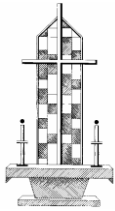


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE



May, 2011

Dear Friends,

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

Easter was ushered into the world with such joy and beauty in our parish. On this first Monday of Eastertide, I'm still looking back on the week's liturgies with deep appreciation. While it is true that from salvation's perspective it is Easter that makes us, and not we that make Easter, the spirit was so alive and so full during our services that I want to shout "alleluia" all over again. Instead, I'll give each of us a written "alleluia": a poem about Easter resurrection.

John Updike, the prodigious New England writer, and faithful Episcopalian, wrote a 20th century poem entitled "Seven Stanzas at Easter" which eloquently asks us to celebrate resurrection wholeheartedly and unabashedly. It is his "alleluia" and his antidote to all the naysayers who would try to make Easter small and easy to explain. Quite a few of you asked for a copy after it showed up in my Easter Vigil sermon, so here it is again:

Seven Stanzas at Easter

Make no mistake;
if he rose at all,
it is as his body:
if the cell's dissolution did not reverse,
the molecules re-knit,
the amino acids rekindle,
the church will fall.
It was not as the flowers,
each soft spring reoccur;
it was not as his spirit in the mouth and fuddled eyes
of the eleven apostles;
it was as his flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that-pierced-died, withered, paused, and then
re-gathered out of enduring might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a sign painted
on the faded credulity of earlier ages;
let us walk through the open door.

The stone rolled back, not papier-mache,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the tomb,
make it a real angel
weighty and vivid with hair, opaque in the dawn light,
robed in real linen, spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,
for our own convenience, our own sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour,
we are embarrassed by the miracle....

It is monstrous, God's Easter undertaking; it is awe-some
and fearful, and real.

It is not small, or easy to understand. It cannot be
weakened or made pathetic. It is miraculous. Alleluia!
Christ is risen!

Blessings to you in the many days of Eastertide,

VESTRY NEWS



Dear friends,

It's been nearly a year since we said goodbye to Frank, after several months of formal and informal leave-taking gatherings to commemorate his time with us. By the time you read this, the search committee will be nearing the end of its discernment and will be presenting a candidate to the vestry for approval.

We are so grateful to all of you for your faithfulness, support, and good stewardship during these past months. Our journey has been blessed with new faces—from Margaret's welcome presence to the new members who have joined us since June—and renewed commitments. Our interim time has not been without challenges, but the people of St. Paul's have shown remarkable fortitude in facing both minor annoyances (the heat is broken!) to major disruptions (the driveway is under construction!). On a personal level, we are thankful to each of you for the support you have shown us as your elected wardens.

This may sound like a valedictory, but it isn't: there are still miles and months to go as we welcome a new rector and continue the good work of St. Paul's. We wanted to pause at this particular marker, however, to acknowledge the care and camaraderie we have felt throughout the parish during this time of transition.

The executive committee will meet on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:30pm. The vestry will hold its May meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at 7:30pm.

With blessings,
Emily and Paul

High School Youth

Our next Movie Night is Sunday, May 1, at the Mitchells' house, 83 Burlington Road. We'll be watching JESUS CAMP, a documentary about a fundamentalist Bible camp for young children (thanks to Emma Healey for the recommendation!).

Youth Sunday is Mother's Day, May 8. At this special service, the high school and middle school youth take over all aspects of the liturgy—reading, serving on the altar, greeting and ushering, and more. It's a great opportunity for the youth to minister to the congregation in a new way. We hope you can be with us!

—Emily and Arthur

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Many thanks to all of the middle schoolers who assisted with our 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt! We stuffed 350 eggs, organized three groups of excited children and then watched as they found all of the eggs. The kids' smiles as they carried around all of the treasures were priceless. Special thanks to Wendy & Paul Ciaccia, Sue Adamik, Carrie & Charles Mathews, and Karin Baker for all of their contributions to the hunt. What a fun day!

Coming up this month...

May 1 - In-class discussion: Please join us for our monthly meeting in the back room during the children's service.

May 8 - Annual Youth Sunday: We look forward to seeing you play such an important role in the Sunday service.

Happy warm weather!

Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker

Elementary Sunday School

Basking in the joys of Easter, we enter our last month of Sunday school. We look forward to sharing wonderful stories of Jesus visiting with his friends after his resurrection; sharing Jesus' beautiful prayer for us; learning about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. Our last day of Sunday school will be May 22nd. We are looking for a few parents to help with scooping ice-cream during coffee hour. Please let me know if you can help.

Many people worked to make our Sunday school program possible this year. If you see them, please take a moment to thank them for giving themselves to God and our children.

Lorraine Campbell, Sima Seymourian, Andrea Hayes, Christine Thompson, Judy Wright, Lori Murphy, Sue MacPhee, and Carol Wait, wrote lessons and taught classes through the year.

Felicia Barber, Carly Martin, Clayton Hafer, Ben Johnson, Hunter Hayes, Chris Adamik, Susan Adamik, Dori Pulizzi, Mary Curlew, Shanie George, Sonia Presti, Nate Presti, Philip Thompson, and Scott Thompson, rolled up their sleeves, donned great smiles and graciously offered their hands and love for whatever task was thrown their way.

John Mitchell, Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard gathered our children in song each Sunday morning.

I am already thinking forward to next year. I'd love to hear from anyone interested in our program who may be interested in teaching next year. It is such a blessing to share your faith with children. I enjoy the quiet time I spend pondering a reading and thinking how to share it with our children almost as much as I love the moments when the children teach me a new light that I certainly would not have found on my own.

Cathy Presti



CATECHESIS CORNER

Dear Catechesis families,

During April we learned together about the stories and places surrounding Easter, including the Last Supper – both with clay figures and sharing our own matzo meals. We hope that this helped the children to better understand the Easter celebration, and the Eucharist that many of them participate in.

As Margaret has pointed out, the season of Eastertide is just beginning. On May 15 our classes will have their own special Liturgy of the Light, with a procession, candles, and short readings and prayers connecting to the light of Christ, and baptism. Based on past experience this is something the children really enjoy. Clearly they have been closely watching the torchbearers and acolytes in church!

Due to the timing of holidays and Family Sundays, **the last week of the church school, and Catechesis, will be Sunday May 22 (the week before Memorial Day).** We will hand out certificates, and all the artwork saved in folders – please have your child attend that day if at all possible, so we can explain about the summer break. We hope they will also attend some church in the summer, so they can experience the service and connect to what they have seen and learned in the Atrium.

Unfortunately, the Introduction to Catechesis originally scheduled for this month in Beverley got rescheduled to May 14th. If anyone would like to go, we should register ASAP – please see Amanda Hubbard or Ellen Ryan for details.

We will save individual thank-you's until next month, but know how grateful we are to all who have helped in any way this year!

Sincerely,

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

Notes from the Nursery School



The month of May brings many activities to the end of the nursery school year. The two day class will enjoy a visit from Audubon Ark. They will learn about worms and composting. We will have a fun field trip to the Concord playground with the older children. All the children are very busy working on their Mother's Day gifts. Teachers are busy conferencing with parents as we prepare to send another group of children off to kindergarten. We will watch caterpillars turn into butterflies and if all goes well, we will set the butterflies free on our last day of school. Our end of year picnic should be great fun with a birthday party theme to go along with our 50th anniversary year.

Enrollment is looking good. Our five day program is full. There are some openings in our three day and two day programs. Hopefully they will be filled during the summer.

I want to thank the members of the church for all the support I have received this year as the director. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to working with everyone again next year. Enjoy the summer!

Lee Frank



ST. PAUL'S FINE ART AUCTION MAY 7TH

Our Fine Arts Auction is almost here! With more than fifty paintings, prints, collage work, photographs, tableware, jewelry, and other items for sale, this evening of fellowship, food, and fabulous art promises to be a rousing success. Our featured items are twenty paintings, giclee prints, and painted rocks by the late Mary-Amy Cross, a gifted artist and long-time parishioner, whose family donated these works in her honor as a fundraiser for St. Paul's.

Also in the mix are works by local artists John Dodge, Susannah Natti, Madeleine Lord, Anne McRae MacLeod, and Christine Bennett, as well as works by our own Linda Johnnene, Donna Waghorne, and John Mitchell.

Doors open at 6:45pm to view the art and enjoy hors d'oeuvres. The auction begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$15 per person, and are available at coffee hour on May 1 and at the door. We hope to see you there!



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 along Dana Road or Heritage Road.



Attention Altar servers (and their parents)

New and experienced servers, we thank you for your faithful service. Note that **torchbearers, gossellers and crucifers will be scheduled throughout the summer.** If you will be away, please let Caroline know (sailsk8@gmail.com). Remember, once scheduled, it will be your responsibility to find a replacement if you cannot serve.

Please remember to make a note on the schedule in the robe closet if you make a switch.



Mark your calendars now: the summer schedule for Sunday services, with one service at 9:00am, will begin **June 26.**

Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center

Are you looking for a refreshing break this spring or summer? Consider a visit to Adelynrood's quaint retreat house and lovely grounds, less than an hour away in Newbury, Mass. If you've never been to Adelynrood, or you'd enjoy a return visit, consider going to the Open House and Picnic on Saturday, May 28th. Families and children are welcome, and it's free!

The 2011 programs range from Spiritual Spa Days to programs led by best-selling authors: Martin L. Smith (*A Season for the Spirit, The Word Is Very Near You, Nativities and Passions*), Esther de Waal (*The Celtic Way of Prayer, Seeking God: the Way of St. Benedict*), and Kathleen Norris (*The Cloister Walk, Dakota*).

For more information, pick up a brochure in the Narthex, or go to the website: www.Adelynrood.org, or talk with parishioners Cecelia Parks and Barbara Perry.



If you are planning to do any Amazon shopping in the near future, don't forget to visit the St. Paul's website first! Go to 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!

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 Veterans with their expenses.

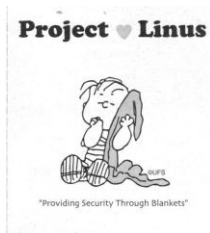
OUTREACH NEWS

Bedford Food Panty



Our Lenten collection of groceries was spectacular! Thank you to all who shopped, sorted and delivered these items to the Bedford Food Pantry. They were thrilled to restock their shelves. But don't stop just because Lent is over! Shopping lists are in the Narthex. We will continue to collect and deliver non-perishable items including canned goods, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, and shampoo. Financial contributions are always welcome.

Blankets Blessed



This year Margaret blessed 18 blankets for Project Linus during our service on April 3. Three full sized blankets were also presented to a new Habitat family in Bedford. A thank you note from Project Linus is already posted on the knitting bulletin board. We are grateful to all who donated to help buy yarn and to all who knit, sew and crochet these colorful cuddly gifts for children in need.

For more information, contact Caroline Larson.

SAVE THE DATE FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATES AFRICA



Saturday, May 21 at the Church of the Redeemer in Lexington there will be an evening of traditional African food, live entertainment, with live and silent auctions and a cash bar. All proceeds benefit the Jubilee Ministry of the Diocese of Massachusetts, supporting education, nutrition, health care, and economic stability in East Africa. Nan and Gerry Hardison, Episcopal missionaries who serve in Maseno, Kenya, will have a conversation with guests at 5pm, followed by the celebration. Nan works with the Mother's Union to administer the Orphan Feeding Program and is the principal of St. Phillip's Theological College. Gerry is the medical director of the Anglican Mission Hospital in Maseno. Ticket Levels: \$35 Jubilee Guest; \$50 Jubilee Supporter; \$100 Jubilee Patron; \$350 Jubilee Benefactor; \$600 Jubilee Host. Please reserve by May 8 by calling 617-482-4826 x351 or e-mailing mgeller@diomass.org. For more information contact Howard Webber.

National Women Build Week is May 2-6th.

Habitat's Women Build project brings women together to advocate and build safe, decent affordable housing. This year's Women Build is *extra special* as it will be the grand start to our first ever Women Build house in the Bedford Project. The walls will be raised on Wed. May 4th marking the official start.



The Bedford "Women Build" house on North Road is looking for crews all summer. How about a St. Paul's Women's group?

For more information, contact John Mitchell. To sign up to help, go to <http://www.lowellhabitat.org>

**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

**Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Permit No. 11**

Staff:

The Reverend Ms. Margaret Schwarzer, Interim Priest
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Emily Mitchell, Co-Warden
Paul Ciaccia, Co-Warden
David Woodward, Treasurer
Katie West, Clerk

Vestry:

Betsey Anderson
Cassie Baker
Arthur Fergusson
Lisa Hafer
Sharon Healey
Carol Hokana
Rene Seaton

Easter Thanksgiving

"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.

Charles Wesley



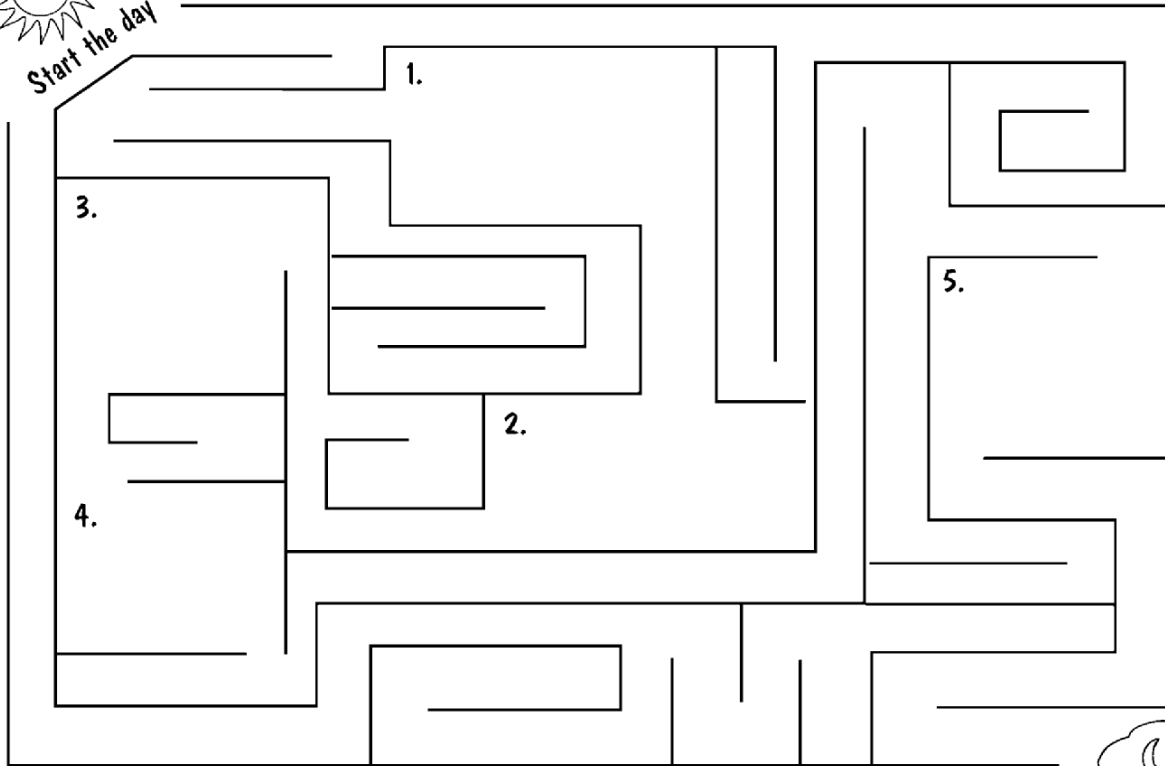
Maze

Jesus is with us in everything we do. Go through the maze and fill in each station with:

1. something fun to do. 2. a way that you can help around the house. 3. your favorite subject at school.
4. something nice you could do for someone. 5. a good friend you like to play with.



Start the day



End of the day



Now think of 5 things to thank God for at the end of this day

1. _____ 3. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Make a Card for Mom



Fold a piece of heavy paper in half. On the inside – write a poem or just tell Mom how much you love her. On the front – decorate with a picture or a design. You can use ribbon, lace, buttons, sequins, beads, fabric or any trimmings. Markers or crayons can be used as well.