

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

May 2008

Dear Friends,

May 1st is Ascension Thursday. On this fortieth day after Easter we commemorate Jesus' ascension into heaven. The Holy Gospel according to Mark ends with this scene (Mark 16:9-20). Before Jesus disappears from sight he tells his followers what we are to do in the time that he is invisible to us. "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."

On this day we celebrate the full completion of Christ's work of salvation as he takes his seat at the right hand of God. And we also are reminded of his commission to us to "...go into the world." In this last human speech of his, Jesus gives us direction on how to bring God's kingdom into evidence now.

He has constantly invited us throughout his ministry on earth to know of God's love for all creation. He repeatedly modeled what it means to go into the world to proclaim the good news of this love. He was undaunted by the enormity of the work of healing and reconciliation necessary to perfect the human condition. Yet, he kept at it! Little by little, person by person, Jesus touched the world in a way that transformed us forever. He tells us we can do the same: little by little, person by person.

On the day he was removed from our sight, he knew that more work had to be done. He knew that one lifetime or many lifetimes would be needed to do this work of God. He asked all those that love him to keep the faith, do the work, trust in God's love and companionship. He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to be our guide and strength as we each try to contribute to the work begun through Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, fifty days after Easter. It is on this day that the followers of Jesus experienced the rush of a mighty wind which bestowed on them and to all of his followers forever, the gifts of God's Holy Spirit. It is said that those first followers were able to speak in ways that all who heard them and understood them. The language barriers were transcended. It is a sign to us that it is in our power through the spirit to speak to the needs and concerns of this world regardless of our differences. It is a sign that we can transcend human obstacles little by little, person by person in order to contribute to the emergence of God's kingdom.

It is fitting that these days of joy and hope are celebrated in our part of world during the beginning of spring. God's whole creation, around us, is coming to life again. Beauty and nurture that comes from God's earth are symbols of the beauty and nurture that we, the people of God, have to offer the world.

After Jesus disappeared the people were stunned and looking up to heaven until they were told that Jesus would come back again. Let us, each one of us, work to make the world ready for that time when Jesus returns to our sight. Let us strive day by day, one person at a time, one act at a time to do the work that God has given us to do.

Catechesis Corner



Session IV has begun with a favorite presentation! The Liturgy of the Light! The children from Catechesis II re-enacted some of the service held during holy week carrying the lit Paschal candle through the halls leading to a darkened library as they chanted “The Light of Christ, Thanks be to God”. We said prayers and discussed the meaning of light in our Christian lives. They each received a lit votive to study and then bring home. Other lessons and celebrations during this session will be Baptism, reading and discussion of Psalm 23, the Eucharistic presence of the Good Shepherd, preparation of the cruets, the celebration of Pentecost, and additional parables.

An adult training session was held Sunday, April 13th at the church of The Redeemer in Lexington. Louise Forrest was our Catechist trainer along with another volunteer from The Redeemer. I believe the biggest treat for myself and Amanda was actually participating in classes with the children in the Atria. We helped in the younger classroom and the older – 2nd and 3rd grade- a Catechesis classroom we don’t currently have at St. Paul’s. We were very impressed! The experience also helped us realize we are doing well with materials, classroom set up and curriculum here at St. Paul’s.

Thank you to those who attended in the midst of soccer, baseball, gymnastics scheduling nightmares!

Please note the following changes in schedule:

May 4th – Catechesis classes in session (Not a Family Sunday)

May 18th is Family Sunday – the Catechesis I Atrium will be open for those little ones who need an activity during church. Catechesis II children will remain in church.

May 25th – no Catechesis – Memorial Day weekend

As another church year draws to a close we are thankful and blessed by all our adult and student volunteers. Catechesis would not thrive without your continued support!

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

Sincerely,

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard

Middle School Youth Group Update

We had a relaxing April as middle schoolers focused on school work, the JGMS musical and the start of spring sports. Given the busyness of this time of year, we decided to postpone hosting the U2charist service to this fall. Please watch the Epistle in the coming months as we confirm a date and time! We will be holding our second-to-last in-class discussion on Sunday, May 4th. At this time, we will discuss our participation (with the high school youth group) in Youth Sunday, to be held on Father’s Day, June 15th. There will be many roles for us to fill ranging from readers to ushers and greeters to coffee hour hosts. It should be a wonderful event.

High School Youth & Relay for Life

Several members of the high school youth group, along with parents and friends, will be participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, to be held May 17 and 18 at the Bedford High School track. This 18-hour event benefits cancer research, and our team, Walkers in the Spirit, is happy to be part of the search for a cure.

Each team and each member has a fundraising goal. We thank those of you who have already contributed, either through luminaria sales, participation in Trivia Night, or individual donations. There is still time to give! Please see Heather Marasa or any of our team members to make a donation. Every little bit helps!

John and Emily Mitchell

Elementary Sunday School

Spring is here! Wow we have been blessed with perfectly temperate days, sunshine and smiles all around. The great weather has brought our classroom outdoors to role-play a modern day version of the disciple's walk to Emmaus. The children also discussed how they listen for God, and shared special places where they hear God. They decorated seashells reminding them of their special place. The stories of Jesus appearing to his friends shortly after his death, to Mary Magdalene, to Thomas, and to his friends along the road to Emmaus were shared. Noticing that Jesus was not immediately recognized in each of these stories, the children discussed what Jesus might have looked like and possible explanations for why he wasn't recognized by his friends. They talked about recognizing God in the world around them.

We met with Frank to discuss the upcoming liturgy and plan for our last session of the Sunday school year. Thanks to Frank for a wonderfully lead discussion, and thanks to all the teachers who attended making for a great discussion. To all the teachers who planned, taught, and gave precious attention to our children this session: Chris Thompson, Nicky Blackburn, Natalie Wicks, Stacy Schalick, Sima Seymourian, Andre Barber, Andrea Hayes, Susan Adamick, Becky Ricci and Tina Blackburn, Thank you.

Coming into the end of our Sunday school year, our calendar deviates a little from normal. On Sunday May 4 and Sunday June 1st, we will not have a family service, but hold regular Sunday school classes. We will not hold Sunday school on Memorial Day weekend, May 25th. On Sunday May 18th, we will have a family service. On Saturday, May 17th, the dioceses will hold a safe Church Training here at St. Paul's from 8:30am-3:30pm led by Frank. This is a wonderful course for anyone that works with children. Registration for this course is done through the dioceses. To register, or learn more details about this course visit the diocesan website at www.diomass.org.

Updated Elementary Sunday School Calendar:

| Date | Note |
|--------|--|
| May 4 | Class 4 |
| May 11 | Class 5 –Pentecost (don't forget your red!) |
| May 14 | 2008-2009 Sunday school Planning Meeting (Thursday 7:30pm) |
| May 17 | Safe Church Training 8:30-3:30 @ St. Pauls |
| May 18 | Family Sunday |
| May 25 | No Sunday School – Memorial Day Weekend |
| Jun 1 | Class 6 |
| Jun 8 | Class 7 -Last day of Sunday school |
| Jun 15 | Youth Service & Teacher appreciation Sunday & Brunch? |

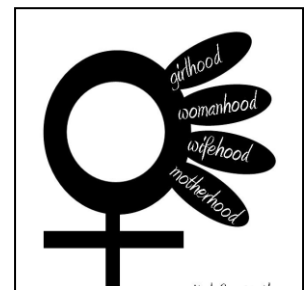
RECITAL FUNDRAISER

Looking for something fun to do with your mom on Mother's Day?

Bring her to 'Girlhood, Womanhood, Wifehood, Motherhood:

A Recital for Mother's Day' on Sunday, May 11, at 2:00pm in the sanctuary. Our own Emily Mitchell will present favorite show tunes from yesterday and today, all on the themes of common female experiences.

The hour long concert should be a lot of fun, and is appropriate for women, men, and school-age children. If you need nursery care. please see Emily. A freewill offering will be taken.



Thrift Sale

The Thrift Sale is coming! The Thrift Sale is coming!

Date: Saturday, June 21st
Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

St. Paul's thrift sale is a fun way to perform a vital service to our members, our budget, our community and our environment. Think of the thrift sale as you do your spring cleaning. Also, if you are willing to chair a table/section at the sale, speak to Ron Presti or Sharon Witbeck.

Leaders are needed for the following areas:

Books/Movies White Elephants Clothing Children's Toys

Food/Drink Publicity Setup/Cleanup

Thank you,
Sharon & Ron

ADVENT FAIR -- GIFT BASKET COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!



As you enjoy the beautiful Spring weather and head into the Summer months, please keep the Gift Basket Committee in mind if you are shopping at The Christmas Tree Shoppe or any other specialty stores. Many items which would be perfect for baskets are deeply discounted this time of year. We will begin working as a committee in early September, so this is the perfect time for us to begin gathering inventory. Some of the things we can always use are non-perishables such as:

linens (napkins, towels, placemats)
coffee mugs, plates, platters, tea pots, other ceramics bath goods (soap, toiletries, etc.) candles (any size, shape or color) festive paper napkins (luncheon, cocktail, etc.) holiday tissue paper Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots items children's books, small toys, craft things wine or champagne glasses

We plan on organizing an area in the narthex where you can drop off any donations ... so be on the lookout for that and have fun bargain hunting!!

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT!!

The Basket Committee
(contact Jan Svendsen or Lisa Hafer if you have any questions)

Advent Fair Crafters

The craft group will meet during the spring and summer to prepare for the Advent Fair. The meeting schedule for spring and summer follows along with a tentative list of projects. The group will set the fall schedule at the Aug. 27th meeting. All of these projects are relatively easy and new people are always welcome. Come and try it out!

All meetings will be on Wednesdays and will begin at 7 PM.

| Date | Craft Project |
|-----------|---|
| May 7 | Retro felt Christmas tree banners |
| May 28 | Finish Banners, folded fabric stars |
| June 4 | Beaded kissing balls and trees |
| June 25 | Finish Kissing balls |
| July 2 | Wooden crèches |
| July 30 | Water bottle snowmen |
| August 6 | Finish snowmen |
| August 27 | Finish something or start a new project |

We will meet at Karen Kruger's house for the first few sessions. Please come and join us - we need lots of help and ideas.

If you are unable to make the crafts sessions but would like to contribute to the craft table at the Advent Fair, we are always in need of knitted, crocheted, or sewn items. This year we will again be making felt Christmas tree ornaments and would love to get ornaments from other members of the church who can't be at craft meetings, but are 'crafty' at home! We also appreciate financial support as the members of the craft group donate all the items we use.

Thanks,

Karen Kruger
Betsey Anderson



OUTREACH NEWS

Outreach Ministry



St. Paul's Outreach committee has outlined several new projects for the coming year.

- Parish mission trip
- Books for a Navaho school
- Bedford Day outreach fundraiser
- Involvement with "Gaining Ground"
- Farming fresh produce for food pantries

Stay tuned for more information about these new outreach initiatives.

Diocesan Jubilee Ministry Program for Medical and Social Relief on May 4



Sunday, May 4, St. Paul's will host missionaries Gerry and Nancy Hardison who serve in the Diocese of Maseno North of the Anglican (Episcopal) Church of Kenya—a country setting where there is poverty, hunger, and sickness, including of course AIDS. Before his retirement Gerry, a physician, taught at the Medical School at the University of California in San Diego, and his wife, who has a Ph.D. in business, at Point Loma Nazarene University there. They have been in Kenya for over 7 years. They will preach at 10:00 and afterwards will show pictures of Kenya and hold a forum about their life and experience in Africa. Maseno Mission Hospital and St. Philip's Theological College in Maseno have come to life as a result of the Hardisons' ministry, and the women of the Maseno North Diocese have organized to feed literally thousands of orphans with the help of the Church in Massachusetts. But much remains to be done, especially in light of the recent conflicts in Kenya. Come hear how the Holy Spirit is moving in distant lands.

Outreach committee: Caroline Larson, chair, Nancy Campbell, Kate Chambers, Carol Hokana, Chris Lojko, John Mitchell, Barbara Perry, Candy Walker, Howard Webber, Lynne Wolf

Habitat

All St. Paul's members are invited to the Groundbreaking for the 130 North Road Habitat Project on Sunday, May 4 at 2:30 pm.



Linus Blanket Dedication

On Sunday, May 18 we will bless our Linus Blankets and send them off to Project Linus who will distribute them to hospitalized or needy children. Over 2000 needy children receive blankets from the Greater Boston Chapter each year.

Keep those tab tops coming!



Tabs continue to be 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. All proceeds are used to help pay bills for the families that incur debts when they stay at various hotels to be near their children, who are in the Shriner's Hospital.

COMMUNITY TABLE

May 15th - 2008

Memorial Garden / Rogation Sunday



As part of the Stewardship of St. Paul's property, I am happy to announce that the Stewardship Committee in conjunction with two generous donors has purchased a replacement flowering tree for the Memorial Garden.

The new tree as well as the flowering bushes planted last year will be the focus on Sunday May 18th, 2008. Everyone is encouraged to join in the celebration of Rogation Sunday, (which was rescheduled from April 27th to May 18th due to the weather), as we bless the property of St. Paul's and the newly planted trees and bushes.

Paul Ciaccia – Stewardship Committee

Minutes for February/March 2008

The following motions were made, seconded, and passed unanimously at the Vestry's February Meeting:

- Allow up to \$150 for two new phones (for Frank and Tracy)
- Sign the new copier lease with Ikon
- Purchase three new programmable thermostats (church, library, hall)
- Donate \$200 to CSF and \$50 to high school graduation party
- Allow up to \$3000 to be spent for plumbing work in the new offices
- Amended previous motion to increase the dollar amount to include electrical work, allowing up to \$5000 to be spent for plumbing and electrical work in the new offices

The following motions were made, seconded, and passed unanimously at the Vestry's March meeting:

- Send half of the Easter offering to the Kenya Initiative
- Spend up to \$400 to replace the now removed dead tree in the Memorial Garden
- Allow \$950 to be applied towards the air conditioning in the new administrative offices (in conjunction with the \$3000 that was ear marked for the sink which has now been taken off the plan and now ear marked for the A/C)

New!

Parishioners Corner



Happy Birthday to Paul Ciaccia who celebrates his 60th birthday!

Ken and Caroline Larson are happy to report that Eileen Larson is now living at Carleton Willard Village. She hopes her St. Paul's friends will come visit her.

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 titled "Epistle Entry" on or before the 20th of the month. Your entry

Save the Date!

On May 4th Dr. Gerry Hardison, M.D. and his wife Dr. Nan Hardison, Episcopal missionaries to the Diocese of Maseno North, Kenya, who are co-sponsored by the Jubilee Ministry, will be

Don't forget to 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.

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL



As April vacation ends, just four weeks will remain in our regular school year. It is a variety-packed finish. We are watching 5 caterpillars that came through the mail from CA and hope they will emerge successfully as Painted Lady butterflies. We also celebrate a May tradition by dancing around the Maypole. There are seeds to plant, Mother's Day gifts to make, and for the older classes two remaining field trips to Wilson's Farm and the Concord Playground at Emerson Field. Parents will come to school for final Parent-Teacher conferences. And everyone (siblings, grandparents, friends) is invited to a "Teddy Bear's Picnic". The roomparents help the staff to organize food, crafts and related activities that are both outdoors and inside.

Then, after our concluding picnics and one week's break (Memorial Day week) we return for a two week extension in June. We call this session our "R & R" because it can mean so many things – "refresh, recall, relax, remember, redo, rejoice, etc". Our themes this year are "Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes" and "Interesting Insects". Approximately 20 children are registered and we are very much looking forward to St. Paul's third "R & R" before summer officially begins for the school.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
100 Pine Hill Road
Bedford, MA 01730**

**Non-profit
Organization
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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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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:

Andre Barber

Peter Ricci

Sharon Healey

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews

From the Acts of the Apostles (1:8)

“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses
in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and the ends of the earth.”

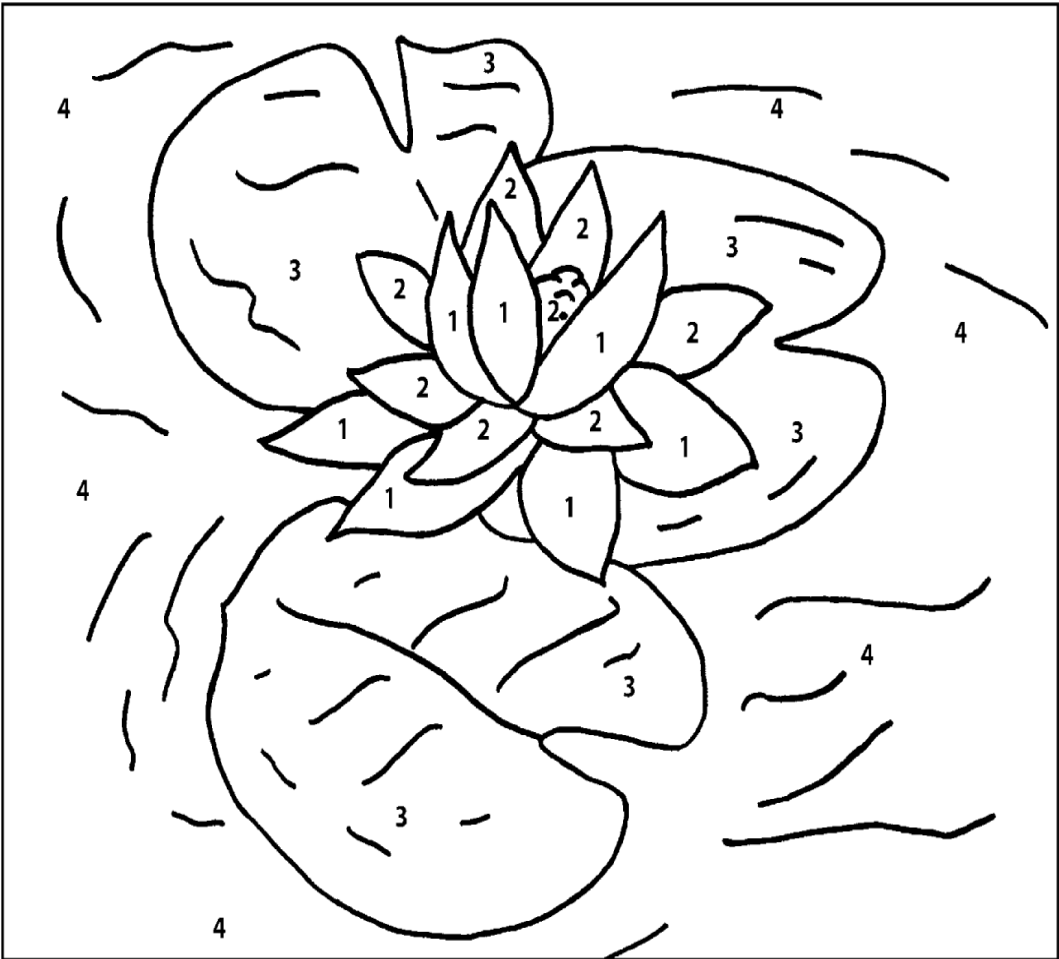
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |



Water Lily

















Color by number.







- 1 = yellow
- 2 = orange
- 3 = green
- 4 = blue



Flowerduko

Place one type of flower in each blank box. No row, column or 6-block grid can repeat a flower. You can draw the flower or write the number.

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| 1  | 2  | | 4  | | |
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-  = 1
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| 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 |

Answer: