

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

Summer 2008

Dear Friends,

On Sunday the 18th we heard the story of Creation as told by the writers of Genesis. I shared it with the children and the rest of the congregation that day. I only discussed the working part of God's work. I told what God *did* on each day. What I did not discuss and should have was what God did on the day when the work was done. This is what God did - God rested. God stopped doing and started resting, relaxing and enjoying what was done. I was told many years ago by a theology professor of the Hebrew Scriptures that God **created** rest. Just like all the gifts of creation God also gives us the gift of rest.

Yes! This is the annual message about going too fast, going too long, being busier and busier and believing somehow that that is what is good. Somehow we believe that the harder we work, the longer our day and the better we are. Everything indicates otherwise. We become overtired. Perhaps, we become irritable. Maybe we don't pay enough attention to those around us. We don't value rest as much as we should. It seems we spend a lot of time talking about needing it. And yet it is there for the taking. God gave it to us. God modeled it for us.

The spring and the fall invite us into the idea of rest. Perhaps it's because of the weather or the beauty of the earth that is so vibrant. Perhaps the invitation to be outdoors with one another or alone sometimes gives us permission to take more time for ourselves. It is easier to travel in summer unencumbered by the weather of winter and the weight of clothing we have to carry for comfort.

I know many of us are thinking about vacation, time away from the ordinary patterns of our lives. It is a good thing to ponder and a better thing to do. I hope everyone takes time either at home or away to dream new dreams, play new games, gather around grills and lakes and oceans. I hope everyone has some time to just rest. Copy God!

I wonder if God walked around on that day and just observed what was emerging in creation. I wonder if God sat and dreamed about the possibilities of life and creation begun in the work. I wonder if God touched the water, basked in the sunlight, caressed the animals and smiled at the birds of the air. I wonder if God looked, just looked, and let it all be a gift. That is what we should do in our rest. Notice all the gifts God has given and continues to give us. Notice the love we receive from our families and friends and the joy we receive from the creation around us.

Enjoy these days. I hope they are not reserved just for summer months. I hope we can hold onto the gift of time that God has given us. I hope the gift of rest, created from the start, is something we use in every season.

Blessings for a joyous, restful and fun filled summer to you all.

Catechesis Corner



The Catechesis year is drawing to a close. Only two more classes left – June 1 and June 8th (note there will NOT be a Family Sunday this month). We have enjoyed meeting with all of the children throughout the year and are pleased to see that most have kept attending regularly and seem to be enjoying class, and that our classes have even grown a little due to newcomers. On June 8th we will give out certificates, and join the rest of the church school for Ice Cream after church, so please try to attend if you can.

Our most important message this month is THANK YOU to all the many people who have taught and assisted throughout the year! Lead teachers have been Carol Hokana, Sharon Keane, and Amanda Hubbard in Catechesis I, and Lisa Hafer, Ron Presti, Louisa Saladino-Kuhl, Deborah Regan and Ellen Ryan in Catechesis II. Assistant teachers included Jan Blake, Christine Andersen, Emma Healey, Miranda Keane, Shea Kuhl, Helen Kissel, Lori Murphy, Barbara Perry, Timothy Ryan, Elle Thompson and Tommy Waghorne (very sorry if I've missed anyone). **You are all invited to a Teacher Appreciation Brunch after church on Sunday, June 15th.**

We would also like to hold a short meeting after church on June 1st. This will be time to share notes and ideas from the recent Catechesis and Safe Church trainings some of us attended recently, and start thinking about next year.

Speaking of next year, it would be a big help in our planning if families could let us know in advance of any new children who will be starting the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program in September. Any who will be three years old by the fall are welcome, and we'd especially like to know about families new to St. Paul's. Please contact Amanda Hubbard (781-275-7857 or hubbard@psfc.mit.edu) with names and any questions about the program.

We wish all our children, teachers and their families a fun, safe and restful summer!

Sincerely,

Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard

Middle School Youth Group Update

Our last in-class discussion of the year will be held on June 1st, please be sure and drop by the library to participate. On June 15th, look for many members of the youth group in this year's Youth Sunday celebration, which also takes place on Father's Day.

As summer begins, we want to congratulate Elle Thompson and Helen Kissel as they graduate from John Glenn Middle School and enter Bedford High this fall. Of course, it is bittersweet for us as both Elle and Helen have been strong participants and contributors to the group. But, we know that they will continue to be active in the High School Youth Group and we'll see them at joint events next year. Thank you for everything over the past 2 years and best of luck!

To everyone else, thank you for making this year so great! We continued with some old traditions (Crop Walk, cookie baking, rock climbing) and tried some new ones (Special Olympics, snow tubing). Look for an email from us in late summer so we can reconvene with new youth group members and old in early September to get things going for next year. And yes, what would a fall get together be without bacon pizza?!

Have a happy, safe and hot summer!

Mrs. Mathews and Mrs. Johnson

High School Youth Group Update

Celebrate Youth Sunday with us! On Sunday, June 15, we'll once again feature our high school and middle school youth during our regular worship service. This is always a wonderful Sunday -- a great way for the youth to minister to the congregation, and for the congregation to see just what terrific young ladies and gentlemen we are proud to count among our church family.

Please note that we will hold a rehearsal for the service after church on Sunday, June 8. On Youth Sunday itself, please be at church by 9:00am, looking sharp (Easter-style finery would be appropriate).

Thank you all for another great year!

John & Emily Mitchell

Elementary Sunday School

Summer is here and with summer comes the close of our Sunday school year. We'll celebrate our last day of Sunday school on June 8th with an ice-cream social during coffee hour. I would like to thank all the teachers who created, planned, taught, sang, and gave precious attention to our children this year: Stacy Schalick, Sima Seymourian, Christine Thompson, Nicky Blackburn, Natalie Wicks, Andre Barber, Andrea Hayes, Susan Adamick, Becky Ricci, Tina Blackburn, Liz DeRose, Eric Wicks, Jacob Seymourian, Amanda Hubbard, Ellen Ryan, Doug Sharpe, and Karin Baker.

Cathy Presti

St. Paul's Day at the Harris Camp

Come one, come all! We had a terrific day of fun and fellowship at the Barbara C. Harris Camp in New Hampshire last summer. We had so much fun that we've decided to do it again. Mark your calendars for **SATURDAY, AUGUST 23**. We'll meet at the church in the morning and travel together up to the camp, where we'll swim, kayak, play in the sand, and share a cookout lunch. More information will come later in the summer. For now, please sign up on the sheet located just outside the parish hall and indicate if you'd like transportation.



ADVENT FAIR -- GIFT BASKET COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!!



Just a little reminder that as you are out and about in your travels this summer, please think about picking up some non-perishable items for the gift baskets. I won't list what we can use, as there was a list of suggestions in last month's Epistle. However, appropriate Christmas, bath, garden, teacher, children's themed items would be appreciated as well as baskets and ribbons for bows.

Thanks, and have a great summer.

Jan Svendsen and the Basket Committee

NEWS FROM ST. PAUL'S WEEKDAY NURSERY SCHOOL



We are at our year-ending point of sending the 5 year olds off to Kindergarten. It is a time marked with pride in their accomplishments yet sadness to see them leave. This year it is remarkable for me as I am also moving on in a different direction. After 24+ years of teaching at St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School, I am experiencing this mixed "leaving home" feeling. I have had the opportunity to enjoy hundreds of children, meet talented families and work creatively with staff. I have appreciated the support of caring members of St. Paul's Church.

In September the preschool will begin a new year under the Directorship of Mrs. Lee Frank. She was hired by Jean McCaffrey in 1994 and has been a valued professional here ever since. Mrs. Frank has for many years taught the 5-day class and is known for her enthusiasm & hard work for the success of everyone at school!

So, thank you for everything that has made my preschool career the very best job in the world. I will miss you. I wish everyone well and will keep in touch.

Beth Taylor

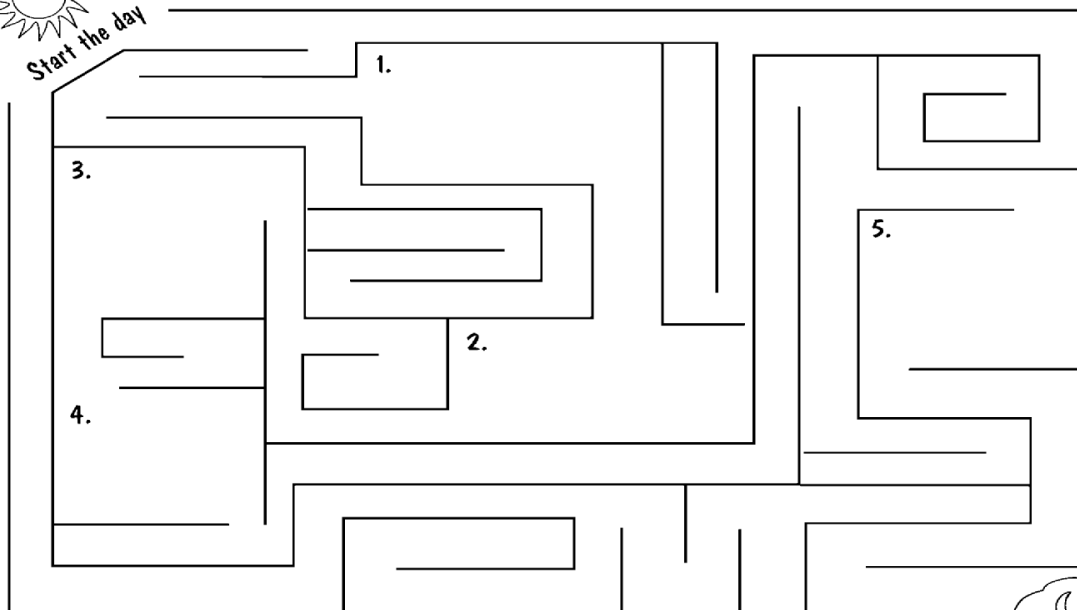
Maze

Jesus is with us in everything we do. Go through the maze and fill in each station with:

1. something fun to do.
2. a way that you can help around the house.
3. your favorite subject at school.
4. something nice you could do for someone.
5. a good friend you like to play with.



Start the day



End of the day



Now think of 5 things to thank God for at the end of this day

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Thrift Sale

St. Paul's annual Thrift Sale has always been a wonderful opportunity for the congregation to gather for an event to recycle what God has given us while providing goods and clothing at very reasonable prices to people in our community. There is also the benefit of raising some money to support our budget.

This year the Thrift Sale will be on Saturday, June 21st from 9-2.

How you can help.

- 1) Please start collecting the goods you would like to donate. These should include:
 - Clothing of all sizes and for all ages.
 - Household goods - white elephant type objects
 - Children's toys - but we need those in reasonable shape - and with most or all of their pieces. Note that most stuffed animals and give away toys (Burger King/McDonalds) just don't sell.
 - Books, CDs, Videos, etc.
 - 2) Bring your goods to St. Paul's on one of the scheduled drop off times. These times will be announced shortly.
 - 3) Sign-up to help in one or more of these areas:
 - Publicity
 - Setup
 - Help during the fair
 - Cleanup after the fair
- To sign-up contact Sharon Witbeck (witbecks@comcast.net, 978 663-3826) or Ron Presti (ronpresti@comcast.net , 781 271-9808) or visit the Sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Parish Hall. All are welcome to stop by to help even if you haven't signed up.
- 4) Come by the day of the sale to purchase some wonderful treasures.

Also, if you would like the goods that remain after the sale to go to a particular charity or need please let us know.

Faithfully,
Sharon Witbeck & Ron Presti

Advent Fair Crafters

The craft group will meet during the spring and summer to prepare for the Advent Fair.

The meeting schedule for spring and summer follows along with a tentative list of projects. The group will set the fall schedule at the Aug. 27th meeting. All of these projects are relatively easy and new people are always welcome. Come and try it out!

All meetings will be on Wednesdays and will begin at 7 PM.

Date	Craft Project
June 4	Beaded kissing balls and trees
June 25	Finish Kissing balls
July 2	Wooden crèches
July 30	Water bottle snowmen
August 6	Finish snowmen
August 27	Finish something or start a new project

We will meet at Karen Kruger's house for the first few sessions – 14 Alaska Ave., 781-275-2016, kanakruger@aol.com. Please come and join us - we need lots of help and ideas.

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.

Thanks,

*Karen Kruger
Betsey Anderson*



OUTREACH NEWS

Knitting Ministry

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Linus Blankets, including those who buy yarn, knit, crochet and sew blankets together. This year we sent off 40 blankets including the 5 we gave to Michael for his ministry on the Gulf coast.

Most of our blankets will go to Children's Hospital in Boston to comfort children in difficult medical situations. Families enjoy seeing the colorful blankets on top of the incubators and they are treasured by the older kids on the pediatric ward.

We are planning to make some blankets for families who move into the Habitat housing, so keep those squares coming!

If you have questions, contact Caroline Larson 781-275-9338 SAILSK8@aol.com



Gaining Ground



Gaining Ground is a non-profit organization that operates 9 acres of farmland at 315 Virginia Road in Concord, MA. The farm grows 100% organic vegetables and fruit with the help of volunteers and donates all of this fresh produce to shelters, food pantries, meal programs, and other hunger-relief programs throughout Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts. With an operating budget of \$130,000 the farm grows approximately 20,000 pounds of produce each year. Some local meal programs estimate that they save \$1,000 a month when the farm's produce is available. In addition to providing the produce, Gaining Ground offers volunteers the opportunity to learn about organic agriculture techniques and the local environment.

Our plans for St. Paul's to help with gardening at Gaining Ground are still in the works. Our June 1 date is cancelled. Stay tuned for announcements about how you can help.

For more information, contact Ron Presti RonPresti@comcast.net

Keep those tab tops coming!



Tab tops continue to be sent to the Shriner's Burn Hospital, which in turn are combined with other organizations tabs. The tabs contain metal which the Shriner's Hospital extracts and sells. All proceeds are used to help pay bills for the families that incur debts when they stay at various hotels to be near their children, who are in the Shriner's Hospital.



Fundraising

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. Pauls 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.

Directory Changes/Additions for 2008 to Date

(Please note the back of your directories)

New Members

Jeffrey Zwicker
4 Gloria Circle
Burlington, MA 01803
(781)273-2117

Arthur & Holly Ferguson
22 Jeffrey Road
Billerica, MA 01821
(617)840-0780

Kirk & Carolyn Martin
27 Hayden Lane
Bedford, MA 01730
cmartin@summitbedford.com

Alex & Susan Brough
10 Daniels Drive
Bedford, MA 01730

Change of Address

Eileen Larson
Carleton Willard Village
125 Caswell
Bedford, MA 01730

Anne Abbott
The Victorian Assisted Living
389 Orleans Rd.
No. Chatham, MA 02650-1173

Stephen & Debbie Lee
45 Shawsheen Road, #21
Bedford, MA 01730

Parishioners Corner



Please congratulate Betsey Anderson next time you see her - she received a big promotion and is now the University Budget Director at Tufts University!

Congratulations to David Wolf, son of Lynne & Jerry and brother of Becky Ricci, who will receive the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance from The Ohio State University School of Music on June 8th.



Just a Reminder!



**Starting June 29th
up to and including August 31st our Sunday Service
of Holy Eucharist will be held at 9:00 a.m.**

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

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 titled "Epistle Entry" on or before the 20th of the month. Your entry will be entered in the following month's Edition. Please keep your entry to 25 words or less. Thanks!

**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:

Andre Barber

Peter Ricci

Sharon Healey

Sue Runkle

John MacPhee

Heather Marasa

Carrie Mathews

A Prayer of Gratitude

If our mouths were as full of song as the sea
and our tongues as full of melody as the endless waves,
and our lips as full of praise as the heavens,
and our eyes as bright as the sun and moon,
and our hands outstretched like eagle's wings
and our feet as swift as a gazelle's,
we still could not thank You enough for
the thousands upon thousands of favors
You have bestowed upon us and our ancestors.

A Jewish Prayer

Maze

Jesus is with us in everything we do. Go through the maze and fill in each station with:

1. something fun to do.
2. a way that you can help around the house.
3. your favorite subject at school.
4. something nice you could do for someone.
5. a good friend you like to play with.

Start the day

1.

3.

4.

2.

5.

End of the day

Now think of 5 things to thank God for at the end of this day

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Fill in the letters

On the spaces write the letters that come before each of the letters below the space.

J D B N F U I B U U I F Z N B Z

I B W F M J G F B O E I B W F

J U B C V O E B O U M Z . John 10:10

Answer: I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.