



ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

November 2008

Dear Friends,

Even in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed thanksgiving for all that God gives. "No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gift of the Most High God....." It is easier in easier times to recognize and acknowledge God's gifts to us. Somehow they seem more evident then. It is harder to notice or acknowledge those gifts when we are in hard times. And even in hard times that is never all there is. God never stops giving good things.

Living with grateful hearts at all times has the power to transform us. We are transformed in so many ways by holding on to a deep sense of thankfulness for the things of our life that give us joy, safety and security. We are transformed by noticing how hard God works to transform the things in our world that hurt, harm and injure us because we know, by faith, that God will not let those things have the last word in our lives.

Several times in his proclamation of 1863, Lincoln honors God in thanksgiving and petitions God for healing and mercy. I am always struck at Thanksgiving time when I talk with people who joyfully celebrate this day and yet pay no attention to the Giver to whom we offer thanks. Of course we are grateful to those around us who take love us, take care of us, affirm, support and encourage us. These are also the qualities of God who offers all this and more without reservation. We are called to be thankful to God for all good things that surround us.

Sometimes I think we spend too much time exclusively on being grateful for the big things God gives us: family, friends, work, church, security, love and so on. It is really helpful and life giving to notice the little things that are never ending in our ordinary daily living: smiles, courtesies, lunch, handshakes, hugs, and so on. I encourage you to think of these things in these days around Thanksgiving and to remember who the Ultimate Giver of all gifts is and especially to remember that all these gifts are offered out of pure, unconditional love for us.

Living with grateful hearts is a cause of joy. That way of life invites us to notice God's healing power in the gifts we receive from God through others; it invites us to notice the elevation of our spirit; it invites us into new and deeper relationship with God and with one another. Living with a grateful heart invites us to a joyous dance of excitement and praise. Look up The Gratitude Dance on YouTube; see what I mean.

Happy Thanksgiving today and always.

We Pray in Thanksgiving

For

wives, husbands, partners,
children, brothers, sisters,
grandparents, aunts, uncles,
cousins, godparents, old friends,
new friends, teachers, police
officers, firefighters, nurses,
doctors, medical professionals,
ambulance drivers, janitors,
operators, secretaries, democracy,
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, sand boxes,
cookies, ice cream, cake, pie,
candy, food, medicine, ice cream
again, cookies again, 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 all the gifts not
named here, for all the gifts 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.

Proclamation of Thanksgiving

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.
A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

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 Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

Stewardship Update

November is here - What comes to mind when you think about St. Paul's Church?

Perhaps, you and your children have settled into the rhythm of Fall activities – Advent Fair preparations, choir rehearsals, church school, youth groups, or gatherings of the Women's or the Men's Groups.

You might also remember that November is the traditional month for our Annual Fall Pledge Drive. Your annual pledge to St. Paul's is vital for the support of St. Paul's and all that it provides throughout the year.

You recently received a lovely letter from Carrie Matthews recounting her religious journey which began at St. Paul's, continued elsewhere and, happily for all, circled back to St. Paul's. John Mitchell shared his thoughts in his recent sermon and we're sure to be touched by the witnessing of several parishioners and Frank's annual sermon on stewardship. As you reflect on the messages from Frank and your fellow parishioners and on the information you received in the mail, consider reflecting on what St. Paul's means to you. Then, thoughtfully consider making your annual pledge.

Please watch for your pledge card in the mail and make every effort to bring your completed card to Church on ingathering Sunday, November 23rd.

It would be wonderful to reach our goal of 100% participation!

Your support is deeply appreciated. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee

Paul Ciaccia, Emily Mitchell, Barbara Perry, Ron Presti

Elementary Sunday School

This month all the classrooms were full of games, acting and fun as we all learned about the ten commandments. The first to third grade class learned about the Shriner's hospital and how they can help by collecting can tabs and bringing them to church. They decorated beautiful boxes to take home and collect the tabs in. The fourth and fifth graders enjoyed an engaging lesson about our church and altar guild from Ginny Draper. Thank you Ginny, we all enjoyed it.

With the end of October, we will be winding up our first session. To prepare for the upcoming session we will have a planning meeting on Sunday October 2nd right after coffee hour in the library. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about and help shape our Sunday school program. All are welcome.

Many thanks to everyone who has so graciously volunteered their time and service to our Sunday school program.

Cathy Presti

Catechesis Corner

We are off to a wonderful start with both our Catechesis classes. The children are wonderfully curious and engaged! We spent time this past month discussing the altar and what is on it each and every week – fair linen, cross, candleholders with candles, paten and chalice. The children learned the significance of the Liturgical colors – green for “ordinary time”, purple for “waiting”, white for “celebrations”, and red for “Pentecost”. We “dressed” Father Frank and talked about **all** the layers he must wear when celebrating the Eucharist. Ask them about our fieldtrip!!!! (As a combined class we went and looked in Father Frank's closet and everyone marveled at the beautiful chasubles and stoles!) A few of them proudly tried on an alb and cincture. Future torchbearers!

New this year in both Atria is a reading corner with a comfy bean bag chair and book basket filled with books. Please feel to come visit, look at the Atria and our materials. We are so blessed to have this dedicated space for our children.

On regular service Sundays, all children gather in the hall to sing together at 9:45, and then enter the Atrium at 10. On Family Service Sunday, children start in church. Those who wish may come back to the Atrium following the Children's sermon. **November 2nd is Family Service Sunday!**

We are very pleased to have most of our team of Catechists and assistants with us again this year (some have been at it about 10 years now!) and to have some new youth volunteering. We can always use more help and schedule flexibly, one session at a time, so if anyone else is interested, please contact Amanda Hubbard (781-275-7857 or hubbard@psfc.mit.edu)

Sincerely,

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard



Middle School Youth Group Update

On Sunday, October 19th, 11 members of the youth group and their families participated in the Crop Walk, a 7K walk through Concord to raise money to fight hunger. It was a brisk fall day - great for walking - and the group proudly finished the entire route. With the help of family, friends and St. Paul's parishioners, we raised \$1,259 which will go to local hunger relief efforts, including the Bedford Community Table, and to global initiatives.

Congratulations to our crew of walkers: Miranda Keane, Briana Champion, Cassie Baker, Ben Johnson, Natalie Schalick, Suzanne Johnson, Stacy Schalick, Sima Seymourian, Charles Mathews and, representing the preschooler division, Avery Mathews. The eleventh participant, Carrie Mathews, stayed at the finish line to help welcome back the walkers given it was 5 weeks to go until her due date! Special recognition to our top fundraiser - Natalie Schalick - who raised an impressive \$465! Thank you to those who supported us with donations and to everyone for keeping us in their prayers.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, November 2nd - Please meet in the library for our next in-class discussion.

Sunday, November 30th at 5:30 - Please meet at the church to help bake cookies to send in care packages for college-aged members of the parish and to include on plates for Christmas carolling. This is a joint activity with the High School Youth Group. Pizza will be served and be sure to bring your artistic skills for decorating cookies!

Laser Tag - We are confirming a date for this month, so please watch for an email in early November with specifics.

Saturday, December 6th - St. Paul's Advent Fair! We will be running a booth for the second year at the fair doing temporary tattoos and face painting. We will be in touch so you can sign up for a specific time slot to help.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Carrie Mathews and Suzanne Johnson

High School Youth Group Update



It's that time of year again! The high school youth will join with the middle school youth for our annual Cookie Baking Night on Sunday, November 30, at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. (Technically this is more "cookie decorating and assembling" than "baking," but no matter.) We'll be putting together care packages for our friends and family who are far from home. We will also have dinner, assuming we're not too full from sampling the cookies.

We invite everyone to add and update our recipient list, which we'll post on the announcement board for several Sundays prior. If you have a child, family member, or friend who deserves a little sugar-filled cheer in early December, please add his or her name and address to the list.

See you on the 30th!

John & Emily Mitchell

Notes from the Nursery School



As the weather turns crisp and cold, the children are buzzing about collecting colorful leaves and singing songs about gray squirrels and dingle-dangle scarecrows. The Fall season is well underway at St Paul's and the children's excitement grows as we approach Halloween.

As we look forward to November, we are planning to run an Open House on November 6 from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. If you know of anyone thinking about nursery school starting in September 2009, please send them to our open house. They can bring their child, visit the classrooms and meet the staff. Also in November, we will have our annual fundraiser; a holiday gift boutique, similar to the fundraiser we had last year. We have many independent vendors coming and many Bedford businesses have contributed to our raffle. We will also have a bake sale. The date for the fundraiser is Thursday, Nov. 13 from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Please try to attend, last year's event was a lot of fun and quite successful for us.

Lee Frank



Christmas Pageant 2008

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

Sunday, December 21st – 10AM – Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 20th – 9AM- Lead characters

Saturday, December 20th 10AM – Full cast

Sunday, December 14th – 10AM – rehearsal during Sunday School

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 781-275-9795 or ellenaryan@comcast.net

Or

Natalie Wicks 781-275-5244 or NSWicks@aol.com



OUTREACH NEWS

Help us “UNDECORATE” our Giving Tree

On the First Sunday of Advent, our Giving Tree will be decorated with requests. Our Advent Outreach project is to purchase gifts for 60 residents of Fernald State School. These adults are severely multi-handicapped and many have no families. Help make their Christmas brighter with a special gift.

Ornaments with specific requests will hang on our “Giving Tree”. Please sign up to purchase a gift and take the ornament to attach to your wrapped gift. We also welcome \$5 gift cards to Dunkin Donuts for staff who care for these residents. Gifts are due back at St. Paul’s on December 14.



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.



Heifer Project Living Nativity at Overlook Farm

Saturday December 13 — 1 - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 14 — 1 - 5:30 p.m.

Come see the barn St. Paul’s helped build! The Living Nativity is an annual event at the Heifer Project demonstration farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. About an hour away, this live nativity complete with animals is presented every hour on the hour for a 20-minute period in the barn. (Dress warmly!) Free sleigh or hay rides. Caroling around a campfire. Purchase alternative gifts from Heifer International and crafts from around the world. There is no charge for this event, but everyone is asked to bring a plate of cookies to share.

For more information, check overlook.farm@heifer.org or call 508-886-2221.

Save the Dates

The Bedford High School Fallen Veterans Committee is raising funds to construct a new memorial in honor of the three BHS graduates who made the supreme sacrifice in service to their country.

The memorial plaza in front of the high school will pay tribute to Travis Desiato '03 and John Hart '02, who both lost their lives in Iraq, and Terry Reed '63, who was a casualty of the Vietnam Conflict. The current flagpole will be replaced and the area around it will be enhanced with space appropriate for reflection and contemplation.

Although the memorial coincides with the high school renovation and expansion, the committee feels the entire Bedford community has ownership of this memorial and is asking everyone – individuals, families, businesses and industries -- to contribute whatever they can.

Donations may be sent to Bedford High School on Mudge Way, attention Janet Brady. Checks should be payable to "BHS Fallen Veterans Memorial." All donations will be recognized publicly. Questions may be addressed to Mrs. Brady at BHS (781-275-1700) or Mike Rosenberg (781-8983-1763).

READING ALOUD will meet on Sunday evening, Dec. 7 at 7 in the library. Bring your favorite short piece to read aloud and share with others. It can be a poem, a prayer, a Bible passage, the text of a favorite hymn or song, a short essay or story, or an original work of your own. Light refreshments will be served.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service – Sunday November 23rd
@ 3:00 p.m. at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist.

Women's Retreat
Saturday January 24, 2009

For several years, we have had requests for another women's retreat. We have arranged to hold it at St. Anne's Convent in Arlington on Saturday, January 24th, 2009. We would like to make the theme of the retreat one that appeals to women of all ages. The convent is beautiful and the Sisters provide warm hospitality and delicious food. It should be a wonderful, spiritual day. Please plan to join us. A meeting to begin to plan the day will be held in early November.

We are always looking for new ideas. Please contact the steering committee if you have ideas or questions – Roberta Valday, Lynne Wolf, Sima Seymourian (our newest member) and Betsey Anderson.

Daylight Savings Ends



**Don't forget to turn your clocks
back one hour! -
November 2nd.**

Keep those tab tops coming!



Tab tops continue to be sent to the Shriners Burn Hospital, which in turn are combined with other organizations tabs. The tabs contain metal which the Shriners 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 Shriners Hospital.

Also, Ed Lawrence is always collecting cans/bottles to retrieve deposits to help support the National Guard Veterans for their every day expenses.

Directory Changes/Additions

(Please note the back of your directories)

New Members

Kathleen Kenny
5 Wildwood Drive
Bedford, MA 01730
781-275-8513
Lowercase75@yahoo.com

David Woodward
Mary Curlew
18 Evans Avenue
Bedford, MA 01730
781-538-6808

Don't forget to click through!

If you are spreading out your Christmas spending and planning to do a little Amazon shopping this month, 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!

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.

Parishioners Corner



Wishing Wendy Ciaccia a Happy Birthday
November 7th!

**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

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

Sing a joyful song to the Beloved
all the earth,
and praise Love's name;
Sing in glorious exultation!
We say to You, "How magnificent are
Your ways:
So great is Your power that fear and
doubt vanish before You;
You are our Teacher for all ages:
We, who choose to listen and learn,
sing songs of gratitude and joy.

*Psalm 66 from Psalms for Praying
By Nan C. Merrill*

Advent Fair Craft Group



The craft group will continue to meet at 7 PM every Wednesday evening through November (except November 26th) to prepare for the Advent Fair. Meetings will be held as follows:

- October 29, November 5 – 64 Wildwood Drive
- November 12 and 19 - 14 Alaska Avenue

Some of the items we will be working on include beaded snowflakes and icicles, felt ornaments, boxwood kissing balls, wooden Santas and more. We are always looking for good ideas and new people are always welcome. The projects are relatively easy and the fellowship is great. If you would like to decorate a small artificial tree for the Fair, please see Karen Kruger.

Special workshops to make **boxwood trees and kissing balls** will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday December 1st and Thursday December 2nd. These are lots of fun. Even if you haven't come to any other workshops, consider joining us for these.

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, sewn or other handmade items. We also appreciate financial support as the members of the craft group donate all the items we use.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen, 781-275-2016 or kanakruger@aol.com.

Please come and join us – enjoy the fun and fellowship and help the Fair.

Thanks,

Karen Kruger
Betsey Anderson



THERE ARE 5 WEEKS UNTIL ST. PAUL'S ADVENT FAIR ...

- **HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR HOME (OR THE HOME OF A NEIGHBOR OR RELATIVE) FOR**
- **DO YOU HAVE BOOKS IN GOOD CONDITION THAT YOU'VE READ & ARE READY TO BOX UP & DONATE TO ST. PAUL'S ADVENT FAIR??**
- **HAVE YOU CONSIDERED DONATING CASH TO OFFSET THE COSTS OF GIFT BASKETS, CRAFT SUPPLIES, OR FOOD FOR THE SNACK BAR? ANY AMOUNT WOULD BE TRULY APPRECIATED. THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**
- **HAVE YOU DUSTED OFF YOUR COOKBOOKS AND FOUND A FABULOUS COOKIE RECIPE TO MAKE FOR THE COUNTRY KITCHEN? HOW ABOUT STIRRING UP A BIG POT OF SOUP FOR SOUPS-TO-GO?**
- **HAVE YOU SECURED AN ITEM FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION?? USE YOUR CONNECTIONS TO GET GIFT CARDS. DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL TALENT (COOKING, TUTORING, MUSICAL LESSONS) YOU COULD DONATE??**
- **HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO WORK THE DAY OF THE ADVENT FAIR? COME & HELP EVEN FOR AN HOUR ... WE NEED MANY HANDS & SMILING FACES TO MAKE THE DAY A SUCCESS!**
- **HAVE YOU TOLD ALL OF YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS TO COME TO THE ST. PAUL'S ADVENT FAIR ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH?**

**TALK TO BETSEY ANDERSON OR LISA HAFER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS
OR TO SEE HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!**

The Silent Auction will once again be a BIG PART of the Advent Fair this year and we need your help obtaining items that will be up for auction.

There is a variety of ways that you can contribute:

1. You can OFFER A SERVICE connected to a talent that you may have (babysitting anyone?)
2. You can OFFER LESSONS in something that you are good at (knitting maybe?)
3. If you have a CONNECTION TO A BUSINESS in the area, you could ask them to make a tax deductible donation to the auction (free advertising)
4. You could SOLICIT A DONATION from a business listed on the sheet in the narthex (more free advertising)
5. You could DONATE A NEW and UNUSED item that you think may be of interest to someone (a vase, picture frame, etc.)
6. You can use your connections to OBTAIN TICKETS to local sporting events (Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots, Lowell Spinners, BC, BU)

All donation information should be submitted to Sharon Healey by November 30th. Contact her with any