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# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

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March 2006

Dear Friends,

We are in the time of Lent. The church year offers us this time to reflect and remember the unbelievable love that God has for us as it is revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a time in which we intentionally strive to embrace and internalize that love for ourselves and to understand that its fullness includes all of humanity.

In my youth I was taught that Jesus came to us in order to die for us. But I believe it is more accurate to say that Jesus came to us in order to redeem us, to live for us, to be resurrected so we can be resurrected. It is in his earthly journey, the whole of it, that we find the goodness and love which God has for us.

In this time we focus on Jesus' commitment to the end, to his mission of manifesting God's love on earth. Of course, the cross is his testimony to that commitment. Nothing would stand in his way of bringing the love of God into our human reality. Not even his own death.

But the cross is not the whole story. Stopping at the cross is important to our own journeys as Christians but staying there does not honor the complete life and purpose of Jesus or his sacrifice for us. It is imperative that we recognize the love that is freely given at the crucifixion but it is just as imperative that we move from that place to the place of Jesus' glorious resurrection.

During this Lenten time, I encourage you to remember all the things of Jesus' life. Remember his humble birth, his baptism by John, the healing miracles, the lessons he taught, the freedom and love he offered to all. Remember that he gathered his friends around him all the time to teach God's magnanimity to them and to us so that we could learn to know how beloved we all are. Remember his willingness to stand before authorities and deny their right to oppress him or anyone. Remember his loving kindness to his followers, which include us, in his giving us the Holy Eucharist so that we may always remember and participate in his love.

Remember that even death would not stand in his way to provide God's message to us: that God would let nothing stand in the way of our relationship with our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. God would not even let the distance between eternity and time be a barrier and so God breaks it and comes to us in Jesus. And Jesus would not let the barrier of death stand in the way of his mission of love.

In Lent remember it is all about God's love for us. Spend time letting that love invigorate you, ennoble you, free you. Spend time wondering how you can take that great gift and share it in the world.



Frank

## Catechesis Corner

Forgotten what day you are assisting? Wondering what your child will be learning or who will be teaching this Sunday? The Catechesis schedule for Sessions III and IV is now available online via the Christian Education page of the St. Paul's website.

Classes continue to go well. We've been adding more "practical life" and other activities to hopefully keep the children's interest (several involve water). Hope you noticed their "Hallelujah" banners and signs in church. This month will be Lent, so banners will come down and we will start the Easter stories such as the Last Supper.

We're trying to arrange another training session soon with Reverend Louise Forrest – watch your email and the bulletin for dates and details.

*Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan*

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## St. Paul's Christian Education

### Elementary School

The time of Lent is here and our students understand that it is a quiet, reflective time when we look at how we can best serve God. It is a time to remember how much Jesus loves us and what we can do for him.

Our **Session IV Parent/Teacher Workshop is March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** Please let us know if you can attend. We will be planning for our last session of Sunday School, Easter and Pentecost. It is such a wonderful time in our church year to share the stories of Jesus with the students.

### March Sunday School Calendar

Mar. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Family Sermon
Mar. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Class 4
Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Class 5
Mar. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Class 6

Please call us if you have any questions.

Karin Baker  
Cathy Presti

*Karin Baker*

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## High School and Middle School Youth

Well, God send a snowstorm to thwart our plans to visit the SSJE monastery on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Not to be deterred, we visited on February 26<sup>th</sup> instead, for their Evensong service. Thanks to all who attended!

This month, it's time for our annual Movie Night, to be held Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. We'll be watching the movie *STOLEN SUMMER*, the story of two boys -- one Catholic, one Jewish -- growing up in 1970s-era Chicago.

Bring your hankies. We'll bookend the movie with a couple of choice episodes of THE SIMPSONS, to lighten the mood a bit. PLEASE NOTE: We'll be meeting at our house, not at church, since we need the services of our DVD player. Dinner will be provided.

Coming to town: Our long-lost friend Caroline Fenn will be visiting St. Paul's on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. She's come all the way from her new home in Uganda, so we hope you'll all be at church that day to say hello!

*John & Emily Mitchell*

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## **Women's Group**

### The Annual Brunch:

Please join the women of St. Paul's Church on  
Sunday, March 5, 2006 at Noon

for fellowship and brunch

at the home of Suzanne Johnson

(We will provide directions.)

We will enjoy brunch and discuss future activities of the Women's Group.  
All women of the parish are welcome to this annual event.  
Sign up at church or RSVP to the church office.

### APRIL FOOL'S FUN:

April Fool's Pops  
Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
Westford Performing Arts Center  
Tickets \$29.70 (less if more than 25 people sign up)

Join us as Bruce Hangen and The Orchestra of Indian Hill let their hair down for some serious fun with PDQ Bach, Beethoven, and pops favorites. The concert will be preceded by a light supper at 5:30 pm at the home of Jan Gurley in North Chelmsford. We will carpool from the church. There will be a small charge, to be determined, to help defray dinner expenses.

This event is sponsored by St. Paul's Women's Group, but open to all parishioners. Come one, come all!

**In order to reserve your seat, payment of \$29.70 must be made no later than Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.** Checks should be made payable to Lynne Wolf. Call Lynne with any questions.

*Betsy Anderson  
Lynne Wolf*

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## **GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY**

### **Helping our military troops overseas**

Sunday March 12<sup>th</sup> is Girl Scout Sunday and also our Girl Scout birthday, commemorating the day in 1912 when Juliette Low officially registered the organization's first 18 members in Savannah, Georgia.

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 12<sup>th</sup>!

As part of our celebration of GS Sunday, Bedford Girl Scouts are collecting items for military troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members of our parish are asked to bring items to church on March 12<sup>th</sup> which will be shipped overseas by Hanscom AFB.

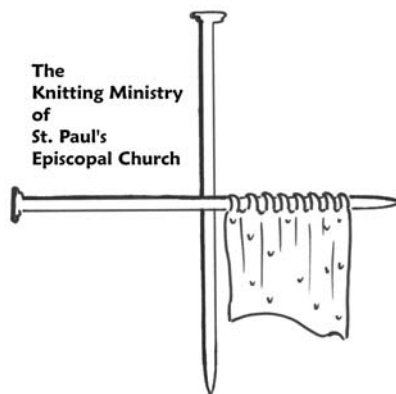
#### **Items requested by military units overseas:**

- Money for postage - checks can be made out to CGOC
- Coffee (especially Dunkin Donuts brand!)
- Hand sanitizer
- American snacks (nuts, candy that will not melt, cookies, sunflower seeds, granola bars, crackers, gum, beef jerky, etc)
- Magazines (sports, entertainment, news) not older than 3 mos
- Small lightweight games/toys (beanie babies, cards, etc)
- Towelettes/baby wipes
- Disposable razors
- Paperback books (no romance novels)
- Lotion
- Sunscreen
- DVDs/CDs
- Disposable cameras
- Lightweight sports equipment (Frisbee, football, etc)
- Phone cards (ATT work best)
- Oxford picture dictionary (English/Arabic)
- AA/AAA batteries
- Foot powder/spray
- Insoles
- Good shampoo
- Chapstick
- Powdered drinks (Crystal Lite, Kool Aid, etc)

*Caroline Larson*

# Knitting Ministry

KNITTERS AND NON-KNITTERS!



St. Paul's Knitting Ministry has a great supply of worsted wool – now we need knitters! Come knit with us or learn to knit. (Bring size 8 needles.)  
Or come crochet!  
Or come sort out blanket squares!  
Just join us!

KNIT NIGHT  
Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
Caroline Larson's house

## KNITTING IN CHURCH

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

No, not knitting during the sermon!!! The Knitting Ministry is having a meeting after church in the library. Pick up your coffee and join us!

Do you want to learn to knit? Or purl? Or crochet?  
Have you got spare yarn to contribute?  
Can you help us assemble blankets?  
Who do you think should receive a shawl?

New knitters - Bring size 8 needles.

## KNITTING IN CHURCH

Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service  
St. Paul's Church

Questions? Contact Caroline Larson.

*Caroline Larson*

## News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School

### Parent Education offered & "PDPS" for Teachers

The preschool is looking forward to hosting a two-part workshop in March. Sponsored by a grant to the Bedford Community Partnership Council, the evenings are presented by Charlie Applestein, M.S.W. from Salem N.H. He has more than 25 years of experience working with children, parents and educators. To read more about this event please visit his website at <http://www.charliea.com>.

These events are advertised through all the schools and open to anyone.

Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

The topic will be "*Why Kids Act Out: Responding & Reacting to the Behavior of Your Kids/Key Principles and Techniques for Effective Parenting*". This workshop is designed for parents, but anyone is welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 per person.

Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The topic will be "*The Art of Communicating with Challenging Students and Their Parents.*" This workshop is designed for child care providers, but anyone is welcome to attend. The cost is \$10 per person.

If you would like to join us, please see Beth Taylor for a registration form. The parents of our students are also providing light refreshments for the events. It will be wonderful having the new kitchen at hand for the organizing!

### OTHER NEWS

The children in the 3 & 5 day programs recently visited the M.S.P.C.A. facility in Methuen, known as Nevins Farm. The education coordinator gave us all a wonderful tour of the horse barn, the sheep & goat area, ducks & geese, and of course the many cats, dogs, guinea pigs, birds, rabbits etc. that inhabit the new small animal building. Photos from the afternoon are posted in the hallway. In December you may have noticed our "Giving Tree for the Animals" as it became decorated and gathered many boxes of animal and pet products. The children and families donated several hundred dollars of needed items from the Nevins Farm "Wish List", our second year of doing this outreach project.

*Beth Taylor*

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## Town and Local Upcoming Events

### Bedford METCO Program

Soul Food Dinner:

The Bedford METCO Program will be holding a Soul Food Dinner fundraiser on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the First Church of Christ Congregational on Great Road in Bedford, from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and you may eat there or get your meal to go. The dinner includes a main dish of chicken plus side dishes, dessert, and beverages.

Please contact Karin Baker if you would like tickets.

METCO Scholarship Fundraiser:

Join us on The Boston Neighborhood Tour with Charlie Rose – Thursday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3-10 p.m. Host, Charlie Rose from City Year will be the guide for the coach bus tour through Boston neighborhoods, with a stop at a favorite restaurant for dinner. Tickets are \$50 and the bus will leave the Bedford Town Center at 3 p.m.

For more information call Karin Baker.

*Karin Baker*

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## **Parish Directory Update**

The new parish directory is now complete!

Each directory has been labeled (by family), in alphabetical order, and is available on the side table of the parish's main entryway. Please be conscious of finding and then taking the copy designated for you. This will allow me to be certain of who has not received a copy and to mail directories accordingly.

MANY changes have been made since last year's version was compiled. Check for new addresses, phone numbers and e-mail address changes for all your favorite St. Paul's members!

*Anne Gardner*

**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](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org)

*Staff:*

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

The Reverend Daniel Collier

William Kemeza, Seminarian/Postulant for Holy Orders

Anne Gardner, Candidate for Holy Orders/Parish

Administrator

Joan Reddy, Music Director

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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