
ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

January 2007

Dear Friends,

January, already! I wonder what makes us feel that time is going faster than it actually does. These last months through Advent and Christmas seem to have flown by. But no matter how we slice it, there are 365 days in the year and they all pass in 24-hour segments—and yet time seems to have sped up somehow.

Reasons for feeling this way vary, I suppose, from person to person. Usually, it seems, that those who feel time rushing by are the people who are the busiest. We spend much of our time doing things: working, traveling, taking care of one another, shopping, meeting with our friends, picking up-dropping off-picking up our children, and on and on. I'm sure you can write a list of daily activities that would fill pages. Busy-ness robs us of a gentle pacing of our lives.

Yes, this is another “take time” letter! In the summer we are more likely to slow down, at least, our work schedules. Vacations are planned then, leisure time on weekends fits into our schedules, evening cookouts gather us with friends and family. It seems to be easier to slow down in the summer than any other time of the year.

Time is a precious gift from God. We use it in so many productive ways by doing things and making things and taking care of things. How often do we use our time to do nothing? How often do we take time and simply sit and wonder? How often do we take time to be with those we love to play with? How often do we take this precious gift and spend it on ourselves?

January is already here! How many times between now and the beginning of summer will we stop the rush of time by slowing ourselves down?

The Magi traveled a great distance from somewhere in the east of Bethlehem. We don't know how long it took them to get to Jesus. But I have been thinking about them, and time, and stars. Traveling the way they did must have taken a great deal of time. Imagine their wondering about to where and what the star was leading them! And nowhere does it say they galloped. They traveled as leisurely as the star moved through the heavens. I wonder what great things they saw along the way; I wonder what great thoughts they secretly explored; what hopes and dreams filled their heads as they rode into the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

The time they took filled them with hope and wonder and a sure sense of the vision of a new world dawning. It was the time they had that filled them with a new and calm way of looking at the gifts God had prepared for them and for us.

Like them, let's take time, maybe ten minutes a day, to ponder the great gifts God has given us in our lives. Let's take time each day to look into the faces of our loved ones and those around us to see Christ shining there for us. Let's take time to think of the love God has showered upon us. Let's slow down and see the love in our lives and in the world. Let's make this a year that passes majestically day by day, filled with hope, love, charity, and peace.

Happy New Year, my friends.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank +".

Catechesis Corner

Happy New Year, everyone! It was great to see so many Catechesis children in the pageant. We now look forward to getting back into our routines, starting with the Family Service on January 7th. Session II continues through January 14th, following the schedule found, as usual, on the St. Paul's website. We are now working on the schedule for Session III—please let us know if you would like to help out.

There will be a meeting for teachers and others interested in the program on Wednesday, January 10th, at 7:30P.M.

Amanda Hubbard & Ellen Ryan



St. Paul's Elementary Sunday School Program

Sunday school classes did not meet during the month of December, but the children were hard at work preparing to tell us the most wonderful story of all. What a fabulous job they did! Thank you to Natalie Wicks and Ellen Ryan for coordinating this wonderful gift from the children to the parish. It was just beautiful.

Sunday school classes will resume on January 14 with the last class of session 2. Session 3, "Epiphany and Lent," will run from January 28 through March 18. There will be a planning meeting for session 3 on Thursday night, January 4th at 7:30 in the parish hall. All are welcome.

During Epiphany, we say Alleluia because Jesus was sent to us. Watch as the children's Alleluias fill the sanctuary. Our Sunday school curriculum follows the same lectionary heard in church. This month we'll learn that Jesus was a real child just like us. We'll follow the beginnings of his ministry, his teaching in the synagogue, his first miracle, and the choosing of apostles Simon Peter, James and John.

Cathy Presti

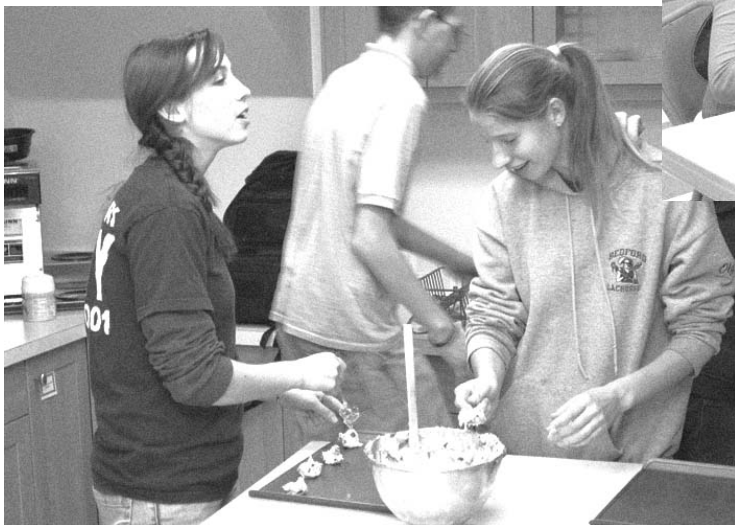


Middle School Youth

Need any creative cookie decorating ideas? Just get in touch with members of the middle school youth group who had a great time thinking of creative designs for Christmas cookies during our joint event with the high schoolers in late November. The cookies were given out during the annual Christmas Caroling outing and sent to far-away St. Paul's youth.

We had a strong showing in the Christmas pageant, with 10 members having lead roles: Elle Thompson and Ariana Seymourian as head angels; Becky Waghorne as Angel Gabriel; Helen Kissel as Mary; Jake Seymourian as Joseph; Emma Healey, Cassie Baker and Miranda Keane as the Three Kings; and Eric Wicks and Timothy Ryan as head shepherds. Later that evening at Christmas Caroling, Miranda, Cassie, and Cassie's friend Hailey passed out plates of cookies to each person we sang to, no doubt making their holiday season even brighter. Happy 2007!

Carrie Mathews & Suzanne Johnson



High School Youth

Thank you to all of the young people who helped out at our annual cookie-baking extravaganza on Sunday, November 26: Olga Chambers-Maher, Cat Iwanchuk, Heather Marasa, and Tommy Waghorne. All of the cookie recipients were most grateful! Thanks also to Heather, Tommy, and Kim Runkle for their able narration during the Christmas pageant on December 17th.

We are taking a brief hiatus while the Mitchells figure out how to handle two small children at the same time. We'll be back for Movie Night in March—watch your email for details!

John & Emily Mitchell

Women's Group Epiphany Breakfast

Date: Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 8:30A.M.

Location: The library at church—we are trying something new!

Please join the women of St. Paul's for breakfast on January 6th at 8: 30A.M. at the church. Bruce Seymourian, known for his great cooking for the men's breakfasts, will cook for us as well. The cost will be \$5.00 per person, and we will eat in the library. We are trying this new location so that we will have more flexible space which we hope will give people an opportunity to socialize more easily. We will still enjoy fun and fellowship in a relaxed setting as the hectic holiday season ends.

Please come and bring a friend or someone new to the parish. Women's Group activities are open to all the women of St. Paul's. We will also talk briefly about events planned for the winter and spring.

Please sign up at church by December 30th or RSVP to Betsey Anderson at betsey.anderson@verizon.net or at 781-275-0904.

Betsey Anderson

Newcomers' Brunch

Date: Sunday, January 7th, directly after church

Location: Parish Hall

The vestry is pleased to welcome all those who have come to St. Paul's in the last few years to a Newcomers' Brunch on Sunday, January 7th. We'll have food and fellowship to share, followed by a brief program outlining the many aspects of parish life—some that you may already know about, but some that may be new to you. If you have particular questions about St. Paul's, the Diocese, or the Episcopal Church in general, please let us know! Send your questions to Sharon Keane or to the church office. Babysitting and activities for kids will be available.

Three options to RSVP:

- Sign up on the sheet outside the parish hall
- Email or call Sharon Keane (slckeane@msn.com or 781-275-8796)
- Email or call the church office (info@stpaulsbedford.org or 781-275-8262).

Betsey Anderson, Sharon Keane, & Emily Mitchell on behalf of St. Paul's Vestry

Reading Aloud

The Reading Aloud Group will meet on Sunday, February 11, at 7:00 P.M. in the library, to read a humorous play. New people are encouraged to join at any time. Please speak to Joan Reddy, or email her at joanreddy@aol.com to say you will attend.

Joan Reddy

Knitting Ministry News



KNITTERS NEEDED

Now that the 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. Pick up yarn and a pattern from the Parish Hall and start making a shawl to honor or comfort someone.

Our supply of baby hats is low. Pick up some baby yarn in the Parish Hall and knit some cute baby hats to welcome our newest members of St. Paul's.

CROCHETERS NEEDED

We have LOTS of Linus Blankets ready for the final touch of a crocheted edge. If you are handy with a crochet hook, you will enjoy completing a Linus Blanket with your own edging.

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 all colors

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

Contact Caroline Larson for more information about St. Paul's Knitting Ministry.

Caroline Larson

Caroling and Progressive Dinner

Over 60 members of St. Paul's enjoyed an evening of singing and eating on December 17th, as we held our 25th Annual Christmas Caroling and Progressive dinner. We sang to other members of the church family at Carleton-Willard and various other homes in Bedford. At each of the visits, a middle school youth delivered a plate of Christmas cookies baked by the High School and Middle School Youth Groups.

A special thanks goes to the Schalicks for hosting the appetizers, the Frates/Fornaros for hosting the main course, and the Youngs for hosting the dessert portion of the evening.

I know everyone had a great time, and I hope to see everyone back next year.

Paul Ciaccia

Advent Fair Update

The 2006 Advent Fair was a special day for St. Paul's Church. We happily gathered in the festive Parish Hall (thanks to decorator Ellen Ryan) and held a truly successful event. To date, we have collected a total of \$11,560. After removing the Heifer Project proceeds (\$999) and the cost of new signs (beautifully done by Lori Murphy), the church profits are \$10,385. This compares to \$9,175 in 2005 and \$8,700 in 2004. According to co-chairperson Betsey Anderson, "this is by far the MOST we have ever made on a fair." 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 table chairpersons and key helpers:

Set-up & Clean-up Committees Kudos to Frank Fornaro and Dan Collier, who had things well under control by the time the rest of us got there . . . all of the "Jans" of the church, and so many more people I cannot possibly list or remember lent a hand . . . I do remember Jack Healey and Paul Ciaccia hanging signs . . . and there were a number of youth who transported baskets from Jan Svendsen's home. Other than that, I truly believe practically everybody helped set up or clean up! THANKS for making it go so smoothly.

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, Sue & Heather Marasa, Lorraine Campbell, Joanna Nickerson, 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 (Chuck Frates, Paddy Wade, Sharon Keane, & Charles Mathews, to name a few).

White Elephants The amazing Jan Blake, Toni Wood, and Ginny Draper and everyone who offered assistance throughout the day. "Jan's Junk" lives on. . .

Children's Activities Big kudos to Kelly Craven (for all her HARD WORK), assisted by Jaime Craven & select youth! A special thanks to Kathryn Magovern (Dori Sutton's daughter), who brought us the awesome cookie decorating and amazing spin art cookies.

Arts & Crafts The amazing and talented crafters led by Christine Anderson and Roberta Valday, Betsey Anderson (who also volunteered her home), Lynne Wolf, Becky Ricci, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Carol Hollingshead, Jan Svendsen, and Donata Marino (Lisa Hafer's mom) for her handmade pottery.

Snack Bar The dynamic duo and NEW Queen and King of the Kitchen, Linda Moosick and Dan Riendeau, did an AMAZING job serving lunch, snacks, and beverages all day long. The kitchen was perfectly run and ready to serve. Special helpers Dan Collier and Sue Crommelin kept smiles on their faces and chili flowing. Donald Blake dutifully collected money. Thanks to all who made chili (Jerry Wolf, Nancy Campbell, and Brad Hafer, who introduced the Holy Trinity Three-Bean Chili to the town).

Painted Rocks Thanks to Mary Amy Cross for her wonderful creations.

Silent Auction Organized and beautifully coordinated by Sharon Healey, this new addition to the fair was a huge hit. Thanks to all who donated items and solicited vendors. And to all who bid and purchased!

Floater Thanks to this elite group who helped wherever needed: Candy and Billy Walker, Amanda Hubbard, Andrea Hayes, Suzanne Johnson, Heather and Sue Marasa, Christine and Elle Thompson, Karin and Cassie Baker, Doug and Austen Sharpe, Stacy Schalick, and anyone else I forgot!!

Raffle Frank Fornaro and Roberta Valday for organizing an exciting raffle table—you did a super job and your table generated great interest! Thanks to all who contributed in any way and to those who loyally "watched over" the goodies.

Gift Baskets Once again, Jan Svendsen and Natalie Wicks outdid themselves with gorgeous gift baskets. They were well-assisted by the dedicated basket committee: Jan Gurley, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Sharon

Witbeck, Sharon Healey, Lisa Hafer, Sima Seymourian, Linda Kuramoto, and Barbara Perry. Thanks to all who contributed gift items and cash to purchase goods for the baskets.

Books Thanks to all who made this room a great success (and to Nolan and Justin Hafer for unpacking TONS of books).

Outreach Groups Caroline & Ken Larson for their hard work and dedication to The Heifer Project.

Greeters Joan Reddy, Rhett Weeks, Linda Plunk, Jerry Wolf, and anyone else who smiled and handed out programs!

Publicity Caroline Larson, Lynne & Jerry Wolf (programs), Walter Anderson, & Ron Presti (our reliable sign man). Special thanks to Lori Murphy for designing and creating our great new signs!

Treasurer Barbara Perry and volunteer counters Michael Ryan, Ron Presti, and Betsey Anderson.

Permits Joanna Nickerson (for making it all “official”).

Special thanks Frank Fornaro and Dan Collier for all of their “behind-the-scenes” work, which is A LOT!

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!

Betsey Anderson & Lisa Hafer, Advent Fair Co-chairs

St. Paul's Tonight Returns!

It's time to dust off your tap shoes and practice your jazz hands again! *St. Paul's Tonight!*, the fabulous musical revue that wowed audiences all over town in 2005, is ready for a revival! The show will be performed April 28th and 29th at the JGMS auditorium.

The songs and sets will be different, but the fun and fellowship will be the same. If you've been itching to get back on stage again—or if you sat in the audience last time wishing you, too, were part of the action—now's your chance to shine! We will need plenty of backstage help as well—stage crew, costumers, prop masters, and more—so there are tons of ways for you to use your own gifts in the service of art. It'll be a blast!

The first informational meeting will be held Sunday, January 14th, directly after church. After that, regular rehearsals will be held after church on Sundays (large group) and Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M. (individual songs/acts). Please plan to attend!

Chuck Frates & Sharon Witbeck



Welcome, Tracy!

We are delighted to welcome Tracy Lane as our new administrative assistant, beginning January 9th. Please do all you can do make her feel welcome and to help her settle into her new position at St. Paul's.

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

Joan Reddy, Music Director

Tracy Lane, Administrative Assistant

Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Ron Presti, Senior Warden

Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden

Betsey Anderson, Treasurer

Michael Ryan, Assistant Treasurer

Dori Sutton, Clerk

Vestry:

Sharon Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Andy Saladino

Carol Hokana

Robert Thomas

Carrie Mathews

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Prayer for January

Last night, as I was sleeping,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that a spring was breaking
out in my heart.
I said: Along which secret aqueduct,
Oh water, are you coming to me,
water of a new life
that I have never drunk?

Last night, as I was sleeping,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that I had a beehive
here inside my heart.
And the golden bees
were making white combs
and sweet honey
from my old failures.

Last night, as I was sleeping,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that a fiery sun was giving
light inside my heart.
It was fiery because I felt
warmth as from a hearth
and sun because it gave light
and brought tears to my eyes.

Last night, as I slept,
I dreamt—marvelous error!—
that it was God I had
here inside my heart.

Antonio Machado

Dear friends,

Thank you all so much for your many kindnesses during this Christmas Time. For your gifts, prayers, help, support, and contributions of music, worship, fellowship, laughter, and above all, for the care and joy you share as members of our beloved community of St. Paul's. For all that and more, I am filled with great gratitude for you in my life.

Frank +