

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

October 2009

Dear Friends,

I am noticing that the colors on the trees are changing. There's a pretty clump of yellow leaves right outside my window. It is early and stands out among all the still-green leaves. It attracts my attention as I look out. The new colors that only stay awhile herald a new program year at church, a new school year for many, and a new start after summer hiatus. Newness is the message that fall always brings to mind.

Living in this part of the world we have the gift of nature to signal to us that our life's journey turns toward newness and beauty. It is a gift of God. It is a wonder how nature surrounds us with messages of hope even when it seems like plants and flowers are going away for a time.

God provides us with hope and opportunities for vision throughout our lives in community and individually. Perhaps the thought of raking falling leaves gets in the way of appreciating their beauty even on the ground. When I was a school boy, I used to pick up colored leaves on the way to school. There were very few trees where I lived so colored leaves were a big surprise and a gift of newness and wonder. Sometimes I would give one leaf to my teacher who always made a big positive fuss over it. I thought it was a beautiful gift to give. I don't like raking them much though.

As we live into autumn/fall, let nature invite us into wonder. Let this time and these few months bring us to a place of vision about what God is preparing to give us. Let us wonder what gifts are in store for our lives and for our parish.

The traditions of fall that we celebrate at home and church are ways of keeping time with nature. Our Parish Dinner and Advent Fair are two events that signal the beginning of our program year together and are signs of the life of our church. The Halloween Party that offers an opportunity for young and old to come together for an evening of food, fun and music is another sign that fall is alive and well at St. Paul's.

As we go through our year together, let's be mindful of the gifts God showers upon us here at church, at home and in the natural world around us. As we gather in larger and larger numbers during these fall months, let us be mindful of the caring and loving worshipping community God has given us. As we greet one another anew after vacations and time away, let's remember that even in the absence we sometimes experience love for one another that does not change, does not wane and is always here and steady and strong.

For all God's gifts, we are grateful.

Notes from the Nursery School



The classrooms are filled with the chatter and laughter of children. School is underway. The returning children are happy and excited to see their friends. The new children look tentative but by the end of the first day, most seem to relax and enjoy themselves. We will spend the next few weeks getting to know the children and helping them adjust to the routine of school. One of our first themes this year will be "color". Lots of activities are planned with favorite colors, mixing colors, wearing specific colors. That will lead us into our next theme of "fall changes" as we notice the beautiful fall colors. We will take the older children on their first field trip - a visit to Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro to pick pumpkins. We are up and running. The 2009-2010 school year will be lots of fun!

Lee Frank
Director



CATECHESIS CORNER

The new year for Catechesis (ages 3-K) has just started with a successful reintroduction to the Atrium. It was heartwarming to see the joy on each child's face as he or she entered, evidence they really do regard it as 'their' space, and look forward to using all the materials. Our regular classes will get going in October - all gather for music in the hall at 9:45, then enter the Atrium at 10:00. The number of children is a bit lower this year - 10 registered so far - so we have decided to start with just one class, and split later if numbers grow. We will make sure to provide new and more challenging activities for our Kindergarten children. The year will start by presenting the Altar and Prayer table - both of which children can set up themselves, and the story of the Good Shepherd, complete with wooden figures for children to move.

For those not familiar with it, the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a wonderful approach to early Christian education which started in Italy over 50 years ago. I just went to a training session in Lincoln, attended by over 30 people from Episcopal and Catholic parishes across MA, and some from NH. As always, I found myself wishing more from St. Paul's could learn about it. So, we'll try offering just a few nuggets in the Epistle each month.

"The Atrium is a place in which the only teacher is Christ". This is why we usually refer to the adults in the room as "Catechists" rather than teachers - our role is more as facilitator or 'matchmaker', and we learn and 'wonder' about God along with the children. (A relief not to have to know it all!) We are usually only presenting for a few minutes a class, and children work quietly and independently most of the time. The environment, and the materials available, are thus very important.

Another important point made at the training is that the Atrium and its materials need to belong to the whole congregation, not just the Catechists. You have already helped tremendously by providing the wonderful spaces, now we need to make sure we use them as effectively as we can. So, in that spirit, we'll also post periodic "Help Wanted" notices to tap the talents of others.

This month: **We could use someone with nicer handwriting than ours to make up a few simple cards for the prayer table, just a few words each from the liturgy to be mounted on cardstock.**

Thanks to the many people, including new parents and several youth, who have stepped forward to assist in the program this year. Stay tuned for an 'orientation' date.

Sincerely,
Amanda Hubbard

Middle School Youth Group Update

We had a great kick-off event on Sunday, September 13th, complete with pizza, rice krispie treats, a fun ice-breaker game and an outside game of tag! Thanks to all who attended: Aisling Keane, Carly Martin, Ben Johnson, Clayton Hafer, Hunter Hayes, Chris Adamik, Philip Thompson and Scott Thompson.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, October 4th at 10:00 - Our first in-class discussion; we will be meeting in the library.

Sunday, October 18th at 1:30 in Concord Center- Our first community service activity is the 8K Crop Walk to raise money for global hunger relief. Seventy-five percent of the money raised goes to fund hunger relief activities around the globe, with the remaining 25 percent of donations going to local community tables in Bedford and surrounding towns. Last year, we raised close to \$1,500 and we want to match that goal!! Registration begins at 1:30 in Concord and we should be done around 4:30.

** We are looking for middle school youth walkers, their parents, and other members of the parish who want to walk alongside us to raise money for this great cause. Please contact Carrie Mathews at coffee hour to obtain a sponsor sheet.

Thanks for your support!

Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Baker

High School Youth Group Social

Dear Youth Group Members of the Parish,

Here's to another exciting month of activities and fun! This month we are looking forward to participating in the 29th Annual Crop Walk for Hunger on October 18th. Last year, there were over 400 walkers from 5 schools in 10 neighboring communities. This is an event you'll want to be a part of!

Another event scheduled this month is the adult fundraising dinner on October 24th at 7pm. The fundraising committee has asked us to help serve and bus tables for the dinner. We are actively looking for a few volunteers to help out with this event. There will be pizza and copious thank-yous as incentives. Please let Emily or Arthur know if you think you can help!

Finally, our first Movie Night is scheduled for October 25th at 5:30pm. We are very excited about the activities we have planned for you this year and looking forward to seeing you there!

Arthur Fergusson and Emily Mitchell

Feast with Fornaro

A Fundraising Evening of Italian Food and Grown-Up Fellowship will take place Saturday night October 24th at 7PM in the Parish Hall.

Menu:

Green and Caesar Salad
Bread and Butter
Lasagna
Meatballs
Cookies
Cake
Fruit Salad
Soda, Seltzer, Coffee
Red and White Wine
Musical entertainment

Tickets will be available to purchase at coffee hour! \$25/ \$20 Senior Citizens

Fall Clean Up October 31st 2009



Come one and all to clean up St. Paul's church and yard. We'll be starting at 8:30 am and work until 12:00pm. A light breakfast and lunch will be served for all those who can spare some time to work that day. Some of the work to be done includes, pruning trees, raking leaves, weeding the gardens, putting out the deer fence, cleaning inside the church, constructing storage racks in the basement and pressure washing the rear steps.

A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.



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, October 25

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, Nov 8

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

Vestry corner

Dear friends,

It's wonderful to see so many people, both familiar faces and new ones, in church on Sunday mornings. The choir is back, church school is in full swing, and parish life at St. Paul's is humming again.

The vestry is gearing up for a busy fall. Plans are in the works for Bishop Shaw's visit on Sunday, October 18. We will have an expanded coffee hour after the service that Sunday, where you'll have a chance to ask questions of the bishop and share your concerns. The vestry will then meet with him over lunch.

Frank will be away a few times in October and November. Supply priests will lead our Sunday worship, and there will be a priest covering pastoral emergencies. If you need pastoral care while Frank is away, please contact me, and I'll put you in touch with the right person.

Best,

Emily Mitchell
Senior Warden



St. Paul's is always there for us

- to celebrate joyous events,
- to pray and offer comfort in difficult times,
- to be with us in the quiet and hectic routines of our daily lives.

Some years seem full of joy;

Others bring challenges – illness, job loss, financial problems. The past year seemed to have more than its share of challenges;

yet, we are never alone. St. Paul's is always there for us.

The ministry of our church depends on diverse contributions from all of us

- our time, our talent, our treasure.

As you give thanks for all the blessings of this wonderful community of faith,

please prayerfully consider what you can pledge to support St. Paul's Church in the coming year.

For the love and friendship of the people of St. Paul's,
For delightful children,
For Joan and the beautiful worship music,
For Frank's deep faith and inspired ministry,
For the ever present love of God for every one of us,
We give thanks.

In peace and gratitude,
St. Paul's Stewardship Committee,

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



Parish Winter Retreat



The vestry is considering scheduling a parish-wide retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp the weekend of March 6. The camp is a warm and cozy place in the winter, in a beautiful setting. We'd have outdoor activities, including sledding, snow-shoeing, and possibly cross-country skiing; family fellowship activities; Bible study opportunities; and good food. The event might include a Friday night sleepover at the camp (hotel-style rooms).

We'd like to gauge parish interest in an event like this. If you are interested -- or if you know that particular weekend is bad for you -- please let Frank, Emily, or Paul Ciaccia know as soon as possible.

OUTREACH NEWS



Knitters! We have yarn for Linus blankets, baby hats or shawls. For more information contact Caroline Larson.



Come see the barn we helped to build! HEIFER PROJECT HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 3-4 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Explore the homes in the Heifer Global Village to learn about traditional harvest celebrations in Peru, Poland, Kenya and more. Take a horse-drawn hayride to the gardens and enjoy other activities such as face painting, crafts and a hay maze. Purchase local pumpkins and browse Shop@Heifer that features fair trade and unique hand-crafted items from around the world. Throughout the day, learn about Heifer International as you meet many of Heifer's animals including water buffalo, a yak, llamas and traditional farm animals such as pigs and goats.

Admission: \$5.00 per person / Children 12 and under are free. For more information, check overlook.farm@heifer.org or call 508-886-2221.

Keep those tab tops coming!



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

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

ST. PAUL'S WOMEN'S GROUP

Please join us for the annual

HOMEcoming BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd, 8:30
A.M.**

at

**STELIO'S RESTAURANT
293 Boston Road (Route 3A),
Billerica**

Women/girls of all ages welcome!



WOMEN'S GROUP FALL BOOK DISCUSSION



**Monday, November 16th, 7 P.M. in the
Library**

***The 19th Wife* by David Ebershoff**

This is a wonderfully engrossing work of historical fiction about the early days of the Mormon Church, interlaced with a modern day story of a fundamentalist sect in Utah.

A limited number paperback copies are available at the church for \$10. Please see Betsey Anderson.

The Bishop is Coming!



Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 18, when Bishop Thomas Shaw visits St. Paul's for our annual Episcopal visit. Bishop Shaw will preside over the worship service, then spend coffee hour with us. The vestry will then meet with him over lunch.

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 across the street on Dana Road or along the back drive.

Announcements



With the return to our 10:00am worship schedule, the vestry is offering new guidelines for announcements during church. The length and breadth of our announcements are a testament to the vitality and variety of life at St. Paul's. They also contribute to a longer service, however, which can pull us out of the worship mindset, and can conflict with members' other Sunday commitments, especially as school and sports pick up steam through the fall.

Starting this month, we ask that announcements be specific to St. Paul's: parish events, committee news, and the like. Members who have news that doesn't fit in these categories can take advantage of the announcement board in the narthex, coffee hour, and the Parishioners' Corner section of the Epistle. We also plan to continue with mid-month parish emails, so announcements can be sent to Emily for inclusion there.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to Frank or Emily.

Keep our kitchen clean!



Over the summer, Jan Blake, Ginny Draper, Jan Gurley, and Rene Seaton gave the parish kitchen a thorough cleaning. It sparkles! Please help keep the kitchen looking its best—and free from germs—by cleaning up after using it. This includes washing and drying dishes, wiping down counters, and removing old food from the fridge. (There were several half-used sticks of butter on glass plates in the fridge, for example, before it was cleaned out.)

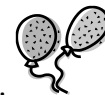
Thanks in advance for your help!

Parishioner's Corner

Happy Birthday to Parker Anderson-Laporte!



Happy birthday to John Mitchell (the elder), who celebrates on October 2.



Congratulations to John and Emily Mitchell, celebrating 10 years of marriage on October 23.



Daylight Savings Ends November 1st.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour on the evening of October 31st.

**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.

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Staff:

The Reverend Francis Fornaro, Rector

Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator

Joan Reddy, Music Director

Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Emily Mitchell, Senior Warden

Paul Ciaccia, Junior Warden

Betsey Anderson, Treasurer

Carol Hokana, Clerk

Vestry:

Andre Barber

Sue Runkle

Sharon Healey

Natalie Wicks

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Dori Pulizzi

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer p. 833



ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL ADVENT FAIR



St. Paul's will hold its 2009 Advent Fair on Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 to 2:00. This is an all Parish event, and it provides a major portion of our annual fundraising revenue.

***ONLY TWO MONTHS 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. No talent needed ... just be ready and willing to help.

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 need/read anymore for our book sale.

CONTRIBUTE an item 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** or **Lisa Hafer**. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!!!