anniversary display, to be unveiled at the Annual Meeting later this month!

WE PRAYED. Our festival Eucharist with Bishop Gayle Harris epitomized the ministry St. Paul's offers to its members and to the whole community, inviting and accepting new people into our family and welcoming back those who no longer join us every week. Whoever said Episcopalians can't loosen up and clap in church should've been at St. Paul's on December 18th.

In all these ways, we, the people of St. Paul's, offered our praise and thanksgiving to God, for bringing us into a faith community that nurtures, supports, and cares for us -- a community to which we are proud to belong. We are grateful to all those who came before us and laid the groundwork for the church we are today.

Creating a list of people to thank would be impossible; you'd be better off simply reading the church directory, since everyone played a part in our successful celebration year. We must, however, single out four people for special praise: Scot Arthur, our chief videographer; Kate Chambers, graphics guru and designer of our memory book; Wendy Ciaccia, tireless planner and logistics maven for our weekend celebrations; and Ellen Ryan, decorator extraordinaire all year long.

We hope you enjoyed all of the special events of 2005, and that you look to the future with optimism and hope. We are blessed to have this church and each other.

Here's to another 50 years!

The 50th Anniversary Committee

Paul Ciaccia, Frank Fornaro, Linda Kuramoto, Alan Maier, Carrie Mathews, Emily Mitchell, Peter Ricci, and Bill Walker

p.s.

Among the many wonderful facets of the 50th Anniversary celebration was our choir's dazzling musical rendition of *Joy, Joy, Joy*. For all those who wanted a copy of Emily's slightly "adjusted" lyrics.....

Christmas Hymn
(As revised for St. Paul's 50th Anniversary)

Long time ago, in 'fifty-five,
Folks formed a church they hoped would thrive.
The Legion Hall (Legion Hall)
Held us all! (Held us all!)
Humble beginnings for St. Paul's.
(Humble beginnings for St. Paul's.)

Once we did flit from place to place;
But now we've got, by God's own grace,
A building sound— (building sound)
Look around! (Look around!)
Thanks to the folks in 'fifty-eight.
(Thanks to the folks in 'fifty-eight.)

Fam'lies and friends together came,
Worshipping here in Jesus' name.
First Henry Bird (Henry Bird)
Spoke the Word (spoke the Word).
Then came a host of priests to thank:
Jim, Elsa, Pattie, Ann, and Frank.

Pageants and plays and Bedford Day,
Briarwood trips and Youth Sunday,
The Advent Fair (Advent Fair),
Common prayer (common prayer),
Fellowship for us all to share!
(Fellowship for us all to share!)

Old friends and new, now gathered here:
Sing "Happy Birthday" loud and clear
To our St. Paul's (our St. Paul's),
Dear St. Paul's! (Dear St. Paul's!)
Here's to another fifty years!
(Here's to another fifty years!)

Capital Campaign 2005 - Building Our Community in Faith

THE ORDINARY BECOMES EXTRAORDINARY . . .

We were blessed by the presence of The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris, our suffragan bishop, for our 50th anniversary celebration on Sunday, December 18th. Her message to us focused on one simple, yet profound truth: with God, the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

What a living witness St. Paul's is to that statement! Through your time, your talents, your ministry, and your financial gifts, you have helped turn ordinary materials of wood, brick, steel, and stone into a holy place for fellowship, education, and worship.

We are nearing the end of this Capital Campaign, begun nearly three years ago with hope — and a bit of trepidation. Could we raise this much money? Could a small church in a small town make that kind of commitment to the future? The people of St. Paul's have come through handily, raising nearly 80% of our goal in pledges and gifts. Our partnership with Trinity Church in Haverhill brought us an additional loan, and what remains of our \$825,000 goal is relatively small — just over \$16,000.

What does \$16,000 represent in ordinary things? There are many possibilities: new cabinets and shelves for the classrooms, new appliances for the kitchen, or a new roof. One or more donors might consider “adopting” a classroom or the kitchen, with a donation to cover the costs of new furniture and fixtures in their chosen space.

Much has been asked of you in 2005: regular pledges for the annual stewardship drive, special expenses for the 50th anniversary, and still, this Capital Campaign is seeking more of your hard-earned resources, financial and otherwise. Look through the lens of the ordinary: for the price of a cup of coffee, a magazine, a gallon of milk — small donations from each one of us — we can make grand, tangible, extraordinary improvements.

Please help us meet our goal and keep our church fiscally sound, as well as spiritually rich.

Christmas Caroling/Progressive Supper

Over 43 adults and youth of St. Paul's participated this year in the Annual Christmas Caroling event. It was an evening of fellowship, food and fun for all who attended. A special thanks to the Hafers, Youngs and Frates/Fornaros for hosting this year's progressive supper for the St Paul's Carolers.

Paul Ciaccia

Annual Advent Fair 2005

The 2005 Advent Fair was a special day for St. Paul's Church. We happily gathered in our new Parish Hall (which was beautifully decorated for the holidays thanks to Ellen Ryan) and held a truly successful event. To date, we have collected a total of \$9,175, of which \$475 has been designated to the Heifer Project. The church will get \$8,748 toward our budget, which compares to \$8,700 in 2004 and \$8,500 in 2003. This would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of the members of our parish who contributed to the purchase of supplies, food and materials for the Fair and who gave so many hours of their time and talents.

SPECIAL THANKS to all who assisted in so many ways, especially:

- **Set-up & Clean-up Committees** – Jan Gurley, Jan & Donald Blake, Frank Fornaro, Dan Collier, Lynne & Jerry Wolf, Joanna Nickerson, Becky Ricci, Sue Runkle, Kelly Craven, Donna, Tommy and Becky Waghorne, Paul & Wendy Ciaccia, Lyle Crawford, Dori Sutton, Linda Moosick, Dan Riendeau, Christine Anderson, Betsey Anderson, Natalie Wicks, Jan Svendsen, Sharon Witbeck, Sharon Healey, Roberta Valday, Carol Hokana, Karen Kruger, Mary Amy Cross, Suzanne Johnson, Christine Thompson, Ken Larson, and Ron Presti.

- **Country Kitchen** – The ever-loyal and fabulous Sue Runkle assisted by Kimberly Runkle, Jan Gurley, Paul & Wendy Ciaccia, Carrie & Charles Mathews, John MacPhee, Doug Sharpe, Bob Thomas, Andrea Hayes, Sue & Heather Marasa, Joanna Nickerson, Lorraine Campbell and many other helpers the day of the Fair. The food items were all delicious and the “soups-to-go” were a BIG hit!! SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE SOUPS AND BAKED GOODS. Also, thanks to Ginny Draper for sending the reminder cards! And thanks to Bruce Seymourian for supplying the heavy-duty soup containers!
- **White Elephants** – the amazing Jan Blake and Toni Wood and everyone who offered assistance throughout the day (Lorraine Campbell, Nancy Campbell, Valerie Wolfe, and Amanda Hubbard).
- **Children’s Activities** – Kelly Craven (for all her HARD WORK) assisted by Jaime Craven & Heather Marasa! A special thanks to Kathryn Magovern (Dori Sutton’s daughter) who brought us the awesome Cookie Decorating! And to Jen Sutton, Dori’s dear daughter as well, who bought a table and shared interesting information and gadgets about SLEEP issues.
- **Arts & Crafts** – Ellen Ryan, Roberta Valday, Lynne Wolf and all of the *FANTASTIC* crafters ... Becky Ricci, Betsey Anderson, Jan Blake, Christine Anderson, Ginny Draper, Caroline Larson, Karen Kruger, Cathy Presti, Carol Hollingshead, Jan Svendsen, and Donata Marino (Lisa Hafer’s mom) for her handmade pottery.
- **Snack Bar** – The ever-faithful Dori Sutton assisted by Lyle Crawford, Linda Moosick, Dan Riendeau and Donald Blake for doing an OUTSTANDING job preparing lunch and snacks for many in our NEW KITCHEN. The new location of the food served us well and brought in \$500!
- **Painted Rocks** – Mary Amy Cross for her wonderful creations.
- **Raffle** – Janice Young, Frank Fornaro and Roberta Valday for organizing an exciting raffle table - you did a fabulous job and your table generated A LOT of interest!!! Thanks to all who contributed in any way and to those who loyally “watched over” the goodies (Suzanne Johnson & Sharon Healey).
- **Gift Baskets** – The dynamic duo of Jan Svendsen and Natalie Wicks, assisted by the creative and dedicated basket committee: Jan Gurley, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Sue Arthur, Sharon Witbeck, Lorraine Campbell, and newcomers Sharon Healey, Janice Young, Suzanne Johnson, and Lisa Hafer. Once again, this group REALLY OUTDID themselves and helped make the Fair such a success. Thanks to all who contributed gift items and cash to purchase goods for the baskets.
- **Books** – Karen Kruger, Dan Collier, Suzanne Johnson, Caroline Larson, and all who made this room a great success (we made \$325 in a snap!)
- **Outreach Groups** – Caroline and Ken Larson for their hard work and dedication to The Heifer Project ... they collected \$427. Thanks to all who worked at the table (Ned Thomas, Joanna Nickerson and Jan Gurley). We also had the pleasure of having a room dedicated to CRISPAZ CRAFTS, unique, handmade items made by artisan cooperatives in El Salvador and Guatemala.
- **Greeters** – Joan Reddy, Rhett Weeks, Linda Plunk, Jerry Wolf.
- **Publicity** – Caroline Larson, Lynne & Jerry Wolf (programs), Walter Anderson & Ron Presti (our reliable sign man).
- **Treasurer** – Barbara Perry and volunteer counters Michael Ryan, Ron Presti, and Betsey Anderson.
- **Permits** – Joanna Nickerson (for making it all “official”)
- **Special thanks to** – Frank Fornaro and Dan Collier for all of their “behind-the-scenes” work, which is A LOT!! And to Anne Gardner for her endless e-mail chain of reminders!

We also were quite pleased to welcome newcomers to the Fair this year. Two local jewelry vendors, Bead Street Designs and Janet Gersh glass beads, displayed their work as well. They were very pleased with their sales and enjoyed participating in our event

To anyone we may have forgotten who helped in any capacity, thank you as well! Thanks for shopping and bringing your friends to shop. All of your help is so truly appreciated in making the Fair a wonderful day of fundraising, fellowship and love!

*Betsy Anderson
Lisa Hafer
Advent Fair Co-Chairs*

Knitting Ministry



KNITTERS NEEDED

Now that the Advent Fair is over, it's time to pick up those needles and knit a cozy shawl for our shawl ministry. It's just knit 3 purl 3. You can do it! Our shawl ministry presents hand knit shawls to individuals as a message of St. Paul's love. Our last shawl was presented to Bishop Gayle Harris at our 50th anniversary celebration. Pick up yarn and a pattern from Caroline and start making a shawl to honor or comfort someone.

Our next Knit Night is Tuesday, January 24th, 7:30 p.m., at Caroline Larson's house. New knitters are always welcome! Bring size 8 needles for Linus Blankets, size 11 for a shawl. We will supply the yarn.

CLIP THOSE COUPONS!

The Knitting Ministry needs yarn.

Linus Blankets:	Any color Worsted acrylic yarn
Shawls:	3 skeins Lion Brand Homespun yarn
Baby hats:	Baby weight yarn of all colors

So clip that 40% off coupon for AC Moore, Michael's or JoAnn Fabrics and pick up your favorite color of yarn. (Note: These stores accept each other's coupons.) Then you can look for it in a baby hat, shawl or Linus blanket!

Questions? Call Caroline Larson.

Caroline Larson

Annual Parish Meeting Warrant

Sunday, January 29, 2006

10:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m. The Annual Meeting

The members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bedford, are hereby summoned to attend the FIFTY FIRST Annual Meeting of the parish for the purpose of conducting its business in accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws.

The business of the meeting shall be:

1. To hear reports of the several committees and officers of the parish and to act thereon.
2. To adopt a budget for 2006.
3. To elect a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, Treasurer, and two Vestry members as well as two Diocesan Convention delegates and an alternate, and five Deanery representatives.
4. To hear and vote on adopting amendments to the By-Laws.
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

December 30, 2005

Dori Sutton, Clerk

Annual Reports 2006

The date of the Annual Meeting is approaching! Anyone responsible for writing a section of the Annual Report should submit their portion by **Sunday, January 15th**. Entries should be sent to the church e-mail account (info@stpaulsbedford.org) so they can be compiled accordingly.

Early submissions are especially appreciated!

Anne Gardner

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

Staff:

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

The Reverend Daniel Collier

William Kemeza, Seminarian

Anne Gardner, Candidate for Holy Orders/Parish
Administrator

Joan Reddy, Music Director

Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Paul Ciaccia, Senior Warden

Ron Presti, Junior Warden

Betsey Anderson, Treasurer

Michael Ryan, Assistant Treasurer

Dori Sutton, Clerk

Vestry:

Lisa Hafer

Carol Hokana

Sharon Keane

Paul Kruger

John Mitchell

Andy Saladino

Robert Thomas

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