

THE EPISTLE



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from Davison Welch

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Worship
Holy Eucharist
Sunday, 10:30 AM

Coffee and Hospitality
After Service



A Message from the Rector

The Leaves Are Turning

I'm not sure of the species of tree in the church yard whose leaves are turning, but it is there for all to see. As the heat of summer is now (at last) fully upon us, the days are getting appreciably shorter and the signs of fall are beginning to be visible. I hope you have had a blessed summer—one in which your time has been spent resting and renewing and perhaps even visiting churches in the places to which you have travelled. While you have been gone, the vestries of Saint Paul's Hopkinton and Christ Church Medway completed a six month discernment effort. The end result has been a call to me to be the Rector of both parishes and the Sheppard of the Hopkinton-Medway Collaborative Ministry. I have been overjoyed to accept your call, and look forward to the coming years of ministry together with great excitement.

As you approach Church this September, you'll see that some much needed maintenance has been attended to while you've been away. As you enter the church you'll see that even more has been done to improve the physical plant on the inside. All this, along with the few yellow leaves I mentioned above, is stage setting for the annual rebirth of the parish's Sunday School and the birth of some new and exciting programs.

This fall we will participate together in an excellent program of Adult Christian Education entitled, "Adult Crossings." We will also be launching some Sunday Evening worship events, hoping to reach some of our youth and others who find Sunday mornings difficult. Information and an invitation to participate are included separately in this newsletter.

I am overjoyed to be your new rector. I look forward to the coming years which we will spend together. I also am excited about the signs of fall that are appearing around us and the anticipation they bring of our fall programs.

Faithfully,

Mike

Our Mission *The mission of St. Paul's is to minister unconditionally to all in the name of Christ through shared worship, teaching, healing and service.*

Our Vision *St. Paul's is called to be an inviting, embracing, nourishing and life-giving fellowship in the family of Christ.*

Quality Adult Christian Education Experience

The Hopkinton-Medway Collaborative Ministry is offering a course that will provide a truly enlightening and meaningful representation of "Eight Core Stories of the Bible"

The format will be simple and friendly. Perhaps a short video, light reading between sessions, a presentation and discussion with Fr. Mike, or just fellowship and open discussion around the material.

There are 2 sessions being offered. One at St. Paul's Episcopal beginning on October 4th (and the first Sunday of each subsequent month) and the second at Christ Church - Medway beginning on October 18th (and every third Sunday of each subsequent month). The Gatherings will be at 7:00pm.

Please join us as we begin to study, live, and learn in an open and welcome environment of all people and their beliefs. Our group is ecumenical, based in Christian beliefs. All are welcome.

A donation of \$15 is requested to cover the cost of materials. Scholarships are available. For more information on the course material please go to www.LogosCrossing.com. The first lesson is entitled "How is the Bible True?"

For questions or to sign-up, Please inquire with Father Mike Billingsley in Medway @ 508-533-7171, Info@CECMedway.org or in Hopkinton @ 508-435-4536, Office@StPaulHopkinton.org

Curriculum: "Eight Core Stories of the Bible" (*from the Logos "Crossings" Course*)

These are 8 stories from the Bible that every Christian should know, and that everyone seeking to understand Christianity should read and understand. They are God's Call, The Exodus, the Sinai Covenant, The Promised Land, King David's Rule, Jesus' Life, The Cross, and Resurrection Life.

Outside Service

St. Paul's took advantage of the summer weather and the beautiful meditation garden and held Sunday service outside for the first time in recent history.



*Be ye fishers
of men. You
catch them –
He'll clean
them!*

*If God is your
co-pilot...
swap seats!*

Second Sunday Worship at Saint Paul's

On the Second Sunday of each month at 7:00 PM Saint Paul's will offer a simple, short and interactive service of Christian Worship and Holy Communion. If attending a Sunday Morning service is difficult for you, come and worship with us. Schedule below.

Sept. 13, 2009 @ 7:00 PM - In the Meditation Garden

The Rev. M. Billingsley Officiating and Celebrating

Oct. 11, 2009 @ 7:00 PM - In the Church

The Rev. K. Black Officiating and Celebrating

Nov. 8, 2009 @ 7:00 PM - In the Church

The Rev. M. Billingsley Officiating and Celebrating

Dec. 13, 2009 @ 7:00 PM - In the Church

The Rev. M. Billingsley Officiating and Celebrating

St. Paul's Fall Rummage Sale

The rummage sale will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 9am – 1 pm. Please save your good stuff as you do your fall cleaning. Any and all help appreciated. There will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall.

We will need volunteers for:

Set up – Wednesday, Oct 14th 5pm-8pm

Thursday, Oct 15th 6pm – 8pm

Friday, Oct 16th 9am – 8pm

Sale Day – Saturday, Oct 17th 8am -1pm

Clean up – Saturday, Oct 17th 1pm – 3pm

St. Paul's 275th Anniversary

As we prepare to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the church in 2010, let us remember and thank our leaders past and present. How to celebrate will be on our minds over the next few months. If you have ideas, suggestions, etc., please let us know. The vestry will be asking for some volunteers to organize the event.

Property Committee

We now have a fantastic property committee! This summer we have concentrated on the exterior of our building. Specifically, with a New ramp, New back deck, new entry way steps as well as keeping up with the normal workings of the church.

Thank you to our members: Ann Bertucci-Bissonnette, Dianne Belamarich, Ruth Warner, Judy Johnson, Dave Dry

Coffee Hour

Volunteers are always welcome to add fare to the coffee hour following the service. A sign-up sheet is posted.



Project Just Because

Donations can be left at the church in the basket marked for this charity. There is a need for school supplies, boy's jeans in good condition and non perishable food. The pick-up is on Thursdays so you can leave the items during the week as well as on Sunday.

Youth Education

Home Coming Sunday at St. Paul's on September 13th. If you haven't already done so, you may register your children for Sunday school beginning at 10:00 that morning. There will be a "get to know the teacher gathering" and a pot luck lunch.

The first session of Sunday school will be the following Sunday (September 20th) and will begin at 10:30am (the same time as service) and end approximately 11:15am. Teachers will then bring the children into church, irrespective of our progression of the service. For those parents who need it, we will also have the nursery available during the service for children up to the age of 4.

Our Sunday school classes are:

Godly Play (4 yrs. – 1st grade; ages 4-6) – This curriculum lets the class bring stories from the Old and New Testament to life using 3D figures. (Expected enrollment: 7)

Living the Good News (Beginner: 2nd & 3rd grades; ages 7-8) (Intermediate: 4th & 5th grades; ages 9-10) – This program features a lesson that is based on one of the Old or New Testament texts that is read during the Worship Service each Sunday. This allows families to share what they heard and learned in church and in Sunday school. (Expected enrollment: Beginner – 7; Intermediate – 7)

Rite 13 (6th and 7th grades; ages 11-12) – (Expected Enrollment – 10)

Journey to Adulthood (J2A) (8th and 9th grade; ages 13-14)

The Rite 13 and J2A programs are structured to celebrate the transition from youth to adulthood and to explore faith and community worship. Each program is a 2-year curriculum. (Expected Enrollment – 8)

The J2A class was held last year on Sunday evenings. We would like to continue with this schedule, but are open minded to changes if parents and teachers think it makes sense.

We are also in need of teachers, teaching assistants, and folks to staff the nursery. Please let us know if you are interested. We could really use the help this year. Please contact the church office if you are able to contribute some time.

*Opportunity
may knock
once, but
temptation
bangs on your
front door
forever.*



Adopt-A-Soldier

St. Paul's adopted soldier, Travis is a 23 year old man from Alaska. He is stationed in Afghanistan. We will be sending packages of toiletries, magazines and snack foods on the 15th of each month. Items may be placed in the box in the Parish Hall. His birthday is in October and there are two cards by the box. We hope all parishioners will sign and wish him a happy day!

St. Paul's Finance Update

by Mary Arnaut, Assistant Treasurer



It's September, which means audit time for our 2008 financial records. The audit team of Mary Arnaut, John Pavlov, and Dave Spengler will be reviewing the audit requirements from the Episcopal Dioceses of Massachusetts and then preparing the required reports to be audited. Once the reports are completed and our records and accounting practices have been audited, the originals will be mailed to the Diocese for their approval. A copy of the audit will be kept on file at St. Paul's. Contact the office if you wish to review it.

As of the end of August, St. Paul's continues to be "in the black". The largest amounts of our income are generated from pledges, fund raising, and rent. Thank you to everyone who makes contributions through their 2009 pledge and non-pledge donations; everyone who helps with fund raising; and to those who contract to rent our facilities, such as Grace United Methodist and the Playhouse Preschool. In addition to my weekly financial duties, every month, I prepare detailed reports and present the information at our monthly Vestry meetings. If you would like any specifics about our financial data, I am happy to answer any of your questions.

St. Paul's migrated to QuickBooks (QB) for nonprofits in April this year. Of the many features of QB, the reporting feature is my favorite. In addition to detail accounting reports, QB has graphs and company snapshot reports that quickly show the status of all our outstanding bills, our balances, and summaries of our income vs. expenses. It has standard reports that give you every detail of every account and lets you customize reports based on specific needs.

Given our ability to track every financial detail in QB, we know that we have exceeded our 2009 budget for our building and maintenance repairs, primarily due to unplanned repairs to our furnace and hot water tank; our handicap ramp and cement steps to the main hall entrance; and our back steps to our hall. However, all of these repairs were necessary to keep our church a safe and sound place to worship. Our property committee continues to review what other repairs maybe necessary and what may have to wait until we can replenish our building funds.

The current balances in our checking and savings keep St. Paul's in a position to meet our monthly financial obligations and to help fund our missions. It won't be long before we will be preparing our budget for 2010. If you have any questions or suggestions, concerning our financial status and plans, please feel free to talk with me. SYOS - See you on Sundays.

Life at St. Paul's . . .

KEY EVENTS

- Sept. 26 – Polyarts
 Oct. 4 – First day of adult education program
 Oct. 17 – Rummage Sale
 Nov. 6 – Operation Christmas Child potluck dinner
 Nov. 22 – Giving Tree
 Dec. 6 – St. Nicholas

REGULAR MONTHLY EVENTS

- First Sunday of the month: Food Pantry Collection **FP**
 Second Sunday of the month: Potluck after Service **PL**
 15th of each month – Adopt a Soldier items mailed. **AS**
 First Wednesday of the month: Vestry Meeting **V**

Grace Church Happenings

Tues, Sep 8 2:15 PM Bible Study - Romans resumes (we will resume with chapter 9, no preparation required)

Sun, Sept 13 6th Annual Blue Jean Sunday

Tues, Sep 15 12:15 PM Bible Study - Romans

Sat, Sept 19 9:00 AM - 12:00 - Community Harvest Project, No. Grafton, MA. Come join us for a morning of farm work to support the Community Harvest Project. We will do whatever work they ask of us, according to ability. This may be weeding, harvesting, washing or packing veggies. CHP relies on volunteers. All of their harvest goes to Worcester County Food Banks. Needs are up and funds are down. Please come and make a difference!

Tues, Sep 22 12:15 PM Bible Study - Romans

Wed, Oct 7 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM - Companions on the Way – Ettie Hillesum, Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center, No. Andover, MA. Go to www.rollingridge.org for more information. \$48 or after 9/28 \$55. Call or email Pastor Dry for scholarship information.

Nov 5 – 7 ACT 2:42 extending the table – The School of Congregational Development for the United Methodist Church in New England, Grace Chapel, Lexington, MA. Go to www.newenglandschool.org for more information.

2009

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	V	3	4	5
FP	7	8	9	10	11	12
PL	AS	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
FP	5	6	V	8	9	10
PL	12	13	AS	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
FP	2	3	V	5	6	7
PL	9	10	11	12	13	AS
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	V	3	4	5
FP	7	8	9	10	11	12
PL	AS	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		