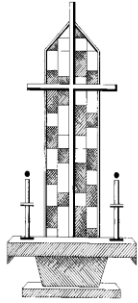


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

January 2010

Dear Friends,



There was a time that the month of January was not named. The winter months went nameless. It wasn't until around 450 BC that January 1 became the beginning of the New Year. *Ianus* is a Latin word that means door or gateway and is the inspiration for the word *January*. Janus (*Ianus*) is a god of Roman mythology whose statue is always represented with two faces, one facing forward and one looking back. I mentioned this several years ago when we were approaching our fiftieth anniversary at St. Paul's.

I suppose the idea of resolutions which began around 153 BC comes from the notion of gates and doors, entrances and exits, beginnings and endings. I suppose the notion of looking back and seeing what needed improvement caused the tradition of amending our lives to arise. It is also a time to remember what we have done that was good and helpful and resolve to keep doing it.

Thinking about the New Year in ways of starting over or starting something new prompts us to wonder what God is preparing to offer us in the New Year. God is always working to give us good things and the insight to find grace in all things.

We are in our 55th year as an Episcopal Congregation in Bedford. Somehow 5 year anniversaries are special times to rejoice and reflect on all that God has given us. In the past fifty-five years God walked with the people of St. Paul's as you established and built the church. Not just the physical building but the real church, the people of God who gathered and continue to gather in the name of Christ.

God has shown his love and gratitude to the people of St. Paul's primarily through our heartfelt worship, through the growth of our congregation and through the tireless work and success of so many people. God continues to bless us with the joy of children and the wisdom of elders. We are remarkably blessed in so many ways that are obvious to us and we are sure that there are blessings even in ways we have not yet seen.

In the trust and faith we have in God, the gates and doors of the New Year will open new and wonderful possibilities for the church. We are strong, determined, faithful and joyous people. These gifts of the Holy Spirit carry us into a New Year of promise and hope.

I don't usually make resolutions but I offer these. Let's resolve to remember that God's love is immeasurable; that we have been given all we need to be a powerful presence as a church and as a people; that we have the will to offer the love we have for one another to the whole world. Let's, resolve to remember that in Jesus Christ we are never alone, that our work is blessed and that we follow the model of compassionate love he offers us. Let's resolve to remember that through the power of the Holy Spirit we can continue to be strong and steadfast in our work as a people of God at St. Paul's Church.

Happy New Year, Dear Friends!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

As always, 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



We certainly celebrated Advent and Christmas wonderfully as the majority of parish children participated in the telling of the Christmas story "as only the children and youth can tell it"*. A special thank you goes out to all participants and their families for the marvelous support.

Catechesis will resume again on **Sunday, January 3, Family Sunday** (after the Children's sermon). We hope to see everyone again! In the month of January the children will hear the Nativity story and about the journey of the Magi. We will tell the story of Jesus' presentation in the Temple and of the Good Shepherd and his Lost Sheep. Last in this session will be the parable of The Leaven; always a favorite among the children.

Due to low attendance, **the Nov 15th orientation for Catechists and assistants will be rescheduled for January** – please watch your email, we'll try to find a date that works for more people. With so many people involved in the program, for which we are very grateful, it is important that all know what it is about, and what is expected in the Atrium. This may also be of interest for parents and others.

Happy New Year and good health to all!

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard

* quote by our own Emily Mitchell

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

The high school youth group is slated to serve coffee hour on Sunday, January 10. This will be a special day, as Rev. Matt Kruger will be celebrating his first Eucharist as a priest with us that Sunday. Emily and Arthur will be in touch with more details.

Confirmation classes will begin after church on Sunday, February 7. Please plan to attend! We expect we'll be meeting every two weeks or so after church. Dates for your calendar: The required pre-confirmation retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp will be Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13. Confirmation itself will be Saturday, May 22, at 10:00am at Christ Church, Waltham.

Notes from the Nursery School



The children's excitement was palpable as we started the month of December. Our first event was a field trip to Season's Four to choose a tree which we dub our "Hat and Mitten Tree". Families decorated the tree with hats, mittens and scarves. Because of the generosity of families, we were able to donate several bags full of hats and mittens to the Central Food Ministry in Lowell.

As our bulletin boards took on the look of the holiday season, children also worked on a special gift for their families. We had our first snowstorm and teachers and children began to deal with snowpants and boots for outdoor play. Dressing twenty four three- year-olds for outdoor play can be time consuming but we are all getting into the rhythm of the procedure.

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 4.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Lee Frank

Middle School Youth Group Update

Happy New Year! Lots to update you on this month:

In-class discussion: We had a great brainstorming session on December 6th about what Christmas means to us - thanks to all who participated! Our next in-class discussion will be held on Sunday, January 10th (the second Sunday of the month due to New Year's weekend).

Advent Fair: Many thanks to all the middle schoolers who helped at the Advent Fair: Natalie Schalick, Chris Adamik, Austen Sharpe, Clayton Hafer, Hunter Hayes, Nate Presti, and Ben Johnson. Your help was greatly appreciated!

Cookies: Christmas caroling was a lot of fun. The cookies decorated by the high school and middle school youth groups were a wonderful gift to those we visited...and brought a nice Christmas smile to their faces.

More desserts: Our annual dessert-making activity for the Bedford Community Table will take place in mid-February. Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Mathews will be in touch with a specific weekday and time to bake.

Special Olympics: Mark your calendars for **Sunday, March 14**, for our annual Middle School Youth Group volunteer day at the Special Olympics basketball tournament in Worcester. Mrs. Johnson will again be coordinating volunteers and adult drivers, so look for registration information soon. The High School Youth Group and other parishioners are welcome to join us.

We are looking forward to a great 2010!

Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Baker

Stewardship Update

A special thank you to everyone who pledged this year to support St. Paul's. The annual pledge drive was a success with pledges totaling \$151,000 as of mid December and a small number of cards yet to be returned. As you know, the money pledged by parishioners is what funds all of St Paul's expenses. We do not receive any money from the diocese so all our budget expenses (Salaries, Heat, Electricity, Church school, etc) are all funded by pledges. If you haven't pledged and would like to support St Paul's, please feel free to call or talk with me.

Again, thank you for helping to support St. Paul's this year as well as in the past years.

Faithfully,
Paul Ciaccia

VESTRY CORNER

Dear friends,

Christmas has come and gone, and if you're like me, you're still finding bits of wrapping paper on the floor or stuck to the bottom of your shoes. Many thanks to everyone at St. Paul's who helped make the Advent season one of reflection, fellowship, and joy.

The vestry will meet on Tuesday, January 19, at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend. The Executive Committee will not meet this month.

Please see the warrant elsewhere in this Epistle regarding this year's Annual Meeting, to be held Sunday, January 31 immediately after the service. The Annual Meeting is a vital event in the life of St. Paul's: the 2010 budget will be presented, the new vestry and officers will be elected, and other important parish business will be conducted. We'll have a potluck lunch as well. Please plan to attend.

We wish you all a happy, healthy, and grace-filled new year!

Best,
Emily Mitchell
Senior Warden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MATT'S ORDINATION

God willing and the people consenting, Matthew Kruger will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, January 9, at 10:30am at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in downtown Boston. All are welcome to attend the ordination. On Sunday the 10th, Rev. Kruger will celebrate his first Eucharist as a priest with us. We hope you will be a part of this wonderful moment in the life of St. Paul's.

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION

The Alewife Deanery will hold a service of Confirmation and Reception into the Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 22, at 10:00am at Christ Church, Waltham.

Confirmation, as the Diocese defines it, is "the occasion for a mature affirmation of faith, an opportunity for a person to claim for oneself the promise made for him or her at Baptism. . . in the context and presence of the local faith community (parish), the wider faith community (diocese/deanery), [and] the Bishop as apostle, theologian, visionary leader for mission, and pastor." In lay terms, confirmation is the moment at which a person accepts for him or herself the Christian faith and life. For young people, confirmation marks a transition from child to adult: a new confirmand is now invited to participate fully in parish life. Youth members interested in confirmation should speak to Frank, Emily, or Arthur, if they haven't done so already. Our first class will be held after church on Sunday, February 7.

Reception is a public commitment to the Episcopal Church, appropriate for adult members who were previously confirmed in another denomination, including the Roman Catholic church. Many members of St. Paul's have been received in recent years. Adults who are interested in reception, or who have questions about the process or eligibility, should speak to 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.

Giving Tree

Thanks to all for your generous contributions and prompt return of gifts. The residents of Fernald School enjoyed opening these personalized gifts.

Heifer and Jubilee

Our fair table was successful in raising funds for both the Heifer Project and buying 2 wheelchairs for the African mission in Kenya.

Mugs for sale

Snowed out in December, we will be selling mugs again at coffeeshour. Date TBA.



1000 mugs for South Africa is raising money for public education in the Khethani township, South Africa. Through the sale of a thousand handmade pottery mugs, they are raising money for a school library. Marlene Nelson's dream of making and selling a thousand mugs to support children in South Africa was carried out with the help of her clay colleagues and friends at Harvard's Ceramics Program. Bishop Shaw, who is himself a potter, has been involved with this effort.

For more information on this project, contact Katie West.

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!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Sunday, January 31, 2010

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 FIFTH 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 2010.
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, 2010 Carol Hokana, Interim Clerk

FROM THE PLEDGE RECORDER.....

As 2009 ends and 2010 begins, we'd like to ask you to pay careful attention to your pledge checks and envelopes to avoid confusion on the part of the Sunday morning counters and the pledge recorder. Please remember these few guidelines.

- Beginning January 1st, please do not use any 2009 envelopes that you may have left over. It confuses things and the number may not match the number that the counters have on their sheet for you if your envelope number has changed. Recycle!
- **If you are making a payment after December 31st, but want it to be attributed to your 2009 pledge, please write "2009" in the memo line of the check.** This is the **only** way we have of knowing what you are doing. Otherwise your payment will be attributed to 2010.
- For tax purposes, the date of a contribution is determined by when you mail it, or by when you deliver it to the church. Any payment made after December 31st **must** be recorded as a contribution in 2010, even if it is attributed to your 2009 pledge.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. As always, St. Paul's is very grateful for your faithfulness and support of its ministry.

Lynne Wolf, Pledge Recorder

Ushers and Greeters Guidelines

1. **Usher & Greeter** - Please arrive at the Church by 9:40 am
 2. **Greeter & Usher** – greet everyone who enters the Church. Offer assistance to any new individual (introduce them to Frank; point out Child Care and Church School areas, coat racks, etc.)
 3. **Usher** – Check the availability of alms basins for offertory collection.
 4. **Usher** – check on lights, heat and ventilation.
 5. **Usher** – Check with Rector (on special occasions) to determine the need for reserved seating or any other special instructions.
 6. **Usher** – hand out bulletins to people attending services and help with seating if crowded.
 7. **Usher & Greeter** – take up alms and offering after the offertory anthem.
 8. **Usher & Greeter** – Notify the Nursery and Church school that it is Communion time.
 9. **Usher** – At Communion direct the flow of communicants to the altar trying to avoid large gaps. (NO MORE THAN 11-12 PEOPLE ON A SIDE)
 - 9b. **Greeters** – stand at base of stairs to altar and be ready to assist people “only if they ask for help”
 10. **Usher & Greeter** – Be alert for emergencies (fainting or illness).
 11. **Usher & Greeter** – Subdue any excessive noise in the Narthex during worship.
 12. **Usher** – record the number of people attending worship include adults, children, Choir and Clergy) and enter it in the Ushers book.
 13. **Usher & Greeter** – Tidy up the church by putting up all kneelers, arranging all hymnals and prayer books turn off fans and lights.
 14. **Usher & Greeter** – Collect all bulletins and discard in the recycling bin and join the coffee hour.
- Note:** If an individual arrives in a wheelchair, point out that we have pew cut outs. Please direct your conversation to the person in the wheelchair and ask if they would prefer that communion be brought to them. If so, let the priest know.

Dates to Remember

January 29 (Friday night) Hockey game (adults and children)- come see Harvard play Princeton at Bright arena. See John Mitchell for information.

February 16 Shrove Tuesday Pancake family supper provided by the St Paul's Men's Group .

March 27 - Adult Dinner Fundraiser by the St Paul's Men's Group. Pot Roast with all the fixings \$ 25.00 per person More information to follow in the next Epistle.

Caroling and Progressive Supper



We had over 65 adults and children attend this event on Dec 13. We avoided the snow of the past 2 years but were greeter with a ton of rain. However, everyone who participated had a great time and all the folks we sang to really enjoyed our songs. A special thanks to Sue & Paul Runkle, Chuck Frates and Sima and Bruce Seymourian for hosting the progressive food segments and to the Middle and High school youth and their leaders who baked the cookies we distributed.

Save the Dates

***Potluck Breakfast
Saturday, February 6th
8:30 AM at the Church***

Join the Women's Group on Saturday, February 6th for breakfast at 8:30 AM. Each person is asked to contribute a hot dish, fruit, baked item or juice to the breakfast. Watch for a sign up sheet later in January. All women in the parish are welcome as well as daughters if they want to join us.

Future Events for 2010

- Trip to the Icon Museum in Clinton, MA – date to be determined
- Annual Brunch at the home of Sharon Healey – watch for details
- May 5th - Frank will lead a discussion about women in the Bible

**A new Parish
Directory will be
available at the
Annual Parish
Meeting!**



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 across the street on Dana Road or along the back drive.

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
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Emily Mitchell, Senior Warden
Paul Ciaccia, Junior Warden
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Carol Hokana, Clerk

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A Prayer for the New Year

Grant me, O Lord, to know what is worth knowing,
to love what is worth loving,
to praise what delights you most,
to value what is precious to you,
and to reject whatever is evil in your eyes.
Give me true discernment,
so that I may judge rightly between things that differ.
Above all, may I search you out and do
what is pleasing to you;
through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

Thomas `a Kempis





ADVENT FAIR UPDATE

The 2009 Advent Fair was a special day for St. Paul's Church. We gathered for a festive day of fellowship and fundraising and have collected a total of \$10,556. After removing proceeds from Heifer (\$990) and Jubilee (\$475), the amount for the church budget is \$9,091. This compares to \$9,393 in '08 and \$10,936 in '07. This 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 (including Chris Adamik, Clayton Hafer & Ben Johnson driven by Suzanne Johnson); thanks to parishioners for lending their coolers and folding tables; thanks to the ironing crew; and many, many thanks to ALL PEOPLE WHO HELPED SET UP OR CLEAN UP – there was so much help we finished in record time, so it's very tough to name all of the hands that pitched in!!
- **Country Kitchen** – The ever-loyal and fabulous Sue Runkle assisted by Paul Runkle, Jan Gurley, Paul Ciaccia, Charles Mathews, Arthur Fergusson, John MacPhee, Jim Seaton, Sue 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 (you know who you are!!)
- **White Elephants** – the amazing Jan Blake assisted by Donald Blake and the wonderful Toni Wood. Thank you to the many people who offered assistance throughout the day, providing much-needed breaks from two busy rooms!
- **Children's Activities** – Big Kudos to Kelly Craven for all her HARD WORK, along with daughter Sarah, running the fun activities for the kids. Kudos to Karin Baker & Carrie Mathews and the amazing middle school youth who worked hard face painting and giving tattoos to the children!!! (Chris Adamik, Hunter Hayes, Nate Presti, Natalie Schalick, & Austen Sharpe). Special thanks to Ben Wicks for running the fantastic Lemonade Stand!!!
- **Arts & Crafts** – the amazing and talented crafters had beautiful items on display once again this year; very BIG THANKS go to Chairperson Karen Kruger, Betsey Anderson, Christine Anderson, Lynne Wolf, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Roberta Valday, Linda Moosick, Ellen Ryan, Joanna Nickerson, and Caroline Larson. Your creations were beautiful and plentiful and loved by all. A few others kindly offered help for the jewelry making and boxwood workshops (including the Pulizzi girls & Ailin Thomas). Also, thanks to Jeff Zwicker for his beautiful wooden pens, which were a hit again this year.

- **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. Special thanks to the ever-loyal Wendy Ciaccia and Jeff Zwicker, who worked in the kitchen all day long!!! Also, thanks to Donald Blake and the many high school youth who dutifully collected money (Cassie Baker, Emma Healey, Tim Ryan, & Ariana and Jacob Seymourian).
- **Silent Auction** – Organized and beautifully coordinated by the one-and-only Sharon Healey ... thanks to all who donated items and solicited vendors. Special thanks to Dori & Mike Pulizzi, who secured MULTIPLE items for this table =) And, to all who bid and purchased – many thanks for keeping things exciting!!
- **Floater** – thanks to this elite group who helped wherever needed ... Candy Walker, Andrea Hayes, Hunter Hayes, Suzanne Johnson, Susan Adamik, Sue Marasa, Joanna Nickerson, Ned Thomas, Jan Gurley, Donna Waghorne, Nancy Campbell, Dori Pulizzi, 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 as always.
- **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, Rene Seaton, Sima Seymourian, Carol Hokana and Shan Shan Bonifanti. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the baskets, be it items or money. We couldn't do it without you!
- **Books** – Thanks to all who helped organize the books and keep the room in tip top shape – especially Suzanne Johnson, Susan Adamik, and Becky Waghorne.
- **Jewelry** – Kudos to Sharon Witbeck for her amazing job running the Vintage Jewelry table – a wonderful addition =)
- **Outreach Groups** – Caroline & Ken Larson for their hard work and dedication to The Heifer 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!! (I know Dori did).
- **Publicity** – Caroline Larson, Lynne & Jerry Wolf (programs), Betsey Anderson (postcards and 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 telling 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