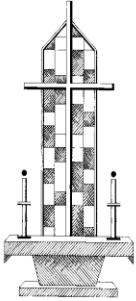


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

September 2010



Dear friends,

"Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for in doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it." This passage from the thirteenth chapter of Paul's letter to the Hebrews, which we heard in church recently, nicely illustrates the concept of welcome that we practice here at St. Paul's.

Over the summer the search committee spent many hours putting together our parish profile. This brief document outlines who we are as a parish, what we value, and what we're looking for in our new rector. Every Sunday we pray that St. Paul's continues to be "a place of welcome, comfort, and strength." Throughout the drafting process, the search committee kept coming back to this idea of welcome. What does it mean to be a welcoming parish? What makes St. Paul's more welcoming than anywhere else? What do we do—and what more *can* we do—to show hospitality to strangers in the ways that the apostle Paul advocates?

For the past several months we have been fortunate to welcome a different priest every Sunday. Working with supply priests has given us not only insight into the ways we do things at St. Paul's—and the ways other priests might do things differently—but also good practice with welcoming a new clergy person into our lives. We are grateful for the hospitality shown to our guest clergy this summer, not only from the altar ministers, who ably assisted with the order of service and the Eucharist, but also from the parishioners in the pews. We heard glowing reports from our visiting priests of the many ways they felt welcome, and welcomed, at St. Paul's.

As we begin our interim period with Rev. Margaret Schwarzer, taking this next step on our roadmap to calling a new rector, we should continue to be mindful of Paul's words to the Hebrews. The coming year will present many joys, but also many challenges that we as a parish will have to work through together. We must let our mutual love continue. We must continue to offer welcome and hospitality to new people in our midst. We look forward to a wonderful new year with all of you.

With blessings,

Emily and Paul

Transitions Call For Open and Discerning Hearts

The Reverend Ms. Margaret Schwarzer

This month, the glories of the summer landscape – hot sun and lush green leaves- begin to be transformed into a softer sun and the bright reds and oranges of fall foliage. Neither landscape is “better” than the other, but they are different. They hold up different beauties, and they require us to change our own sense of beauty if we want to enjoy both the lush summer and the crisp fall. This September at St. Paul’s we, too, will be transitioning. We will be moving from the day of Pentecost, the last big event when the church was gathered before summer vacations, to a re-gathering of the church community, this time without Frank’s wonderful leadership, and with a new priest - me- in your midst. Our ecclesiastical transition will require an openheartedness which is similar to our autumnal openness to the beauty of New England’s changing seasons. We will need to love the lushness of Frank’s past ministry among us while we also keep our hearts alert to all the bright and colorful new graces which God will bring us during our Interim year of resting, seeking, discerning, and renewing. My best prayer for each of us is that we will remember to love the beauty of the past season while we keep our eyes open for the new beauties and the new graces which will emerge among us. Because transitions call us to welcome the new things God is doing among us, this year calls each of us to thoughtful and creative discernment. How are your best gifts being shared at St. Paul’s? What are your deepest desires for St. Paul’s? How is God calling you into the future? When the people of St. Paul’s bring their best gifts and their heartfelt desires together, the future God is calling forth among us will be clear.

Search Committee News

The Search committee has been hard at work developing the church profile that will be used to attract interested candidates and sample questions for the applicants to respond. The committee has also developed a prayer that we hope all parishioners will keep on hand as we move through the process of finding a new rector for our parish.

Our Gracious and Ever-loving God, who is aware of our needs before we ask, look graciously on St. Paul’s in our search for a new rector. Guide and support our search committee and this congregation in the task with which we have been entrusted. Grant that our hearts and minds continually remain open to you and each other. Give us strength as we search, wisdom to discern your will, and trust that you will provide. This we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Vestry Corner

Dear friends,

The vestry has been busy this summer! Every day, some member of the vestry came over to church to walk the perimeter, check the building, and make sure everything in and on our parish property was in good order. Many thanks to each vestry member who helped out. In our time of transition, it’s particularly important that we keep the building and grounds in good condition, and we are grateful for the support of the vestry and other parishioners in making this happen. Special thanks to Bob Godoy, our sexton, and his team for waxing and refurbishing the tile floors throughout the building in the past couple weeks.

And on the subject of property: Earlier this summer, we told you we had applied for a Stokes Loan from the Diocese to undertake a project to improve our draining and redo the back driveway, to help avoid another disaster like the basement floods we experienced last March. The Diocese is still reviewing our application, and we will let you know as soon as we have any decision from them. We are hopeful that the project will be approved and that we can finish the work with minimal disruption to the parish and the nursery school.

Elsewhere in this Epistle, you’ll read about the Homecoming Potluck Brunch we’ll be holding after church on Sunday, September 19. The brunch will be a chance to celebrate the beginning of the program year, as we continue to navigate our time of transition together. We hope you’ll all be able to join us after church on the 19th for good food and good fellowship.

The vestry will meet on Tuesday, September 21, at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

With blessings,

Paul Ciaccia and Emily Mitchell,
co-wardens

HOMECOMING POTLUCK BRUNCH

On Sunday, **September 19**, after church, St. Paul's will hold a Homecoming Potluck Brunch. This fellowship event will be a chance for us to come back together as a parish after our summer in transition, and to officially welcome Rev. Margaret Schwarzer as she begins her tenure with us as our interim priest.

As of this writing, we are still looking for one or two people to coordinate the brunch—making signup sheets, organizing setup and cleanup, and making sure everything goes smoothly that Sunday. If you are interested in helping out, please let Emily or Paul know ASAP.

WHERE DOES ALL THAT MUSIC IN THE SERVICE COME FROM?



As the Vestry and the Search Committee go about their good work of welcoming our Interim Priest and preparing to call our new Priest, I find I have been asked several times about the music in the service, and how it “comes to be” each week.

As your Music Director for the past nine years, I am happy to report on how things have worked for that time, and continue to be, subject to change, of course, with new clergy.

If you look closely at your Sunday bulletin, you will note that there is a great deal of music in our service. Much of it is sung, and some is instrumental only. I choose the Prelude and Postlude music from my own continuing organ and piano repertoire (often with guest or member players joining me), the four Hymns we sing together, and the Choral Literature for the Anthems. The service music, which we have changed for the Advent and Lenten seasons, is researched and suggested by me, and put in place in conjunction with our Priest. On occasion the Priest (resident or visiting) requests a particular hymn to highlight the sermon text.

My choice of Hymns is always informed by, though not limited to, the Episcopal Musicians' Handbook (EMH), which follows the Lectionary readings and the Seasons of the Church Year. Frank and I both always wanted to include hymns from other hymnals; hence our inserts and our One license.net connection. It is not the “purist” approach, but I believe it keeps things in balance to have some variety of style. The EMH includes suggestions for *Lift Every Voice and Sing* and also *Wonder, Love and Praise*.

Our Soloists often choose their own selections and/or ask me for suggestions. The Choral Literature is taken from our existing library, which I have added to considerably through the years, from my own research, from AGO (American Guild of Organists) conventions, and from my own experience in other churches. The Youth Choir music is chosen from several new and old sources in response to their growing numbers, age, and experience.

If you have questions I haven't answered, please feel free to ask me. I feel very privileged to have these responsibilities for St Paul's, and take them very seriously. What a joy it is to join together in singing our praises and thanksgiving to God!

Joan Reddy, Director of Music

LET'S MAKE MUSIC!



To all Choir Members, large and small. It's time to think about Fall rehearsals!

The Adult Choir will have its first rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 7 PM in the library, in preparation for singing in the service, Sunday, Sept. 12. There will also be a rehearsal on Sept 12 at 9 AM. The Youth Choir will have its first rehearsal directly after the service on Sunday, Sept 12. Come up quietly while Joan finishes the Postlude and find the cookies!

Catechesis Corner



The “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” program will be gradually restarting, along with the rest of the Church School program, in September. For those new to St. Paul’s or to the program, this is a Montessori-based curriculum which we offer to children from about 3 years old through Kindergarten. It features very short presentations of materials from church, and basic parables and narratives, and many hands-on materials children can use on their own, for as long or short a time as they wish. We have found in over ten years that it appeals to quiet and active children alike, and in particular to the youngest.

We expect this year to return to running two rooms, or “Atria”. Catechesis I will be the younger group, with several new children. Many of those who have been in the program for a couple years will be moving up to Catechesis II next door, where we can offer new materials and lessons.

Sept 12 will be Registration day. All will be in church, but we will be registering children during coffee hour. If you can’t make it, or have questions, please let us know ahead of time whether your children will be attending this year. This helps us prepare for:

September 19th, Orientation Day. Children will gather together in the parish hall and be taken one or two at a time into their new rooms. This is a very important time since it introduces the space as ‘special’, and expectations for using it – please have your child attend if you can. Parents are welcome to visit too if they wish.

September 26th will be the first full, regular class. We gather in the Parish Hall for music at 9:45, and move into the Atria at 10:00. We’ll probably start by introducing the Altar. Children learn the objects on it and how to set it up – candle-snuffing is always a favorite activity.

As always, we need plenty of people to keep this active program going through the year. Please let us know if you would be willing to help! We particularly invite middle and high school youth, including new sixth graders (many of whom are Catechesis graduates!), to consider whether this is a way you would like to serve St. Paul’s.

Welcome, or welcome back, to all who are involved in Catechesis in any way!

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

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. 12th. I’d like to welcome all families to come, meet us, and learn more about our elementary, catechesis and nursery programs. We will have pre-filled registration forms all ready to verify and sign for our returning families.

Sunday school classes will begin on Sunday, September 19th beginning at 9:45 with singing in the parish hall. After singing, we will separate for grade specific lessons then join the service just before the Eucharistic prayer.

Working with our children offers such great joy. 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 children. More adult and youth volunteers (sixth grade and up) are needed. If you are interested in volunteering, or wish to learn more about our programs, please contact me.

There will be a brief logistical planning meeting just after coffee hour on Sept. 12th in the 4-5th grade classroom. Anyone interested in shaping our Sunday school program, or perhaps simply learning more about it is welcome.

A vital piece in the building of our Elementary Sunday school curriculum has been the lectionary discussions Frank led. I am thrilled that Paul West has offered to lead a discussion on the lectionary each session and Reverend Schwarzer has arranged her schedule to us offering her theological knowledge and insight. Our first liturgical discussion will be held after coffee hour on October 17th in the 4-5th grade classroom. We welcome anyone interested in this liturgical discussion to join us.

Dates to remember:

September 12: Sunday school Registration, during coffee hour

September 12: Sunday school logistical planning meeting, just after coffee hour

September 19: First day of Sunday school

October 3: Family service, children’s sermon

October 17: Sunday school Liturgical Discussion, just after coffee hour

Cathy Presti

High School Youth

HSYG Kick-off Event

Welcome back all High School Youth of St. Paul's!! Hope you had a restful and well deserved summer holiday! As you know, there have been some big changes this year with Frank's departure, but some things do remain the same. Please join us for friendship and fellowship at our kick-off event on Sunday, September 26th at 5:30pm as we greet old friends and make new ones. Come prepared and energized to share your thoughts and ideas for the upcoming year as well. Dinner will be served and friends are always welcome. Please remember to bring an item of some meaning or value to share with the group-- could be a book, a song, a picture or any little something of meaning to you.

Emily & Arthur

Middle School Youth Update!

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a relaxing and fun summer, and that the start of school is going well. Welcome back to our returning 7th and 8th graders and a big hello to our new sixth grade class! We are excited to have you join the Middle School Youth Group and we have a lot of fun activities lined up:

KICK-OFF PIZZA PARTY: Please join us for pizza, dessert, ice breaker games and planning for our year on Sunday, September 12th at 5:00 in the Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to get together, share summer vacation stories and get ready for the fun year ahead. Please let Mrs. Mathews know if you can attend so we can order the right amount of pizza (and bake enough cookies!)

IN-CLASS DISCUSSION: Our first in-class discussion will take place during the church service on Sunday, October 3rd. This is an opportunity to talk about different issues of interest to the group and share ideas.

CROP WALK FOR HUNGER: Mark your calendars: the Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, October 17th at 1:30. This will be our 5th year participating in the Crop Walk for Hunger, which is a 7K walk through historic Concord and the North Bridge. Monies raised from this annual event go to fund global hunger relief efforts and local community tables like the Bedford Community Table.

See you soon!

Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker

Notes from the Nursery School



The heat is waning as school starts and we return to our classrooms with freshly painted walls. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to paint the rooms. I am sure it was not easy to do with all the heat and humidity this summer. You all did a great job. It looks wonderful! Also thank you for assistance with the office moves. Although we are a separate entity, I feel much support from the parish for which I am grateful.

I am pleased to report that all the teachers will be returning to school this year. We are about to plan our fall activities and our bulletin boards should start to take on the look of our fall themes. Our first field trip to Drumlin Farm in October is now in place.

Enrollment is ongoing. Our five day program is full. We unexpectedly lost three children to out of town moves this summer so we are looking to fill those spaces in our three day program as well as a few openings we already had. Our two day class has three openings at this time.

Once again, thank you. It was a treat to return to the lovely yellow walls.

Lee Frank

St. Paul's Advent Fair **Saturday, December 4, 2010**



The 2010 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, vintage jewelry, 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 – these are fun and all are welcome
- Donate materials for baskets and crafts or cash to purchase supplies
- Sew, knit or create decorative items or jewelry for the fair
- Volunteer to be a table coordinator or to help on the day of the fair
- Share any preserves, jams, jellies, pickles, relishes, etc. that you make with the Country Kitchen
- Donate good used items and books as well as vintage jewelry
- 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 2010 Fair even better.

We especially need help in organizing the Fair this year – a few more volunteers would really help. Contact Betsey Anderson with your ideas or to volunteer to help.

Watch for a planning meeting in early September!

Gift Baskets for the Advent Fair



First of all, thanks to all of you who have dropped off items for the gift baskets. Your generosity is much appreciated. We're excited and looking forward to another fun, productive year. We will, as in past years, continue to have workshops after church on Sundays starting **September 26th**. We will also have a morning workshop during the week, probably on

Thursdays, but still to be determined. We hope you will participate in any or all of these fun and fellowship filled workshops. You don't need to have any particular talent. Workshops will be held at **Jan Svendsen's** home. We will still be needing contents for the baskets as time goes on, and will keep you posted. Again, many thanks for your interest and your donations.

Jan Svendsen

Other people you can contact include Jan Gurley, Jan Blake, Lisa Hafer, Sharon Healey, Carol Hokana, Linda Kuramoto, Joanna Nickerson, Ellen Ryan, Rene Seaton, Sima Seymourian, Natalie Wicks, Sharon Witbeck

Save the Dates: Women's Group Calendar

The women at St. Paul's have planned a year of activities for fellowship and entertainment. Please join us for some if not all of the fun. In addition, we are working on scheduling our yearly book discussions as well as some other events. More information on both the scheduled and "to be determined" activities will be announced soon. Feel free to contact Mary Curlew if you have any questions, want more information, can't wait to help or sign up for an event, or have any other ideas to add to this year or next year's schedule.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 10/2/2010 | Homecoming breakfast, Stelio's Restaurant, Billerica |
| 11/27/2010 | Trip to the Christmas Revels, Sanders Theater, Cambridge
<i>(our own Ben Woodward will be performing)</i> |
| 1/15/2011 | Potluck Breakfast at St. Paul's |
| 2/5/2011 | Retreat at Barbara Harris Camp, Greenfield, NH |
| 3/12/2011 | Trip to the Museum of Russian Icons and then out to lunch |
| 4/3/2011 | Annual Brunch at Mary Curlew's home, Bedford |

OUTREACH NEWS



Knitters! We have yarn for Linus blankets, baby hats or shawls.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE SEEKS MEMBERS

St. Paul's Outreach committee is planning for our next year of projects, beginning with our traditional Advent Giving Tree. Anyone interested in joining the Outreach committee is welcome to attend our meeting on Sunday, September 26 after the service. Questions? Contact Caroline Larson.



Thanks to all who continue to participate in the "Tab" program, which supports the Shriner's Burn Hospital.

Keep them coming!

Also, Ed Lawrence continues to collect cans and bottles for the deposits, which helps assist the National Guard Veterans with their expenses.



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.

Don't forget to click through!



If you planning to do a any Amazon shopping in the near future, don't forget to visit the St. Paul's website first! Go to **www.stpaulsbedford.org** and click the Amazon link on the left sidebar. You'll be directed to Amazon's site, where you can shop as usual -- but every purchase you make will earn a little money for St. Paul's. Thanks for your support!

Bedford Day

Bedford Day is approaching quickly and will be held on **September 25th** this year. St. Paul's runs a booth selling home baked goodies. We also run our Spinner Art machine for the children. Rather than frame this as a plea for help, consider this an invitation to truly enjoy each others company in a casual setting. If you sell a few items that is a bonus. Please join us for any portion of the day that you are able to. As always, we will be looking for people to bake goods for us to sell. Look for sign up sheets in September. Thanks a million!

Sima Seymourian

Parishioners Corner

Welcome Ryan James Ciaccia, son of Jeremy and Erin Ciaccia, born on August 25th and weighing in at 7 lb 4oz.

Happy Belated 5th Birthday to Avery Mathews!



**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 Ms. Margaret Schwarzer, Interim Priest
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator
Joan Reddy, Music Director
Bob Godoy, Sexton

Officers:

Emily Mitchell and Paul Ciaccia, Co-Wardens
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Dori Pulizzi, Clerk

Vestry:

Lisa Hafer,
Sharon Healey
Carol Hokana
John MacPhee
Natalie Wicks
David Woodward

September Prayer

May you have -
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks bedside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire
Celtic Blessing

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Rev. Henry Bird, St. Paul's first priest-in-charge and rector, recently sent us a few historical documents he had found in his files. Below is the invitation to the ceremony held fifty years ago this month, when the land on which St. Paul's now stands was blessed and dedicated. This was also the occasion of the famous "upside-down sign gag," memorialized in the History display, put together for St. Paul's 50th anniversary, that hangs in the main hallway of the parish.

A CORDIAL INVITATION TO OUR LAND DEDICATION CEREMONY AND FAMILY OUTING

On Saturday, September 8 at 3:00 P.M., we are expecting the Rt. Rev. Norman B. Nash to officiate with the Rev. William H. Clark, Rector of Trinity Church, Concord, and our own Rev. Henry L. Bird at our LAND DEDICATION CEREMONY. This ceremony will take place at the new church site on Pine Hill Road opposite the home of Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Morris. (The land officially became ours on August 24th.) At this time our SITE SIGN will be unveiled, announcing the new name for our mission!

Immediately following the official ceremonies, we have planned a FAMILY OUTING, including all sorts of games for children and adults, and a community song-fest. At 5:00 P.M. a family supper will be provided, with barbequed hot dogs and hamburgs, potato chips, cold drinks, ice cream and so on. Any proceeds from our supper sale will be given to the Building Fund.

For most of us this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in a ceremony of this kind. We hope that every family in the mission will make a sincere effort to be present!

So that the committee may plan on the amount of food to be bought, will you please return the enclosed card BY SEPT. 4th to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph J. Lynch
115 North Road, Bedford, Mass.
indicating the NUMBER OF PERSONS in your family and guests who will be present.

Faithfully yours,
The Committee
The Ralph Lynchs
James Cooks
Roland Coates
and Charles Hammonds

P.S. Of course it won't - BUT - in case of rain, come on the 15th!