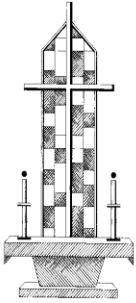


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

January 2011

The Gift of the Magi



Dear Friends,

During the month of January, we celebrate the arrival of the three Magi and begin the season of Epiphany. This year, the journey of the Wise Men seems to parallel our own church life, as St. Paul's finds itself in a journey as a pilgrim people. This season, we are searching for a new rector at the same time that we tell the story of the three wise men searching for the star. In both cases, the work is hard, important, holy, and God-given.

The Magi left what was comfortable, easy, and familiar in search of a star, and St. Paul's congregation has left a pattern of ministry and community which was comfortable, easy, and familiar in search of a new rector, and a new life of ministry together. There must have been some hard and lonely times in the desert; there must have been doubts as well as joys on the way to Bethlehem. So, too, as we are in the lean time between what was and what will be, we may find at least a few moments of loneliness and doubt. Loneliness and doubt are part of the human experience.

At the same time, there is so much life, so much joy, so much ministry, so much Grace in the community of St. Paul's, that it is easy for me to trust that you are all doing the good and hard work required of Magi. You are following God day-by-day, trusting that the journey itself will make the next step plain.

We have an excellent Search Committee and a lively and healthy parish; we have an excellent Vestry and an excellent staff. Joan and Tracy are wonderful and talented women. The lay leaders of our parish life – in Church School and Choir, in Outreach and in Stewardship – could not be better. Now is the time to trust. We trust in God's good work among us; we trust that the next rector is already preparing his or her heart for a whole new ministry in Bedford. We trust that the Holy Spirit is hovering over us and our community, inviting us to think clearly, to be kind and loving in relationships, and to have the courage to follow where our new life will lead us.

May we find this month's story of the Magi the best kind of comfort, and the best kind of challenge.

Blessings in the journey,

Margaret

Vestry Corner

Dear friends,

Happy New Year! Like 2010, 2011 will be a year of transition for St. Paul's, as the search committee continues its work of finding the right person to become our next rector. We look forward to more months with Margaret and are excited for the possibilities that the new year may bring. We are grateful for the continued dedication, hard work, flexibility, and good humor of the people of St. Paul's as we navigate this time of change together.

Please see the warrant elsewhere in this Epistle regarding this year's Annual Meeting, to be held Sunday, January 30, immediately after the service. The Annual Meeting is a vital event in the life of St. Paul's: the 2011 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.

The vestry will meet on Tuesday, January 18, at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

With blessings,
Emily and Paul

Annual Pledging Update.

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge to support St Paul's in 2011. Your financial commitment is essential to helping us meet our financial obligations as a parish, support our church school and the many mission programs as well.

As of December 17 we have received pledges amounting to \$140,000 from 75 parishioners. The 2010 pledge amount was \$155,000, so we still have a little ways to go to match last year's total.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has read through the 43 applicants' resumes and their responses to the four questions that were posed by the committee. After poring through these materials, the committee has narrowed the pool to nine applicants. The diocesan office in charge of transitions is now communicating with each applicant's respective bishop in order to complete an initial screening. Once the applicants are approved by their bishops, the committee will conduct phone interviews with each candidate. These conversations will take place in late January and early February. Please continue to pray for us, and please speak with any member of the committee if there arises a question you want answered.

Sharon

WARRANT

The members of St. Paul's Church, Bedford, are hereby summoned to attend the FIFTY-SIXTH 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 2011.
3. To elect Co-Wardens, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and two Vestry members, as well as Diocesan Convention delegates and alternates, and 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, 2011

Dori Pulizzi, Clerk

Christmas Caroling Report

It was certainly a rainy evening but over 62 members of St. Paul's did venture forth to bring some Christmas cheer to other parishioners at their homes and to members at Carleton Willard Village. Thanks to everyone who braved the rain to sing Christmas carols. Also, I'd like to thank the youth groups of St. Paul's for baking the cookies, all those who contributed food and beverages, the kitchen crew (Jan Gurley, Ginny Draper, Sue Marasa, Rene Seaton and Jan Blake) and to Wendy Ciaccia who hosted the dessert segment.

Thanks ,
Paul Ciaccia



Catechesis Corner

Dear Catechesis families,

Welcome back after what we hope was a very joyous Christmas to all. What a joy it was to us to watch so many of the children (almost all?) participate wholeheartedly in the Pageant.

We resume regular Catechesis schedules on January 9th. We will start by presenting some of the Nativity stories there wasn't time for in the fall, such as the Epiphany and, for Catechesis II, the Presentation in the Temple, with its lovely words from Simeon and Anna. We will then present some parables, including the messy but ever-popular "Leaven" with yeast and dough in Catechesis I, and new 'Good Shepherd' stories.

Session III starts on January 30th, and we can always use more adults and teens involved. We will also try harder to arrange some kind of training/orientation to the program this winter when things are, we hope, a little quieter at St. Paul's. If you might be interested in either of these, or just have questions about the program, please talk to either of us.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

High School Youth

JANUARY SERVICE PROJECT: We've had a lot of interest in doing a service activity this year. Sometime during the week of January 17-23, we'll be offering an opportunity to spend a few hours providing outreach to people in need. Please watch your email for more information.

CONFIRMATION: Confirmation and reception for the Alewife Deanery will be held Saturday, April 30, at Christ Church, Cambridge. Any baptized member in grade 9 or higher is eligible for confirmation, and any baptized adult who was confirmed in another Christian denomination is eligible to be received into the Episcopal Church.

Confirmation classes will be held after church throughout the winter and early spring, typically every other week. Pre-confirmation retreats at the Barbara Harris Camp will be held March 18-19 and April 8-9 (we need only attend one, but should all go as a group). If you are interested in confirmation this year, please let Emily or Arthur know by JANUARY 9.

Happy New Year!
—Emily and Arthur

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, New Year's and school vacation. Welcome to 2011! December was very busy - many thanks to those of you that helped with face painting and tattoos at the Advent Fair, as well as transporting gift baskets to St. Paul's. We had a great time caroling, even in the downpour, and the cookie plates that we put together brought smiles to every recipient's face. We had lots of involvement in the Christmas pageant - nice job to all who participated!

January's update:

* **Jan 9:** In-class discussion. Please make every effort to attend.

* **Jan 23:** Bowling at the Acton Bowladrome & Arcade. We will meet at the church at 4:00 PM and carpool over to the Acton Bowladrome (right on Rte 27) for some bowling, arcades and dinner at the Burgerdrome. Please RSVP to Mrs. Mathews to let her know that you plan to attend so we can figure out the cost, reserve enough lanes and get carpools set up.

Be sure and watch your emails for more updates and news!

~ Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker



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!

Special thanks to Jan Svendsen for making the "golden angel" costume
and Peter Ricci for hand-making new shepherd staffs!

Sincerely,
Ellen Ryan and Natalie Wicks

PS Special thanks to my pageant partner of 6 years, Natalie! Couldn't have done it without you.

Notes from the Nursery School



December was a fun and exciting month at nursery school. Our first event was a field trip to Season's Four to choose a tree which we dub our "Hat and Mitten Tree". It was a chilly day and the children enjoyed choosing a tree, feeding the animals, and returning to school to have hot chocolate and cookies. Children decorated the tree with hats, mittens and scarves. I was able to bring several bags 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. 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 3.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Lee Frank

A GIFT OF MUSIC



A few weeks ago, Covenant Congregational Church of Waltham, where I served as music director before coming to St. Paul's, had its last service and closed its doors. A Globe article and a parishioner alerted me to the situation, so I inquired about the plans for the music library. The minister invited me to visit, and to take any anthems that we could use for St. Paul's. Consequently, I retrieved several bags of music that we will be using in the near future. Our grateful thanks to the church for their generosity. We wish them Godspeed in finding a new community to worship in.

Joan Reddy

HYMN SING, January 23, 2011



Remember picking your favorite hymns last spring, when the list was too long to include them all? Have you found a new favorite since then? Maybe you're new to the church and haven't had a chance to add your choice yet. Well, a new opportunity is here for all of you. On Sunday, January 23 at 3:00, St. Paul's will gather to sing the "cold weather blues" away with favorite hymns, old and new. The program will include hymns from those earlier lists and perhaps new choices from you! A form will be included in your Sunday program on January 9 and 16. Light refreshments and good fellowship will follow the sing. Please put that date on your calendars now!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Paul's is looking for more volunteers to become ushers and greeters. Ushers and greeters welcome the congregation every Sunday, hand out bulletins, assist with seating, and direct people to the altar for Communion. If you would like to be a part of this group, please contact Paul Ciaccia. We will be scheduling a training session for all ushers and greeters after the holidays.



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 along Dana Road or Heritage Road.

HELP US KEEP ST. PAUL'S GREEN!

The Stewardship Committee would like to remind everyone that energy is a precious resource. If you are at the church during off-hours—at night for a meeting, on the weekends for church business, etc.—please be mindful of the energy you use while you're here. Turn off lights when you leave a room. If you need to adjust the thermostat, please make sure you reset it to its regular schedule before you leave. Simple solutions like these will help us save both energy and money. Thanks for your cooperation!



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Every week Emily and Paul send out an email to the parish, chock-full of news and information about doings at church for the week. If you aren't getting these emails, please make sure that Tracy and Emily have your email address. You don't want to miss a message!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Sunday, January 30, 2011

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

Reports due to Tracy on or before January 15th

Women's Group

Save the Dates!

After a brief hiatus over the advent season, the **Women's Group** will meet again in the New Year. Please join us for any or all of the following activities.

TBD - Women's Epiphany Evening Eucharist
Jan. 15 – New Year Potluck Brunch at the Church (8:30 AM)

Feb. 12 – Half Day Retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp (time to be determined)

If you are interested in planning or helping with any of these events, please contact Mary Curlew. I would love to have three or four women to help plan the retreat especially.



If you planning to do a any Amazon shopping in the near future, 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!

Keep those tab tops coming!



Thanks to all who continue to participate in the "Tab" program, which supports the Shriner's Burn Hospital.
Keep them coming!

Also, Ed Lawrence continues to collect cans and bottles for the deposits, which helps assist the National Guard Veterans with their expenses.

OUTREACH NEWS



Advent Giving Tree

Thanks to all your generous contributions, we were able to distribute over 100 gifts this year! Cecelia Parks reports our gifts to residents at the Bedford Veteran's Hospital were joyfully received. Caroline Larson played Santa to our sponsored family. They were overjoyed with gifts that delighted every member of the family. They were just as thrilled about getting bandaids, diapers and vitamin D as they were about gift certificates to Market Basket and Kohls. Delighted to have us carol at their home, they said they would like to come to St. Paul's one Sunday.

Thank you to everyone for your generous and thoughtful gifts!

Ecclesia Ministries

Ecclesia Ministries is an ecumenical church community that engages homeless and privileged people, service providers, clergy, seminarians, artists, and professionals of all kinds in activities that work to meet the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of homeless people in Boston.

Thanks to all who supported Ecclesia at the Advent Fair, we were able to raise over \$500 for this important ministry. We still have available a few of the beautiful solid silver crosses, designed by a member of the homeless community.



Linus Blankets for Habitat family



Our busy knitting ministry contributed two full sized blankets to new Habitat residents on North Road in Bedford. Debra Wiggins moved in this summer with her two children, Alexis and Demeatrius.

Coming from inner city housing in Roxbury, Alexis has been a Metco student in Bedford and is now thrilled to be living in the community where she goes to school. Demeatrius attends a workshop program in Concord. Debra also helped us "unload" a glass top coffee table left over from our Thrift Sale!

ST. PAUL'S OUTREACH COMMITTEE : Nancy Campbell, Kate Chambers-Maher, Carol Hokana, Cecelia Parks, Barbara Perry, John Mitchell, Paddy Wade, Candy Walker, Howard, Webber, Lynne Wolf, Caroline Larson, Chair

ADVENT FAIR UPDATE



The 2010 Advent Fair was a terrific day for St. Paul's Church. To date, we have deposited approximately \$11,000 from the Fair, which is more than the amount raised last year. 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:

Gift Baskets - Jan Svendsen and Natalie Wicks, chairmen, and Jan Blake, Jan Gurley, Linda Kuramoto, Lisa Hafer, Sharon and Emma Healey. Carol Hokana, Bo and ShanShan Bonifanti. Joanna Nickerson, Rene Seaton, Sima Seymourian, and Sharon Witbeck, the creative and dedicated committee. Once again, this group REALLY OUTDID themselves this year and helped make the Fair such a success. Thanks to all who contributed gift items and cash to purchase items to fill the baskets.

Crafts — led by Linda Moosick, Karen Kruger, Lynne Wolf, Joanna Nickerson and all of the FANTASTIC crafters - Ellen Ryan, Betsey Anderson, Jan Blake, Chris Anderson, Roberta Valday, Ginny Draper, Lorraine Campbell, Terri Simmons. Thanks to Caroline Larson for leading the boxwood workshop, to Sharon Witbeck, Jan Svendsen, and Jeff Zwicker for their donations of crafts, to the Pulizzi family for jewelry and to Paddy Wade for her begonias. Everything was beautiful and sales exceeded the last several years.

Vintage Jewelry - Sharon Witbeck who more than doubled last year's sales with attractive lightly used jewelry.

Country Kitchen - Sue Runkle, Sue Marasa and Roberta Valday assisted by Paul Ciaccia, the many "cheese heads" and other helpers the day of the Fair. The food items were all delicious, we sold more cheese than ever and the soups-to-go continue to be a big hit. We couldn't do this without all the great St. Paul's cooks and those who eat the food.

White Elephants and Books — Toni Wood, Jan and Don Blake, Ginny Draper and everyone who offered assistance.

Children's Activities - Kelly Craven (for all her HARD WORK) assisted by Sarah Craven and the youth of the church led by Karin Baker and Carrie Mathews who helped with face painting and tattoos. A special thanks to Kelly who brought back Cookie Decorating this year — always a big favorite with the kids! Special thanks to Ben Wicks for the lemonade stand with proceeds donated to Heifer and to Linda Johnnene for the grab bags for the kids.

Snack Bar - Linda Moosick and Dan Riendeau, assisted by Wendy Ciaccia and Jeff Zwicker for doing an OUTSTANDING job preparing lunch and snacks for many. Thanks to the cashiers as well.

Outreach Groups — The Outreach Committee members led by Howard Webber and Caroline Larson for their hard work and dedication to the Ecclesia Ministries and the Heifer Project. We have collected over \$1,800 so far.

Silent Auction — Louisa Saladino-Kuhl for organizing an amazing array of auction items and Sharon Healey for her help and support, as well as all who donated items, solicited businesses and bid.

Cat's Meow St. Paul's Church — Thanks to Nancy Kupfrian who took this from an idea and a photograph to a beautiful new item at the fair. What a great way to remember St. Paul's!

Greeters - Rhett Weeks and Linda, assisted by others - your smiles and kind words made all feel welcome. Thanks to the Wolfs for the programs.

Publicity - Caroline Larson, Walter Anderson, Joanna Nickerson and Ron Presti (our sign man), and Emily for the great reminders.

Treasurer - Barbara Perry and counters Michael Ryan and Ron Presti

Set-up and Clean-up — There are too many to name without missing a few, but we thank everyone who showed up Friday afternoon to iron sheets, set up tables, move furniture, hang signs, organize books and carry baskets. Equally important are those who cleaned up on Saturday afternoon, Sunday after church and assisted with putting the final crafts items away. Thanks to all these unsung heroes!

Our Wardens — Emily Mitchell and Paul Ciaccia who were always available to help.

Thank you to ALL who worked on the day of the Fair, baked, contributed the cheese, baked beans, made crafts, brought in White Elephants, contributed cash or silent auction items, or gave donations for the baskets. Thanks for SHOPPING and bringing your friends to shop. Thanks for setting up and cleaning up. All of your help is so truly appreciated - this is an all Parish event and one in which everyone's help is so very important. Thank you for your fellowship and love.

Special thanks to the Fair Coordinating Committee, Joanna Nickerson, Nancy Kupfrian, Rene Seaton and to Lisa Hafer for her help and advice. You all made this project seem easy!

Betsey Anderson, Fair Committee

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

Non-profit
Organization
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Permit No. 11

Staff:

The Reverend Ms. Margaret Schwarzer, Interim Priest
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Emily Mitchell and Paul Ciaccia, Co-Wardens
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Dori Pulizzi, Clerk

Vestry:

Lisa Hafer,
Sharon Healey
Carol Hokana
John MacPhee
Natalie Wicks
David Woodward

Epiphany Prayer

O Holy Ghost, Divine Spirit of light and love,
To you I offer my heart, my will, my whole being.
In time, and even into eternity, I trust that you will lead me.
Teach me to walk in the ways of God;
Help me to be a bearer of the light.
Help me to be one who shares the good news of Christ.
Amen

