

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

March 2008

Dear Friends,

We are still a distance away from the last day of Lent. The days are getting longer and soon will be warmer. Spring is coming! Easter is coming! Many people have commented how early Easter Sunday is this year. That's true. According to the calculations of the Church, the earliest we can celebrate Easter is March 22; we are very close to that this year.

Even though Easter is early this year, let's not hurry our Lenten discipline of remembering, fasting, giving alms, praying and wondering about the life and death of Jesus. We are so driven to get to the prize that we often do not savor the journey and the challenge. The gifts of grace that are offered in the various journeys of our lives can be overlooked when we only seek to get to the end, the goal, the final gift. Forgive another naïve football reference. But, what fun would it be if the only thing we experienced was the final score of the final game without experiencing all the games that got the team there? Or what would it be like to spend the summer waiting for the final success of the home team without seeing or feeling the excitement in all of the games?

The journeys of our lives are very important to the savoring of the many great gifts God has in store for us. In these last days of our Lenten journey, we are called to renew our intentions of Ash Wednesday to observe a Holy Lent. As we come together in worship in these last days of the season, let us be reminded of God's purpose for Jesus and for us. Jesus came to us so that we could know God. Jesus came to us so that we could know what God's hope and dreams are for the world and all those in it. Jesus is the hope of the world.

God's vision for us is embodied in the life of Jesus. That vision is made clear through His teachings, his actions, his commitment and compassion. God's hope for us is inner peace, that we all live lives of satisfaction and grace, that there be peace with justice in the world, and that people love one another as God loves us. Jesus taught it, did it and died for it.

In this Holy Season of Lent we are called also to let die in us all those things that prevent us from contributing to God's vision of the world. That is what it means to die with Christ. It is to let those old ways of self interest, possessiveness, self reliance, prejudice, and fear die within us. To repent of those ways and be of a new mind is the call of Lent through the centuries. The more we live like Christ, the more we strive to walk the paths of care and compassion for ourselves and others, the more God's vision emerges.

And as we die with Christ we too are raised with Him. Our life takes on new meaning when we are free of the things that bind us from one another. The joy of consciously participating with God in the realization of God's kingdom of peace, justice and satisfaction for all people, frees us to be fearless in our daily lives as followers of Jesus Christ. The parallel journey of our lives with the life of Jesus will bring us all to the knowledge and security of God's love for us. The Lenten journey is not over yet. In the words of the Ash Wednesday invitation let us keep these days "...by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word."

Holy Week Worship Schedule

March 16th – March 23rd

Palm Sunday (March 16th)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Monday (March 17th)
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday (March 18th)
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday (March 19th)
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday (March 20th)
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
Foot washing and
Stripping of the altar



Maundy Thursday

Good Friday (March 21st)
12:00 noon Way of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Children's Service
7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service



Good Friday

Saturday (March 22nd)
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

Sunday (March 23rd)
6:30 a.m. Bedford Ecumenical Service

Easter Sunday (March 23rd)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



Catechesis Corner



Session III has been and will continue to be a busy session for the children. During this time they heard two parables. The preschoolers were presented with "The Leaven" and experienced first hand the preparation of bread dough with yeast and the rising process. The kindergartners were presented "The Hidden Treasure" complete with miniature treasure chest!

The Good Shepherd narrative was expanded upon in both classes with the addition of the found sheep and the hired hand. Both classes have a wooden set containing green pasture with fence, Good Shepherd and flock, hired hand and wolf. Ask your children to tell you these stories. They know them so well!

As Lent approached, the classes combined to work on beautiful and joyful Alleluia banners that were hung in the Sanctuary. The banners were packed away carefully for the Lenten weeks and will reappear at Easter. The children changed the linens in their Atria from white to purple and discussed Lent. The kindergartners toiled like professional gardeners and artisans to prepare a Lenten garden for the congregation's enjoyment. During these weeks before Easter, the children will hear of the Last Supper, take a tour through The City of Jerusalem and discuss the Tomb.

March 2nd is Family Sunday – the Atrium will be open for those little ones who need an activity during church.

As always, it is a pleasure to spend Sunday mornings with your children.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

Elementary Sunday School News

We began March by burying the joyful Alleluias in the sanctuary marking the beginning of Lent. In class, the children experienced life as Jesus may have by dressing in tunics, reading from an old Testament scroll, grinding grain into a flour (a daily chore for girls), playing games, and eating a meal complete with a pita bread napkin. We enjoyed learning about Lent through games, playing Lenten Bingo and Jeopardy. Our 4th -5th graders will prepare a Palm Sunday presentation of the passion for the 1st -3rd graders, using puppets to tell stories of the last days of Jesus's life.

At the end of the month, we'll begin session 4 in our Sunday school calendar. Thank you to all the teachers who taught in the third session. Thanks to Chris Thompson, Stacy Schalick, Natalie Wicks, Nicky Blackburn, Susan Adamick, Becky Ricci, Tina Blackburn, Andrea Hayes, Andre Barber, Eric Wicks, Jacob Seymourian, Amanda Hubbard, and Ellen Ryan.

A few dates to note:

Mar. 13 7:30pm - Planning Session 4. All are invited to come share and help mold our curriculum for the upcoming session. During these sessions Frank leads an invaluable discussion on the readings for the session. Coming to the planning meeting does not mean you have to teach.

Cathy Presti

Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center – Spring Events

Your Faith Has Saved You: Your Faith Has Made You Whole –An opportunity for experiencing affirmation of God's love, or inspiration for your own ministries, through Bible readings and thoughtful reflection on Jesus' healing ministry.

Saturday, March 15, 2008, 8:45 AM – 3:30 PM. Total cost (includes lunch): \$75.00

Complementary and Alternative Care: Seeking our Own Healing Environment – Learn how to create a healing environment and take better care of ourselves while participating in this introduction to alternative and supplemental health care.

Saturday, April 5, 2008, 8:45 AM – 3:30 PM. Total cost (includes lunch): \$75.00

Adelynrood is in Byfield, MA, near Newburyport on the North Shore and a short drive from Rt. I-95. Brochures for Spring Events, as well as Summer Programs, are available in the Narthex. They include registration forms and information about the leaders. For additional information, please see www.Adelynrood.org or contact Barbara Perry (781-275-9094).

Middle School Youth Group Update



We had a great (and very busy) February! In our monthly in-class discussion, we talked about the culture of cell phones, texting, FaceBook and MySpace, and IM'ing and how that impacts our lives. The day before Valentine's Day, we made our world-famous brownies for the Bedford Community Table, adding a touch of red icing to go with Chuck's red food theme. Thanks to Jacob Seymourian, Cassie Baker and Ben Johnson and Clayton Hafer, our two special visitors from the 5th grade class, for all of their help measuring, mixing and baking. Although it was raining when we left Bedford on February 10th, the skies cleared up and snow tubing at Nashoba Valley was lots of fun. Jacob Seymourian, Eric Wicks, Eric's friend Jake, Miranda Keane, Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Mathews all raced down the mountain multiple times and at one point linked together to make a "train" of snow tubes down the mountain.

This month, there will be no in-class discussion on Sunday, March 2nd since a group of us will be traveling to Worcester to volunteer with the Special Olympics. Organized by Mrs. Johnson's husband Jeff, we are excited to contribute our time and energy to making the basketball tournament at the Special Olympics a great success!

Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Johnson

High School Youth



The high school youth is sponsoring a team for Relay for Life, a walk to benefit the American Cancer Society, which will be held Saturday and Sunday, May 17th and 18th, at the BHS track. We welcome anyone and everyone to join our team: there is no age limit, and walkers only need to walk a few hours of the 24-hour event. Each walker must raise at least \$100, and we will hold a few fundraisers for the group as well in the coming weeks. If you are interested in joining our team, please speak to Heather Marasa or Emily Mitchell.

Because Relay for Life happens on our scheduled date for Youth Sunday, we are moving Youth Sunday to June 15th, Father's Day. More information about this event, which involves both high school and middle school youth, will be coming later in the spring.

Pretzel Baking



The High School Youth Group will bake pretzels to be served at coffee hour on Laetare Sunday (March, 2nd, the 4th Sunday in Lent). The group will meet at church at 4:00pm on Saturday, March 1st, to bake. Members of the Middle School Youth Group are invited to participate as well. Please see John or Emily Mitchell for more information.

Emily and John Mitchell

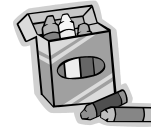
Vestry News

At the annual meeting on January 27th, the parish elected a new vestry for the coming year. We extend our deep appreciation to Sharon Keane and Paul Kruger, who finished their terms on the vestry, and a warm welcome to Andre Barber and Sharon Healey, who are beginning their vestry service.

The new vestry will be commissioned during the service on March 9th. The annual vestry retreat will be held Saturday, March 15th, at St. Anne's Convent in Arlington.



News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School



Recently one week was devoted to reading books written by Margaret Wise Brown. The staff was greatly interested in her diverse, albeit short, life as a world traveler, "socialite" and the author of gentle children's stories. Her approach as an author was seriously questioned at the time (1947) because the belief was that children should read about fables and fairy tales, not their everyday world. Anyway...much was enjoyed with Runaway Bunny, Goodnight Moon and others - she wrote over 100 books!

Now we are discussing ways to keep healthy (our flu & cold season in high gear) with visits from a Nurse for each group, and lots of play about checkups, medical care and healthy habits. The next topic in March will be "Transportation". Many children at this age have already been on an airplane, yet most have not ridden aboard a train. We hope to take the older group on the MBTA Commuter Rail for a field trip!

Our last field trip was to the Bedford Public Library for a tour and storytime with Sharon McDonald. Sharon visits the school with guitar and books for the younger children. And as always she is a delight to experience - we are very lucky to have such talent for our children.

Open House for St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School will be **Saturday, March 15, from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M.** If you are a "candidate", or know of anyone interested in seeing our program for enrollment next fall, please come or extend the invitation.

Thank you.

OUTREACH NEWS



Celebrating Girl Scout Sunday

On Sunday March 9, Girl Scouts of St. Paul's will recognize scouts in our own community. Girl Scouts past and present – wear your Girl Scout uniform/pin!

Girl Scouts®

Girl Scouts are Collecting Children's Books

Girl Scouts of St. Paul's are collecting gently used and new books for children in hospitals. This is part of a bronze award project for a Bedford Girl Scout Troop. Please drop your contributions into our box in the entryway.

Help Build a Habitat Home in Bedford

The Outreach Committee will be sponsoring two "buy-a-board" events to raise funds for the Habitat for Humanity project underway at 130 North Road. During these events, volunteers will sell 2x6 lumber, which buyers are invited to decorate with drawings, prayers, and other messages. The decorated lumber will then be delivered to the building site and used in construction, surrounding the new homeowners with the hopes and prayers of the community.



On March 2nd, the committee will sell boards to the St. Paul's community at coffee hour. On March 8th, the committee—in partnership with Bedford's other communities of faith—will sell boards outside the annual Town Election at the John Glenn Middle School, from 9:00-4:00. Volunteers are needed to staff the table in two-hour shifts on 3/2. Please see John Mitchell or Caroline Larson for more information.

TAB TOP PROGRAM



Keep those tab tops coming!

As reported before, tabs are 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. As of now, the parents incur debts when they stay at various hotels to be near their children, who are in the Shriner's Hospital. All proceeds are used to help pay bills for these families.

So far I have estimated that I have turned in to the Shriner's Hospital at least two thousand pounds of tabs.

Thank You.

Edward Lawrence



SPECIAL INVITATION
For All Women of St. Paul's



Please join the women of St. Paul's Church
on Sunday, **April 6, 2008** at Noon
for our Annual Brunch
at the home of Sue Runkle,
7 Cobblestone Way, Billerica.

All women of the parish are welcome at
this annual event.



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. 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. In December, we will receive a check. It is as easy as that!!! Goodsearch is connected to Yahoo, so the searches are reliable.

Thanks!

Directory Changes

New Members

Please note your directories

Kirk & Carolyn Martin
27 Hayden Lane
Bedford, MA 01730
cmartin@summitbedford.com

Alex & Susan Brough
10 Daniels Drive
Bedford, MA 01730

Change of Address

Please note your directories

Anne Abbott
The Victorian Assisted Living
389 Orleans Rd.
No. Chatham, MA 02650-1173

Stephen & Debbie Lee
45 Shawsheen Road, #21
Bedford, MA 01730

COMMUNITY TABLE

May 15th - 2008

Daylight Savings
March 9th



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead
one hour on Saturday night March 8th
before bedtime.



Sign up for Easter flowers will
begin on March 9th. Look for sign up
sheets in the March 9th & 16th Sunday
bulletin's. The deadline to sign up for
flowers will be March 16th.

**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.

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

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 Healey

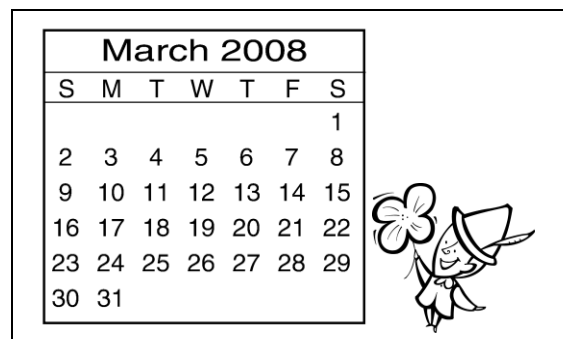
Peter Ricci

John MacPhee

Sue Runkle

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews



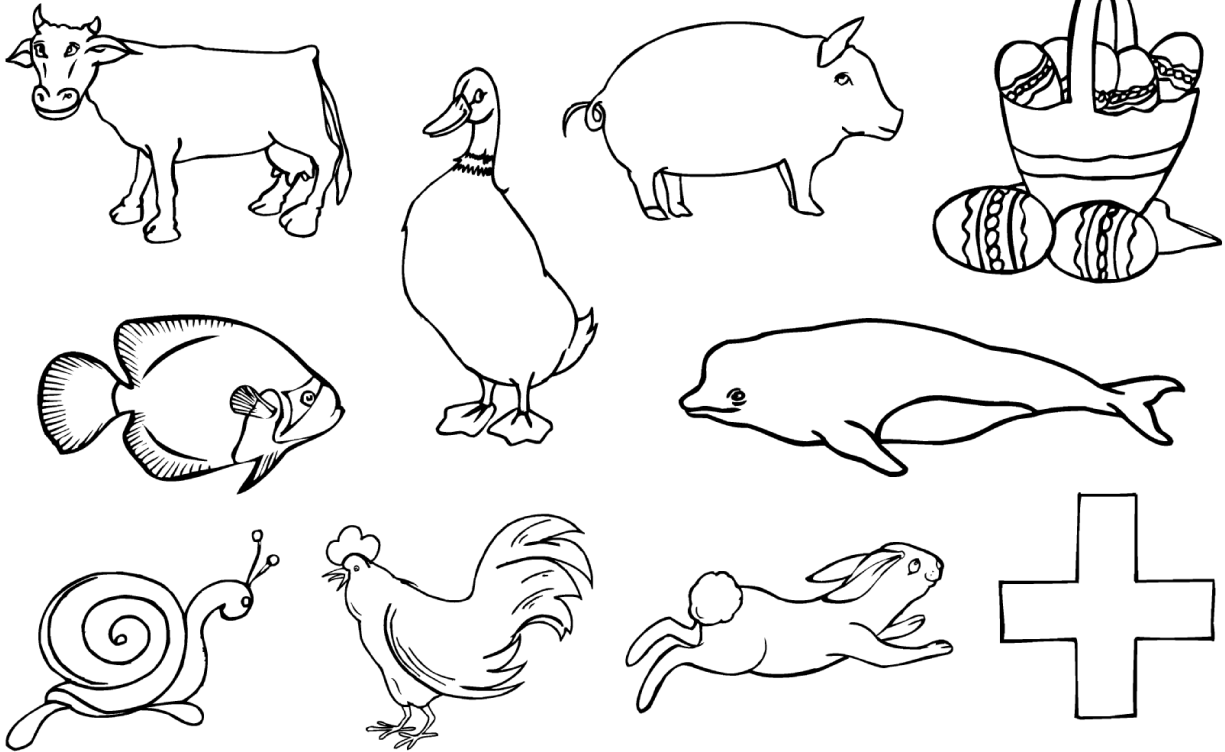
For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us,
through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole
human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which
infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us;
unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and
confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in
your good time, all nations and races may serve you in
harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 815

Easter

Circle the symbols of Easter. Some are religious, some are not. Then color the pictures.



Maze

Help the women find their way to the tomb. Try both ways or with a friend, see who can get there first.

