
ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

September 2006

Friends,

I am writing this letter while the tide is out on Skaket Beach. There is something about walking way out over the sand where the ocean bay water once filled in the space. There is something about venturing far out beyond what seemed impossible a few hours earlier.

Many thoughts had an opportunity to rise in my mind as I walked further and further away from the shore. I thought about how small a human being is when compared to the land or to the ocean or to the crowds on the beach behind us. But then I thought even out there where it seemed desolate at times, in God's eyes we fill God's mind and heart.

I thought about how the ocean and the land and the sky and all the creation in God's eye are fully connected; I thought about how God looks at it all as one piece. And I wondered why it is so difficult for us to see those connections. How is it that we can't get the bonds we have with the people in those places that suffer sickness, poverty, war and fear? I wondered what makes it so hard for us to grasp our true relationship with people and places we don't see with our own eyes. How great it would be if we could see the creation through the eyes of God! One world, one family, one community with the potential of bringing in the kingdom on earth. It would mean finding the way to love each other without trying or demanding that people or nations give up who they are. It would mean finding a way to make harmony out of the differences that God has placed in the world. Sometimes I think that is one of the major responsibilities of humanity; God has given us the gift of the diversity of humanity—like the diversity of instruments and voices in an orchestra—and it is our work to find the way to bring it together to create beauty in the world.

We are entering into our eighth year of ministry together at St. Paul's. Our life here is a model of how to do that very thing. We do it by connecting with one another. Even when we are away we find ways to stay connected. There are many gifts that we offer one another here and gifts that we offer the world around us. One of the telling, life giving graces of this community is the desire to stay connected. And we do that! And we spread it beyond our church borders!

I am always excited as September approaches because it contains the promise of the gathered community. It contains the promise of the fulfillment of our desire to be together as congregation that loves God and loves one another. People will be coming home to St. Paul's slowly at first. Before we know it everyone will be back and it will seem like we never were apart. It seems like that because of the deep sense of Christian love we have for one another. There is the sense that even though some of us were away we were not ever, not even for a moment, disconnected from each other. We do create harmony here. We do bring the gift of diversity to bear on the joy of our community.

It is an exciting time for us as we approach September, homecoming, gathering, family. I hope that your days these past few months were filled with as much joy and relaxation as possible. I hope these days gave you time to connect with family and friends. And I look forward to our being fully

gathered as soon as we all return to our community of faith at St. Paul's.

Frank +

Meet the Vestry



Sharon Curtin Keane is currently completing her third year on the vestry of St. Paul's. She and her family—husband Bob and daughters Miranda, Aisling, and Rose—began coming to St. Paul's in the spring of 2000. Miranda was a student at St. Paul's Nursery School, and Sharon had met a number of parishioners through the school. She and Bob were looking for a church that was welcoming and that allowed girls (and women) to participate fully in the church. Once they started coming, the girls loved the church school program and were a driving force in getting the whole family to attend regularly. Both Sharon and Bob had grown up in the Roman Catholic Church, but had concerns about the Church and the role of women within the Church, especially as parents of three daughters, and St. Paul's had much appeal for them.

Sharon grew up in Salem, Massachusetts, with her parents, two brothers, and a sister. Her father was an educator serving as a teacher, then principal and finally superintendent of schools in Salem. He was active in the community and felt strongly about political issues, especially those related to public education. Sharon's mother stayed at home when her children were young, but later returned to work for a local small business that publishes a stock newsletter. Although Sharon was raised in the Catholic Church, her mother was a Unitarian, and Sharon feels she was exposed to many views of religion and social responsibility within her family.

Following high school, Sharon attended St. Anselm's College in New Hampshire, studying to become a nurse. Her specialty is psychiatric nursing, and she received her master's degree from Boston College in 1990. Most of her experience has been working with children who have serious emotional problems. She worked at McLean Hospital and in residential programs for children run by the Department of Mental Health. She also worked in private practice for a few years before deciding to stay at home with her growing young family. Sharon is passionate about this work and is

exploring future possibilities of returning to work part-time in this field, now that her daughters are getting older.

A college friend from St. Anselm's thought that her brother and Sharon would be perfect for each other. That brother is Bob, and he and Sharon were married in 1989. Bob is a social worker for the Department of Mental Health. He and Sharon share many common interests, both in their fields of work and in their enjoyment of camping, hiking, biking, and the outdoors. Bob has ten siblings, and together they have over 30 nieces and nephews, so theirs is truly a large extended family with whom they enjoy spending time.

Sharon and Bob moved to Bedford in 1993. Sharon had done a rotation at the VA Hospital in Bedford during her nursing training and liked the area. They felt it was a good mid-point between their two families in Salem and Needham. Here in Bedford, they are active in the community and in the church. Sharon assists with two Girl Scout troops and volunteers in the schools. Her daughters take ballet lessons at St. Paul's on Saturdays. Having taken ballet through her teens, Sharon decided to begin taking lessons herself once they began with ballet and participates in a weekly adult ballet class. This is another passion of Sharon's that may not be well known. She is also a runner and loves activities outdoors—walking the dog, taking bike rides or hikes with her family, and gardening. The Keanes have built an addition to their home this past year and also added a pool, so this summer has included much time swimming for the whole family. Sharon also loves to read.

Here at St. Paul's Sharon enjoys her involvement in teaching, participating in the Advent Fair and Thrift Sale, working to organize activities for the middle school age children for this fall, and especially participating in the Revue last year. She feels the church has given her and her family a sense of community and that it is a special place of nurture and support for them all. Sharon and her family bring much to St. Paul's as well, and will continue to be an important part of our parish family.



Members of St. Paul's who have known Betsey Anderson for many years will find few surprises in these next paragraphs. When Betsey joins any community, she is not only a very visible participant, but a dynamic leader as well. She has served on the vestry and participated in many committees over the years.

Betsey grew up in Warwick, Rhode Island, and resided there with her parents and sister until she attended Tufts University. The family belonged to an Episcopal church and they were all very active members, with her father serving as senior warden and her mother active in the women's group.

While at Tufts, Betsey met her husband, Walter, who was attending M.I.T. They wed and moved to their first home in Bedford in 1967. It was at this time that Betsey joined St. Paul's. Eric was born in 1967, and Christine joined the family in 1969. Betsey soon began teaching Sunday School with Barbara Perry, Jan Gurley, and Joanna Nickerson, and continued for the next ten years.

Betsey has served on the vestry at least three times, once serving as senior warden. Her expertise in financial planning led her to her current role as treasurer. Whether searching for a new rector, planning an Advent Fair, or revitalizing the women's group, Betsey has been there lending her time and expertise. Most recently Betsey served on the Long Range Planning Committee, planning for the improvements and the beautiful addition to our church building.

Bedford residents know Betsey's passion for local government. Serving initially on the finance committee, then as a selectman for ten years, Betsey is currently the town moderator in Bedford. She was once named Bedford's Citizen of the Year, nominated by her friend Jan Gurley.

In her free time Betsey enjoys spending time and relaxing with her family and friends. With her grandchildren, Maddy and Parker, only minutes away, she is able to share many visits and family vacations watching them grow and change. She was delighted when Eric and his family recently moved back to this area. Having her family close by brings her great joy. Betsey also enjoys reading, gardening, and movies. But it is sharing her many gifts with others that gives her the most joy and satisfaction.

2006-2007 Tentative Calendar for St. Paul's Sunday School

Session 1 Living in Community and the Episcopal Church

- Sept. 6 Sunday School Planning Meeting - 7:30 p.m. (Wednesday)
- Sept 10 Registration – No Sunday School
- Sept. 17 Class 1
- Sept. 24 Class 2
- Oct. 1 Family Sunday – Blessing of Animals? St. Francis feast day – October 4th
- Oct. 8 Class 3 - Columbus Day Weekend
- Oct. 12 Sunday School Planning Meeting for Session 2 - 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)
- Oct. 15 Class 4
- Oct. 22 Class 5

Session 2 Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

- Oct. 29 Class 1

Nov. 5 Family Sunday
 Nov. 12 Class 2
 Nov. 19 Class 3
 Nov. 26 Class 4
 Dec. 3 Family Sunday – First Sunday of Advent
 Dec. 10 Pageant rehearsal?
 Dec. 17 Pageant?
 Dec. 24 No Sunday school - Christmas Eve
 Dec. 31 No Sunday school - New Year's Eve
 Jan. 4 Sunday School Planning meeting for Session 3 - 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)
 Jan. 7 Family Sunday - Epiphany
 Jan. 14 Class 5 – Martin Luther King Weekend

Session 3 Epiphany and Lent

Jan. 21 Class 1
 Jan 28 Class 2
 Feb. 4 Family Sunday
 Feb. 11 Class 3
 Feb. 18 No Sunday School - Beginning of February Vacation
 Feb. 25 Class 4 – First Sunday in Lent
 Mar. 4 Family Sunday
 Mar. 8 Sunday School Planning Meeting for Session 4 - 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)
 Mar. 11 Class 5
 Mar. 18 Class 6

Session 4 Easter and Pentecost

Mar. 25 Class 1
 Apr. 1 Family Sunday – Palm Sunday
 Apr. 8 No Sunday School - Easter Sunday
 Apr. 15 No Sunday School - Beginning of March Vacation
 Apr. 22 Class 2
 Apr. 29 Class 3
 May 6 Family Sunday
 May 13 Class 4
 May 17 Sunday School Planning Meeting 2007-2008 - 7:30 p.m. (Thursday)
 May 20 Class 5 - Last day of Sunday school
 May 27 No Sunday School - Pentecost - Memorial Day Weekend
 Jun. 3 Family Sunday - Teacher appreciation Sunday & teacher's brunch

 Jun. 15 Tentative last day of Bedford public school

Catechesis Corner



As we enjoy the glorious summer weather it is indeed time to think about the beginning of yet another school year and, with it, the start of another church school year.

We welcome many familiar faces and many new faces to our wonderful Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. This program welcomes and nurtures our 3, 4, and 5 year olds as they begin their Christian education. On that note, please let us know if your children will be participating with us this year.

How can you do this?

- Register on **Sunday, September 10th**
 - Forms will be available during and after church
- Register on line – it is easy and quick
 - Go to www.stpaulsbedford.org
 - Click on “Christian Education”
 - Click on “Registration Form ’06 – ’07”
 - Complete form and submit
- Catechesis I and II will begin **Sunday, September 17th** with orientation.
 - Adult helpers requested!

For those families new to our parish and/or new to the Catechesis program, we will provide periodic information through this blurb in our monthly Epistle. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions to Frank or any other Catechists (teachers).

I know I speak for all of us, involved with this program, when I say we look forward to spending many Sundays with your children.

With blessings from the corner,

Amanda Hubbard & Ellen Ryan

St. Paul's Christian Education

Elementary School

It's hard to believe the summer is coming to a close, but here we are ready to start back into the school year. We'd like to welcome anyone interested in our Sunday school program to join us for a planning meeting Wednesday night, September 6th at 7:30 p.m. Working with the children is such a blessing, and volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Cathy Presti, Amanda Hubbard or Sue MacPhee.

Thank you to the many families who registered for Sunday school over the summer. For any new families, or those who have not had a chance to register, a registration table will be set up in the Narthex on Sunday, September 10th.

Sunday school classes begin on Sunday, September 17th. All children are invited to join us starting at 9:45 a.m. with music in the parish hall. Following the music, children will separate for age appropriate instruction. We're looking forward to another wonderful Sunday school year.

Volunteer Contacts:

Elementary grades 1-5	Cathy Presti
Catechesis age 3 – K	Amanda Hubbard
Nursery age 0-3	Sue MacPhee

Cathy Presti

High School Youth

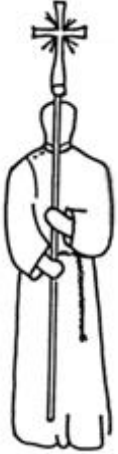
A new year is upon us! Welcome back to our returning members, and welcome aboard to our new members! This year the high school youth group is taking it easy. We have three planned events for the year: our annual cookie-baking extravaganza over Thanksgiving weekend, Movie Night in March, and Youth Sunday on Mother's Day. In between, we'll have events as time and interest allow.

We look forward to seeing you in church!

John & Emily Mitchell

Liturgical Training Sessions

ALTAR SERVERS



St. Paul's appreciates the commitment and faithful dedication of those who assist at our altar. Please join us if you are interested in participating. Children and adults 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 are always welcome.

New Acolyte and Torchbearer Training – September 17th

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 – September 24th

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.

Caroline Larson

From our Director of Music

REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION ON THE NATIONAL ORGAN CONVENTION
Chicago, IL.

July 2-6, 2006

The adventure began on Sunday afternoon, after I played the service, and then met my friends (and yours) Cheryl Duerr, Mary Sue Willie and husband, Charles, and flew to Chicago. The convention had actually begun the night before, so all was in full swing by the time of our arrival at the Marriott in the "Magnificent Mile", downtown.

The general session opened that evening with a gala concert at Orchestra Hall in Symphony Center. The entire program was conducted by Julian Wachner (formerly of Boston University's Marsh Chapel, but now principal opera conductor at McGill University in Montreal) and featured a work by him for organ and large orchestra.

Monday opened with a beautiful service at Valparaiso University, followed by a concert back in Chicago at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, along with the Annual Meeting. We ate lunch on the bus as we drove back. After the meeting, there were workshops and/or concerts to attend (two sessions, back to back), and the exhibits were open to browse in the hotel. Our dinner that night was the only true social affair of the time there. We were transported to Navy Pier for a private dinner with band, and viewed fireworks on the roof afterwards.

This is a capsule of one day. Each day that followed was very similar in scheduling and level of participation. We heard many wonderful organs in downtown Chicago churches, Lincoln Park, Evanston, and Valparaiso University. The workshops were varied and of high quality. I attended three publishers' reading sessions for new anthems, as well as workshops on chant, one dealing with injuries and chronic issues for keyboard players, and our Regional meeting. As usual, I longed for more organ music I could use - the concerts were all done by virtuosi playing recital literature - and found it at the marketplace. My favorite concerts took place on the same day - Thos. Murray, head of the organ dept. at Yale University in the morning, and the choir of Trinity Church, Wall Street, singing "A Song to David" by Wm. Albright that evening. Another outstanding choral group, an a cappella from St. Clement's (Chicago), performed on Thursday morning.

I am grateful to St. Paul's for assisting me in attending this wonderful convention, from which I learned a great deal that will be of benefit to all of us here.

Joan Reddy

Parish In-Reach Committee

The In-reach Committee helps support the St. Paul's community in celebration and in need. If you or someone you know would like personal contact in the form of cards, meals or phone calls, please call Sue Marasa or contact any member of the In-reach Committee for requests.

In-Reach Committee: Jan Gurley, Linda Kuramoto, Sue Marasa, Louisa Saladino-Kuhl

Linda Kuramoto

Women's Group

“Homecoming Breakfast”

Saturday, September 30th @ 8:30 a.m.

Please join the women of the parish for a fall homecoming breakfast at the Riverview Restaurant on Route 4 in Billerica. This will be an opportunity to renew friendships and to relax together as the busy fall season begins. If you are new to St. Paul's, this is an informal and easy way to meet other members of the parish. Please sign up or call Betsey Anderson to confirm you are coming so that we can give the restaurant an approximate number of people in our group. These breakfasts are always fun and we urge you to join us.

Watch for more Women's Group events this year including a cookbook potluck dinner, our annual brunch, and more to come..... If you are interested in helping this group, please contact Betsey Anderson, Lynne Wolf, Roberta Valday or Linda Kuramoto.

Betsey Anderson

Craft Night Schedule

Craft Workshops for the Advent Fair:

Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

September 13th, 20th, & 27th at the home of Betsey Anderson, 64 Wildwood Drive.

Please join us to work on craft projects for the Advent Fair in December. All levels of talent and creativity are welcome!! We have a lot of fun and work on some great projects.

If you are unable to attend the workshops, but would like to help with crafts, please let us know. We have several projects which you can do at home on your own time. People with sewing and knitting experience are needed as well. Please contact me with any questions.

Christine Anderson

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 Reminder

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

The recipes are in!

Thanks to your good taste and generosity, our new cookbook will feature over 200 great recipes. The book will be sent to the printer later this month, and we expect to have copies ready for sale in November. Thanks again for your contributions!

Dori Sutton & Emily Mitchell

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.

News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School

We are opening school for the 46th consecutive year. The daily schedule of activities for the children and the philosophy of teaching preschool remain largely unchanged since Jean McCaffrey founded the school. This autumn St. Paul's will again undergo a licensing study by the EEC (Department of Early Education and Care). Many aspects of the program are covered, including health and safety in the environment, child guidance, curriculum, interaction of staff and children, to name a few. In addition, there is a lot of "paperwork" involved before and after the Licensor's actual visitation.

One new tool for communication, not available in those early years, is the Internet. St. Paul's Weekday is happy to announce that we have a website. You can find information at <http://www.stpaulsweekdayns.org>. Please check it out, understanding that some parts are still under construction. The web design is by WEF Consulting, Inc.

Two teachers who have taught at St. Paul's for a combined eighteen years have now left us. They are Mrs. Amy Hartwell and Mrs. Lena Lentini. Many families, as well as other staff, can thank them for their wonderful talents and professional contributions for all the children they served. We will miss them greatly.

Beth Taylor

Last Call.....

After a year spent as your seminarian and an additional year and a half working as your parish administrator, I am headed northward to a new community and new challenges. Since my June (2005) graduation from seminary I have juggled a handful of part-time placements - here at St. Paul's, as the Associate Protestant Chaplain at Phillips Academy, as the Project Coordinator of the Feminist Sexual Ethics Project at Brandeis, as a consultant to the Diocese and the Society for the Increase of the Ministry (Hartford, CT), as a freelance writer for New England Tennis Magazine and finally, as one of the newest Red Sox employees in Section 9 of Fenway Park! While this plethora of employers has allowed me ample freedom and a welcomed diversity of experiences, it has also had its drawbacks. With my (hopeful!) ordination now in sight, I have now decided to direct my efforts towards one job. As of August 28th, I will become the Chaplain and Director of Community Service at Endicott College in Beverly, MA.

As with all forms of ministry, my work here at St. Paul's was, at its core, a partnership. I have been blessed to have worked (and in our case, sung and danced!) side by side with so many of you. These are the threads that have built such a vivid tapestry for me and these are the threads that will continue to bind me to the community of St. Paul's. I will miss each of you as I journey onward and will carry the lessons you have so wonderfully taught me into my newest ministry.

I will forever be indebted to Frank for giving me this opportunity and encouraging me to have St. Paul's be part of my ministerial formation. My time here has given my vocation a depth and gravity and clarity I could not have imagined. Thank you, *truly*, for all of the graces you have bestowed on me.....

As always, you will remain in my prayers.

With much affection-

Anne Gardner

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
100 Pine Hill Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.
Office hours: Tue.-Fri., 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
The Reverend Daniel Collier
Meghan Finn, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Ron Presti, Senior Warden
Emily Mitchell, Junior Warden
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Michael Ryan, Assistant Treasurer
Dori Sutton, Clerk

Vestry:

Carol Hokana, Sharon Keane, Paul Kruger,
Carrie Mathews, Peter Ricci, Andy Saladino,
Bob Thomas

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