

ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

Summer 2009

Dear Friends,

This June letter always reminds me about how much summertime offers. The other day, a warm one, I was sitting on the deck at the back of my house just looking at a pine tree. For the longest time that was all I did. I just sat and looked. At one point I wondered what God was hoping would happen as I sat and looked. I thought of all of you having time this summer to stop and look. I hope you have that time. I hope you make that time for yourselves.

Somehow sitting and looking doesn't fit into what we think is productive or a good work ethic or what God expects of us. And yet God did the very same thing at the end of the beginning of Creation. On the day when creation took its first steps, which continues to this very day, God stopped and looked and judged it all to be good and God rested. I imagine God sat and looked at the beauty that was emerging. I imagine that God was excited about the possibilities that were launched that day. I imagine God was excited about the possibilities of abundant love that would permeate the world through all that was made, especially in the life of the people that God created and loves.

God knew that the work of living, creating, and sustaining life each day would be hard as well as rewarding. God knew that the toil of women and men would be demanding sometimes seemingly impossible. God knew that if there was not some way to model rest that we would never stop. And so God showed us in the very burst of the creating experience that resting was one of the ends of work. Our work is varied. For some of us, work is going to an office or a place of business everyday. For some it is going to school, caring for another, working in the household. No matter how we spend our time, our energy, our spirit, our emotions, it is work that keeps God's constant creating moving forward. Like God, we are called to find time to rest. We should find that time throughout the year. Summer, however, seems to be the time when we are most willing to slow down, take a rest, row a boat, look at a pine tree, dream pleasant dreams.

Summer is at the door. I hope you all make time to stop and rest. Find it for yourselves. Go away to cabins, weekends, and day trips with your families. Sit in your window and look out into the world God continues to make for you. Relax and enjoy it.

God has declared that all that is in creation is good (Genesis 1:31). This marvelous creation of sea, lakes, trees, families and friends are God's gifts to us. Let's accept these gifts with great gratitude and use them all to our refreshment and nurture.

God bless your leisure time this summer. God bless your quiet days, the days filled with friends and families, BBQ's, canoeing, sailing, swimming, traveling and all the ways you find pleasure in God's gifts.

CATECHESIS CORNER



Dear Catechesis families – or should we say family since it seems by now as though the children, parents and teachers are one big community. Everyone seems so comfortable and happy in the Atrium, and with each other.

While we have had had several big events and presentations this session, including Easter stories, our “Liturgy of the Light” celebration, some of the most special moments are when each child is engaged in his or her own hand-on activity, pouring into cruets, washing a plant, or working with figures from a previous lesson and thinking the story through. This is what the “Catechesis of the Good Shepherd” program is all about.

By the time you get this Epistle, our year will be winding up. The LAST CLASS for Catechesis I and II, as with the rest of the Church School, will be May 31st, our big Pentecost celebration. We will hand out certificates, and send home folders of art work, so please try to have your children attend. Particularly for the Kindergarten children, who will be leaving our Atria after several years with us, we want a proper ending.

The next Sunday, June 7th, will be teacher appreciation Sunday, with a brunch after church. We hope all who have contributed during the year will be able to attend. Since we no longer read all the names in church, I want to publicly thank everyone here. First, **Ellen Ryan** for co-leading the program, and continuing as a Catechist after so many (10?) years. Our other regular lead Catechists include **Lisa Hafer, Carol Hokana, Sharon Keane and Ron Presti**. Some have taught all year, some a few sessions, and somehow we always had just enough. Thanks to **Louisa Saladino-Kuhl** for filling in when needed.

A large and faithful group of assistant teachers make the classes run smoothly and safely. These include **Jan Blake, Emma Healey, Aisling and Miranda Keane, Helen Kissel, Shea Kuhl, Sue MacPhee, Lori Murphy, Barbara Perry, Sarah Regan, Timothy Ryan, Natalie Shalick, Elle Thompson, Eric Wicks** (I fear I’ve forgotten some). Last but not least, **Tommy Waghorne**, who has been assisting since sixth grade and is now a graduating senior! All our youth are great role models for the younger ones.

Thank you to families for entrusting us with your lovely children – we have enjoyed getting to know many new ones during the year. We do believe they have learned a lot, each in his or her own way. And we Catechists have too! Remember that children are welcome during services over the summer, or any time. They should now understand more of what they are seeing and hearing.

We haven’t yet begun to think much about next year, but as summer arrives, please consider whether you will be willing to help with the program next year – we especially need more people willing to lead, even occasionally. Please talk to Amanda Hubbard or to Frank. Also, please let us know of new children who may be enrolling in the fall – anyone who will be three years old (or close) is very welcome!

Sincerely,

Amanda Hubbard

Elementary Sunday School

It's hard to believe that summer is upon us. We will celebrate our last day of Sunday school on Pentecost – Sunday May 31st. We'll be scooping our traditional end of the year ice-cream during coffee hour. This year we will also be celebrate our confirmands with cake so it will be a wonderful festive coffee hour – cake, ice cream, and joy all around. During Sunday school, the children will be making small paper kites. Doug Sharpe and I plan to go to a local field from 12-1 to give the children an opportunity to fly the kites. Bruce Seymourian has donated large kites so he can have both running kites as well as ones that soar up high. Please join us for this short, fun celebration of the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday, June 7th, there will be a brunch in the library following coffee hour to honor and thank all the volunteers who have worked with our children this year. Our elementary Sunday school program thrived this year. Each week we enjoyed the wonderful insight, energy and enthusiasm of the children. It has been such a joy to watch each child grow strengthening both spirituality and community as the weeks passed.

I'd like to thank all the teachers who made the elementary Sunday school program possible this year. I'd like to thank our lead teachers: **Christine Thompson, Nicky Blackburn, Dori Pulizzi, Sima Seymourian, Becky Ricci, Stacy Schalick, Natalie Wicks and Carol Wait**. I'd also like to thank our assistant teachers insure the classes run smoothly **Susan Adamik, Shanie George, Mary Curlew, Lisa Hafer, Deborah Regan, Shanie George, Tina Blackburn, Andrea Hayes, Eric Wicks, Elle Thompson and Ron Presti**. Each week we begin by gathering in the parish hall and singing. Thank you to all our volunteers who have led the gathering singing: **Ellen Ryan, Amanda Hubbard, John Mitchell, and Carolyn Martin**. I'd also like to thank **Louisa Saladino-Kuhl** for writing a Epiphany skit that was absolutely loved by the children.

I am just beginning to prepare for next year. Our calendar and registration information will be emailed later as well as placed in the September epistle. There are many ways to help out both in and outside the classrooms. I welcome anyone interested in helping out with next year's program to speak with me.

Cathy Presti

Middle School Youth Group Update

Just over 3 years ago, the parents of the rising 6th grade class came to us (Carrie and Suzanne) to gauge our interest in starting a middle school youth group. As you well know, we agreed to co-lead the group and we are so proud and excited to see our first 6th graders graduate from 8th grade this June. Thank you to each and every one of you for your participation, input, community spirit and your willingness to help create this group. Best of luck as you enter high school next year - we know the best is yet to come!

Our 8th grade class:

Cassie Baker	Jamie Craven
Emma Healey	Miranda Keane
Shea Kuhl	Timothy Ryan
Jacob Seymourian	Eric Wicks

Our last in-class discussion for the school year will be held on Sunday, June 7th. Please make every effort to attend as we will be celebrating our great year and brainstorming activities for next year!

Happy Summer!
Carrie Mathews and Suzanne Johnson

High School Youth

May 30 was a day of great celebration, when four members of St. Paul's were confirmed by Bishop Bud Cederholm at Church of the Redeemer in Lexington. Youth members Helen Kissel, Elle Thompson, and Tommy Waghorne, along with adult member Jeff Zwicker, received the rite of confirmation after many weeks of study and reflection. We welcome our young people as new adults in the eyes of the parish. Special thanks to Arthur Fergusson for ably leading the confirmation classes.

We have three high school graduates this year: Heather Marasa (off to Bridgewater State), Kim Runkle (UMass-Amherst), and Tommy Waghorne (Westfield State). All three have been exceptional stewards and ministers of St. Paul's, and we will miss them terribly! Congratulations on taking an important step in your life's journey.

Thanks to all our youth group members for a wonderful year. We are grateful for your service to St. Paul's as youth members, altar ministers, teachers, and friends, and we look forward to another great year.

Best,
Emily & John Mitchell

Update from Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee was appointed by the Vestry and has been meeting since December. Its goal is to develop a plan for St. Paul's Church for the next three to five years. The plan will focus on the areas of (1) Spirituality and Christian Community, (2) Governance and (3) Capital Needs especially as the parish continues to grow. In the first phase of its work, the committee is meeting with all parish committees and groups to understand their needs, goals and dreams for the future. In the fall, the committee will plan focus groups and visioning opportunities for the parish.

Please contact the committee with any questions. Committee members are Betsey Anderson, Chairman, Paul Ciaccia, Suzanne Johnson, Paul Kruger, Ken Larson, John MacPhee, Barbara Perry, Louisa Saladino-Kuhl and Frank Fornaro.

St. Paul's 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 reasonable prices to people in our community. The Thrift Sale is a parish wide fundraiser that contributes to our budget and all are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

This year the Thrift Sale will be on **Saturday, June 20th 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.
 - New and used 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, DVDs, 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 Ron Presti 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 fair to purchase some wonderful treasures and enjoy some fellowship.

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

Faithfully,
Ron Presti

Dear Father Frank, Chuck, Louisa, Joan, and all the cast and crew,



Wow! There's not much more to say except what a tremendous show!! St. Paul's Tonight "Hooray for Hollywood:" was outstanding, and for that you should feel so happy and proud of your accomplishment. You know me, though, and I believe there's a lot more to say.. In fact, I must tell you that you left something out which sums up the entire performance. You left out the number "Can you Feel The Love Tonight" from "The Lion King" because that is what I felt from the first time I saw the children on stage to Emma Pulizzi's "Dorothy" solo, to Frank and Chuck's "Together" duet, to the "Sisters" act (I have 4 of them), to the Jan's and Ginny & Company of ladies acting their hearts out, to Charles singing to his daughters and to the whole company singing "What a Wonderful World". You did it, you made me cry; you made me feel the love, the commitment, the determination, the fellowship, the friendship, the hard work, the joy, the gifts God gave us, the happiness of being a community. But mostly, the love. And for that, I am truly grateful!
Bravo, Lisa Hafer

VESTRY CORNER

Dear friends,

As I write this, the weatherman is promising a high temperature in the 90s tomorrow. It seems like a perfect time to look ahead to the summer.

Many of us will head off for different places and new adventures this summer, but the work of St. Paul's and the work of the vestry continues.

As you'll read elsewhere in this Epistle, the service schedule will shift to 9:00am beginning June 28. Frank and I will be sending periodic emails this summer in lieu of the Epistle, to keep you up to date on events at St. Paul's and any other information that may come up in July and August.

Thank you all for your kindness and help during my first few months as senior warden. Please feel free to speak to me or any member of the vestry if you have concerns, questions—or compliments!

Have a great summer!

Best,

Emily Mitchell
Senior Warden

St. Paul's Advent Fair

Saturday, December 5, 2009

It is not too early to begin thinking about the 2009 Advent Fair. It 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. Planning will begin during the summer and new ideas and volunteers are welcome!

Please consider helping by doing one of the following:

- Look for new ideas for crafts or other activities during your summer vacation travels and share them with the committee
- Join the craft workshops or the gift basket workshops this summer and 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

This is an all parish activity and a major fundraiser for St. Paul's. Last year's fair was terrific. Let's make the 2009 Advent Fair even better.

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

STEWARDSHIP

During the summer many of us are away from St. Paul's, as we enjoy vacations and other warm-weather adventures. Time and activity don't stop at St. Paul's, however. The stewardship committee reminds you to keep your pledges current over the summer, so we can keep the church fiscally sound.



BUYING FROM AMAZON?

Don't forget to start your shopping at www.stpaulsbedford.org. Click through the link on the church home page, which will take you straight to Amazon. Every purchase you then make earns money for St. Paul's! It's an easy way to support the church while doing your regular birthday, graduation, anniversary, or early Christmas shopping.

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. On Sunday, May 3 we blessed our blankets and also honored Carol Hollingshead with a shawl. Carol has assembled hundreds of blankets for us and continues to play a major role in our blanket ministry. This year we sent off 41 blankets including the 2 we gave to Fernald residents at Christmas.

Most of our blankets will go to Children's Hospital in Boston or Mass General Hospital Pediatric Department 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.



HABITAT NEWS



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Renovation of the existing farmhouse at the 130 North Road worksite is nearing completion. As of Memorial Day weekend, all major exterior work is complete and the interior drywall has been hung and is awaiting plaster. We have begun work to add a second unit to the rear of the first house.

We're also pleased to have selected a local Bedford family who occupy the first house, and the Outreach committee is considering ways to help support the family as they take ownership of their new home. Work on the remaining lots will continue as soon as sufficient funds have been raised for the roadwork and utility service. If you'd like to make a donation to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell, please visit www.lowellhabitat.org or contact John Mitchell.

Habitat Quilt Raffle

St. Paul's is a covenant church for the North Road Habitat project. Support our Bedford Habitat house by buying a raffle ticket for the beautiful handmade quilt which will be on display at the Thrift Sale on June 20.



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.

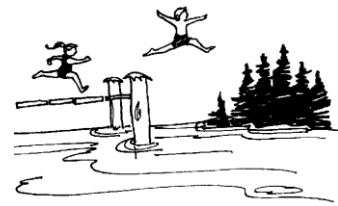
Also, Ed Lawrence is always collecting cans/bottles to retrieve deposits to help support the National Guard Veterans for their every day expenses. Thanks!

Coming in October!!!!

Dinner Party in the Parish Hall. Reserve the Date of **October 24th** for an Adults Only Dinner full of Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising. More info to follow!

Enjoy the summer,

The Fundraising Committee



ANNUAL HARRIS CAMP PICNIC

Mark your calendars now! The annual church picnic at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, NH, will be Saturday, August 22. This is a fun day for all ages, with swimming, kayaking, lawn games, good food, fellowship, and -- knock on wood -- terrific weather! Sign-ups sheets will be posted later in the summer. Please join us!

Just a Reminder!



**Starting June 28th
up to and including September 6th, our Sunday Service of
Holy Eucharist will be held at 9:00 a.m.**

**Starting September 13th the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Service of
Holy Eucharist will resume**

Parishioner's Corner

Happy Anniversary to Michael and Ellen Ryan. On June 6th they celebrate 17 years of marriage.

Happy 14th birthday to Timothy Ryan, which he celebrates on August 21st.

Congratulations to all graduates of all grades, The Ryan Family.

Congratulations to Christine Anderson and Chris LaPorte as they celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary. Chris and Chris were married at St. Paul's on June 5, 1999.

**ACOLYTE 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.



Matt Kruger will be ordained to the diaconate, the first step of ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church, on Saturday, June 6, at 10:30am at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston. All members and friends of St. Paul's are invited and encouraged to attend, to support Matt in his call to Christian service. Matt will be visiting us and preaching the following Sunday, June 7. We'll have a special reception at coffee hour that day to congratulate him.

**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:

Emily Mitchell, Senior Warden
Paul Ciaccia, Junior Warden
Betsey Anderson, Treasurer
Carol Hokana, Clerk

Vestry:

Andre Barber	Sue Runkle
Sharon Healey	Natalie Wicks
John MacPhee	
Heather Marasa	
Dori Pulizzi	

Thanksgiving for the Beauty of the Earth

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our prosperity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer (p. 840)

