

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

October 2007

Dear Friends,

Every year at this time, as I've said before, people are heard saying with surprise that summer is over. "It was so fast!" This year I've asked a few of my friends what is it that they will miss now that fall is here and winter is close behind. The answer in one way or another has been that there is more time in the summer to do "things". When you really think about it though, there is no more time in June, July and August than there is in any other month of the year. It's really not about more time in the summer but how we decide to use that time during those months.

It is about time! It's also about how we decide to use it. Time is one of God's great gifts to us. In our human nature we have found many ways to order time. We order it in chunks of days, hours, minutes and sometimes even seconds matter. We have weeks, months, years, decades and millennia. How do we decide what to do with all this time we have? How do we set priorities about its use? Even the answers to those questions change as our life progresses. Children spend most of their time playing, eating and sleeping. Those were the days! As we get older much of our time is spent in school, then in work. We spend time with family, friends, volunteering. There are so many other ways we spend time.

Time matters to all of us. It is a precious commodity that God has given us. And it is very important that we spend and invest it in ways that enhance our lives and the lives of those we love and care about.

As we enter into this fall, winter, spring time of the year, I hope we can notice there is the same amount of time ahead of us as the past. I hope we can order our time in ways that address the essence of our work not just the business of it. Let's order our time in ways that enhance our professional as well as our private lives. Let's be mindful that God wants us to have joy in our living. Much of our joy comes from how we spend our time; with whom we spend it and for whom we spend it.

During these months until next summer in which there is seven more times the amount of time than in the summer months, let's be serious about the investment of this precious commodity. What are we planning to do each day with our time? How much time and what quality of time are we spending on all the things we choose to do? Let's ask who is benefiting from our use of our time. Spend time with family, friends, neighbors; spend time doing works of charity, caring for the world around us. Find time to work and play in appropriate measure.

God gives us everything and hopes we find joy in it. Find time to talk to God wherever and whatever you are doing.

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 4 children in Catechesis I (3-4 year olds) and 7 children in Catechesis II (5 year olds). While the children were being introduced to their space the other children worked on decorating their folders and name tags. It was a beautiful sunny autumn day so we briefly went outside and played some “getting to know you” games with the parachute which everyone seemed to enjoy.

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. We hope to arrange a tour of the ‘big church’ following these lessons. The Good Shepherd parables are also 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 Nov. 4th) are Amanda Hubbard, Carol Hokana and Jan Blake (Cat I) and Ellen Ryan, Louisa Saladino-Kuhl and Deborah Regan (Cat II). We are grateful to those who have offered to assist, including several middle school youth.

On Oct. 16th at 7:30 PM there will be a Catechesis team meeting for all involved with Catechesis in the library. It is very helpful for all who will be in the atriums to know the basics of what is needed and the atmosphere we are trying to create. We will also discuss topics to be covered in the first session and teaching schedules for the next sessions.

On Family Sundays (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 their Atrium. Catechesis II children 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 any time. We always welcome new or visiting children, too.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

Elementary Sunday school

It’s wonderful to see all the children back for Sunday school. We have had a great start of the year with joyous reunions and warm welcomes for our new friends. We were able to take full advantage of a sunny day enjoying an egg hunt opening the children to share their special treasures in community. The children creating bright key-chains for their backpacks to remind them of their St. Paul’s community during their busy weeks. Our older children donned tunics and robes while acting out two of Jesus’ Parables; The parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke: 16:19-31) and the parable of the dishonest manager (Luke 16:1-15). In October, we will be learning about Moses and the 10 Commandments, and we will be hearing more of Jesus’ parables. We’ll hear the parable of the woman and the lost coin, and the parable of the lost sheep.

Thank you to everyone who made time during a very busy week to participate in our session 1 workshop. During the workshop, we changed our 2007-2008 calendar. Two family services were moved from the first Sunday of the month, workshop dates for the remainder of the year were selected, and we decided not to hold Sunday school on December 30. An updated calendar is posted on the Sunday school bulletin board in the parish hall by the kitchen, and on St. Paul’s website www.stpaulsbedford.org.

Our session 2 planning meeting will be held on Wednesday October 10 at 7:30 in the parish hall. All are welcome to come share in our discussion of the upcoming liturgy and ideas for the session.

Cathy Presti

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

The middle school youth group had a great kick-off pizza party last month with 8 kids attending! We played an ice breaker game where we each named 4 things about ourselves, one of which was not true. People were very creative and we had fun trying to figure out which one was made up. We also spent time talking about activities for the coming year in 3 categories - monthly class discussions, community service and social events. Our next in-class discussion will take place on Sunday, November 4th.

This month, we will participate in the Crop Walk which takes place on October 14th at 1:30 pm. It is a 10K walk around Concord (including the center of town and North Bridge) and the money raised goes to both local community tables - including Bedford and Acton - and to global relief efforts in Africa. Last year, we raised over \$1,300 through our participation in the Crop Walk and we hope to beat that this year!

On October 21, some of us will attend a "U2charist" at Christ Church in Needham. The service combines the traditional Eucharist with music from the rock band U2, and emphasizes the goals of eradicating global poverty and disease. We are hoping to hold our own U2charist here at St. Paul's in the Spring.

Please let Carrie Mathews know if you would like to join the middle schoolers in the Crop Walk - all parishioners are welcome. If you can't make it, then please consider sponsoring walkers - we will have a table at coffee hour in the Sundays leading up to the event.

Carrie Mathews and Suzanne Johnson

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

The high school youth group held its kickoff meeting on Sunday, September 23. We have a host of fun things planned for the year, including helping out with the parish Halloween party, participating in Relay for Life, baking pretzels during Lent, and of course, our usual trio of cookie baking, Movie Night, and Youth Sunday. There was also talk of one or more athletic endeavors (indoor skydiving, anyone?), which we'll definitely look into.

Starting next month and continuing through the summer, we'll use this space to profile one or two of our members, so you can get to know the terrific young adults in our midst. Do you know which youth member is in the middle of an Eagle Scout project? Which one is an aspiring pastry chef? Find out soon!

John & Emily Mitchell

News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery

Just five days now into the school year, we are getting to know each other and finding that the mornings pass quickly with all that we try to do! Some children are familiar with St. Paul's from the previous year, some come already comfortable with friends and new experiences, and others are making a gradual beginning (with a few tears...) as they learn to trust us and themselves in a setting very different from home. Feeling that the "home-school" connection is always important, the teachers began with visits to each child's home. Photos and stories get shared and we have continued our first week with a theme "All About Me".

Eight Room parents are representing the classes and have met to plan our annual "Parent's Night Pot Luck Supper" on October 2nd. They have also set a direction for a Fundraiser activity, which will include folks outside of the school. More details will be in the next newsletter.

Women's Group



Movie Night Monday, October 22nd

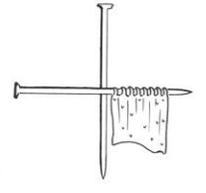
Please join the Women's Group on Monday, October 22nd at 7:00 PM in the library at the church for "Movie Night". We will watch the British film *Calendar Girls* starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters. This movie is based on a true story and should make for an entertaining evening. Snacks and popcorn will be served.

A Taste of Tupperware Tuesday, November 6 at 7 PM

Becky Ricci will host a Tupperware Fundraiser for the Women's Group on Tuesday, November 6th. All proceeds from the event will go to an outreach initiative to be chosen by the group. The evening will feature homemade snacks by Becky and a demonstration of some of the new and old favorites of Tupperware's line. This is a great opportunity to do a little early Christmas shopping. Please come and bring a guest or two.

Outreach

The Knitting
Ministry of
St. Paul's
Episcopal
Church
Bedford, MA



Linus blankets

CLIP THOSE COUPONS!

Our knitting ministry continues to provide handknit items including shawls, Linus blankets and baby hats.

We can always use Worsted Weight acrylic yarn in any color. So clip that 40% off coupon for Michael's or JoAnn Fabrics and pick up your favorite color of worsted yarn. Then you can look for it in a Linus blanket in May!

We can also use baby weight yarn for baby hats.

Interested in helping us knit or crochet items?

Contact Caroline Larson 781-275-9338 or
SAILSK8@aol.com

Stewardship Corner

Homecoming. The word conjures up autumn for many of us: reuniting with old friends and neighbors, sharing fellowship over a tailgate or a hot grill, or cheering together for a common cause. At St. Paul's, fall is homecoming season: a time for us to reconnect as a family of faith and renew our commitment to the church and the community.

In the coming weeks, the Stewardship Committee will kick off its annual Fall Pledge Drive, asking for a financial commitment from you to support the continuing mission and ministry of St. Paul's. Ingathering Sunday will be November 18th. What you pledge is a personal decision, but we hope you will give some measure of support to the church. One option to consider is to give more—perhaps a little more, perhaps a lot more—than you gave last year. Without member pledges and gifts, St. Paul's could not fulfill its mission to the parish or the world. Pledges help us do God's work.

Pledging is only one part of stewardship, but it is a vital part. As you come home to St. Paul's this fall, we encourage you to remember the many blessings and gifts we share as a parish, and consider how you can support our mission and ministry in 2008

Yours in Christ,

The Stewardship Committee, Paul Ciaccia, chair, Frank Fornaro, Emily Mitchell, Barbara Perry, Ron Presti



Vestry Corner

The new program year is in full swing!

We are grateful to everyone who attended the Vestry Service on September 16th. Special thanks to Ron Presti for organizing the event and to Betsey Anderson for preaching.

Over the summer the vestry developed and refined its goals for the coming year. They include:

Planning for and sustaining the growth of the parish. Our primary focus this year is communication: both from the vestry to the parish and vice versa. To that end, we've created a vestry bulletin board and begun this column. We're also working on a publicity manual and exploring more ways for the parish to communicate with the vestry.

Addressing the diverse needs of the parish and the community. We intend to plan events and programs to appeal to all members, being mindful of topic interests, timing issues, and transportation needs. We hope to inaugurate the Lay Pastoral Visiting Committee that was formed last year, and will also provide Safe Church Training for interested members.

Focusing on strategies to maintain financial stability while planning for continuing capital needs. This is a mouthful, but it encompasses everything we have done and aim to do with our tangible resources: our physical building and our financial assets. The vestry will continue to oversee the Fundraising Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Property Committee, and will review and address capital needs and funding as appropriate.

Creating an Outreach Committee to identify opportunities and develop strategies for outreach. The committee would oversee and maintain those initiatives as well.

Motions passed during the August 16, 2007, vestry meeting:

1. A new window will be purchased and installed in the old kitchen (which will become the new office space).
2. Heather Marasa will be invited to join the vestry as an appointed member.
3. The church will donate \$150 to Esperanza School, using the proceeds from the Bottle & Can Drive.

Please Note

Address Changes:

Priscilla Olive
100 Old Billerica Road
Willard #229
Bedford, MA 01730

Calvin & Cynthia Carpenter
P.O. Box 102
Chocorua, NH 03817



Eric & Kimberley Anderson & Family
554 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Christine Lojko
306 Russell Street
Woburn, MA 01801

COMMUNITY TABLE DATES 2007-2008

October 11th – 2007
February 14th – 2008
May 15th - 2008



St. Paul's challenge to a softball game against the Church of the Redeemer in Lexington has been **postponed** and will hopefully be rescheduled to sometime in the spring.



Bless the Animals

**Sunday
October**

7th

(After Coffee Hour)



**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

Recycling



Keep those tabs from your aluminum cans coming! Sale of the aluminum proceeds benefit the Shriner's Burn Institute for Children in Boston.



FUNDRAISING



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. 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. In December, we will receive a check. It is as easy as that!!! Goodsearch is connected to Yahoo, so the searches are reliable.

Thanks!

Thank you to all who took part in the Flatbread fundraiser by ordering take out, eating at the restaurant or by buying raffle tickets. Although the exact numbers are not available at press time, we can say from the number of people who were seen at Flatbread that night that the event was a success. Thanks again to all!

Because of its great success, the Silent Auction will once again be a part of The Advent Fair!! So, please be thinking about items you may like to donate to the auction or businesses that you may visit to ask for a donation. Thanks. More information to follow!

Sharon Healey

GIFT BASKETS



Please come join in the fun of making beautiful gift baskets for the upcoming Advent Fair. Workshops will be held Thursday mornings at 9:30 and Sunday afternoons after church at the home of Jan Svendsen, 96 Sweetwater Ave. #7 in Bedford (down Sweetwater, past Lane School, to the end by Fawn Lake. Will see big Victorian Town homes on left. Phone 781-275-7685). No experience is necessary. And, there is no big time commitment. Come and stay for an hour if that is all you can do!!! Refreshments available!!

If shopping is more your thing, the Basket Committee could use perishable items, such as small jams, jellies, teas, cookies, and crackers. Or, napkins, placemats, hand towels, pot holders, etc. We also are in need of large baskets.

Thanks in advance for your help!!

*Basket Committee Members
Jan Svendsen, Jan Gurley, Natalie Wicks, Lisa Hafer, Sharon Healey, Sharon Witbeck*

Craft Group



Crafts

Get involved and have some fun making crafts with the Crafts Group ... we make original and unique items to sell at the Advent Fair each year!! Please join us every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Betsey Anderson (64 Wildwood Drive, 781-275-0904). Our door is always open ... and we'd love any amount of time you can give us!!

Directions: go to Dana Road (road almost exactly across the street from St. Paul's Church). Depending on where you are coming from, turn down Dana Road. Make a right on Wildwood. Proceed up the hill to island. Immediately before, turn left into Betsey's long driveway)

Hope to see you soon!! THANKS,

The Crafts Committee, Ellen Ryan, Roberta Valday, Betsey Andersen



ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL ADVENT FAIR

St. Paul's will hold its 2007 Advent Fair on Saturday, December 1st from 9:00 to 2:00. This is an all Parish event, and it provides a major portion of our annual fundraising revenue.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?????

Attend a **BASKET WORKSHOP** at the home of Jan Svendsen. No experience or big time commitment necessary!! See separate note about dates and sessions.

Spend some time with the **CRAFTS GROUP** and go to one of their get-togethers. See Ellen Ryan or Roberta Valday and separate note in epistle.

Please consider a **DONATION** to offset costs of supplies for baskets, crafts, the raffle, and snack bar. We really appreciate your help!

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 good quality **WHITE ELEPHANTS** and any "new/unused" items for our White Elephant Sale. Also, donate any **BOOKS** (in good condition) you may not want or need/read anymore for our book sale.

CONTRIBUTE a good or service to our **SILENT AUCTION** ... use your creativity and/or your connections around town.

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 **Betsey Anderson (781) 275-0904** or **Lisa Hafer (781) 275-5104**. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!!!!!

BEDFORD DAY

The weather didn't exactly cooperate, but we had a wonderful time on Bedford Day. It rained in the morning, (during the parade), and then the weather was cool for the rest of the day. Despite this, many parishioners baked, many participated by helping us sell baked goods and run spinner art during the fair. I am continually amazed at the support of this parish. People just seem to show up and help out when you need them most. Thanks so much to all those who donated baked items. A special thanks to Ron Presti, Frank, Jan Blake, Jan Gurley, Sue Marasa, Heather Marasa, Suzanne Johnson, Cathy Presti, Nathaniel Presti, Andrew Presti and Jacob Seymourian. Thanks also go to Jan Svendson and the basket group for their donation of a gift basket. Thanks to Stacey Schalick for the healthy snacks. They were greatly appreciated by many parents who came by.

Sima and Bruce Seymourian

**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:

Sharon Keane

Peter Ricci

Paul Kruger

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Carrie Mathews

October 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	31			



There Were Times

There were times when I could not afford
to sacrifice the bloom of the present moment
to any work, whether of the head or hands.

Sometimes, in a summer morning,
having taken my accustomed bath,
I sat in my sunny doorway
from sunrise till noon, rapt in a reverie,
amidst the pines and hickories and sumachs,
in undisturbed solitude and stillness,
while the birds sang around.

I grew in those seasons
like corn in the night,
and they were far better
than any work of the hands would have been.

They were not time subtracted from my life,
but so much over and above my usual allowance.

--Henry David Thoreau