
ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

October 2006

Dear Friends,

October is such a wonderful time of the year in the church. It is a joy to see the community coming home. Over these fall days, those who have been away during the summer are beginning to return. Each Sunday more and more of our community gathers together. It is one of the great gifts of comfort, strength and joy to know that St. Paul's Church is a place to come home to. And that we will always be here.

St. Francis of Assisi is one of the saints we commemorate this month. He led a wonderful and exciting life. He was born of wealthy parents, educated in the best schools (although he wasn't a very good student), loved to party with his friends (a lot!), joined the military and became a well respected soldier. And then something changed in him. He began to wonder about life. He began to notice the poor around him. Something deep inside him was touched and he began to discern his role in the world differently. In a dream he heard God's voice say to him "Francis rebuild my house which is falling into ruin." He took this literally and thought he should build a church building but eventually he realized that this was a call from God to attend to the world. This is the call of God to all of us.

This call from God is about community; it is about noticing as Francis did that God's world needs attention. St. Francis, unfortunately has been confined to the saint of the natural world, specifically animals. And this is an important part of his ministry and response to God's call. But it is a part of the whole of his ministry and understanding of "rebuilding" God's house.

One of the first things that Francis did was divest himself of his belongings and give all to the poor and then he began to gather others who understood God's call for a renewed world into community. These men and later women gathered to offer themselves to the world as instruments of peace and understanding. Their work in the world was like ours in that they did what they could to restore God's order. Not with judgment, not with demands, not with criteria and boundaries. They reached out, gathered and loved all of God's creation through **compassion**, unconditional compassion, compassion without conditions. Their understanding was to bring about unity and peace by responding to the needs of others.

Peace is God's call and hope for the world. Peace that comes from compassion and care for all others. Peace that is arrived at through relationships of all kinds without conditions. Peace that is understood by the Great Commandment to love God and love neighbor.

Our world in and out of the church right now is in turmoil in so many places. Struggles of war, ideology, power, position and orthodoxy vs. progressive thinking plague us as we struggle to find ways to respond to the pain and suffering war and dissension cause. Praying for peace is a holy and great beginning to respond to God's call to rebuild the house. Let's continue to strive to rebuild a house that is the emblem of peace and harmony for all.

Our community at St. Paul's is a model of that peace. We come back, we come home and we strengthen ourselves in community so that we go out and do God's work in the world. Some of us do it in school, some in work, some at home. In some way or other this community reaches out in many ways to rebuild God's house. It is a blessing for us all to be in this worshipping community of care and concern for God's world.

Frank +

Meet the Vestry



Whether it's acting as a LEM, being part of the vestry or singing in the choir, Paul Kruger and his wife, Karen, have been a big part of St. Paul's over the last decade. They have two sons – Matt, who is studying to be a priest at Harvard Divinity School, and Mark, who has been doing a great job painting the exterior of the church.

Paul grew up in western New York state, in a small town located between Buffalo and Rochester. He went to a Lutheran college in Indiana and worked for a while in the Midwest before moving to Bedford about 25 years ago.

Initially, Paul and his family attended a Lutheran church in Woburn, but after finding it hard to be a part of a community in another town as well as in Bedford, he and Karen decided that they needed a church closer to home. This led them to St. Paul's about 10 years ago, where they have worshipped ever since.

Paul travels quite a bit as a director of software research and development for a Houston based company. He makes frequent trips to California, and his work has taken him as far away as India and China. When he's not working, Paul enjoys woodworking, but I bet that you did not know that he roasts his own coffee. Coffee beans vary in quality and flavor much the same way that grapes used in wine making do. There are many varieties of coffee beans all over the world and by varying the length of the roasting time one can control the flavor. I hear that he even makes a great tasting cup of decaf.

While there are many things that Paul likes about St. Paul's, what he enjoys the most is the liturgy and our interpretation of the Bible.



Continuing our “ Meet the Vestry” series is this interview of Michael Ryan, conducted by Paul Kruger.

Tell us a little about where you grew up:

Michael: I was born in Hoboken, N.J., but my family moved to Fairview, N.J. while I was still very young. Fairview is a small town (pop. – 10,000) located northwest of New York City near the George Washington Bridge. When I was growing up in Fairview, the population was very Italian. I attended a large Catholic church built in the early 1900’s that was very ornate, a significant contrast to St. Paul’s.

What brought you to Bedford?

Michael: In 1991 I was transferred to New England as a part of a work relocation. Ellen and I subsequently selected Bedford as a place to live based on the excellent home values available.

What do you do for a living?

Michael: I am a program administrator for a small company in Marlboro that provides regulatory and reliability testing for electronic products. I am involved with coordinating the testing work for many clients and ensuring that their products have the necessary test certifications when they are required.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?

Michael: My primary activity outside of work is my family. Interestingly, because of my son, Timothy, I have become very active in the Boy Scouts. I wasn’t a Boy Scout as a boy, so the whole idea of sleeping on the ground has taken some getting used to! I also collect autographed baseballs and have balls signed by Mickey Mantle, Ted Williams and the 2000 Yankee Team Ball { *Interviewers note: Michael made me promise that I would not tell anyone that he is a Yankee fan* }.

Tell us something few people know about you.

Michael: I have one brother who is younger than I. In 2001 it was determined that he needed a liver transplant, and I agreed to be a living donor for him. The liver is one of the few organs in the body that will regenerate in a short period of time. As a result, my brother has significantly improved the quality of his life and I, after a short three month recuperation period, have no negative effects of the donation. { *Interviewers note: For an idea of how rare a live liver donation is, Labey Clinic is number three in the nation for this procedure and has completed approximately 100 transplants in the last seven years.* }

What skills do you bring to the vestry?

Michael: I believe that my organizational skills and attention to detail are beneficial to the work of the vestry. My experience with large projects and my attention to detail have both been used while I have been on the vestry.

Catechesis Corner



The new year of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, our hands-on, Montessori-based church school program for ages 3 through kindergarten, has now begun. We were excited to welcome eight children in each of Catechesis I (3-4 years old) and II (5 year olds). The autumn season focuses on explaining the various items children will see in the Atrium (and church) – the altar and prayer table, the colors and calendar of the church seasons. On **October 22nd**, we will have a tour of the “big church” following the service. The Good Shepherd parables will also be presented. Details of the curriculum and teacher roster, are posted on the Christian Education section of the St. Paul’s website. Lead catechists for Session I (through Oct. 22nd) are Amanda Hubbard and Lisa Hafer (Cat. I) and Ellen Ryan and Louisa Saladino-Kuhl (Cat II). We are grateful to the many people who have offered to assist, including several middle school youth.

On October 1st, after church, there will be a brief orientation for assistant teachers in the library. It is very helpful for all who will be in the atriums, including visiting parents, to know the basics of what is needed and the atmosphere we are trying to create. Please try to come, especially if you are new or weren’t able to make it last year. Bring your snacks, and your children if need be.

On Family Sundays (the first of each month), all children will start in church with their families. Following the children’s sermon, we will bring the Catechesis I class (those who wish) back to the Atrium. Catechesis II normally stay in church along with the older children but, if any are finding it hard to sit through the service they are welcome to join us. Please let us know how this is working, and feel free to contact us with questions or feedback anytime. We always welcome new or visiting children, too

With blessings from the corner,

Amanda Hubbard & Ellen Ryan

St. Paul's Elementary Sunday School Program

Sunday school has begun again! It's so great to see everyone after being away for the summer. During the fall session, we'll explore communities; family communities, our community here at St. Paul's, and the community of the Episcopal Church. We'll learn about the Ten Commandments and saints of the Episcopal Church.

Thank you all who have stepped forward offering help with the Sunday school program. I'd especially like to thank the lead teachers this session, Stacy Schalick teaching first and second grade, Christine Thompson teaching third grade, and Janice Young teaching fourth and fifth grade.

Dates to remember:

Sunday Oct. 1 – Blessing of the animals

Thursday Oct. 12, 7:30pm Session 2 planning meeting

Cathy Presti

High School and Middle School Youth

Middle School Youth Group

The middle school youth group met for a pizza party and planning session in September. Ten middle schoolers had a great time playing games, talking about how it feels to be back at school and brainstorming different ideas for community service activities.

The first activity the youth group will be participating in is the **Concord Crop Walk on October 15th at 1:30**. Please consider sponsoring a walker – or walking yourself! Money raised will be used locally (e.g. at community tables including the Bedford Community Table), nationally (e.g. responding to Hurricane Katrina relief), and globally (e.g. building wells and providing clean water in Africa). Please see Carrie Matthews for more details if you want to walk and she can give you the forms (978-635-3989).

Carrie Matthews & Suzanne Johnson

News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School

“Introductory Week” meant that both children and parents began school last week by staying together for a shorter day. These days were preceded by a visit to their homes by the child's teacher. Now we are in full session, with parents leaving to enjoy a few precious hours alone (!), and the children are exploring new materials and friendships in new classrooms.

Early next month, Tuesday October 3rd, in the evening, all parents are invited to Parent's Night. It is the opportunity for parents to meet other parents and to see the classrooms. It is also a delicious pot luck supper, organized by room parents.

Beth Taylor

DO YOU LIKE TO READ ALOUD?

New group forming on Sunday October 29th at 7:00pm at the church. Come and bring your favorite poem(s) to share with others. Get to know your St. Paul's friends in a new way. Each month will be another category; next time – humor! Dates and subsequent meetings to be decided. Please see Joan Reddy if you need more information.

New voices are needed in the choirs! Men's voices are especially needed in the adult choir. Audition only to place you in the correct part. Help will be given to those needing music reading assistance. All children who are reading are invited to sing in the children's choir and / or the new older group. Please see Joan Reddy.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS!!

The fundraising committee has decided to run a number of small fundraisers this fall. The first one is a sale of fall planting bulbs that flower in the spring. They are being offered by Dutch Garden and the church receives half of the receipts. Orders are being placed the first week of October. Contact Roberta Valday with questions..

The second event is the sale of Simon Mall Evening of Giving tickets. The Evening of Giving is run by Simon Malls (Burlington and Pheasant Lane Malls). The malls are open late on Sunday, November 19th from 7 -10pm. Entrance is given to anyone who has purchased a ticket from a charity. The tickets are \$10 each and the church receives \$7 out of the \$10. The stores in the mall offer discounts and there are raffles and entertainment. It is a fun way to jump start your shopping! Contact Sharon Healey about buying tickets for family, friends and any other of your shopping partners. Other fundraising efforts planned are a silent auction and promotion the rental of the beautiful new parish hall by outside groups.

Stewardship

When I think of St. Paul's Church, one phrase frequently comes to mind, "we are blessed". Dare I be so bold as to say that many among us share the same feeling. Without hesitation we know that we can depend on each other for any number of things from a meal when we are ill to teaching Sunday School or singing in the choir or spending untold hours preparing for the Advent Fair and for countless other helpful blessings. We are blessed to have Frank Fornaro, our deeply spiritual and seemingly always available rector, whose love and praises I hear about not only from fellow parishioners but even from many people who aren't members of St. Paul's. The founders of St. Paul's blessed us with an inviting sanctuary in which to gather for worship with its magnificent, tall cross behind the altar, framed by a lovely but simple stained glass window of many hues, ever changing with the light.

We are always welcomed in this place with its palpable sense of God's love for each of us. This amazing place is us, the collective community of a people of God. This community depends on sharing not just our spiritual experiences and our love for one another but on the generous sharing of our talents: our natural aptitudes and gifts but also our time and our monetary gifts. Interestingly, to describe talent, my Bible dictionary simply states, "see Money, Weights and Measures". In early biblical times, "money" was a medium of exchange that took various forms including metals, goods and livestock. Today, stewardship in the church commonly implies sharing talents of a monetary nature along with sharing of time and natural abilities.

In the words of this year's Stewardship Committee, "**Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to do the work He is calling us to do.**" During the year, you will hear more about various activities in which members of all ages can participate in stewardship at St. Paul's as they live out their ministry as people of God.

Currently, the Stewardship Committee is focusing on our annual fall pledge drive. I am reminded of when my family and I first came to St. Paul's Church over 35 years ago. It was difficult to respond to the pledge request, but having been raised in the tradition of pledging, I understood how vital it was and felt a desire and obligation to help support the Church. Careful scrutiny of our budget uncovered an account that could be tapped for a weekly pledge. Now as then, everyone's pledges are still vital. Collectively, all of our pledges enable St. Paul's to continue to carry out God's mission among us and among all of God's people.

We are blessed. Let us share our blessings.

In peace and gratitude,
Barbara Perry
Stewardship Committee

Women's Group

Current Issues in the Episcopal Church
Tuesday, October 10th in the library at St. Paul's
Coffee and refreshments at 7pm – Program at 7:30

Have you been following the news about the many difficult issues being debated in the Episcopal Church? What is our relationship to the Anglican Church and what does that mean to us? What implications do the decisions made at the National Convention have on our church and its future? The Reverend Frank Fornano will help us to understand the issues and to answer these and other questions at our October meeting. Please join us for refreshments, fellowship and thought provoking discussion. Bring a friend and your thoughts about this current topic.

Betsy Anderson

***** Upcoming Special Event – Save The Date *****

The Stewardship Committee invites you to attend a cottage meeting to learn about St. Paul's fall pledge drive and our plan for a broader approach to stewardship. Babysitting and light refreshments will be provided.

The Cottage meetings will be held on:

Wednesday, November 1st, 7:00pm – 8:00pm at the Prestis' home.
Sunday November 5th at coffee hour after St. Paul's worship service.

Basket Committee

A continuing centerpiece of the Advent Fair is our gorgeous display of hand-made Gift Baskets. The Basket Committee needs your help!! Please consider offering some of your time to coordinate and assemble baskets. We will hold a general "how-to" meeting in the early Fall to get everyone excited and to review procedures. No experience or talent necessary ... just interest!! (see upcoming bulletins and listen for announcements in church).

The group usually meets on Sundays after church beginning in September and one morning a week, depending on schedules. If you cannot offer your time, please consider giving new/unused items, baskets and/or donating funds toward gift baskets.

If you have comments, suggestions, questions, or just cannot wait to get involved with baskets, please contact Natalie Wicks, Jan Svendsen, or Lisa Hafer.

Lisa Hafer

Advent Fair News

Baskets: The Basket Committee has begun creating unique gift baskets, and we could use your help!! Please consider offering minimal time to coordinate and assemble baskets. No experience or talent necessary. The group meets every Sunday after church (12:00pm) and Wednesday mornings (9:30am) at the home of Jan Svendsen. Come for 30 minutes or for however long you can stay...any help is greatly appreciated.

If you cannot give your time, please offer a donation to offset the cost of the baskets. Or, if you like to bargain shop, we could use the following items to put in gift baskets: Christmas/holiday themed things, gourmet mustards, jams, or non-perishables. If you have questions about how you can get involved, please contact Jan Svendsen, or any member of the committee (Natalie Wicks, Jan Gurley, Lisa Hafer, Sharon Witbeck, Sharon Healey, Jan Blake or Ginny Draper).

Crafts: The Crafts Group has been busy making beautiful and creative items to sell at the fair. If you'd like to help, the group meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm at the home of Betsey Anderson. The only date the group will NOT be meeting this month is October 4th.

If you are making anything on your own (sewing or knitting) or if you would like to bring a current project home to complete, please let Christine Anderson or Roberta Valday know. Any donations are welcome to offset the cost of materials as well.

Country Kitchen: Once again, we will be selling homemade soups as part of the ever popular Country Kitchen table. Please make and freeze your favorite soup recipe...containers are available in the parish kitchen. Also, if you are making jams and jellies this fall, please consider making extra and offering some to this table.

Silent Auction: New to the Advent Fair this year will be an exciting Silent Auction. We are looking for interesting and creative goods and services that can be auctioned and will appeal to the community at large. Use your connections!!! Start thinking...no idea is too big!! Examples include: autographed Red Sox baseball, theatre tickets, use of vacation home for weekend, Salon gift certificates, Celtics tickets, private chef party, golf package etc. More info to come, so stay tuned!! Any questions, contact Betsey Anderson or Lisa Hafer, Advent Co-Chairs.

SAVE THE DATE! **ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL ADVENT FAIR** **DECEMBER 2, 2006 - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

As summer comes to a close and we focus on the busy upcoming season, please keep in mind that our biggest fundraiser, St. Paul's fabulous annual Advent Fair, will take place Saturday, December 2nd in the Parish Hall.

We need new faces, new ideas and many hands to ensure the continued success of the fair. Please consider joining a committee and being part of this wonderful work and fellowship. We will hold a general informational meeting in early September. Watch for messages in the weekly bulletins and listen for announcements at church!!

Please contact Lisa Hafer or Betsey Anderson if you have suggestions, comments, questions, or just to sign up early for a committee. Many thanks!

Lisa Hafer

St. Paul's Cookbook Update

Saturday, November 18th
Cookbook Potluck Dinner

The new St. Paul's Cookbook featuring your favorite recipes should be available in early November. Emily Mitchell and Dori Sutton have done a wonderful job putting it all together. Now it is up to you... Bring a dish from the cookbook to share at a family potluck. Watch for more details of special bake-offs and taste testing. The Women's Group will coordinate this event. If you would like to help in the planning, please contact Betsey Anderson or Lynne Wolf.

Bedford Community Table

Once again, St. Paul's will participate in preparing and serving dinner for the Bedford Community Table program.

The first date, Thursday, October 19th, has already been scheduled. Two subsequent dates (in February and May) have yet to be finalized. If you have questions about this community service program, please contact Frank

Halloween Pot Luck

St. Paul's annual Halloween Pot Luck dinner will be held on Saturday October 28th at 5:30 pm. All are welcome to attend this festive event where children and adults can wear their favorite costumes. Please see Christine Anderson or Lori Murphy for details.

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.

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The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

The Reverend Daniel Collier

Meghan Finn, Parish Administrator

Joan Reddy, Music Director

Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Ron Presti, Senior Warden

Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden

Betsy Anderson, Treasurer

Michael Ryan, Assistant Treasurer

Dori Sutton, Clerk

Vestry:

Sharon Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Andy Saladino

Carol Hokana

Robert Thomas

Carrie Mathews

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