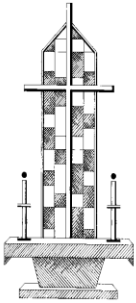


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE



November 2010

Dear friends,

We know that November always contains Thanksgiving, and it seems as if as soon as the first of the month arrives, most New England families are already starting to think about where they will be (at home or traveling to visit family?) and what they will be eating (pumpkin pie, apple pie, or both?) on Thanksgiving Day itself. This month, I want to invite all of us to also consider the process of thanks-giving in a slightly different way. While we are busy thinking about preparing the feast for Thanksgiving Day, I also want to invite us to consider how we, ourselves, personally take stock of the blessings we have already been given. Do we remember to be full of gratitude for daily blessings, and to articulate those blessings? The first Thanksgiving was just that, a day of thankfulness which was expressed in prayer, toasts, and feasting. While we still have only one Thanksgiving Day, there is absolutely no reason why we could not expand our experience of gratitude and thanks-giving on a daily basis this month. During the month of November, I invite you to either wake up in the morning and name three aspects of your life for which you are grateful before you even go down to breakfast, or to name three aspects of your life for which you are grateful before you go to sleep at night. When I have practiced this kind of gratitude in the month of November, Thanksgiving Day itself becomes a culmination of a conversation I've been sharing with God all month, a kind of heartfelt "Thank you."

Thanksgiving can also invite us to respond to the blessings which we recognize with a determination to bring blessings or share blessings with others. If your thankfulness stirs up that kind of yearning in you, I want to invite you to participate in a simple action that can make a difference every day but costs absolutely nothing. There is a website called "Thehungersite.com" which is sponsored by corporate sponsors. If you go to that website and click on the button there, a corporate sponsor of the site will send 1.1 cups of food to a needy community. Each computer can only send one "click" a day, but, when you visit the site, you will see that hunger, the rain forest, children's health, and literacy can also be changed every day from your computer if you choose to use five minutes of your day to "click" the buttons. In my experience, middle school and high school young adults also find this kind of daily service meaningful; if you have children, please consider "clicking" as a family.

With a clearer sense of our own thankfulness, and the good work of the site helping us bring blessings to others, our Thanksgiving Days will be deliciously rich in gratitude before the pie is even out of the oven.

Blessing in the preparing and the feasting this month,

Margaret

Vestry Corner

Dear friends,

November means it's truly autumn: the days are getting shorter, the nights are getting colder, and there's a feeling of introspection in the air. By the time this month is over, we'll be in Advent: the beginning of a new church year, and the six-month marker of our transition process following Frank's retirement.

Unlike the animals who huddle underground for the winter, St. Paul's remains a vital and lively place even as the weather turns colder. The Advent Fair is right around the corner, and dozens of parishioners are working hard every week to prepare for this important fundraising event. The choir is back at full strength, and the church school is buzzing with activity every Sunday. Through it all, the search committee is receiving names and reviewing applications from people interested in becoming our next rector. We pray that we all continue to use this interim time as a period of thoughtful, faithful, and joyful fellowship, as we do the work of God in our parish.

The annual Diocesan Convention will be held on Saturday, November 6, at St. Stephen's in Lynn. Margaret, Emily, and Sharon Healey will be representing St. Paul's. Convention is a chance for lay people and clergy throughout the diocese to come together, worship, conduct the business of the diocese (amendments to bylaws, budgets, etc.), and share fellowship with fellow Episcopalians. Please keep all the attendees in your prayers that day.

The vestry will meet on Tuesday, November 16, at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

With blessings,

Emily and Paul

Search Committee News

The Search Committee continues to meet. We are now receiving names from candidates who are wishing to apply for our open rector position. Each applicant is then being asked to answer a set of four questions. We expect to continue to receive names until 12/1. At that point, we will begin reading resumes and responses to the questions with the goal of narrowing our field to 10 to 12 candidates. If you have any questions about the search process, feel free to contact Sharon Healey or any other committee member.

Catechesis Corner



The "Catechesis of the Good Shepherd" program is now well underway. We have had eight 3-4 year old children, mostly new to the program, registered in Catechesis I, led this session and next by Carol Hokana, Sharon Keane and Amanda Hubbard. Catechesis II has seven 5-year olds, and is led by Ellen Ryan, Ron Presti and Lori Murphy. A large number of assistants keep the classes running smoothly and safely, as the children learn new skills like setting up the altar and prayer table, snuffing candles, and working with practical life activities such as pouring on their mats. They have also learned about many of the items they see in church, and the colors and seasons of the church year. We will try and arrange a tour of the Sanctuary soon so they can see the real items up close.

As we approach the advent season, we will begin some presentations on the geography of the Holy Land, using a globe, relief map and/or puzzle map. These materials will then be available to work with the rest of the year. The point is not to produce biblical scholars but to situate the Nativity and other stories in a real time and space. We will begin with some of the pre-nativity narratives such as the Annunciation and, in Catechesis II, the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (parents, do you remember these stories?). Following our last Women's Group discussion with Frank we became more aware of how many bible stories presented in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program do have central female characters. You may be interested to know that the curriculum and approach were developed by Sofia Cavaletti and Maria Montessori, among others, over 50 years ago in Rome, and have spread worldwide in both the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. We welcome questions about it at any time.

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

Elementary Sunday School

With the end of October comes the completion our first session of Sunday school "Community and The Episcopal Church". This month, the children have learned about the Bible, its many authors, and some familiar stories and phrases found in it. We learned that Jesus often taught us by telling us stories called parables. We heard some Jesus' parables; "The Parable of the Widow and her Lost Coin", "The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector", and "The Parable of Faith and the Size of a Mustard Seed". The children learned a wonderful Amish saying:

I am only me, but I am still someone. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. Just because I cannot do everything does not give me the right to do nothing.
from "Simple Prayers of Love and Delight" by Lois Rock.

With this in mind, they learned about Shriner's Hospitals and how they can help someone in need of hospital care by collecting can tabs and bringing them to church. We all wish to thank Ed Lawrence for driving this wonderful ministry here at St. Paul's.

Session 2 of Sunday school begins on November 14th. We will hold a **planning meeting** on **Sunday November 7th** just after coffee hour in the 4-5th grade classroom. We welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about our Sunday school program, would like simply to share in our discussion of the scripture, or wishes to actively mold our Sunday school program to join us.

Many people make St. Paul's Sunday school program possible. I'd like to thank all our teachers and assistants for prayerfully searching, writing and rolling up their sleeves to teach God's love to our children each week. I'd also like to thank John Mitchell for bringing to life our Sunday school gathering, praising God in energetic song; Margaret for sharing the sermons we do not hear while with the children; and Paul West for preparing and sharing his prayerful reflections on the first session readings last Sunday.

Cathy Presti

Sunday School Session 2 Calendar

Nov. 7	family Sunday
	Sunday school Planning Meeting after coffee hour - Daylight Savings, Clocks back
Nov. 14	class 1 (Veteran's day/long weekend)
Nov. 21	class 2
Nov. 28	class 3 Thanksgiving Weekend
Dec. 5	family sunday
Dec. 12	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Dec. 19	Christmas Pageant
Dec. 26	no Sunday school Day After Christmas
Jan. 2	no Sunday school
Jan. 9	class 4
Jan. 16	class 5 (MLK long weekend)
Jan. 23	class 6 Sunday school Planning Meeting after coffee hour

Notes from the Nursery School

October has been a busy month at nursery school. The children seem quite happy and settled into the routine. The construction project has held everyone's attention. You can imagine how many little faces are glued to the windows watching the bulldozers and excavators. Everyday the children are checking on the progress and asking questions that the teachers are doing their best to answer. We enjoyed our first field trip to Drumlin Farm last week with the older group. The weather was beautiful, the farm was fun, but the highlight for most children was their first ride on a school bus! They all laughed and chatted about the bumpy ride.

November will bring more themes of Fall and animals preparing for winter. Also, we will spend some time talking about Thanksgiving and food and what we are thankful for. We will have an Open House for next year's prospective students on November 4 from 1 to 3 PM. If you know anyone who has nursery school age children, please tell them about the open house. We also will have an ice cream social on the evening of November 9 for families enrolled in this year's program.

High School Youth

On Sunday, November 14, the high school youth group will host coffee hour after church. Please watch your email for details—we may want to meet up in advance to bake together.

The high school youth will once again partner with the middle school youth on Sunday, November 28, at 5:30pm, for our annual Cookie Baking Night (which is really a Cookie Decorating and Care Package Packaging Night, but who's counting?). We hope all of you can come out that night to help us put together care packages for our members and friends in college and in the military. It's always nice to get a tasty reminder that people care about you—especially if you're in the middle of finals!

This year we're asking everyone to bring two dozen pre-made, pre-cut, pre-baked sugar cookies for us all to decorate. (Many hands make light work, you know.) We will provide frosting, decorations, chips and other snacks, and packaging—and pizza for us to eat once the decorating is done.

If you know a college student or service member who should receive a package, please give his or her name and address to Emily by November 26.

At our kickoff meeting in September, we discussed our hope to do more service projects this year. We are considering participating in Ecclesia Ministries' CityReach program this year, mostly likely the weekend of January 21–22, 2011. This would require a firm commitment from at least six youth members before the end of the month, so we can reserve our spots before the weekend fills up. There is a registration cost involved, and participants are expected to bring food and clothing for the homeless men and women the program serves. It promises to be a spirit-filled, eye-opening experience for all of us. Watch your email for more details!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

What a busy October! We met for our first in-class discussion on October 3rd where our topic was hunger. We also played an ice-breaker game and brainstormed different childrens activities for the Fall Festival later in the month. On October 17th, we continued our focus on hunger relief in two different ways: we sponsored a food drive for the Bedford Community Pantry and collected enough to fill four bags. We also supported the Concord Crop Walk for Hunger and raised \$585 to help fund global hunger relief efforts and local community tables. Special thanks to Karin Baker and Sima Seymourian who led the way walking on the beautiful fall day, and to all of St. Paul's for their wonderful support of this great cause.

The middle schoolers led SEVEN childrens activities during the first Fall Festival on October 24th. We had fun watching kids compete in sack races and eating donuts off a string, decorating pumpkins and coloring pictures, getting their face painted and playing the pumpkin bean bag toss, and finally watching a fall-themed movie. We, along with Mrs. Healey, would like to extend many thanks to Zachary Perlmutter, Ben Johnson, Emma Pulizzi, Alex Healey, Carly Martin, Hunter Hayes, Clayton Hafer, Felicia Barber and Ben Wicks. Special thanks to Helen Pulizzi, Amy Martin and Brooke Martin for lending their help as well!

For November:

- Our next in-class discussion is on November 7th during the childrens service.
- Cookie decorating will be held on Sunday, November 28th at 5:30. This is a joint activity with the high school youth group where we decorate Christmas cookie and assemble care packages for our faraway church friends. We also prepare plates of cookies for elderly parishioners which we deliver during Christmas Caroling in December.

~ Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Baker

ST. PAUL'S ADVENT FAIR - DECEMBER 4th



St. Paul's will hold its 2010 Advent Fair on Saturday, December 4th from 9:00 to 2:00. This is an all Parish event that provides a major portion of our annual fundraising revenue and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

ONLY FIVE WEEKS TO GO ... WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?????

Attend a **BASKET WORKSHOP** at the home of Jan Svendsen. No experience or big time commitment necessary!!

Spend some time with the **CRAFTS GROUP** and go to one of their get-togethers. Or work on a craft project at home to donate for the fair. The Craft Group could use some new help this year – watch for weekly announcements of dates and locations, usually Tuesday evenings.

Please consider a **DONATION** to offset costs of supplies for baskets, crafts, and the snack bar. We really appreciate your help! Watch for a basket for donations at coffee hours.

Keep us in mind if you are making jams, jellies, relishes, etc. and donate these food items to the ever-popular **COUNTRY KITCHEN**. And, if you love baking, remember we'll need breads, pies, cookies, and sweet treats to sell for the holidays.

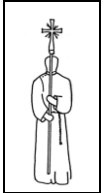
Dust off your cookbooks and plan to make delicious homemade soup for our **SOUPS-TO-GO** section of the Country Kitchen. Containers are available in the kitchen. Make and freeze!!

Save TOP quality new or gently used items you don't need for our **WHITE ELEPHANT** sale. Also, donate any **VIDEOS OR BOOKS** (in good condition) you may not need/read/watch anymore for our book sale. Check your jewelry box for **VINTAGE JEWELRY**. All of these are a great way to recycle and help St. Paul's at the same time.

CONTRIBUTE an item or service to our **SILENT AUCTION** ... use your creativity and/or your connections around town. We can use gift certificates, services, tickets to sports events, a special antique or gift item, a weekend at a cottage – the sky is the limit! See Louisa Saladino-Kuhl if you have any questions.

VOLUNTEER to be a Table Coordinator or Helper the day of the fair. The more the merrier!! Sign up sheets will be available in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

Any questions, **PLEASE** contact **Nancy Kupfrian, Joanna Nickerson** or **Betsey Anderson**. We appreciate your help and support.



ALTAR SERVERS

St. Paul's is always seeking adults and children interested in serving at the altar. Torchbearers and Acolytes serve on a rotating schedule with specific roles in the service. Training is provided each fall including updates for experienced servers.

Torchbearers

Two Torchbearers serve at each service. They follow the cross, carrying lighted torches in the procession and they bring the torches to the reading of the Gospel. Children grade 2 and older are eligible to be Torchbearers. Adults are also welcome.

Acolytes

There is a Crucifer and Gospeller at each service. The Crucifer carries the cross in the procession and assists at the Altar. The Gospeller lights and extinguishes the candles, carries the Gospel and assists as necessary. Both Acolytes help the younger Torchbearers. Youth may serve as Acolytes beginning in grade 6. Adults always welcome.

New Acolyte and Torchbearer Training – Sunday, November 14

We will meet after church to welcome and train new youth and adults who wish to be trained as acolytes or torchbearers. Robes will be fitted and there will be pizza! Please call Caroline Larson if you are planning to attend.

Acolyte and Torchbearer Update – Sunday, November 21

Acolytes and Torchbearers who have served in the past are invited to a short update meeting following church to review tasks and go over new procedures. Gospellers who would like to serve as Crucifers this year should be sure to attend this training. Robes will be re-fit and there will be pizza! If you cannot attend, please contact Caroline Larson to set up another date.

Questions?

Contact Caroline Larson

OUTREACH NEWS

Moving Mountains China



The children of St. Paul's, with support from the Girl Scouts who attend St. Paul's, have raised money to fund three years of high school for an exceptionally bright girl named Yan Fei. She comes from a very poor family, yet despite the obstacles she has had to face (money being the largest), she has worked very hard on her studies and done extremely well. She has sent us a thank you note which you can read here. (NOTE: China's One-Child Policy allows exemptions for several cases, including rural couples, ethnic minorities, and parents without any siblings themselves, which likely explains why Yan Fei has four siblings.)

Dear Children of St. Paul's,

I am so happy to hear from you and I am very thankful for your help. I will be getting out of school soon. The last day is in the middle of July. I won't be able to get a job during the summer because my parents have so much work to do on the farm. I will be helping them this summer because I think they need my help more. I know they are very tired.

I like playing basketball in the summer because I can't watch TV. My home is far from school. I only get to go home once a month. I am very thankful that you care about my mother. She is getting much better than before.

My school life is very busy. I must study hard every day in order to thank you for your help and repay my parents [for all of the kindness I have received.] My English isn't very good right now but I will study it well so that I can communicate with you. You are welcomed to come to my school. I would look forward to meeting you any time.

I am curious about you. I want to ask you a question. You said that none of you are wealthy. So why do you want to help me?

Would you like to hear about my hometown? My hometown is very beautiful. There are many mountains. I climb the mountains all the time, but not in the summer because it is too hot. I like playing games with my sisters but they are busy now. They are trying to study hard, too. They even study more than me! My parents put a lot of emphasis and importance on our education.

I wish that you and all kindhearted people are happy forever. I will tell you more next time. I am looking forward to hearing from you again.

Yours,
Yan Fei



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.

NEWCOMERS' EVENT

The wardens invite anyone and everyone who has joined St. Paul's within the last few years to come to a special newcomers' gathering after coffee hour on Sunday, November 21. Paul Ciaccia will give a brief overview of our active parish, and lay leaders from many of our committees and ministries will be on hand to answer any questions about who we are and what we do. Whether you're brand-new or you've been here for two or three years, this is your opportunity to get all the details on St. Paul's that you may have missed in the pews. We hope all newcomers will be able to join us!



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.



Daylight Savings Ends November 7th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour on the evening of November 6th.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work is proceeding apace on our driveway/drainage improvement project. Trees and brush have been cleared along the side driveway, and our contractors are preparing the back area to install the new sumps and pipe we'll need to improve our drainage.

We are grateful for the patience and flexibility the parish and the nursery school have shown throughout the project so far. We expect to finish up by early November, barring any unforeseen hiccups. Please remember that, while construction is underway, the driveway and back area are off-limits for cars, animals, and people.

We have already received several monetary gifts to offset the costs of the project. If you are interested in contributing to the driveway improvement project, please contact Paul Ciaccia.

Don't forget to click through!



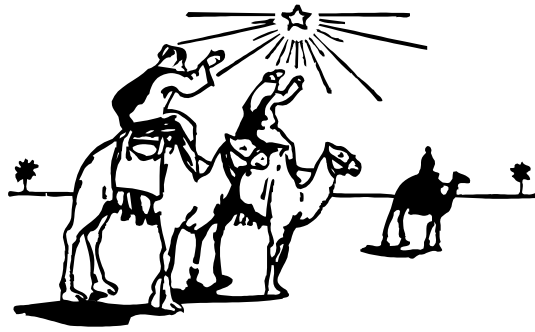
If you are planning to do any Amazon shopping in the near future, don't forget to visit the St. Paul's website first! Go to www.stpaulsbedford.org and click the Amazon link on the left sidebar. You'll be directed to Amazon's site, where you can shop as usual -- but every purchase you make will earn a little money for St. Paul's. Thanks for your support!

Parishioners Corner



- * Happy Birthday Nannie from your girls Avery and Bella!
- * Happy Birthday to Wendy Ciaccia!
- * Happy Birthday to Mirabella Ann Mathews, who turns 2 on November 14th!

Pam Venable, now in Milford, NH, called to say her 89 year old mother, Jacqueline Taylor, died mid October. Pam is engaged to be married to Scott Barrows. Her daughter Sarah had a spinal fusion this year but is back teaching in Special Ed in Milford.



Christmas Pageant 2010

Is it that time already?

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

Sunday, December 19th – 10AM – Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 18th – 9AM - Lead characters

Saturday, December 18th - 10AM – Full cast

Sunday, December 12th – 10AM – during Sunday School

Sunday, December 5th – 10AM – rehearsal after Children's Sermon (Family Sunday)

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

Answer Key to Kid's Corner

Kids Corner

Dear Children of St. Paul's,

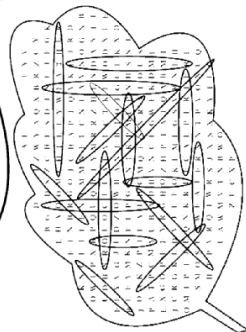
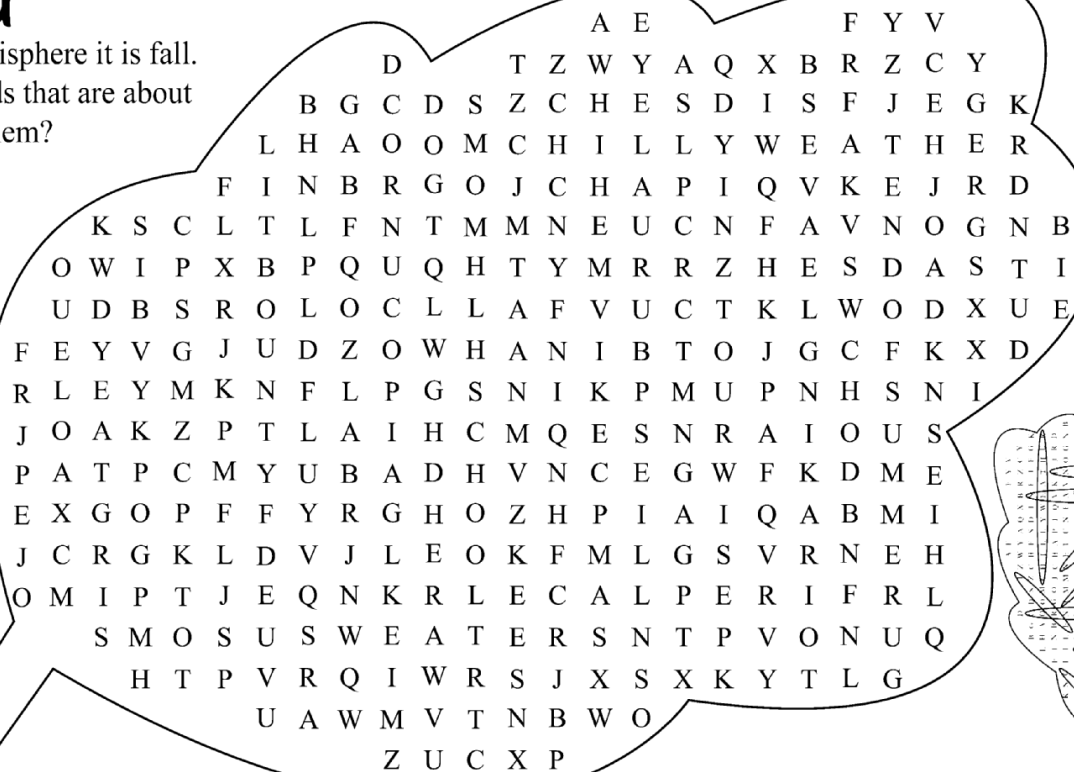
I have loved watching you run outside and play with the autumn leaves. This month, I want to ask you to find hidden words that remind us of the change of seasons; see how many you can find. The answer is on another page of our Epistle. If you draw a picture of something you like to do in Autumn, I'll put it on my office door.

Love in Christ,

Word Find

In the northern hemisphere it is fall. Here are some words that are about fall. Can you find them?

APPLES
AUTUMN
BOUNTY
CHILLY WEATHER
CIDER
CORNUCOPIA
END OF SUMMER
FALL COLORS
FIREPLACE
FROST
HARVEST
PUMPKINS
RAKING LEAVES
SCHOOL
SMOKE
SWEATERS
THANKSGIVING



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

Officers:

Emily Mitchell and Paul Ciaccia, Co-Wardens
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Dori Pulizzi, Clerk

Vestry:

Lisa Hafer,
Sharon Healey
Carol Hokana
John MacPhee
Natalie Wicks
David Woodward

Thanksgiving

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.*

--Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)