

# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

*January 2008*

Dear Friends,

There is some indication that the custom of making New Year's resolutions began in 153 BC. People began looking at the time past and wondering about the time ahead. At first the resolve was to make amends with enemies made, pay debts and resolve to do better. I think resolutions are all about doing better than before—better at those things we feel important for our well being. For some that may mean doing less of a thing; for some it may mean doing more of a thing. For some it may mean to stop doing a thing.

Usually resolutions are about personal health, relationships, work. Sometimes resolutions are about eating or not; exercising; reading; studying. Of course they vary depending on what we are doing in our lives or where we are on our life's journey. And, yes, some people don't make resolutions at all. At least they don't make them because of the New Year. In fact, I think most of us make resolutions all year as we go along.

What is really wonderful about the making-resolutions process is that it necessitates self reflection. It causes us to stop and ponder. This is the greatest asset of making resolutions. Keeping them is really great but the exercise of thinking about ourselves and how we want to be is greater still.

On January 6<sup>th</sup> the church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany. This is the first manifestation of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. The Magi, who came from a far away and different nation than the one in which Jesus was born, represent for us, all the world outside of Israel. Their presence at the manger is the sign that all of humanity is included in the divine love and redemption that Jesus promises.

The light of the star guided them to the place. They resolved to follow that light until they discovered its destiny and theirs. Not much is known about the Magi except that they were probably learned in astronomy and had some wealth. Yet, these people knew, somehow, that they were being guided into a new place. They were being guided to a new world of being.

Eventually they came to the place where Jesus and his family were still residing. On the way they met the jealous and fearful Herod who asked them to stop on their way back to tell him where the child was. But something profound happened to them in Bethlehem. They met Jesus. And in a dream (perhaps it was self reflection) they were prompted to go back a different way from which they came. That is what happens to all of us when we are met with Jesus. We go a different way.

Because of the distractions of our lives; the busyness of everyday living whatever that is for us, we often lose our connection to Jesus. That is why we have to keep meeting with him and each time we do we go a different way. Jesus helps us to see the better way in all things.

As we make resolutions this year, I invite you to resolve to keep reconnecting with Jesus. Connect with his hopes for you, his vision for you, and especially his unbounded love for you. Jesus can help you keep any good resolution you make.

### 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.

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.

Faithfully,



#### Catechesis Corner

As expected, there were not many classes in December due to the pageant rehearsal, snowstorm and vacation.

Catechesis will resume its regular schedule starting Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, the week after the pageant. Session III will start on January 20<sup>th</sup>, which means we are working on the new schedule.

**There will be a meeting for all interested Catechists, assistant teachers and parents on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30**, to catch up on what's been happening, and look ahead to upcoming lessons and events. Please mark your new calendars, hope to see several of you there.

Sincerely,  
*Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan*

#### High School Youth Update

On Sunday, January 13, the high school youth will travel north to attend church at St. Andrew's in Manchester, New Hampshire, where our old friend Rev. Dan Collier now serves as priest-in-charge. The service starts at 9:00am, so we will meet EARLY (8:00am) in the St. Paul's parking lot for the trip. Depending on how many people RSVP, we may need another driver, so please let us know if you can help out. We hope you'll join us!

Looking ahead to February, we are planning to bake bread for one yet-to-be-determined service during Lent. Please watch your email and our Facebook group for more information on that, as John and I search for appropriate Communion bread recipes that will neither be too crumbly nor too soggy.

Happy new year!

*John & Emily Mitchell*

#### Stewardship

##### How Green Are We?

The ground outside may still be white, but the Stewardship Committee is thinking green. Compact fluorescent bulbs use less energy than conventional bulbs and last much longer, saving both money and energy in the long run. To keep St. Paul's as green as possible, we plan to replace the light bulbs in the library and elsewhere in the building with compact fluorescent bulbs.

Starting Sunday, January 6th, the Stewardship Committee will have bulbs for sale at coffee hour. Buy a bulb for the church, and buy a few for your home while you're at it! Together we can make a big difference in both our energy use and utility bills. To learn more, visit us at coffee hour, or contact a member of the Stewardship Committee.

So how many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb, anyway? We'll find out this month!

## Meet the Vestry

Though she's relatively new to the vestry, Sue Runkle has been a familiar face at St. Paul's for most of her life. When she was seven, Sue and her family moved from Medfield to Bedford and began attending church here.

Sue's husband, Paul, also grew up in Bedford, and they both attended BHS. They remember attending the old Page School and the (then) brand-new Lane School for one year, in sixth grade. Paul and his family attended the Unitarian Church on Bedford Common.

The Runkles have two children: Scott, a freshman at UMass Amherst, and Kimberly, a junior at Billerica Memorial High School. When Scott and Kim were of preschool age, Sue began attending St. Paul's again, with her kids in tow. Both Scott and Kim attended St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School for two years, and they were baptized together at St. Paul's when they were five and three, respectively.

Sue has been a registered nurse for twenty-seven years, after graduating from Northeastern University's College of Nursing, for her undergraduate degree, and BU, for graduate work. Right now Sue manages "an awesome group of surgical services nurses" at Winchester Hospital. Sue is active at St. Paul's in many ways. In addition to her work on the vestry, she has served as a Sunday School teacher and has managed the Country Kitchen at the Advent Fair for several years. She also serves as Gospeller and Crucifer on the altar.

In her spare time, Sue enjoys biking with her husband, and is proud that they can now do twenty-mile rides together. She also enjoys walking and snow-shoeing, and is currently learning yoga from a wonderful teacher in Billerica.



# ADVENT FAIR UPDATE

The 2007 Advent Fair was a special day for St. Paul's Church. We gathered for a phenomenal day of fellowship and fundraising. Thus far, we have collected a total of \$12,018. After removing the Heifer Project proceeds of \$1,082, the church profits are \$10,936. This compares to \$10,385 in 2006 and \$9,175 in 2005. This amazing success 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 Michael Hamilton and all of the “Jans” of the church who always lend a hand ... thanks to Suzanne Johnson and several youth of the parish who transported baskets from Jan Svendsen's home. Thanks to Carol Hokana for being a “jane of all trades” and doing whatever was needed. Thanks to the Walkers, the Ciaccias, the Larsons, the Krugers, Ron Presti ... So many people helped set up or clean up it's hard to name you all.
- **Country Kitchen** – The ever-loyal and fabulous Sue Runkle assisted by Kimberly Runkle, Jan Gurley, Paul & Wendy Ciaccia, Charles Mathews, John MacPhee, Bob Thomas, Jeff Zwicker, Jim Seaton, Sue & Heather Marasa, 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, Stacy Schalick, Charles Mathews, John Mitchell, and Brad Hafer to name a few). Thanks once again to Bruce Seymourian for securing soup containers for us!!
- **White Elephants** – the amazing Jan Blake, Toni Wood, Charles & Dianne Olander and everyone who offered assistance throughout the day. Thanks to the Lees for their wonderful donations.
- **Children's Activities** – Big Kudos to Kelly Craven for all her HARD WORK! A special thanks to Kathryn Magovern (Dori Sutton's daughter) who brought us the awesome Cookie Decorating and to Suzanne Johnson and the middle school youth who worked hard face painting and giving tattoos to the children!!!
- **Arts & Crafts** – the amazing and talented crafters led by Ellen Ryan and Roberta Valday and including: Betsey Anderson, Christine Anderson, Lynne Wolf, Becky Ricci, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Carol Hollingshead and Karen Kruger. Your creations were beautiful and plentiful and loved by all.
- **Snack Bar** – The Queen and King of the Kitchen, Linda Moosick (with BOOT and all) and Dan Riendeau did an AMAZING job shopping for goods, setting up, serving lunch, snacks, and beverages all day long. The kitchen was perfectly run and ready to serve and cleaner than I've ever seen it. Special helpers Michael Hamilton, Carol Hokana, and Chris Lojko kept smiles on their faces while they served. Donald Blake dutifully collected money. Thanks to Jerry Wolf for his delicious chili.
- **Painted Rocks** – Mary Amy Cross for her amazing creations.
- **Silent Auction** – Organized and beautifully coordinated by Sharon Healey ... thanks to all who donated items and solicited vendors. And, to all who bid and purchased!!
- **Floater**s – 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, Joanna Nickerson, Ned Thomas, 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!! **VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO SHARON HEALEY FOR GETTING THE Wii AND TO ELLEN RYAN FOR ADVERTISING TO THE WORLD THAT WE HAD ONE!!**
- **Gift Baskets** – Once again the mother/daughter team of 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,

(continued from page 4)

- Lisa Hafer and amazing new-comer to the group, Rene Seaton, who was an absolute star!! Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the baskets.
- **Books** – Thanks to Caroline and Ken Larson, who always do a tremendous job with the book room. Thanks to the Hafer boys and Ben Johnson for helping unpack TONS of books.
- **Outreach Groups** – Caroline & Ken Larson for their hard work and dedication to The Heifer Project.
- **Greeters** – Kudos to the ever-fabulous greeting team of Rhett Weeks (aka Santa) and Linda Plunk. I honestly don't think they ever left the front door, but thanks to anyone else who tried to greet!!
- **Publicity** – Caroline Larson, Lynne & Jerry Wolf (programs), Walter Anderson (charge cards) and 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 Michael Hamilton for all of their "behind-the-scenes" work, which is A LOT!! They also did above and beyond their fair share of Sunday's clean-up work and found a place that would take the remainder of the White Elephants.

**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! We could NEVER do it without the whole parish ... and we did it again!!!**

Betsey Anderson  
Advent Fair Co-Chairperson

Lisa Hafer  
Advent Fair Co-Chairperson

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## OUTREACH NEWS



### Thanks for helping us "UNDECORATE" our Giving Tree

In spite of the piles of snow, our gifts were collected and delivered to Fernald State School. The gifts and Dunkin Donut gift certificates were very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who helped make these dreams come true.

### Time to knit? Or crochet?

We already have about 10 Linus blankets finished but let's beat our numbers from last year when we donated 34 blankets! We also need baby hats. Lots of yarn available in the Parish Hall. Can't knit? No excuses. We can teach you! We also need people to crochet the edges of the assembled blankets.

Contact Caroline (781-275-9338 or [SAILSK8@aol.com](mailto:SAILSK8@aol.com))



### Our Outreach Committee is Growing

We welcome Kate Chambers as a new member on our St. Paul's Outreach Committee. Not new to Outreach, Kate has coordinated this year's Fernald Gift program and other outreach efforts in the past. Committee members are Nancy Campbell, Carol Hokana, Chris Lojko, John Mitchell, Barbara Perry, Candy Walker, Howard Webber and Lynn Wolf, Chair: Caroline Larson.

## GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> is Girl Scout Sunday, celebrating Girl Scouting in houses of worship across the USA. All Girl Scouts are invited to wear their uniforms and participate in the service. Please contact Caroline Larson if you would like to have a part in the celebration at St. Paul's. Scouting adults, past and present, dig out that Girl Scout pin and wear it on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>!

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### COMMUNITY TABLE DATES 2007-2008

February 14<sup>th</sup> - 2008  
May 15<sup>th</sup> - 2008



How often do you use search engines on the Internet? More than you ever thought? Well, all those searches can help raise money for St. Paul's! How, you ask? Well, check out [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com). Our church is registered with this search engine and every time you search a few pennies will be donated to the church. Just go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com), choose "St. Pauls Episcopal Church (Bedford, MA)" from a scroll down menu and remember to use this search engine when you are looking for a site on the Web. In December, we will receive a check. It is as easy as that!!! Goodsearch is connected to Yahoo, so the searches are reliable.



**May 17, 2008**  
**at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
*Classes will begin January 6<sup>th</sup> 2008 after church.*

Any young people in grades nine or above, and any baptized adults interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Frank.

**Mark your Calendar**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday**  
**January 27<sup>th</sup>**



### Save the Date!



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**February 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.**

***All Parishioners and families  
invited. No charge.***

### "Souper" Bowl Sunday



As a follow-up to the great sales of soup at the Advent Fair, we will sell soup or chili in containers on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> during the Coffee Hour. Please plan to make a batch of soup or chili to sell on Sunday morning. It can be frozen ahead. Containers can be picked up at the church during coffee hour during the next few weeks. On Super Bowl Sunday (or any other evening, for that matter), you can enjoy a delicious meal of homemade soup or chili with no effort at all.

Please contact Betsey Anderson if you would like to help organizing and selling soup on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Save the Dates!

### Women's Group Potluck Epiphany Breakfast



Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM (**please note this is the new date**) – Please join the women of St. Paul's for our post holiday breakfast. We will hold this breakfast in the Library at the church. Please sign up to bring a breakfast casserole, fruit or juice, or a baked item such as bread, bagels or coffee cake. Contact Betsey Anderson if you cannot sign up at the church and let her know what you will bring or if you are able to help setting up and cleaning up. If someone wants to volunteer to cook eggs and bacon, that would also be welcome.

### Book Discussion



We will hold a discussion of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* on Wednesday, January 30th. Refreshments will be served at 7 PM and the discussion will begin at 7:30. A brief description of the book follows:

*“Propelled by the same storytelling instinct that made The Kite Runner a beloved classic, A Thousand Splendid Suns is at once a remarkable chronicle of three decades of Afghan history and a deeply moving account of family and friendship. It is a striking, heart-wrenching novel of an unforgiving time, an unlikely friendship, and an indestructible love—a stunning accomplishment.”*

Copies of the book will be available to purchase at \$8 per copy. Books are also available at the library, Costco and from Amazon and other bookstores.

### Future Events

The annual Women's Brunch will be held after church on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the home of Sue Runkle.

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

**Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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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](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org)

*Staff:*

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

The Reverend Michael Hamilton, Deacon

Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator

Joan Reddy, Music Director

Bob Godoy, Sexton

*Officers:*

Ron Presti, Senior Warden

Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden

Betsey Anderson, Treasurer

Carol Hokana, Clerk

*Vestry:*

Sharon Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews

## **IT IS NOT OVER**

It is not over,  
this birthing.

There are always newer skies  
into which

God can throw stars.

When we begin to think

that we can predict the Advent of God,

that we can box the Christ

in a stable in Bethlehem,

that's just the time

that God will be born

in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God

watch with their hearts and not their eyes,

listening

always listening

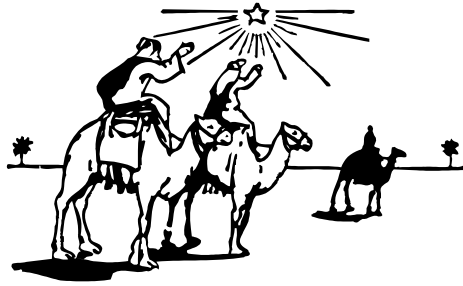
for angels words.

*Ann Weems*

*Kneeling in Bethlehem*

January 2008						
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		





## Christmas Pageant 2007

### **Revised Dates!!**

**Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – 9AM- Lead characters**  
**Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 10AM – Full cast rehearsal**  
**Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – 10 AM – Christmas Pageant**  
**(9AM gathering at church)**

If you know now your child/children might have a conflict with the pageant and/or these particular rehearsals, please let me know and I can cast them accordingly.

Every child is welcome to participate and urged to do so!!!

Please see me, call me or email me:

Ellen Ryan 781-275-9795 or [ellenaryan@comcast.net](mailto:ellenaryan@comcast.net)

Or

Natalie Wicks 781-275-5244 or [NSWicks@aol.com](mailto:NSWicks@aol.com)

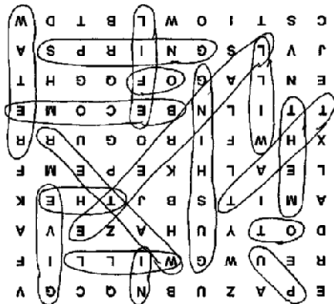
# Word Search

In the word search at right, circle the words from this Bible verse.

**"The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."**

John 4:14b

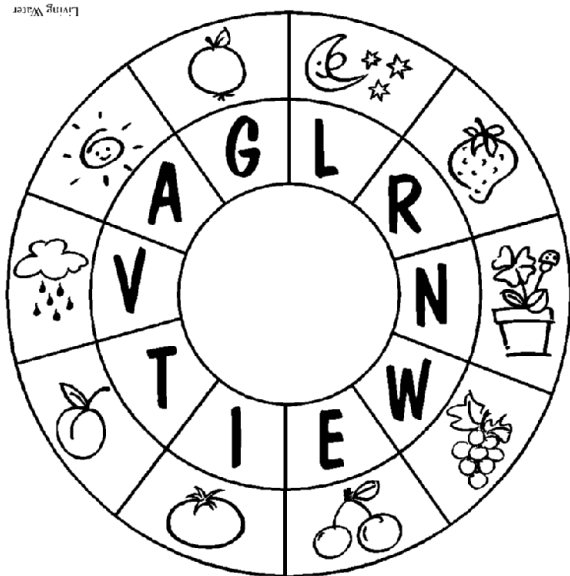
Answer



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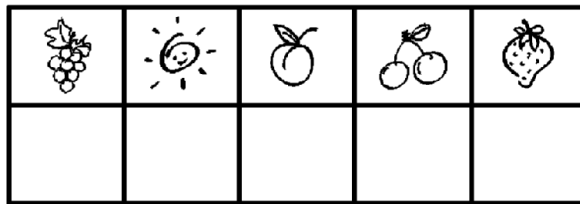
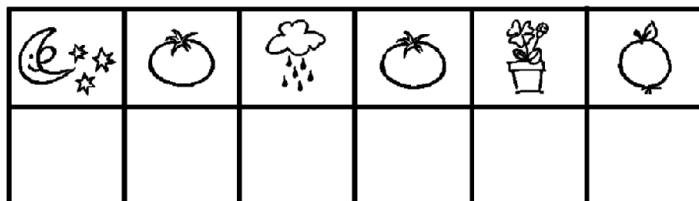
Answer:

Living Water



## Decode the Message

Use the decoder at left to fill in the spaces in the boxes below. Then complete the Bible passage with the answer.



"He would have given you \_\_\_\_\_"

John 4:10c