

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

September 2007

Dear Friends,

Many in our church community have used the word home to describe what St. Paul's means to them. Some newer members even say they feel that they have come home or found home. In so many ways St. Paul's is home to us.

By some classical definitions *home* is the place where a person or family spends most of their time. Ideally it is a place of comfort, safety and refuge. It is the place to which we go to be nurtured in so many ways.

In the summer months, many of us go to other places where we find nurture: oceans, lakes, mountains, sight seeing in foreign lands. We might spend time with our friends and families in ways different from our usual ways in the other months. And then we come back. Coming back, coming home is a time of great joy for us. We return from our various journeys bringing stories and experiences to the family and communities to which we essentially belong.

As we come together as a full community, we experience the excitement and celebration of homecoming. Homecoming is historically an American event probably grown out of the fall football games and festivities that are planned on college and university campuses. These homecoming events are always centered around an important, social and happy activity. Homecoming events are planned to bring people together in such a way that they can gather as community. People gather for the game, the tail-gating parties, the homecoming dance, the homecoming banquet. We at St. Paul's gather around the table at our celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This is where we come together.

I have always been excited about the hopes, expectations and possibilities that the fall represents in the activity of returning, resuming and reconnecting. From the earliest school days to this very day, the waiting for the whole community to gather again is filled with excitement and joyful anticipation. As we come together as a full worshipping community during these fall months, we come back as always with hope, expectation and new possibilities for our life together this year at St. Paul's.

I pray that these last days of summer offer you continued time for refreshment and relaxation. I pray that these days have been a source of joy and satisfaction for you and those you love. I pray that you stay in the knowledge of God's love for you and all you offer to your family, friends and to our wonderful church.

Frank +

Catechesis Corner

Welcome back to Catechesis children and their families, new and old! The “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” is St. Paul’s church school program for children age 3 through Kindergarten. This year we will continue to have two classrooms, or Atriums, one for children 3-4 years old and one for Kindergarteners. The program allows each child to choose from many hands-on activities; they don’t need to sit still for long!



We will restart on Sunday, September 16th, with an orientation in which each child is introduced to his or her teachers and Atrium. This is very important in helping them feel comfortable, and setting the tone for the class. If any families cannot attend, please contact Amanda Hubbard (781-275-7857, evenings, or hubbard@psfc.mit.edu) to arrange another time to do this. We would also be happy to answer questions about the program, and to hear from new families who may be joining – it was great to see several new children in the pews this summer! Registration materials will be available after church on Sunday, September 9th. We look forward to meeting you there.

The Catechesis program generally follows the same schedule and calendar as the Elementary Church School, with children meeting in the hall at 9:45 most Sundays, going to their Atriums at 10:00 and joining families for Communion. The first Sunday of each month is Family Sunday, when all go to church for a child-oriented service. One difference is that we offer Catechesis I (our younger group) the option of going to their Atrium after the sermon.

As of writing this in August, we don’t yet have a detailed curriculum and teacher schedule arranged. As always, offers of help in the classroom, on a rotating basis, are extremely welcome!

Sincerely,
Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

Elementary Sunday School



Summer is quickly coming to an end, and with it I look forward to the start of a new Sunday school year. St. Paul’s Elementary Sunday school program engages our first to fifth graders in an exploration of Jesus’ life, our liturgy, and community awareness.

A registration table will be set up in the Parish hall during coffee hour on Sunday, Sept. 9th. I’d like to welcome any new families to come, meet us, and learn more about our elementary, catechesis and nursery programs. Classes will resume Sunday, September 16th. We gather with singing in the parish hall Sundays at 9:45, separating at 10:00 for grade specific classes, then joining the service at the Doxology to participate in the Eucharistic prayer.

Working with our children offers such great joy. Many volunteer opportunities are available to anyone who would like to participate. Singers, storytellers, and readers are welcomed to lead our 15-minute gathering time. Volunteers are needed to in the nursery to take care of our infants and toddlers. Assisting in the classroom offers a wonderful way to better know our children while learning about our classrooms. Last year we had great success with our wonderful youth assistants. I encourage any youth interested in helping the younger children join us. Anyone interested in volunteering with the elementary Sunday school program or nursery, can contact me at 781 271-9808 or cathypresti@comcast.net.

An elementary Sunday school planning meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 in the Parish hall. All are welcome to come, learn about our program and share new ideas for our children.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Cathy Presti

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

Middle School Youth Group Update

The Middle School Youth Group will kick off the new season with a pizza get together in September--email information will be sent soon. We will be planning several social and community events for the year.

The Youth Group meets in class the first Sunday of each month during the 10:00 service, but our first Sunday class will be **September 30th** so we can stay away from the long October weekend. Also, mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, **October 14th**, for the Concord Crop Walk to benefit local, regional and world-wide hunger relief programs.

A special thanks to Briana and Emma for creating the banner for St. Paul's benefit at Flatbread Pizza in September.

Suzanne Johnson and Carrie Mathews

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

After a low-key program last year, the high school youth group is back on track for a full year of activities. All St. Paul's members and friends in grades 9 through 12 are invited to our kick-off meeting on Sunday, September 23, at 6:30pm at the Mitchells' house, 83 Burlington Road, Bedford. (Please note the time, a bit later than usual: we'll be driving home from a family reunion that day and may be a little zonkered.)

We'll have dinner and discussion and some planning for the rest of the year. Hope to see you there!

John & Emily Mitchell

Women's Group Homecoming Breakfast



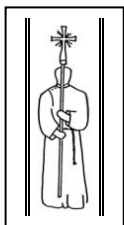
Saturday, September 29th at 8:30 AM - Please join the women of the parish for a **fall homecoming breakfast at a new location, the Wyndham Hotel, 270 Concord Road** in Billerica (just before Route 3). This will be an opportunity to renew friendships and to relax together as the busy fall season begins. 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 (781-275-0904) to indicate 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 Tupperware fundraiser, our annual brunch, book discussion of **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini, and more to come..... If you are interested in helping organize events for this group, contact Betsey Anderson, Lynne Wolf, or Roberta Valday.

News from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School



New members of the teaching staff and new supplies are a great combination for an enthusiastic beginning to our year. Joining our program are Mrs. Christine Jones and Mrs. Kathy Paulsen who have been teachers, Kindergarten & Preschool respectively, in our area for many years. We will be welcoming a full enrollment of three-year olds in the Tues.- Thurs. classes. There is room for more four & five year olds in either the three or five day classes. If you hear of anyone still looking for a half-day program (with some extended options), please refer them to Beth Taylor, either at school (781-275-1383) or at home (781-275-8744). Also, as a reminder, the website is www.stpaulsweekdays.org. Our calendar marks the beginning of school as September 11th, but as usual the teachers will be conducting "home visits" and setting up their rooms during the earlier days of the month.



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 – September 16

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 23

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 781-275-9338 SAILSK8@aol.com

COMMUNITY TABLE DATES 2007-2008

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

Recycling



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



**Beginning
September 9th,
summer schedule
will end and
10:00 a.m. Sunday
services resume!**



Attention All Singers!

The Adult Choir will gather for rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 6th at 7 PM to prepare for singing in the service on Sunday, Sept. 9th. All singers, old and new, are welcome. Men's voices are especially needed. Opportunities for solo and ensemble singing as well as full choir. Please speak to Joan Reddy if you have any questions.

The Children's Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Sept. 9th, directly after the service. Bring your friends and join me at the organ console for cookies and singing!

Bedford Day Fair Saturday, September 15th, 2007 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Once again, this Bedford Day promises to be a fun-filled day where members of our community gather to celebrate the culture of Bedford. As usual, St. Paul's will participate in this great day by selling bake goods and spinner art at our booth. We encourage everyone to support our booth any way possible. This includes setting up, working at the booth during the day, taking down the booth, baking goods or by just stopping by and enjoying the fellowship of other parishioners. Look for the sign-up sheet in early September. For more information please contact Bruce or Sima Seymourian



Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell: 130 North Road project

As you know, Habitat for Humanity is working with the citizens of Bedford to develop eight affordable houses at 130 North Road. St. Paul's has agreed to become a covenant church for this project, supporting the work of Habitat through prayer, volunteer efforts, and financial gifts from members. You can show your support for this effort by participating in these Habitat events in September.

September 8: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell's Dinner Dance, Silent and Live Auction. From 6–11 PM at The Center, 75 Groton Road, Chelmsford, MA. Buffet and cash bar; \$35.00 per person. Call or email Sandy Mersch for more information (978-448-5807 or semersch@hotmail.com), or order your tickets directly from Habitat. Checks should be payable to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell, with "Bedford Project" on the memo line, and sent to Jennifer Lorrain, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell, PO Box 1783, Lowell, MA 01853. Make sure to include your address, and your tickets will be mailed to you.

September 15: Bedford Day. Habitat for Humanity will be marching in the parade and will have a booth as well. Stop by, find out about the Bedford Project, and sign up to take part.

September 25: Whole Foods in Bedford. Shop at Whole Foods anytime on September 25, and 5% of the day's net sales will be donated to the Bedford Habitat for Humanity project. With support from individuals and businesses like Whole Foods, eight families will be able to realize the dream of owning their own home. Use this opportunity to stock up on the great items you usually purchase at Whole Foods, and support Habitat in the process!

If you have any questions about the project or any of the fundraisers, please contact John Mitchell (781-275-6449 or jcmitch96@hotmail.com).

Stewardship Corner

The Stewardship Committee is grateful to everyone who participated in stewardship events last year -- the bottle and can drive, the Time & Talent Fair, and of course, the fall pledge campaign. We are looking forward to another year of strong parish support for stewardship in all its manifestations, from a simple act of turning off a light switch to a larger commitment through pledging.

Speaking of pledging, there is still time to make a pledge for 2007. Please see Paul Ciaccia for information. The 2008 pledge season will kick off in October. We encourage you to begin thinking about the ways you can support St. Paul's in the coming year through your time, your talent, and your treasure. What do you get from St. Paul's? How can you give back?



--The Stewardship Committee

Vestry News

The vestry extends a hearty welcome back to everyone at St. Paul's, especially those who have been traveling this summer. As you look around the parish hall during coffee hour, you may notice a new bulletin board. On the back wall, to the left of the door, the old Capital Campaign bulletin board has been reclaimed and rechristened as the vestry bulletin board. Here you'll find pictures of each vestry member, to help you figure out who's who, as well as a copy of the minutes from the last vestry meeting, and any other timely or useful information that may arise as the year progresses. Please check it out!

--Emily Mitchell, junior warden

FUNDRAISING



SAVE THE DATE!

Flatbread Pizza Fundraiser

Tuesday, September 18th beginning at 5:00 p.m. @ Flatbread Pizza, 213 Burlington Rd., Bedford.

Forget cooking this day! St. Paul's earns a portion of the price paid for each pizza purchased at Flatbread Pizza, so come eat at Flatbread or get some take out and help St. Paul's and its ministries at the same time!



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. Paul's 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!



Does your garden need some more color next Spring? Then the Fundraising Committee has the answer for you in its Fall Bulb Sale. Plant bulbs in the fall for Spring and Summer color next year. Roberta Valday will be taking orders after church for bulbs of plants that are successfully grown in our area. She also will have order forms so that you can help your family and friends have better gardens through the planting of bulbs. The bulbs will arrive in plenty of time for planting before it becomes too cold.

Contact Roberta if you have questions.

St. Paul's versus Church of the Redeemer Softball game



St. Paul's has been challenged to a softball game against the Church of the Redeemer in Lexington. We have accepted the challenge and are now in the planning stages. All adults 18 and older can play. We will have a special game for the younger members of both church's that will precede the adult game.

We'll make this a fun time for all with a picnic/BBQ at the field and some good old fun.

The date is planned for Sunday afternoon October 7th at 1:00 pm at the Job Lane School field.

All proceeds from a good will offering will go to a Diocesan Charity.

If you want to play, let Manager, Paul Ciaccia know by September 15th as we have to supply a roster.

If you don't want to play but are interested in helping organize this event, please let Paul know ASAP. All are welcome to play or just come and cheer St. Paul's on to a victory.

Thanks!

Happenings from St. Paul's Property Committee

We are a small committee (Toni Wood, Bill Walker, Peter Ricci, Frank Fornaro, Brad Hafer), but an effective committee. The following are some of our most recent accomplishments:

- Nursery school playground clean up
- Removal of curb at parking lot entrance
- Installation and painting of crown molding in library
- Clean up of cellar
- Reorganization/clean up of storage area above the kitchen
- Motion detector light installed for dumpster area
- PVC conduit installed for telephone line under side driveway
- Beginning of reconstruction of 'old' kitchen into Parish office space

We have made positive strides toward improving our 'plant'. We could use extra hands and any other assistance available to meet our goals. Please consider giving some time, materials, or suggestions to make St. Paul's the best it can be.

Representing the Property Committee,
William Walker

SAY CHEESE!



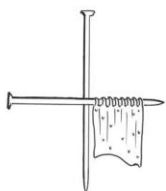
The time has come for a new picture directory at St. Paul's! Photographers from Olan Mills will be here on Wednesday and Thursday, September 12 and 13, from 3:00pm to 9:30pm, taking pictures of individuals and families to include in our new directory. If you haven't signed up for an appointment yet, please see Emily Mitchell ASAP.

Everyone who participates in the photo shoot will receive a directory and a free 8x10 of a pose of your choice. You'll also have the opportunity to purchase larger photo packages -- a perfect way to cross off names on your Christmas list!. The directory won't be complete without YOU, so please sign up for an appointment!

Questions? See the full-color insert in this Epistle, or contact Emily Mitchell (emilyjmitchell [at] hotmail.com, or 781-275-6449).

Outreach

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



Knitters! We have yarn for Linus blankets, baby hats or shawls. For more information contact Caroline Larson at 781-275-9338 or SAILSK8@aol.com

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

September 29 — 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

September 30 — 12 - 4 p.m.



Visit Overlook Farm in Rutland and learn more about Heifer International. Enjoy a hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick your own pumpkins. Great foods will be available, including harvest corn chowder, pesto pizza and apple crisp. Visit the gift shop, featuring crafts from around the world. Activities for the children include face painting, a hay maze and crafts. \$5/car parking fee. For more information, check overlook.farm@heifer.org or call 508-886-2221.

**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

A Prayer

Almighty God, we dedicate ourselves to serve you faithfully
and to follow Christ,
to face the future with Him,
seeking His special purpose
for our lives.

Send us out now to work and to witness,
freely, gratefully and hopefully,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
and for the honor and glory of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Paul's Advent Fair



Saturday, December 1, 2007

The 2007 Advent Fair will feature gift baskets, delicious homemade food including "Soups to Go", fabulous crafts, great gifts for Christmas, a silent auction, fun activities for children, good white elephants, books and much more.

Please consider helping by doing one of the following:

- Attend the Craft Workshops or the Gift Basket Workshops
- Donate materials for baskets and crafts or cash to purchase supplies
- Volunteer to chair a table or serve on the steering committee
- Make or bake something for the day of the Fair
- Share any new ideas you may have
- Save the date and bring your friends

This is an all-Parish activity and the major fundraiser of the year. Last year's Fair was a great success. Let's make the 2007 Fair even better.

Watch for more details in October. Contact Lisa Hafer or Betsey Anderson with your ideas or to volunteer to help.

Craft Workshops

The Crafts group is already working to prepare for the Advent Fair on December 1, 2007. Workshops will be held weekly on **Wednesday evenings** in September at the home of Betsey Anderson, 64 Wildwood Drive.

Join us at 7 PM for fun and fellowship. The projects are easy – you don't need to be an expert. We welcome ideas for projects and we need your help. Please join us on September 5, 12, 19th and 26th.



GIFT BASKETS



Workshop meetings for the Advent Fair Gift Basket table are planned for Sundays after church at Jan Svendsen's home, 96 Sweetwater Ave., Unit 7, starting on September 16th, and Thursday mornings at 9:00 starting on September 20th. We'd love to have you join us for any or all of these sessions. No prior experience necessary! There's on-the-job training!

If you are shopping for items for the gift baskets, we can use perishables such as little jams and jellies, teas, little cans of coffee, cookies, crackers, etc. People have been very generous with their contributions so far. A big **THANK YOU** to all who have remembered us. Please speak to any member of the committee if you have questions, ideas, contributions, etc.

*Jan Svendsen, Natalie Wicks, Jan Gurley,
Lisa Hafer, Sharon Witbeck*

Use the code to discover what it says in Eccl 3:1.

Use the code to discover what it says in Eccl 3:1.

Answer: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

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

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

isphere it is fall.
ls that are about
em?

D T Z W Y A Q X B R Z C Y
B G C D S Z C H E S D I S F J E G K
L H A O O M C H I L L Y W E A T H E R
F I N B R G O J C H A P I Q V K E J R D
K S C L T L F N T M M N E U C N F A V N O G N B
O W I P X B P Q U Q H T Y M R R Z H E S D A S T I
U D B S R O L O C L L A F V U C T K L W O D X U E
F E Y V G J U D Z O W H A N I B T O J G C F K X D
R L E Y M K N F L P G S N I K P M U P N H S N I
J O A K Z P T L A I H C M Q E S N R A I O U S
P A T P C M Y U B A D H V N C E G W F K D M E
E X G O P F F Y R G H O Z H P I A I Q A B M I
J C R G K L D V J L E O K F M L G S V R N E H
O M I P T J E Q N K R L E C A L P E R I F R L
S M O S U S W E A T E R S N T P V O N U Q
H T P V R Q I W R S J X S X K Y T L G
U A W M V T N B W O
Z U C X P

