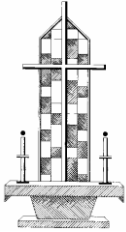


ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE



Dear Friends,

Summer, 2011

I'm typing this in a cold rain, but before we know it, most of us will find ourselves enticed by the dazzle of creation. Spring and summer are coming, and countless new grasses, flowers, and other plants are asking us to focus our attention on the new life unfolding around us. As much as I love worshipping in church in the summertime, I also love all the "unofficial" worship that happens when we wander out of the sanctuary and into the trees, and the fields, and the coastlines of New England.

Mary Oliver, a New England poet who loves the world's mute beauty, wrote a poem about the power of spring in her book "House of Light." I hope it inspires each of us to roam outside, to find ourselves grateful, and to marvel at the world we inhabit.

Spring

Somewhere
a black bear
has just risen from sleep
and is staring

down the mountain.
All night
in the brisk and shallow restlessness
of early spring

I think of her,
her four black fists
flicking the gravel,
her tongue

like a red fire,
touching the grass,
the cold water.
There is only one question:

How to love this world.
I think of her
rising
like a black and leafy ledge

to sharpen her claws against
the silence of the trees.
Whatever else

my life is
with its poems
and its music
and its glass cities,

It is also this dazzling darkness
coming
down the mountain,
breathing and tasting:

All day I think of her –
her white teeth,
her wordlessness,
her perfect love.

Blessed spring and blessed summer to
each.

Your friend in Christ,
Margaret

Vestry Corner

Dear friends,

As the weather heats up in the summer, the life of St. Paul's slows down a bit. After we celebrate Pentecost on June 12 (don't forget to wear red!), we'll have one more week of 10:00am worship before we switch to our 9:00am summer schedule on June 26.

Over the summer Margaret will lead us through the last stages of our interim period and help us prepare for the transition to our new rector. We will have an opportunity to recognize Margaret's ministry with us during the service on Pentecost (before many members scurry off to their summer haunts on the weekends), and we'll have an official liturgy of leave-taking later in the summer. Chris's first Sunday with us will be August 7.

We are so grateful for Margaret's presence with us through this interim time, helping us navigate through our grief and anxiety into a place of welcome, comfort, and strength—the true personality of St. Paul's. We will cherish these last weeks and months that we have with her.

Our newsy emails will continue over the summer, with perhaps a slight decrease in frequency, as our slower parish pace warrants. We wish you all a wonderful, restful, fun-filled summer.

The vestry will meet on June 21 and August 16 at 7:30pm, and on a July date to be determined.

With blessings,
Emily and Paul

Search Committee News!

This is my last epistle entry as search committee chair, and I want to thank Emily, Paul, and Frank for choosing me for this role. I was honored to be asked to be a part of the committee and flattered to be asked to chair. I am proud of the work that we did on behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's, and while it will be hard to say goodbye to Margaret, I am heartily looking forward to what awaits us in Chris's ministry.

Once again, let's thank the committee members: Arthur Fergusson, Betsey Anderson, Candy Walker, David Woodward, Joanna Nickerson, Karin Baker, Ken Larson and Paul Kruger.

Thanks also to every one of you and the myriad ways that you offered support during this past year.

Sharon Healey

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee welcomes ideas and suggestions for ways to raise money for the church. Over the summer, we will submit our fundraising proposal for the year to the Vestry. If you have an idea for an event, please contact Louisa Saladino-Kuhl or Sue Marasa by July 1st.

AUCTION

A million thanks to everyone who helped make our Fine Arts Auction a huge success. We raised \$5,360 for St. Paul's, which represents more than enough money to cover the cost of the new pine trees along the back drive. Special kudos to Louisa Saladino-Kuhl for coordinating the whole event so wonderfully.



If you are planning to do 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!

Elementary Sunday School

We have completed our Sunday school program for the year. This month we explored the stories of Jesus walking among us, praying for us and promising us the Holy Spirit. We enjoyed a walk around the parish hall hearing the story of Jesus joining his friends along the road to Emmaus. The children enjoyed a presentation of Jesus eating with his friends who had been out fishing all night. We shared pictures sent by the school children in Haiti of crops they grew with the help of seeds the St. Paul's sent last year and prepared more seed packets to share with school children in Haiti. And while painting, we enjoyed wonderful discussions about the Holy Spirit.

Many people worked to make our Sunday school program possible this year. If you see them, please take a moment to thank them for giving themselves to God and our children.

Lead Teachers:

1-2nd grade : Lorraine Campbell, Sima Seymourian and Andrea Hayes

3rd grade: Christine Thompson and Judy Wright

4-5th grade: Lori Murphy, Sue MacPhee, and Carol Wait

Assistants: Felicia Barber, Carly Martin, Clayton Hafer, Ben Johnson, Hunter Hayes, Chris Adamik, Susan Adamik, Dori Pulizzi, Mary Curlew, Shanie George, Sonia Presti, Nate Presti, Philip Thompson and Scott Thompson.

Music Leaders: John Mitchell, Ellen Ryan and Amanda Hubbard.

Paul West prepared and led invaluable discussions on the readings each season, and Margret shared not only her wisdom and insight, but copies of her sermons so that we could read her beautifully prepared words.

Looking ahead, to thank our teachers we will hold Teacher Appreciation service and brunch on Sunday, June 5th. Next September, Sunday school registration will be held on Sunday September 11th, and Sunday school will begin the following week on September 18th. We are in need of lead teachers for both the elementary Sunday school and Catechesis programs next year. Please consider working our children, and if this is something you can do please contact me, Amanda Hubbard or Ellen Ryan.

Cathy Presti



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 along Dana Road or Heritage Road.

Mark your calendar!

Our summer schedule for Sunday services, with one service at 9:00am, will begin **June 26**.



High School Youth

What a terrific Youth Sunday we had! Our annual youth service on May 8 was marked by great preaching, great reading, great altar and congregational ministry, and more fantastic special music than we've ever had before. Thanks to all who participated, and all who supported our participants!

In June two of our youth members graduate from high school: Ariana Seymourian, who'll be heading to New England College in the fall, and Becky Waghorne, off to Syracuse University. Both young women have been faithful and dedicated youth group members and ministers at church, as acolytes, teachers, pageant participants, and more. We also want to recognize sophomore Eric Wicks, who will be moving to the Washington, D.C. area over the summer: Eric has provided valuable ministry to us as an acolyte, reader, and Sunday School teacher. We will miss them all!

-Emily and Arthur

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

What a great job you all did in the Youth Sunday service - many thanks for contributing your time and talent to this wonderful morning!

Our last in-class discussion will be held on Sunday, June 5th. We will use this time to review all of our activities this past year, plan for next year, and say goodbye and congratulations to our graduating 8th grade class. We are so proud of you and know you will do a great job in high school next year!

Eighth Grade Graduating Class

Clayton Hafer
Alex Healey
Ben Johnson
Aisling Keane
Zachary Perlmutter
Elizabeth Regan
Natalie Schalick

We also say goodbye to Ben Wicks as he moves down south to start a whole new adventure. Thank you for all your contributions to the middle school youth group. We wish you the best of luck - we will miss you!

Have a wonderful fun-filled, and hopefully sunny, summer! We can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we come back together again in September.

All the best,
Mrs. Mathews & Mrs. Baker

MAKING MUSIC IN THE CHURCH



As the school year winds down, the Choirs of St Paul's are bringing their season together to a close as well. The Youth Choir will be singing for the last time this Spring on Sunday, June 5, and the Adult Choir will sing its last Sunday on June 12, Pentecost.

I wish to thank the members for their dedicated work and good spirit throughout the year, and to encourage any soloists or groups, vocal or instrumental, to play/sing during the summer for our worship at 9 A.M.

Special thanks to all who have served as soloists this year (Emily Mitchell, Sharon Witbeck, David Woodward, Joe Wright, Jim Seaton, Robert Witbeck) and Emma Pulizzi, Ben Woodward, Sonia Presti, and Felicia Barber.

Also special thanks to Ken Gable for starting the Chamber Ensemble and performing in the service with the group and as a soloist.

Members of the Youth Choir are : Ben and Aaron Woodward, Shan Shan Bonifanti, Ellie Mitchell, Joleen Ricci, Emma Pulizzi, Calista and Felicia Barber, Sonia and Andrew Presti, Maddy LaPorte-Anderson, Hannah Wait and Ani Zildjian.

Members of the Adult Choir are: Emily Mitchell, Sharon Witbeck, Caroline Larson, Lynne Wolf, sopranos, Wendy Ciaccia, Nancy Campbell, Linda Moosick, Johanna Nickerson, Karen Kruger, altos, David Woodward and Joe Wright, tenors, Jim Seaton and Robert Witbeck, baritones.

Joan Reddy
Music Director



CATECHESIS

Dear Catechesis families,

May was our last month of this year's Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. We wrapped up the year with two very special presentations. On May 15, both classes joined for the 'Liturgy of the Light', with a procession to the library. They received white candles reminding them of the light of Jesus. A teacher commented how the children's eyes reflected that light. On May 22, a presentation connecting the Good Shepherd to the Last Supper and Eucharist was a nice way to tie together and make explicit many things the children have been learning, especially for our Kindergarteners, including Avery, Samantha and Sally, who will be moving to the Elementary Church School next year. One could almost see the light bulbs going off as we replaced sheep figures with people around a mini altar. We will miss them, but know they have learned a lot and are ready for new things. We also handed out Certificates, and gave the children the folders with artwork they have been making all year. If your child was absent, please pick them up soon in the Atrium, or ask us. We hope to see them in church this summer.

Since there will be no more classes until September, our main item this month is to say **THANK YOU** to the many people who have contributed to the program this year!

Lead Catechists:

Catechesis I: **Carol Hokana, Sharon Keane and Amanda Hubbard**

Catechesis II: **Ellen Ryan, Lori Murphy, Ron Presti and Lisa Hafer**

Assistants:

Cassie Baker, Hunter Hayes, Alex Healey, Emma Healey, Miranda Keane, Helen Kissel, Shea Kuhl, Nancy Kupfrian, Barbara Perry, Nate Presti, Sonia Presti, Timothy Ryan, Natalie Schalick, Austen Sharpe, Elle Thompson, Eric Wicks

Sorry if we forgot anyone. We greatly appreciate all your service and hope you will join the **Teacher Appreciation service and brunch on Sunday, June 5th**.

While this seems a long list of names, looking ahead to next year, we are much in need of more adults willing to contribute to the program. Most of our assistants are youth, and there are times they cannot serve. Most of the current leads got involved when our children were in preschool – and many of them are now high school juniors and seniors. Much as we still love the children, our time and energy are not what they were, and we really need some new parents to get involved to keep the program going strong. Please consider prayerfully whether this, or helping in the Elementary program, is something you could offer, and speak to either of us or to Cathy Presti. We schedule very flexibly, and will be organizing some orientation/training in the fall.

Sincerely,

Amanda Hubbard and Ellen Ryan

OUTREACH NEWS

Bedford Food Panty

As you shop this summer, don't forget the Food Pantry. Grocery lists are in the Narthex. We will continue to collect and deliver non-perishable items including canned goods, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, and shampoo. Financial contributions are always welcome.



Help Build a Habitat House on North Road

The Bedford "Women Build" house on North Road is looking for crews all summer. How about a St. Paul's Women's group?

For more information, contact John Mitchell.
To sign up to help, go to <http://www.lowellhabitat.org>



DRIVERS NEEDED

The Kponou family needs a ride to and from church on Sundays. They live behind the Unitarian Church on Elm Street and are usually picked up at 9:30am and returned home after coffeehour. If the family of 5 can't be transported in one trip, you can recruit another driver or make 2 trips. Often other folks at coffeehour will help with transportation home.

There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board in the hallway near the Parish Hall. The good news is that Jean Marie has his Driver Permit and is working toward getting his license, but meanwhile, they need help with transportation. If you have questions, call Howard Webber or Caroline Larson.



Keep those tab tops coming!



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.

St. Paul's Thrift Sale
Saturday, June 25th
9:00am – 2:00pm



The annual St. Paul's Thrift Sale is a wonderful opportunity for our parish to perform a vital service to our community, our environment, our spirit and our budget. It is a fun way to collectively recycle what God has given us while providing goods and clothing at reasonable prices to those who can benefit from them. All are welcomed and encouraged to participate. Your support is truly appreciated.

How you can help.

- 1) Think of the Thrift Sale while you're doing your spring cleanup and 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 all of their pieces.
 - Books, DVDs, CDs, Videos, etc.
- 2) Please check with us if you have a large item and unsure if it is suitable for the Thrift Sale. It may be more appropriate to bring a picture of it and we'll try to sell it.
- 3) Bring your goods to St. Paul's on one of the scheduled drop off times. These times will be announced shortly and will begin on Sunday, June 19th .
- 4) Sign-up to help in one or more of these areas:
 - Setup
 - Help during the fair
 - Cleanup after the fair

To sign-up contact Ron Presti or Carol Hokana, 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.

- 5) 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 us know.

Faithfully,
Carol Hokana and Ron Presti

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
100 Pine Hill Road
Bedford, MA 01730

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

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Staff:

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

Officers:

Emily Mitchell, Co-Warden
Paul Ciaccia, Co-Warden
David Woodward, Treasurer
Katie West, Clerk

Vestry:

Betsey Anderson
Cassie Baker
Arthur Fergusson
Lisa Hafer
Sharon Healey
Carol Hokana
Rene Seaton



St. Paul's Advent Fair

Saturday, December 3, 2011



Summer is almost here, but it is not too early to begin thinking about the 2011 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.

Please join other fair volunteers on Monday, June 6th at 6:30 PM at the church for dinner and fair planning and brainstorming. We will have dinner from Luigi's followed by a planning meeting at 7:30. All are welcome!

New ideas and new volunteers are especially needed this year including a few new table chairs and assistants and help in organizing and coordinating the fair. The Advent Fair is a major fundraising event for St. Paul's, but even more it is a wonderful day of fellowship for the parish and is well supported by the community at large.

Please consider one of the following ways to help:

- Look for new ideas for crafts or other activities during your summer vacation travels and share them with the committee. This is a great source of new ideas for us.
- Suggest a new table/activity or a new idea for a current table
- Join the craft workshops or the gift basket workshops this summer and fall
- Lead a craft workshop and share your talents with us
- Donate materials for baskets and crafts or cash to purchase supplies
- Sew, knit or create decorative items or jewelry for the fair.
- Help to solicit donations for the Silent Auction

Last year's fair was really successful and a great day of fellowship. Let's make the 2011 Advent Fair even better. Watch for more details in September.

Contact Betsey Anderson with your ideas or to volunteer to help.