

# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

*September 2008*

Dear Friends,

I always loved September. Since I was a child, September meant getting together with my friends again even though over the summer months I saw them almost every day. There was always something special about coming together to go to school. For me, it was about gathering in community with a different purpose than we gather in the summer.

I would never forfeit the rest, relaxation and leisure that the summer months usually offer, but I would also never forfeit that time of returning to the community of friends to be together in a new way.

I am in an advent mode today, waiting to see all those who have been away, to hear their stories of summer and see the excitement they bring back from their days of rest, relaxation and fun. I anticipate the reconnections we will make as our community gathers again to worship together, play together and do God's work in the world together as a community, a congregation of God's people.

By example, Jesus has showed us many times the need to get away, to row a boat, eat on the beach, sit around talking to friends. We so often reserve this for a few months in the summer. The model of Jesus doing this is a sign for us to do the same all the time.

I hope that during this program year we find many ways both in the church and in our community to do the same. Find ways to continue the invitation to enjoy each other in community- to experience the relaxation that rowing about offers, to enjoy and engage in the fellowship that eating on the beach offers, and to be enriched by the voices and ideas exchanged by friends.

I hope that this year brings a renewed experience of prayer and we understand that all we do and say is prayer. I hope that as we gather and live together in the joy of this St. Paul's Community that prayer is seen as the center of our lives together. I hope that as we look at our simple and sometimes complex daily routines we imagine that it is all prayer; it is all in response to God's hope in us. Even as we wash our faces, walk on the tread mill, mow, rake, rock a baby, knit, read, dream- we are praying. All we do belongs to God. All we do is a prayer. Sometimes reciting words of our conversation with God is helpful; sometimes reading portions of Scripture is helpful; sometimes reading the Prayer Book is helpful. There is no one way to pray. There is no one better way than another to pray. God loves it all! God loves it when we stay in touch.

Praying was also part of Jesus' life and sometimes when he went off alone it was for prayer as well as rest. When he gathered with his friends and the thousands that came to see and hear him, I am sure he had great pleasure in socializing as well. That's the community we represent when we gather at any time. We represent the community that Jesus formed around himself. It was a community of hope, prayer, vision, compassion and joy. That's who we are at St. Paul's and I am so glad to be with you as you gather together again.

## Catechesis Corner



Although it is still summer, we are starting to prepare for the new church school year. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is our program for children aged three through Kindergarten. It is very “hands on” with only short presentations and plenty of choices of activities and materials to work with. We have found over several years that almost all children enjoy it and learn more about the church than one might expect at this young age. All who will be three (or close, we’re flexible) by September are very welcome.

We generally follow the same calendar as the rest of the Church School. This year this means that we will have registration for families after church on September 7<sup>th</sup>, and the first class for children (which will be an orientation to their rooms or ‘atria’) on September 14<sup>th</sup>. We expect to have two classes, though this, and the division of ages, will depend on the number of children who register. If parents, especially from families new to St. Paul’s, could contact Amanda Hubbard (781-275-7857; [hubbard\[at\]psfc.mit.edu](mailto:hubbard[at]psfc.mit.edu)) ahead of time with names that would be a big help. She or Ellen Ryan would be very happy to answer any questions about the program.

We are also looking for volunteers to teach in the classes – both lead teachers who prepare the lessons, and the all-important assistants who help keep each class running safely and smoothly. Youth (sixth grade and up), parents, and other members of the congregation are all invited to help. It is a great way to find out what goes on in the classroom and meet the children, and the schedule is very flexible. Again, please contact Amanda.

Enjoy the rest of August, and we look forward to seeing children and families soon.

Sincerely,

*Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard*

### Middle School Youth Group Update

We hope you all had a great summer - full of fun in the sun and not worrying about a thing. As we start another school year, we are excited to welcome the incoming 6th grade class:

Ben Johnson, Clayton Hafer, Natalie Schalick, Alex Healey and Aisling Keane!

Our first official get-together will be on Sunday, September 7th at 5:00 for our annual pizza party and brainstorming session. Please be sure and mark it on your calendar so you can help think of activities for the coming year, play a fun "get to know you" game, and eat some pizza.

Save the date: This year's Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 1:30. Mrs. Mathews will be sending around additional information and volunteer sign-up information soon! This is a great community service activity where the money raised goes to local community tables (including Bedford and Acton) and aids with global relief efforts. We have had a great turnout over the past 2 years and I encourage all middle schoolers (and their parents, siblings and fellow parishioners) to participate.

This is our third year leading the middle school youth group, and Mrs. Johnson and I look forward to plenty of good discussion, service to the community and of course, fellowship!

*Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Johnson*

### High School Youth Group Update

The high school youth group will kick off the year on Sunday, September 28, at 5:30pm at church. We'll have dinner (probably pizza, unless y'all get adventurous) and are tentatively planning a scavenger hunt around the church. We'll look for interesting and unusual things that you might not notice on Sundays, but that are important to St. Paul's and/or the Episcopal Church in general. Hope to see you then!

We are also looking for HELP: one or two additional card-carrying adults to be part of the youth group experience this year. You don't need to commit for a whole year: even showing up for a single event would be appreciated. Our youth are a precious resource, and we want their life at St. Paul's and in the youth group to be rich and rewarding. If you are interested in working with our fabulous young people, please talk to Emily or John.

*John & Emily Mitchell*

## Elementary Sunday School

Summer is quickly coming to an end, and with it we begin to prepare for a new Sunday school year. St. Paul's Elementary Sunday school program engages our first to fifth graders in an exploration of the life of Jesus, our liturgy, and community awareness.

A registration table will be set up in the Parish hall during coffee hour on Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. I'd like to welcome all new families to come, meet us, and learn more about our elementary, catechesis and nursery programs. We will have pre-filled registration forms for our returning families. Please stop by the table to verify them.

Elementary and Catechesis Sunday school classes will begin on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:45 with singing in the parish hall. We separate at 10:00 for grade specific classes then join the service to participate in the Eucharist. It has been our custom here at St. Paul's to present emerging 5th graders with bibles. The children will be presented their bibles during the service on September 14th.

Working with our children offers such great joy. Many volunteer opportunities are available, and we welcome anyone to participate. Teachers and Assistants are needed. Teaching in the classroom offers not only the obvious wonderful rewards of interacting with our children, but also a deepening of our own spirituality as we prepare and learn from the wonderful open minds of the children. Last year we had great success with our wonderful youth assistants. Any youth (sixth grade and up) who would like to share their gifts with our children are encouraged to volunteer. Singers, storytellers, and readers are also needed to lead the brief 15-minute gathering time before Sunday school classes begin. I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in volunteering for the elementary Sunday school and can be reached at 781 271-9808 or [cathypresti\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:cathypresti[at]comcast.net)

Cathy Presti

## Nursery

The nursery will open beginning Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> to care for our infants and toddlers during the service. As the nursery will be available every Sunday until the summer hours begin again, many volunteers are needed. Parents, youth (sixth grade and up) and other members of the congregation are invited to help. Anyone interested in volunteering in the nursery should contact Sue MacPhee at 781 275-5794 or [JEMacPhee\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:JEMacPhee[at]verizon.net).

Cathy Presti

## **Bedford Day Fair** **Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008** **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 signup sheet in early September. For more information please contact Bruce or Sima Seymourian @ 781 271-0621



## **ACOLYTER AND TORCHBEARER TRAINING THIS FALL**

Anyone interested in being trained as an Acolyte or Torchbearer this Fall, please contact Caroline Larson (781-275-9338) or Frank Fornaro. Adults and children 2nd grade and above are invited. Serving at the altar is a way to serve God and our parish family while learning more about the Eucharist and Episcopal tradition.

## ***Vestry Corner***

Welcome back! The vestry is happy to see so many of you returned from fun-filled vacations over the summer. We hope those of you who traveled did so safely, and those of you who stayed home made the most of the warm, wet weather.

Please join us Sunday, **September 14**, for our annual Vestry Service. Members of the vestry will be participating in all aspects of our worship service: reading, ushering, preaching, and serving at the altar. This is the vestry's chance to offer visible ministry to you in worship, in service to the people of St. Paul's and as a symbol of the less-visible work we do for the parish throughout the year. We hope to see you then.

The next vestry meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17, at 7:30pm in the church library. All are invited to attend.

## **Stewardship**

Summer is a time for relaxation and renewal, and the stewardship committee hopes you all had an excellent time enjoying the bounty of the earth: fresh air, fresh rain, and fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden.

The work of the parish takes no summer break, however: we have bills to pay throughout the year, and we rely on your timely pledge payments to keep the church running smoothly. If you missed a pledge payment or two over the summer, we hope you'll make up the difference in the early fall, to help St. Paul's stay financially healthy through the end of the year. We thank you for your continued support of the parish.



## **NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL**

When we open in September, there will be some big changes at Nursery School. After twenty four years in the school as a teacher and director, Beth Taylor has retired. I will be taking over Beth's position. Although I have been a teacher at St Paul's for thirteen years, Beth leaves me with some big shoes to fill. I am both excited and nervous to begin this new venture.

We are fortunate to have the rest of our staff returning. Christine Jones was a two day teacher last year and she will step into my spot as the pre-k teacher this year. She is a former kindergarten teacher so it should be a good fit. We have hired Maureen Russo to take Christine's two day position. Maureen lives in Bedford. She was a former high school English teacher. Now, after raising three children, she would like to re-enter the teaching world at the other end of the spectrum with the little ones.

My excitement grows as the weather becomes crisp and the days grow shorter and the start of school approaches. I look forward to a long, happy relationship with St Paul's.

Sincerely,

Lee Frank

## Fundraising

### Fundraiser: Dutch Bulbs!

Fall is the perfect time of year to plan for Spring!!  
Information and order forms will be available during coffee hour starting September 7 through September 21

For information contact: Roberta Valday  
781- 275- 9744



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](http://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](http://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.

## St. Paul's Scholarship

As part of our outreach and mission efforts, St. Paul's contributes annually to Bedford's Overnight Graduation Party and to the Citizens Scholarship Foundation of Bedford. The scholarship was awarded on May 28 at the CSF Scholarship Reception. The recipient of this year's St. Paul's Episcopal Church Scholarship is Allison Baker. She will be attending Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida, and will be studying Special Education.

Congratulations and good luck to Allison.

### Keep those tab tops coming!



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



### IT'S TIME TO GATHER AND SING OUR PRAISE AND JOY!

A warm welcome to all returning ADULT CHOIR members and ALSO TO any and all NEW members who may wish to join us this year. We can use new voices, especially in the men's sections. We have a lot of fun at rehearsals, and also cover a wide range of music.

Auditions are not necessary, only a little information about what you have done before and what help you need from me. Please see Joan Reddy in coffee hour on Sunday, email her at [joanreddy\[at\]aol.com](mailto:joanreddy[at]aol.com) or call at 781-862-5898.

The first rehearsal will be on **Thursday, Sept.4 at 7:00 P.M.**, in preparation for singing Sunday, Sept. 7.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR will reconvene on **Sunday, Sept. 14**, immediately after the service. Come one, come all! Let's have the biggest, greatest Children's Choir we can possibly have this year! Singing together is such fun; you don't want to miss it!

We rehearse right after the service, but we have our own cookies, so you don't need to run down the hall to get one first. See you on the 14th!

## Advent Fair Craft Group

The craft group will meet at 7 PM every Wednesday evening beginning September 10th to prepare for the Advent Fair. Meetings will be held at Karen Kruger's home, 14 Alaska Avenue unless otherwise announced. The Crafts Group has held several meetings during the summer and has many projects underway. Some of the items we will be working on this fall include beaded snowflakes and icicles, felt ornaments, boxwood kissing balls, wooden Santa's and more. We are always looking for good ideas and new people are always welcome. The projects are relatively easy and the fellowship is great.

If you are unable to make the crafts sessions but would like to contribute to the craft table at the Advent Fair, we are always in need of knitted, crocheted, or sewn items. This year we will again be making felt Christmas tree ornaments and would love to get ornaments from other members of the church who can't be at craft meetings, but are 'crafty' at home! We also appreciate financial support as the members of the craft group donate all the items we use.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen, 781-275-2016 or [kanakruger\[at\]aol.com](mailto:kanakruger[at]aol.com).

Please come and join us - we need lots of help and ideas.

Thanks,

*Karen Kruger  
Betsey Anderson*



## Basket Committee News



Looking for a new volunteer opportunity without a big time commitment???

The BASKET COMMITTEE is for you~~!!

The St. Paul's Basket Committee is ready to begin working on gift baskets for the annual Advent Fair and we could use your help. There is no big time commitment or skill involved. Please consider coming for 1 hour, 1 session, or just to see what we do!! We will begin meeting Sundays after church (beginning 9/14) and Thursday mornings (9:30 a.m.) at the home of Jan Svendsen (Sweetwater Ave.) If you cannot volunteer to help, please donate items or money to offset the cost of materials. Here are some of the things we could use (new or unused, please):

- bath items (soaps, crystals, etc.)
- decorative towels (tea, hand, bath)
- candles (all shapes and sizes)
- napkins (cloth or paper, any size)
- glass or stemware
- platters, bowls, mugs
- holiday items
- jams, jellies, syrups, coffees
- kitchen utensils
- picnic or party items

Thanks in advance for your time and consideration. If interested in the BASKET COMMITTEE in any way, please talk to Lisa Hafer or Jan Svendsen. Come join the fun!!



# St. Paul's Advent Fair

Saturday, December 6, 2008

The 2008 Advent Fair will feature St. Paul's famous 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 this fall
- Donate materials for baskets and crafts or cash to purchase supplies
- Sew, knit or create decorative items or jewelry for the fair
- 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 huge success. Let's make the 2008 Fair even better.

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

## Just a Reminder!



**Starting September 7<sup>th</sup> the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist will resume**

## Directory Changes/Additions

(Please note the back of your directories)

### e-mail changes

Sharon Healey  
[Sharonshealey\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:Sharonshealey[at]comcast.net)

Paul Ciaccia  
[pciaccia\[at\]aol.com](mailto:pciaccia[at]aol.com)

### New Members

Dori & Mike Pulizzi  
10 Evans Ave.  
Bedford, MA 01730  
781-275-2596

## Parishioners Corner



**Happy 3rd Birthday to Avery Mathews – August 16th.**

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### **Share your news with the parish!**

Each month we would like to publish any news that parishioners may want to share with the parish. It could be a graduation, engagement, wedding, new born baby, personal achievement, etc..

Please e-mail your entry to [info@stpaulsbedford.org](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org) titled "Epistle Entry" on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Your entry will be entered in the following month's Edition. Please keep your entry to 25 words or less.

Thanks!

# Women's Group



## Homecoming Breakfast and more to come.....

**Please save the date - Saturday, September 27th at 8:30 AM – for a fall homecoming breakfast. The location will be announced early in September – we are checking into a few local options.**

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.

Other events for the coming year that are in the planning stages include the following:

- Annual Brunch – March 2009 (any volunteers to host the brunch this year?)
- Discussion of the book The Shack by William P. Young
- A retreat at St. Anne's Convent in Arlington
- A potluck Epiphany breakfast at the church
- A speaker from Esperanza Academy, School of Hope, for middle school age girls

Other ideas include a women's Eucharist, attending a play or concert, an outdoor activity, a meeting with Frank, other speakers or discussions. We need your suggestions and could use help in planning the events.

If you are interested in helping organize events for this group, contact Betsey Anderson, Lynne Wolf, or Roberta Valday.



# Keeping Peace

Put a star by the statements that will help keep peace.

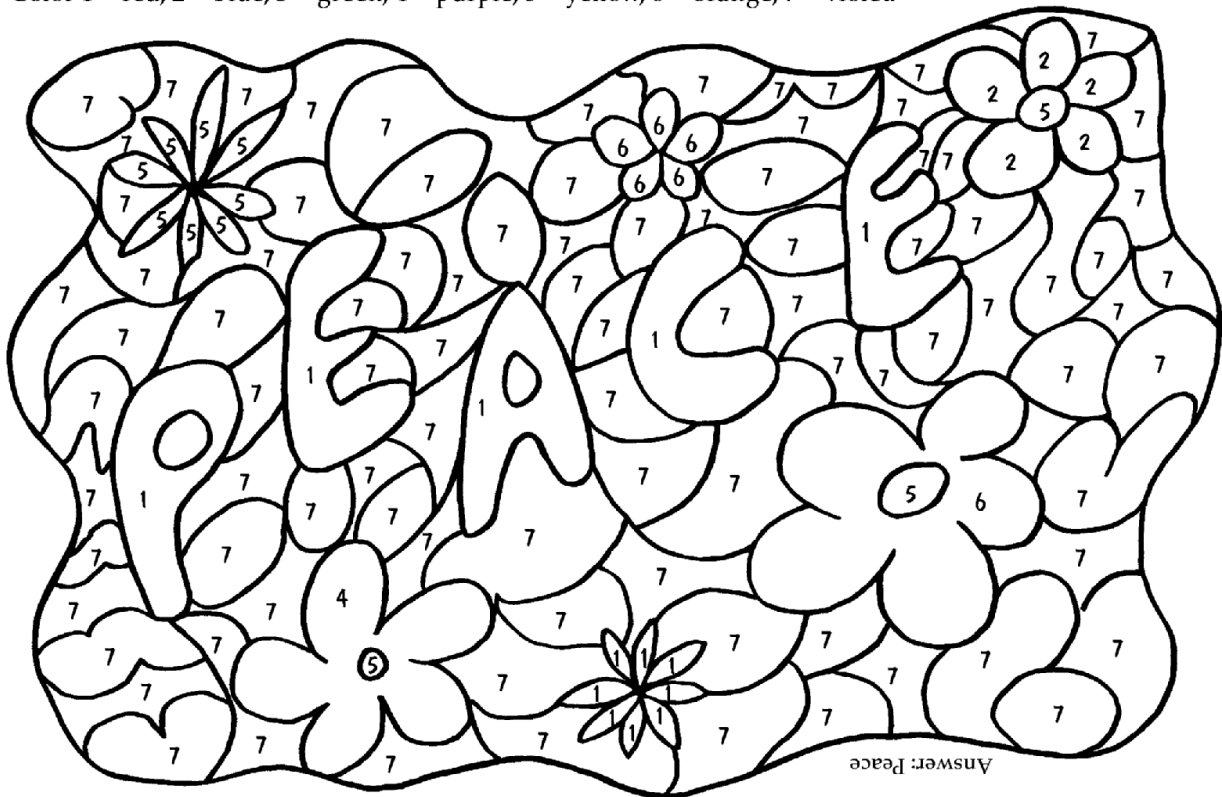
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Make sure that everyone sees your side of an argument and that you get your way. | _____ 9. Find ways to work things out if there is a disagreement.         |
| _____ 2. Forgive someone who has made you angry.  | _____ 10. Tell bad things about other people to your friends.             |
| _____ 3. Take the toy that you want to play with. Fight for it if you have to.            | _____ 11. Try very hard to get along with your brothers and sisters.      |
| _____ 4. If someone comes to play, offer them a toy.                                      | _____ 12. If someone gets hurt and cries, make fun of them.               |
| _____ 5. Use kind words instead of angry words.   | _____ 13. If someone gets hurt, run and get help and try to comfort them. |
| _____ 6. Shout and scream at people if you don't agree with them.                         |   |
| _____ 7. Be a bully. Push and shove people around, especially younger children.           |   |
| _____ 8. Don't repeat bad things you hear about people.                                   |   |

Now cross out the statements that do not have stars.

Answers:  
Stars 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13  
Cross out 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12

## What word do you find here?

Color 1 = red, 2 = blue, 3 = green, 4 = purple, 5 = yellow, 6 = orange, 7 = violet.



**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](mailto: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:*

Andre Barber

Peter Ricci

Sharon Healey

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews

**Collect for St. Paul's**

Ever-loving and nurturing God,

who has called everyone into community:

Grant that St. Paul's may continue to be a place of welcome,  
comfort, and strength; give us courage and compassion as we grow;  
and keep us always in relationship with you and with one another.

All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*