

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

January 2009

..... God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young people shall see visions, and your old people shall dream dreams.

Acts 2:17

Dear Friends,

A few months ago I attended a birthday celebration for a friend who was marking his 60th birthday. During the evening he said that he was a settled man. He has a wonderful wife, children and grandchildren. That night he declared that he didn't have to dream any more; he didn't have to wonder or strive; he was satisfied and settled. I thought this was sad. I also thought that it is impossible not to dream.

God has given us all a desire to wonder about our lives and the lives of those we love and care for. God has given us an endless well of hope and expectation for newness and positive change. I have never really met anyone who doesn't always look to the future with hope; perhaps with a desire for things to be made better, more loving, more compassionate, more understanding, more satisfied. I don't know anyone that doesn't want the world to be a better place for all people.

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus. This god is depicted in statuary with two faces, one facing back and one facing forward. In the opening of our new year it is a good thing to look back as we step into a new year. It is good to look at the road we have traveled alone and together during these past twelve months and to note the wonder of God in our lives in all that we experienced. It is good to reflect on what we accomplished, what we hoped to accomplish and what we failed to accomplish. I believe it is in this kind of reflection that most resolutions are formed.

Resolutions, no matter their nature, are signs of hope and new beginnings. In them we take a position for some kind of change. Perhaps the change concerns habits that we want to break or new habits that we want to cultivate. Perhaps the change concerns matters of the heart such as seeing things in a new way. Perhaps the change we seek is to be willing to seek a new vision for ourselves, a new dream.

At every stage of our lives, God invites us all to dream dreams. To see the world anew. At every transition of our lives God invites us to a newness, sometimes unimaginable. God's dream for us never ends. At its foundation it is a dream of peace and joy for all people.

There is no end to dreaming of new things. There is no end to God's hope for us to move forward, to see new things in our life. The way things are should not automatically be accepted as the way things should be. The birth of Jesus, the Incarnation of God on earth, teaches us that things as they should be, will be.

God will prevail over all things. You and I make that reality through our own hopes and dreams as we envision our future. You and I bring in the Kingdom of God through our hope for a new and better world.

New Year's Day is just one day that helps us to remember that we can resolve to do new things. But we should be comfortable with God's love and encouragement to think of new things, new ways of being everyday of our lives. Dream dreams of joy; have visions of the kingdom; notice God's love all around you. Let New Year's Day be only one of the 365 days in which you think about the newness of your life in the love of Christ.

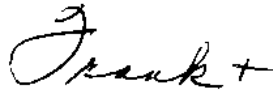
Happy New Year, my dear friends.

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,



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2009

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

WARRANT

The members of St. Paul's Church, Bedford, are hereby summoned to attend the FIFTY FOURTH 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 present the budget for 2009.
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.

January 1, 2009

Carol Hokana, Interim Clerk

Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch

*Sunday, January 25
after the service*

The Annual Meeting is our chance for the whole parish to come together, share food and fellowship, and discuss the events of the past year. During the meeting there will be a vote to fill any vacant leadership roles and the budget for 2009 will be presented.

We encourage all members of the St. Paul's family, new and not-so-new, to attend. Nursery care will be available. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the hallway for those of you who can bring a dish to share.

IMPORTANT: Committee chairs and others who are responsible for submitting reports to Tracy should send them in no later than **JANUARY 15.**



High School Youth Group Update

Thanks again to the sixteen high school and middle school youth who participated in this year's Cookie Baking Extravaganza. We filled twenty care packages and made another dozen plates of cookies for our friends in college, in nursing care, and at Carleton Willard. Your ministry to others at Christmastime does not go unrewarded!



ADVENT FAIR UPDATE



The 2008 Advent Fair was a special day for St. Paul's Church. We gathered for a festive day of fellowship and fundraising – why even Bishop Harris came and shopped!! Thus far, we have collected a total of \$11,356. After removing the proceeds from Heifer, Navaho Books, and Jubilee, the church profits are \$9,393. This compares to \$10,936 in '07 and \$10,385 in '06. 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** – thanks to the Middle School Youth for transporting baskets from Jan Svendsen's home; thanks to parishioners for lending their coolers and folding tables; thanks to Sharon Healey for donating the leftover books to the Billerica schools; thanks to Ken Larson for getting the leftover White Elephants to the Vietnam Vets Organization; and many, many thanks to ALL of the people who 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 Lorraine Campbell to name a few). Thanks once again to Bruce Seymourian for securing soup containers for us!!
- **White Elephants** – the amazing Jan Blake and Jerry Wolf and everyone who offered assistance throughout the day. Thanks to Toni Wood for the use of her shelves!!
- **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/Spin Art Cookies and to Suzanne Johnson, Carrie Mathews (with newborn in tow) and the amazing middle school youth who worked hard face painting and giving tattoos to the children!!! Special thanks to the Wicks family for the fantastic Lemonade Stand!!!
- **Arts & Crafts** – the amazing and talented crafters had beautiful items on display; thanks go to Karen Kruger, Betsey Anderson, Christine Anderson, Lynne Wolf, Becky Ricci, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Carol Hollingshead and Roberta Valday. Your creations were beautiful and plentiful and loved by all.
- **Snack Bar** – The Queen and King of the Kitchen, Linda Moosick and Dan Riendeau did an AMAZING job shopping for goods, setting up, serving lunch, snacks, and drinks all day long. The kitchen was perfectly run and ready to serve. Donald Blake dutifully collected money, and everyone did his or her part to make it run smoothly.
- **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!!
- **Floaters** – thanks to this elite group who helped wherever needed ... Candy and Billy Walker, Amanda Hubbard, Andrea Hayes, Suzanne Johnson, Heather and Sue Marasa, Joanna Nickerson, Ned Thomas, Joan Reddy, Wendy Ciaccia, Jan Gurley, Donna Waghorne, Ginny Draper, Dori Pulizzi, Jeff Zwicker, and anyone else I may have forgotten!
- **Raffle** – Frank Fornaro and Roberta Valday for organizing an exciting raffle table - you did a super job and your table generated great interest!!

- **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, Lisa Hafer and Rene Seaton. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the baskets.
- **Books** – Thanks to Caroline and Ken Larson for their organization and to EVERYONE who helped run the room and sell!!
- **Outreach Groups** – Caroline & Ken Larson for their hard work and dedication to The Heifer Project; Barbara Perry for her Navaho Book Project; and Howard Webber for his amazing Jubilee/work for Africa.
- **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 for all of his "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! 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

Notes from the Nursery School



December was a fun and festive month at nursery school. We started the month with a field trip to Season's Four where we chose a lovely tree. We called the tree our "Mitten Tree" and families decorated the tree with hats, mittens and scarves. Because of the generosity of families, several bags full of hats and mittens were donated to the Central Food Ministry in Lowell.

Another highlight was "Polar Express Day" Children and teachers came to school in their pajamas and we pretended to be riding the Polar Express Train to the North Pole. The day culminated with reading the "Polar Express" and each child receiving a gift of a bell, just like in the story.

Our month ended with holiday parties for both groups. Parents, grandparents, siblings and friends joined us. Children in both groups performed a sample of their music activities and then we adjourned to the classrooms where we enjoyed many holiday treats. We closed for Christmas break and will reopen for more fun and adventures on January 5.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Lee Frank

OUTREACH NEWS



In this year of serious economic pressures the Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our projects this Christmas season. We had outstanding parish support for all our efforts and we deeply appreciate all those who made contributions.

A big thankyou to all those secret Santas who contributed gifts for the Fernald School residents. Our Giving Tree was stripped bare in the first week and all gifts were returned with no reminders needed! Delivery of the gifts was made the week before Christmas and were very much appreciated. We are told that there will be one more Christmas before Fernald is totally shut down and all residents are placed in other community placements.

The Outreach Table at the Fair and coffeeshour sales were highly successful. The Heifer Project collected over \$1000. Our Navajo School Library Book Project sold over 75 books for the new library. Thankyou to Barbara Perry for bringing us this worthy (and fun) project. And Howard Webber thanks the parish for their support of the Jubilee fund at the Advent Fair.



Tommy Waghorne announced a new project, collecting used cell phones to be converted into calling cards for our soldiers overseas. Our collection box is in the Narthex. All cell phones and accessories are accepted.

Vestry Corner

How many times have you been at a St. Paul's event and thought, "D'oh! If only I had remembered my camera!" The vestry wants to make it easier for us to capture memories of St. Paul's fellowship. To that end, we have purchased a digital camera for use by parishioners at church events. Guidelines for use and a sign-out sheet are kept with the camera in Frank's office. If you are interested in using the camera for the next church event, please see Emily Mitchell for more details.



Thank you to all the children who participated in this year's Christmas Pageant! You were amazing but then you ALWAYS are!

Thank you to all the families for your ongoing support and all the organizing you did to help us!

Sincerely,
Ellen Ryan and Natalie Wicks

Stewardship Update

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee we would like to thank everyone who made a pledge to support St. Paul's for 2009. We have had a great response from the parish with a participation rate of over 88% and total pledge dollars exceeding last years. This has been a record year at St Paul's and a special thank you to each of you for your commitment and generosity.

If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, there is still time.

Faithfully,

Paul Ciaccia, Frank Fornaro, Emily Mitchell, Barbara Perry and Ron Presti.

Keep those tab tops coming!



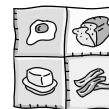
Tab tops continue to be sent to the Shriner's Burn Hospital, which in turn are combined with other organizations tabs. The tabs contain metal which the Shriner's Hospital extracts and sells. All proceeds are used to help pay bills for the families that incur debts when they stay at various hotels to be near their children, who are in the Shriner's Hospital.

Also, Ed Lawrence is always collecting cans/bottles to retrieve deposits to help support the National Guard Veterans for their every day expenses.
Thanks!



Don't forget to check out 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, 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.

Save the Dates



Potluck Breakfast Saturday, January 3rd 8:30 AM at the Church

End the busy holiday season with a New Year's potluck breakfast with your friends from St. Paul's. Join the Women's Group on Saturday, January 3rd for breakfast at 8:30 AM. Each person is asked to contribute a hot dish, fruit, baked item or juice to the breakfast. Sign up at church or call the church to let us know if you are coming. This breakfast was well attended and a lot of fun last year. All women in the parish are welcome as well as daughters if they want to join us.

Women's Retreat Saturday January 24, 2009

We will hold a Women's Retreat at St. Anne's Convent in Arlington on Saturday, January 24th, 2009. The theme of the retreat will be spirituality at the different stages of life of women. The convent is beautiful and the Sisters provide warm hospitality and delicious food. It should be a wonderful, spiritual day. Please plan to join us. Watch for a sign up sheet in early January.

Please contact the steering committee if you have ideas or questions – Roberta Valday, Lynne Wolf, Sima Seymourian (our newest member) and Betsey Anderson.

Don't forget to click through!



If you are spreading out your Christmas spending and planning to do a little Amazon shopping this month, don't forget to visit the St. Paul's website first! Go to 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!

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

**Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bedford MA 01730
Permit No. 11**

Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

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Staff:

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

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:

Andre Barber

Peter Ricci

Sharon Healey

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews

New Years Day

Eternal God,
to whom a thousand years are no more than a moment;
renew us in your Holy Spirit,
so that we may serve you with courage
while we have life and breath;
through the grace of Jesus your Son.

God of time and eternity,
as we enter this new year
day by day
open us to your new age.

New Zealand Prayer Book

