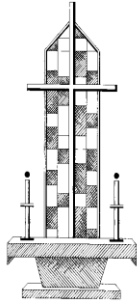


# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

March 2010



Dear Friends,

The other day when I left home I noticed that several tiny green sprouts were poking through the ground outside my back door. I was surprised as I am every year when this happens.

The problem is that every year I forget just what exactly is growing in that space. It could be daylilies or gladiolas or tulips or hosta. All I know is that when those little green sprouts full of life and promise come into bloom they will be beautiful. Springtime is such a sentient and spiritual gift. It is a time to think about the renewal of life all around us. What new colors will emerge? What pattern will the revived plants make this year in the garden? What will we need to change, remove, add or rearrange?

Each spring I think about the garden and how it is a metaphor for living. It is a place of surprise and wonder. It reminds us that all life is continually renewed and strengthened. The garden never fails to return in splendor. It responds to our constant care and stewardship.

I have been thinking about the gardens around my house these past few weeks. Perhaps it's a longing for warmer weather; perhaps it's a longing to be surprised by the wonder of new life.

Our Holy Season of Lent is also a time for us to ponder new life in the Resurrection promises of Jesus Christ. We look through the darkness of these days toward the light of Christ's love and the love of God. Some churches do not spend much time reflecting during the Lenten period. They often go from Ash Wednesday directly to Easter. That is not true life. True life acknowledges that we see the light in contrast to the darkness that precedes it. We see light as it defeats the darkness. Lent gives us the opportunity to think about the coming joy and to recognize the journey that brings us there.

As we travel with Jesus through these days, let's pay attention to his love for us; his care for the world as he weeps and mourns over Jerusalem and us; his willingness to be steadfast in the face of challenge even unto to death. As we travel through these days let us also keep in mind the certainty of God's love given to us in the Resurrection.

## VESTRY CORNER

Our next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, March 16, at 7:30pm in the parish library. Anyone is welcome to attend. In March we'll take some time to work on our parish goals for 2010. If you have any suggestions or concerns as we begin the goal-setting process, please feel free to speak to any member of the vestry.

The vestry will hold its annual retreat at St. Anne's Convent in Arlington on Saturday, March 20, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We'll meet in the church parking lot to carpool and caravan.

Sunday, March 21, is Vestry Sunday. Vestry members will participate in all aspects of the worship service, from altar ministers to ushers and everything in between. We hope you'll be able to join us that day.

Best,

*Emily Mitchell*  
*Senior Warden*

## HYMN SING



On Sunday, March 7, at 4:00 pm, St. Paul's will host a Hymn Sing, featuring old favorites and new favorites from the 1982 Hymnal and supplemental hymnals, Lift Every Voice and Sing and Wonder, Love and Praise.

Frank has wanted to have an event like this for a while, and now that we are nearing the end of our time together, it seemed like the perfect time to make it happen. We invite everyone to join us—whether you can sing or not!—for a fun afternoon of fellowship and song. We'll have a brief reception following the sing with snacks and beverages.

Please come!

## **THRIFT SALE**

As the weather slowly warms up, you may start to think about spring cleaning. As you pack up old clothes, toys, books, furniture, games, and other once-beloved paraphernalia that's still in good shape, don't forget about St. Paul's annual Thrift Sale, coming up in June. We can always use clothes and household items in good condition, so as you clean out your house, save a box for St. Paul's!

## Notes from the Nursery School



As the snow has melted, we have moved from the snowbanks in the back parking lot, up to the playground. The children are happy to enjoy the swings and climbing structures again. During the month of March, we turn our focus to the library and books. We will have a field trip to the Bedford Public library which includes stories read by Sharon McDonald, the children's librarian, and a tour of the library. A highlight of the tour is watching while a book is repaired at the "book hospital". This month we will focus on Little Golden Books, reading many of our favorites and planning activities around them. Hopefully spring will be in full swing by the end of the month and we will get to go to Chip In Farm to see the newborn chicks.

Enrollment continues for next year. Our five day program is full. We have openings in our three day and two day program. As always, if you know of any three or four year olds looking for a preschool, please send them our way.

*Lee Frank*

## Elementary Sunday School



With our entrance into Lent, the jubilant Alleluias created through Epiphany have silenced. The children buried all the Alleluias adorning the sanctuary after the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. They will re-decorate the church again on Easter. Last Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, all the elementary children learned about the season of Lent and shared their traditions for this season. They each planted a single paper-white bulb to take home, nurture, and return on Palm Sunday to share in the garden of repose during Holy Week. As we nurture the bulbs and our relationships with God and one another, the younger elementary children will learn about some of Jesus' Parables while the older elementary children prepare puppet show of the passion to be presented to the younger elementary classes on Palm Sunday.

*Cathy Presti*

## Catechesis Corner



We finished up February with introducing some gestures to the children. Amanda taught the class of nine! That is a record number of children for this church school year so far. Some of these gestures we take for granted and some of us might not even know they have names. I didn't before teaching Catechesis. The sign of peace is a fairly obvious one but perhaps ask your child about Epiclesis. Let us know what they can tell you about it!

For the month of March, the children of Catechesis are concentrating on the meaning of Lent and what we are waiting for. They have changed the linens to purple, have a new Lenten prayer and know we are waiting for Easter and for Jesus Christ's Resurrection. We will talk about the city of Jerusalem, at the time of Christ, using a model of the city created and painted by Louisa Saladino-Kuhl and her daughter Shea. This is usually a favorite with the children; like a huge puzzle. We will discuss the Last Supper and share one together using matzo and grape juice. There are always "seconds" requests. This is always a good time to introduce filling the cruets as by now they have had pouring experience and they can fill the cruets with the grape juice just the way they are filled with wine on the altar. Lastly, our parable for this session will be The Merchant and The Pearl.

### **REMINDER: March 7<sup>th</sup> Family Sunday**

As always, we are blessed to share our Sunday morning with your children as they continue to amaze us with their wonderings and understanding.

With blessings from the corner,  
*Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard*

## **Middle School Youth Update!**

It was a busy February! We had our biggest showing for an in-class discussion to date – 11 middle schoolers met and talked about their future goals, where they see themselves in 10 years, and how they imagined giving back to the community in their early 20's.

On February 17th, the snow tubing crew of 3 – Hunter Hayes, Nate Presti and Chris Adamik – came together again to bake and decorate cupcakes for the Bedford Community Table. We assembled 4 boxes containing 86 (!) beautifully-decorated cupcakes...and Frank reports that they were a big hit. Many thanks to Hunter, Nate, Chris and Suzanne Johnson for all of their help and decorating contributions.

For March:

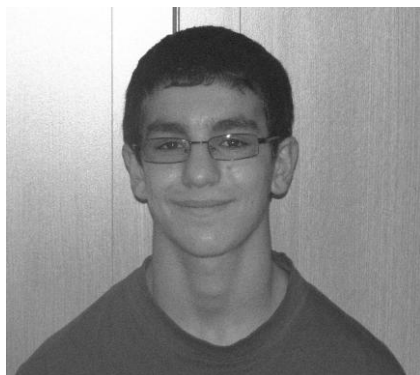
**March 7:** In-class discussion and planning for 2nd annual St. Paul's Easter Egg Hunt

**March 14th:** Special Olympics – we have a great group of 30+ youth and adult parishioners attending this volunteer event. We will be meeting at St. Paul's at 7:00 am. Watch your email for more details to come from Suzanne Johnson.

Happy March!

*Carrie Mathews & Karin Baker*

# High School Youth



Meet Your Youth Group Member series continues this month with Jake Seymourian, a freshman at Bedford High School. Jake lives with his parents Bruce and Sima and older sister Ariana.

This term, Jake is enrolled in Latin, Introduction to Business, Math, Social Studies and Physics. Jake is really enjoying his physics class which he describes as fun. In his own words, "I've always liked science and physics is fun for me!"

Jake is an avid athlete. For the past nine years, Jake has enjoyed and improved his game on the tennis court. Since kindergarten, he has been a member of the Boy Scouts of America. Jake is currently a Star Scout and working hard to earn Eagle Scout. Jake describes the process as rigorous and time consuming but worth every ounce of time, resources and energy. Jake is working hard on earning a merit badge by demonstrating good personal and financial management for about three months. In his own words, Jake admits, "I know it's a lot of work but I've been trying to get to my Eagle and this is definitely one I need!"

After high school, Jake plans to attend a four year college and major in business. After college, he plans to obtain his MBA and perhaps someday own his own business.

Jake has served the parish of St. Paul's for many years in a variety of roles including volunteering at the Special Olympics, annual cookie baking, annual Crop Walk and volunteering as a helper at the Sunday School. As a member of the Middle School Youth group, Jake participated in numerous youth group activities and is looking forward to continue his involvement with the High School Youth Group.

Let's give a big warm welcome to Jake as he transitions to the High School Youth Group and be sure to say hello the next time you see him!

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH UPDATE!

Confirmation classes continue in March, after church on March 7 and March 21. In between, we'll head up to the Barbara C. Harris Camp for confirmation retreat weekend on March 12 and 13. We'll meet at church around 4:00pm on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, and return around the same time on Saturday.

The youth groups will help out at the Special Olympics on Sunday, March 14. This has become one of the favorite events of the middle and high school youth groups, and we're delighted to have so many eager participants. Please see Suzanne Johnson if you have any questions about the event.

## Dates to Remember



Daylight Savings begins on March 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on the evening of March 13<sup>th</sup>!

*Updated Parish Directories are now available. You may pick one up in the Narthex of the church.*



## Don't forget to click through!



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](http://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!

## Parishioners Corner

**Don't forget to Share your news with the parish!**

Each month we would like to publish any news that parishioners may want to share with the parish. It could be a graduation, engagement, wedding, new born baby, personal achievement, etc..

Please e-mail your entry to [info@stpaulsbedford.org](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org) titled "Epistle Entry" on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Your entry will be entered in the following month's Edition. Please keep your entry to 25 words or less. Thanks!



## 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.

## Holy Week Worship Schedule March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 4<sup>th</sup>

**Palm Sunday** (March 28<sup>th</sup>)  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Monday** (March 29<sup>th</sup>)  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday** (March 30<sup>th</sup>)  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday** (March 31<sup>st</sup>)  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist



**Maundy Thursday** (April 1<sup>st</sup>)  
7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist  
Foot washing and  
Stripping of the altar

**Good Friday** (April 2<sup>nd</sup>)  
12:00 noon Way of the Cross  
3:00 p.m. Children's Service  
7:30 p.m. Good Friday Service

**Saturday** (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

**Sunday** (April 4<sup>th</sup>)  
6:30 a.m. Bedford Ecumenical Service at Fawn Lake

**Easter Sunday** (April 4<sup>th</sup>)  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## OUTREACH NEWS



### Moving Mountains China

In China a student must pay \$300 a year to go to High School. Families cannot afford to send all their children so girls are often left out. With a High School education, a girl is eligible for scholarships to college and could become a teacher, doctor, journalist, engineer or politician. Last year home baked cookies provided by St. Paul's Girl Scouts helped raise over \$400. We have received a translated letter from our sponsored student, Yan Fei as she enters her first of 3 years of High School. For more information on Moving Mountains China contact Carol Hokana.



Dear Children of St. Paul's,

Thank you very much for your help. When I knew that I would be sponsored by you, my family and I were very happy. I didn't even know how to express my gratitude.

I am a girl who lives in the countryside. My parents are both peasants. Now, the four boys and girls in our family are all in school. My grandparents are living with us too. My mother is not in good health because of an accident that happened three years ago. My mother often gets headaches and her body often has sudden pains. Since our family doesn't have enough money for my mother to buy medicine, her body is getting thinner and thinner and we are not able to pay back the loans from our relatives.

In our family, only our father has the ability to make money. Our father has spent all the money he has on our education. Maybe you are curious why my father insists on letting us have our education. It is because he believes that only knowledge can change our lives. Our parents had little education but, to this point, they are sure about this.

Your donation is very important to me and to our family. It has given me more confidence in my studies and it has reduced the pressure on my father. So I would like to say thank you to you on behalf of my entire family.

Through my grades and through my actions from now on, I will do my best to show my respect and thankfulness for your help. I will make my dream of going to a university come true. I wish you a safe, happy and healthy life.

Yours, Yan Fei

### Help Yan Fei finish High School

You can help support Yan Fei by making a donation at the parish bake sale after church on March 7<sup>th</sup>.



#### Girl Scout Sunday March 7

Our parish Girl Scouts will be participating in the service and providing special music. All Girl Scouts are encouraged to wear your Girl Scout pins!

The Girl Scouts are also busy baking cookies and quickbreads to offer for a donation at coffeeshour to help fund the rest of Yan Fei's education in China.

**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 Vetrans with their expenses.

**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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## **Prayer for Spring**

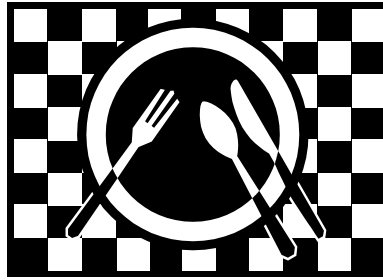
Blessed is the one who speaks and gives life.  
Blessed is the one who does the work of creation.  
Blessed is the one who cares for the earth.  
Blessing is the one who has compassion for all  
    living beings.  
Blessed is the one who brings light to darkness.  
Blessed is the spirit which is eternal.  
Blessed is the one whose name is a blessing.

*from* Song of the Heart





# Dinner with Frank and Chuck – March 26, 2010



The St. Paul's Men's group is very happy to be sponsoring a special fundraiser and celebration dinner with Frank and Chuck. The dinner will be on March 26, Friday night at St Paul's at 6:30 PM. Entertainment that evening will be provided by the Madrigal Singers from Bedford High School.

The meal will be a traditional Yankee Pot Roast dinner with all the fixings. An alternative vegetarian meal choice will be available by request upon registration. The cost is \$25/ per person.

Please register at the Men's Group table during coffee hour beginning February 28 or complete the registration below and mail it to my attention at the Church with a check made out to St. Paul's.

I hope to see you there.

Paul Ciaccia

+++++

Yes, count me/us in for this special dinner at St. Paul's.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Check to St. Pauls' \$ 25 pp - amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you want the alternative vegetarian meal (number) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to St. Pauls' Church attention Paul Ciaccia