

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

May 2007

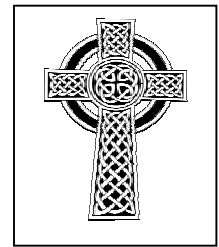
Dear Friends,

It is beginning to feel like spring! As we look around we can actually see things springing out: trees, crocuses, tulips, etc. This time of year here in New England fits so perfectly with our own church cycle of Easter and Resurrection. We have reminders all around us of God's unconditional love and God's unwavering commitment to make all things new.

Even though we live in a world that is torn by war and suffering in so many places, God stays faithful to us. Even though our humanity is not perfect, God loves us into worthiness. The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the final and ultimate gift and sign that God will not ever let evil, death, and destruction be the last word. The last word of God, which is evident in the world through our loving of one another, is life, abundant life.

In our Celtic Spiritual history which comes to us from Scotland, Wales and Ireland, we are able to experience a special and important way to understand our loving God in God's gift of creation. The essence of Celtic Spirituality is love of God's earth and love of God's people. This is a rich tradition that offers us a way to imagine God's creativity and presence in all that is around us in nature, people and in our everyday ordinary lives.

Celtic Spirituality invites us to recognize the blessing of our loving God in everything we see and do. In the Celtic tradition we pray for everything: waking in the morning, washing, dressing, and eating. We pray at our work and at play. In this gift of spirituality that comes largely from St. Patrick's work, we understand that all life is interconnected, nature, humanity, human labor, pain, joy and it is all redeemed by our loving God. In the circle that is prominent in the Celtic Cross, we are reminded of the oneness of all life. It is a sign of eternal life and that in it and through it we are never separated, really, one from another, divine from nature, God from us. In the never ending symbol we have a constant reminder of God's embrace of all that God has made. We are invited to rejoice in it always.



The circle in the cross is also a great call to community. It is a call to us to be Christ for one another. It is a call to look at the cross and move forward into the world with the knowledge of God's redeeming love. With that love in our hearts we are emboldened and encouraged to spread that love in the world so that the truth of the encompassing love of God is made evident everyday.

Spring is a good time to see God stirring in the world around us. It is a time to notice what God is constantly doing by bringing forth new life. We are reminded to be co-creators with God in bringing new life of hope and joy into the world and preserving the gift of the earth for those who will come after us.

The community of St. Paul's church is also a sign of God's encompassing love. It is evident in so many ways here. We see it through our embracing of one another, our desire to reach out into the world to heal when and where we can, our strong recognition of God's desire to bring forth one loving, diverse and full community on the earth and our faithful willingness to participate with God to make that sacred dream a reality.

As always it is a gift to be among you.

Catechesis Corner

Session IV of Catechesis contains two magnificent celebrations! The first to occur is the Liturgy of Light in which the children welcome the light (as the congregation did during holy week) with readings, candles and song. It is one of our favorites! Close to the end of our year long session we celebrate Pentecost and the children participate by choosing their own gift from God. Please feel free to join us for either of these amazing events and be awed by the children and their spirit.

Dates to remember:

Friday, May 11th 7:00 – 9:00 PM Catechesis Training with Louise Forrest – all welcome, pizza served at 6:30

For those who don't know her, Louise is a fully trained Catechist with a lot of experience in the 'Catechesis of the Good Shepherd' program at various levels. She has been to St. Paul's before, helping us expand our repertoire of lessons and materials. For this session, since we fortunately have a number of people fairly new to Catechesis at St. Paul's, we will be asking her to start with a good introduction to this Montessori-based program. We hope it will be helpful to assistants (including our youth!) as well as lead teachers and that you will all consider attending. We do think it is more rewarding to all in the classroom to have a clear idea of what we are trying to accomplish with the children.

Sunday, May 20th Last Catechesis Class

Sunday, June 3rd Teacher Appreciation and Brunch

We continue to enjoy the time we spend with your children – what a gift. They are wondrous, thoughtful and insightful. Thank you to all of you who help out in our classrooms!

With blessing from the corner,

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard

Middle School Youth Group

Emma Healey, Miranda Keane, and Shea Kuhl entertained us all on stage as the talented representatives of the middle school youth group in "St. Paul's Tonight" at the end of April. They were members of the teenager's chorus and also choreographed a trio ballet dance set to the Nutcracker Suite. Tim Ryan also lent behind-the-scenes work on the tech crew. This month, the youth group will meet on May 6th for our monthly class session at which we will put the finishing artistic touches on our informational poster and photo slideshow for the Time and Talent Fair. Middle schoolers will also play a central role on Youth Sunday which will take place on **May 13th**, - Mother's Day. Look for us throughout the service! Our last activity will be an end-of-the-year BBQ which will take place in June.

Carrie Mathews & Suzanne Johnson

High School Youth

It's Youth Sunday time again! Please join us on Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 13**, for our annual celebration of youth ministry at St. Paul's. Watch your email for a rehearsal time!

Youth Sunday Participants

Service Leader: Heather Marasa
First Lesson: Tommy Waghorne
Psalm: Becky Waghorne & Ariana Seymourian
Second Lesson: Emma Healey
Gospel: Shea Kuhl
Sermon: Heather Marasa
Lay Eucharistic Minister: Christian Arthur
Acolytes: Nick Arthur, Miranda Keane
Torchbearers: Felicia Barber, Ben Johnson
Ushers: Tim Ryan, Jake Seymourian
Greeters: Helen Kissel, Nicole Walukiewicz
Coffee Hour: Helen Kissel, Jake Seymourian

John & Emily Mitchell

Elementary Sunday school

Alleluia. The Lord is risen creating the joyous season of Easter. Throughout Easter, the children will enjoy stories of the risen Jesus visiting with his disciples. They will learn of His promise of the Holy Spirit, and our Sunday school year will end with the story of Pentecost.

Sunday **May 20th** will mark the end of our Sunday school year. We will celebrate with an ice cream social during coffee hour. Helpers are needed to help set up, serve, and cleanup. Please let me know if you would like to help.

With the end of the year fast approaching, it's time to begin planning for next year. A teacher's planning session will be held on **Thursday May 17, at 7:30** in the parish hall to discuss this year and ideas for next year. Everyone is welcome.

I'd like to thank all our Sunday school teachers who bring the joy of God to our children each week this year; Stacy Schalick and Natalie Wicks for leading our first and second grade class, Christine Thompson for leading our third grade class, Janice Young and Sima Seymourian for leading the 4 and fifth grade class, and Andrea Hayes, Susan Adamik, Becky Ricci, Tina Blackburn, Nicky Blackburn, Ariana Seymourian, Ailin Thomas, Jacob Seymourian and Eric Wicks whose assistance kept things running smoothly all year long.

Cathy Presti



THE ADULT CHOIR will sing services through Sunday, June 10, and take a much deserved rest throughout the summer. All musicians interested in singing or playing solos or in small groups during the summer months are encouraged to speak to Joan Reddy, Music Director.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR will resume rehearsals on Sunday, May 6 after the service in preparation for singing on Pentecost, May 27. Any children interested in singing during the summer months, either alone or with others, are welcome.

FUNDRAISING

Spring Bling

Because of vendor scheduling conflicts and show preparations, this event has been rescheduled for *Spring, 2008*. Look for more information next January. Thanks to all who offered ideas and support.

Sharon Healey

Stewardship Corner

St. Paul's first Time & Talent Fair will be held after church on **Sunday, May 6th**. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to recognize and celebrate the many ministries of our church, from fellowship events and worship activities to outreach, education, and stewardship. Thanks to all of the group leaders and members who are participating, especially during this busy spring. Please plan to stay after church on the 6th to visit with, learn about, and show your support for the many ways St. Paul's members share their time and talent with each other and the world.

The Stewardship Committee is delighted to report that this year's Fall Pledge Drive yielded a total of \$140,230 in pledges from 79 pledging units. We haven't fully closed the books on the year, however: there is always an opportunity for members to pledge at any point in the year. If you're new to St. Paul's, or just new to pledging, and you'd like to add your name to our list of supporters, please see Paul Ciaccia for a pledge card.

It's not too early to start thinking about the summer. We encourage you to keep your pledge payments current. All of our pledging income goes toward our operating budget and mission work, and those expenses don't go away just because many of us are on vacation. If you're far from home, you can still send your pledge payment electronically. Please see Paul Ciaccia or Betsey Anderson for details on making an online payment through your bank.

OUTREACH

May 6 – Linus Blanket Sunday



On Linus Blanket Sunday, please bring some bucks or some balls of yarn. We are blessing our blankets and collecting yarn to start blankets for next year. We need worsted weight yarn – any color! Envelopes will be provided if you prefer to give a monetary donation.



**GRADUATE GIFTS?
TEACHER GIFTS?**

Your young friends who are graduating from High School or college will appreciate being honored with a donation to the Heifer project, giving the gift of self-reliance to a struggling family. Heifer cards also make great teacher appreciation gifts.

Heifer cards are available starting at \$10. Contact Caroline Larson.

Come see the new barn we helped to build! OVERLOOK FARM INTERNATIONAL FAIR

*June 23 — 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
June 24 — 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.*



Visit Overlook Farm in Rutland and learn more about Heifer International. Fun for the whole family. Walk through the Global Village representing various areas of the world and learn how Heifer animals help people all over the world. Enjoy Dale Perkins' Horse Show, music from local groups, international foods, horse drawn hayrides, and international crafts for sale in our gift shop. Admission is free, although there is a \$5.00 parking fee per vehicle. For more information, check overlook.farm@heifer.org or call 508-886-2221.

United Thank Offering

The United Thank Offering (UTO) can be defined as a mission of thankfulness. From its beginning in 1889, UTO has been used to “expand the mission and ministry of the church and to address compelling human need.” As you take a moment each day to consider your blessings, also consider making a thank offering to UTO. UTO boxes and envelopes will be available in the Narthex. St. Paul’s ingathering date will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.

ST. PAUL'S

TONIGHT! 2007

BRAVO! Cast and crew of St. Paul's TONIGHT! 2007, TAKE A BOW! You outdid yourselves. Thanks for giving our audiences the ol' razzle-dazzle so spectacularly!



St Paul's Spring Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th.

We welcome all members of the parish to help in cleaning and beautifying the outdoors around the church, keeping it the inviting place it is. Many hands make lighter work for this important day, and people of all ages can help rake, prune, and mulch. This year's late winter storms have also left us with several projects. We appreciate any time you can give us. Listen for announcements at church regarding tools and equipment that may be needed for this day. Learn more about the Property Committee at the St Paul's Time and Talent fair on May 6th.

Peter Ricci
Property Committee

TAB TOPS

Keep those tab tops coming. Just a reminder that all tab tops collected from soda cans are sent to the Shriners Burn Hospital in Boston, which are then extracted, and sold. The money raised will go to the families to enable them to stay in nearby hotels to be near their children during a very difficult time.



May 13th



Heather Marasa
May 19th, 11:00 a.m.
Christ Church, Waltham

SAVE THE DATE!

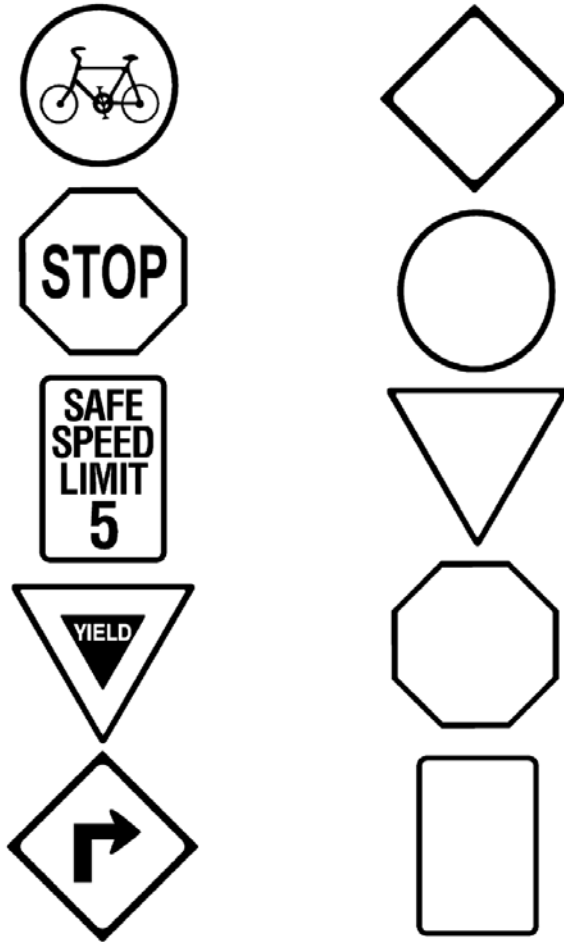
Thrift Sale
Saturday, June 16th



Attention Children!

Obeying the Rules

Obeying the rules is part of good citizenship. Here are some signs you might need to obey when riding your bike. Draw lines to match the sign to the same shape.



Decode the Message

Decode the message that we find in Luke 6:35.

1=A 2=B 3=C 4=D 5=E 6=G 7=H 8=I 9=L 10=M 11=N 12=O 13=P 14=R
15=S 16=T 17=U 18=V 19=X 20=Y

2	17	16	9	12	18	5	20	12	17	14	5	11	5	10	8	5	15
4	12	6	12	12	4	1	11	4	9	5	11	4					
5	19	13	5	3	16	8	11	6	11	12	16	7	8	11	6		
8	11	14	5	16	17	14	11										

Write the words below

Answers: But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.

**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.

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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:

Ron Presti, Senior Warden

Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden

Betsey Anderson, Treasurer

Carol Hokana, Clerk

Vestry:

Sharon Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Carrie Mathews

A Blessing of Solitude

May you recognize in your life the presence, power, and
light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,
that your soul in its brightness and belonging
connects you intimately with the rhythm of the universe.

May you have respect for your own individuality
and difference.

May you realize that the shape of your soul is unique
that you have a special destiny here,
that behind the façade of your life there is something
beautiful, good, and eternal happening.

May you learn to see yourself with the same delight, pride,
and expectation with which God sees you in every moment.

from Anam Cara, A Book of Celtic Wisdom
by John O' Donohue