

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

November 2007

Dear Friends,

Every year we have an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service here in Bedford. Over time this celebration has been presented in different ways but always with the intention of knowing and honoring all the ways we express thankfulness to God for all the gifts we are freely given. These last two years, we have gathered to celebrate our human instinct of gratitude through hymns, songs, dance and music. Each of these offerings to the community have given us the opportunity to experience the spirit filled ways we variously respond to the goodness of God.

It is a good thing to remember that God is the giver of all good things. It is a good thing to remember that God's desire for all humanity is joy and satisfaction. From the voices of the prophets through the courageous, powerful voice of Jesus we are taught of God's love and desire for us as a beloved part of God's holy creation.

We are called to live a thankful life; thankful for all of God's gifts. We are called, as the prophets and Jesus have taught us, to be mindful of those gifts and to remember that God's hope is that all share in the bounty.

Celebrating in the rituals of our own traditions is a major way we gather together to thank God for all we have been given. We thank God for being our companion and support in those times when the randomness of this life creates challenges, great and small. Above all we thank God for the gift of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus who has become for us the human and divine Savior of all people.

Worshipping God, as we do, leads us into action. Thanksgiving is action. It causes us to act in loving ways to our family, friends and neighbors. Thanksgiving raises for us the clarity of the gifts we have and should help us be mindful of those who have less. Thanksgiving prompts us to contribute to the life of others in ways that help them come to that place of satisfaction that God through Jesus Christ has taught us.

As you gather in church, at home, at restaurants or wherever and however you celebrate this day, remember that it is only one day that we collectively recall our gratitude. As Christians, as a people confident in the unconditional love of God for all, we are called to live every day in thanksgiving. In that way, we will always be mindful of God's graciousness to us and God's hope in us that we are instruments of healing and satisfaction in this world.

Feel the warmth of the hands you hold around the table this Thanksgiving. Feel the love that is being given to you from God through those you love. In the depths of your soul feel the warmth of God's personal love for you and in your heart sing praises of joy and thanksgiving for it. Sing out loud too!

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Prayer

For
wives, husbands, partners, children, brothers,
sisters, grandparents, nieces, nephews, aunts,
uncles, cousins, godparents, old friends, new
friends, teachers, police officers, firefighters, nurses,
doctors, medical professionals, ambulance drivers,
janitors, operators, secretaries, peace makers,
justice doers, mercy givers

For
air, water, shelter, warm breezes, cool breezes, all
God's creatures, boats, grass, fruit, flowers, trees,
mountains, trails, skate parks, swings, slides, golf,
tennis, soccer, baseball, volleyball, football, sand
boxes, ice cream, cake, cookies, pie, candy, food,
medicine, cookies again, candy corn, laughter,
work, rest, music, tap dancing, ballet, waltzes,
tangos, fox trots, rumbas, sambas, cha-cha-cha

For
compassion, forgiveness, poverty of spirit, silence,
prayer, beauty, faithfulness, angels,
healing, joy, heaven on earth, faith, courage,
freedom, wisdom, service, patience, challenges,
goodness, wonder, diversity, open-heartedness, for
our ministry as baptized Christians, for all things not
named here, for all things we don't see

And especially for
the congregation of St. Paul's Church, our worship,
our fellowship, our commitment to one another, our
joy of community and for the love of God, the
companionship and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and
the salvation of Jesus Christ, we give You thanks.



Stewardship Update

As we approach November and the Annual Stewardship program, it's important to remember how important it is to pledge your support to St. Paul's Church and its outreach programs. During the past month, we've all been touched by the letter from Lisa and Brad Hafer as they describe what St Paul's means to them and why they support the Church financially. Additionally, the wonderful sermon by Jan Gurley adds to these messages.

During the coming weeks we will hear Witnesses from several members of the parish and look forward to Franks' annual sermon on Stewardship.

The significance of supporting St. Paul's by pledging is taken very seriously by the leaders of the church. We are very pleased to report that we have received 100% pledge participation from the Vestry, Church staff and Stewardship Committee.

Please watch your mail in the coming weeks as pledge cards will be arriving during the week of November 12. Please make every effort to complete the pledge card and bring it to Church on Ingathering Sunday November 18.

Our goal is to have 100% participation in this years Stewardship program.

Thank you for your support,

The Stewardship Committee

***Paul Ciaccia, Emily Mitchell, Barbara Perry
and Ron Presti***



Catechesis Corner

The Catechesis program is now well underway. Children in both classes seem to have settled in comfortably and be enjoying the many activities available. Classes are relatively small this year, especially in our younger group, there is always space for new children! The lessons so far have covered the altar and liturgical colors and the priest's vestments, helping them understand what they see in church. As always, parables of the Good Shepherd are favorites.

We will be following our usual schedule through November. In Session II, which starts Nov. 11th and runs through Epiphany, we will start by presenting the geography of the Holy Land, setting the stage for several stories of the Nativity, including the visitations of Mary by Angel Gabriel, and of Mary to Elizabeth. These 'old, old' stories captivate children (and adults).



Parents, please let us know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Middle School Youth Group Update

What a busy October we had!! Six members of the youth group - Miranda, Cassie, Hailey, Briana, Jake and Tim - participated in the 10K Crop Walk on what turned out to be a glorious fall day. They were joined by seven parishioners - Carrie, Suzanne, Jan Gurley, Sima, Ellen and Michael Ryan, and Lisa Hafer. With the support of St. Paul's friends and family, the St. Paul's group raised more than \$1,200 (\$1,222 to be exact) and the Crop Walk raised \$55,000 in all. Thank you!

After the bottle and can recycling drive held this past spring, which was co-sponsored by the Middle School Youth Group, we decided to use the proceeds to plant a tree. During coffee hour on October 21st, we finally got to plant that tree - a Rose of Sharon - which represents a small, but important step in the fight against global warming. Later that day, Suzanne, the Healeys, Michael and Tim Ryan and Frank traveled to Needham to attend the U2charist - an Episcopal church service based on the music of Bono and rock group U2. They had a fantastic time and look to bring this traveling service to St. Paul's this spring.

This month, we will have our monthly class discussion on Sunday, November 4th and will host coffee hour later that morning. On Sunday, November 25th we will join with the High School Youth Group for our annual cookie-baking and decorating extravaganza. Cookies will be sent in care packages for faraway youth members of the parish and given out to those members we visit for Christmas caroling. Mark the date and we'll be in touch with more details!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Carrie Mathews and Suzanne Johnson

Vestry Corner

Want to publicize your St. Paul's event, but aren't sure how or where? Need a hand getting the word out about a fundraiser or speaker? Check out the new St. Paul's publicity manual!

The vestry has set a goal this year of improving our communications, both within the parish and with the larger community. To that end, we have developed a publicity manual to help members navigate the ins and outs of publicizing events. The manual contains deadlines and contact information for local media sources, as well as suggestions for getting the word out within the parish. A hard copy is available in our library, and a PDF of the manual is posted on our website. Please see Emily Mitchell if you have questions.

Motions made, seconded, and passed unanimously:

1. Support Seminarian Matt Kruger by sending him \$500
2. Accept the 2007-2008 Vestry goals as written
3. Compensate John White \$100 for travel expenses when he came to give a talk on Planned Giving
4. Accept the Audit Report and send it to the Diocese



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. Paul's 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!

Women's Group



A Taste of Tupperware Tuesday, November 6 at 7 PM

Please join the Women's Group for a fundraising Tupperware Party! I will be demonstrating Tupperware's product line - including making some zesty salsa and some sweet treats. Tupperware's Fall/Holiday catalog is full of great gift ideas so you can get a head start on holiday shopping. Proceeds from the evening will go to an outreach initiative to be chosen by the Women's Group. This event is open to all members of the parish (I know there are some great male cooks out there!) as well as guests, so bring a friend. If you are not able to attend on November 6, but are interested in placing an order, please see me at church or call/email me. I will make sure you get a catalog and we will finalize all orders by November 13.



Craft Group Prepares for Advent Fair

St Paul's elves aka Craft Ladies busy themselves creating wonderful items to sell at the upcoming Advent fair December 1st.

It is never too late to get in on the fun!
Weekly sessions on Wednesday PM's at 7PM Betsey Anderson's.

Dates to remember:

**Halloween Week - meeting is
Tuesday PM, October 30th**

**Wednesday, November 28th –
Kissing Ball workshop at Caroline Larson's**

**Donations of helping hands, materials, and \$
are always welcome!!!**

See, email, or call Ellen Ryan for questions!

COMMUNITY TABLE DATES 2007-2008

October 11th – 2007

February 14th – 2008

May 15th - 2008



May 17, 2008

at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

*Classes will begin January 6th 2008 after
church.*

Any young people in grades nine or above, and
any baptized adults interested in receiving the
Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact
Frank

Youth Group Date!

Sunday, November 25, at 5:30pm

Annual cookie-baking extravaganza!
Bring your friends—and bring the
addresses of the folks you'd like to
receive a care package!

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 18th @ 3:00 p.m.

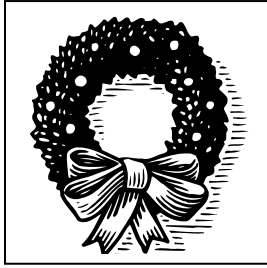
at the Congregational Church in Bedford

Sunday, November 4th –



Time Change

Daylight Savings Ends, Don't forget to turn
your clocks back before bedtime on Saturday
the 3rd.



ADVENT FAIR UPDATE

Once again as part of the Advent Fair, we will be having a Silent Auction. We need goods and services to auction. Please consider donating a service (lessons that you can teach, maybe?), a gift card, a purchased item (that you and some friends buy together?) or a food item (a lasagna maybe?). If you aren't able to donate, then you can help by soliciting an area business owner for a donation. All businesses will be recognized at the fair. Please see the list that is in the narthex for some ideas of businesses to approach.

Once you secure a donation, please fill out an auction item form that can be found on the table in the narthex. Deadline for donations is November 25th.

Thank you for all your help and donations,

Sharon Healey

IT MAY BE GETTING COLD OUTSIDE, BUT THINGS ARE REALLY HEATING UP WITH THE ANNUAL ADVENT FAIR!!! ONLY ONE MONTH TO GO ...

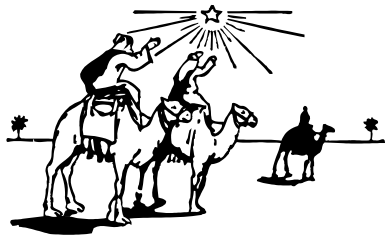
St. Paul's 2007 Advent Fair will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This is an all Parish fundraising event and a wonderful day of fellowship for all ages.

How can you help ensure a successful Advent Fair??? Help out with the following things:

- 1) CONTRIBUTE an item or service to our SILENT AUCTION. Use your creativity and connections around town and sign up in the narthex if you can help!
- 2) Consider a DONATION to offset costs of basket supplies, crafts, raffle, and snack bar. We really appreciate your generosity!
- 3) Gather good quality WHITE ELEPHANTS and any "new/unused" items you may be storing and donate them to our White Elephant Sale. Also, donate any BOOKS (in good condition) you may not want or need/read any more for our Book Room.
- 4) Make and freeze delicious homemade SOUP for our Soups-To-Go section of the Country Kitchen. Containers are available in the church kitchen.
- 5) If you love baking, remember we'll need COOKIES, PIES, and TREATS to sell for the ever-popular COUNTRY KITCHEN. Also, if you made jams or jellies this Fall, consider donating these as well.
- 6) Make a donation specifically to our fabulous RAFFLE and help offset the cost of these "big ticket" and always popular items.
- 7) VOLUNTEER to help at a specific table, as a runner the day of the fair, as a greeter, or with the hectic but fun Friday night set-up. Sign up sheets will be available by mid-November, so stay tuned.
- 8) PUBLICIZE the Advent Fair to your friends, neighbors, teachers, family, and mailperson!! Flyers will soon be available to put in car windows and around town.

We are looking forward to a wonderful fair.

Any questions, please contact Lisa Hafer or Betsey Anderson. Co-Chairs of the Advent Fair. THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!!



Christmas Pageant 2007

Is it that time already? Yes, it is time to give it some thought and get the dates on the calendars!

Sunday, December 16th – 10 AM –
Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 15th – 9AM-
Lead characters

Saturday, December 15th 10AM –
Full cast

If you know now your child/children might have a conflict with the pageant and/or these particular rehearsals, please let me know and I can cast them accordingly. Everyone child is welcome to participate and urged to do so!!!

Please see me, call me or email me:

Ellen Ryan
Or
Natalie Wicks



Bring your friends and family and kick off your Holiday Shopping at:

St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School's
Holiday Gift Boutique Fundraiser

Thursday,
November 15th
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Located at:
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
100 Pine Hill Road
Bedford, MA 01730

You'll find products for the home from:

Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Longaberger, Wildtree and Party Lite Candles

There's something for every child on your list too from:

Usborne Books, Discovery Toys and Towels by Amelia

Don't forget cosmetics and beauty products from:

Arbonne International, Mary Kay, Avon, The Body Shop at Home, and hair products

Browse a wide variety of special gifts and services from:

Lia Sophia Jewelry, Cookie Lee, Stampin' Up, Creative Memories, The Traveling Vineyard, handmade jewelry and more

Enter to win **DOZENS** of wonderful **RAFFLE** prizes donated by many of our vendors as well as local businesses including Bedford Farms, Chip In Farm, GlassHowes and Summit Gym.

A percentage of sales from the evening will be donated to St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School. Please visit
<http://www.stpaulsweekdayns.org>



OUTREACH NEWS

New St. Paul's Outreach Committee

Although our parish has always been involved in many outreach activities, we have never had a formal Outreach Committee. This year the vestry decided to formalize a committee. The newly formed Outreach Committee includes Nancy Campbell, Carol Hokana, John Mitchell, Barbara Perry, Candy Walker, Howard Webber, Lynne Wolf and Caroline Larson, chair. Anyone interested in joining, please contact Caroline.



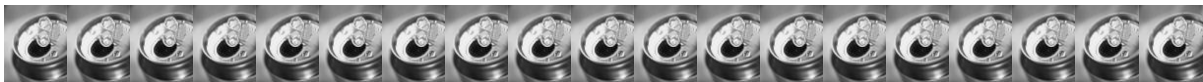
Knitting Ministry

Can you knit 3 purl 3? We have yarn for shawls. Contact Caroline for directions and yarn.



Thinking ahead to Christmas? Buy a lamb, but not for dinner. Plan to buy some Heifer cards at the Advent Fair. (Minimum contribution \$10). Buy a lamb (or a cow or a flock of geese) for an impoverished family this holiday season. Heifer International works with communities around the world to end hunger and poverty by providing animals to needy families, giving them economic security and better nutrition.

TAB TOPS

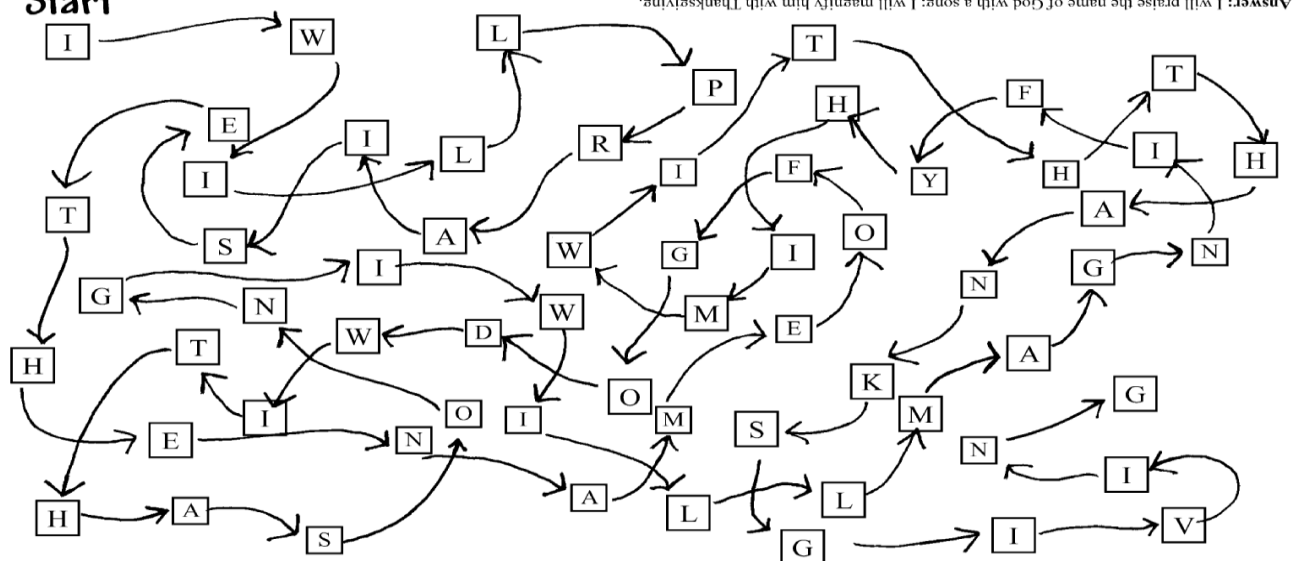


Keep those tab tops coming! All proceeds from the sale of the aluminum of all tab tops benefit the Shriner's Burn Institute for Children in Boston.

Psalm 69

Follow the arrows and put the letters in the blanks

Start



Answer: I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with Thanksgiving.

• Ps 69:30

Word Scramble

Unscramble the words to find things and people for which we should be thankful.


$$\overline{\text{H}} \quad \overline{\text{H}} \quad \overline{\text{C}} \quad \overline{\text{U}} \quad \overline{\text{R}} \quad \overline{\text{C}}$$


O O F D



T P E S



E T A U N R


$$\overline{A} \quad \overline{D} \quad \overline{D}$$


L F W R S E O


$$\overline{M} \quad \overline{M} \quad \overline{O}$$


S R I D N K



Y T O S



H E O M

S R A T S

Answer: CHURCH, NATURE, FLOWERS, DRINKS, FOOD, DAD, MOM, TOYS, PETS, HOME, STARS

**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 Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Carrie Mathews

A PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

Mighty God

we rejoice in your reckless and extravagant love
scattered among us
and found in the mud and thorns of life.

We rejoice

that your will for us and for the world
is not one of carefully apportioned judgement
or neatly wrapped rewards.

Praise be!

Your aim and desire for all your creation
is a cup full and overflowing with good wine,
a banquet for all to share,
a harvest of full and ripe grains,
a growing tree in which all can make their rest.
Your gifts, freely offered,
are life in all its fullness,
hope in abundance,
peace that passes understanding,
love that none can measure
from which nothing can separate us. Amen.

Terry Hinks

November 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Proclamation of Thanksgiving

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

A PROCLAMATION

It has pleased Almighty God to prolong our national life another year, defending us with His guardian care against unfriendly designs from abroad, and vouchsafing to us in His mercy many and signal victories over the enemy, who is of our own household. It has also pleased our Heavenly Father to favor as well our citizens in their homes as our soldiers in their camps and our sailors on the rivers and seas with unusual health. He has largely augmented our free population by emancipation and immigration, while He has opened to us new sources of wealth, and has crowned the labor of our working (women) men in every department of industry with abundant rewards. Moreover, He has been pleased to animate and inspire our minds and hearts with fortitude, courage and resolution sufficient for the great trial of civil war into which we have been brought by our adherence as a nation to the cause of Freedom of Humanity, and to afford to us reasonable hopes of an ultimate and happy deliverance from all our dangers and afflictions.

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do, hereby, appoint and set apart the last Thursday in November next as a day, which I desire to be observed by all my fellow-citizens wherever they may then be as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the Universe. And I do further recommend to my fellow-citizens aforesaid that on that occasion they do reverently humble themselves in the dust and from thence offer up penitent and fervent prayers and supplications to the Great Disposer of events for a return of the inestimable blessings of Peace, Union and Harmony throughout the land, which it has pleased Him to assign as a dwelling place for ourselves and for our posterity throughout all generations.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this twentieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty four, and, of the Independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

By the President

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, SECRETARY OF STATE