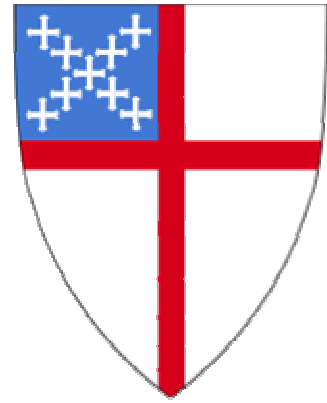


The *Epistle*

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Hopkinton, MA*



Volume 5, Number 1

A Message from the Vestry

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Worship

Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Sunday, 10:00 am

Morning Prayer,
Third Sunday every month

Dear Friends,

As we embark on a new school year, initiated by our Welcome Back Sunday on September 11th, it is a good time to reflect on where we've been, and where we are, as that can help guide our direction and strengthen us on our journeys ahead.

As you know, with the end of the school year, we said goodbye to Fr. Admire and his family. Fr. Admire left St. Paul's and Massachusetts to live with his family in the mid-west. Their trip westward went well, and Admire, Cecelia and Amba have settled in. Fr. Admire has been our pastor from 2002, touching us in many ways – we continue to remember them in our prayers.

As you may also know, over the past year or more, parish attendance at St. Paul's has been on the decline. Not only has this diminished our faith community, bringing with it a sense of loss to the parish as a whole, it has put significant strain on our financial position - so much so that our annual budget for this year is half of what it had been just two years ago.

*These two symptoms are part of the tension that has been felt by many in the parish, and has occupied the vestry's
(continued on page 4)*

Mission Statement.

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

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*Eternal God, we
worship you in spirit
and in truth. Touch our
hearts, Lord.*

*As we worship, let us allow God to
lift our burdens and bring us joy. A
genuine and loving welcome to all!*



Worship

Morning Prayer

As we enter the fall season, and in an effort to maximize our resources, the Vestry has made a change to the Sunday worship schedule.

Beginning with Welcome Back Sunday, the Sunday worship will include a 10AM celebration of the Eucharist. The 8AM service has been suspended for the time being.

On the third Sunday of each month, starting on September 18th, the service will be Morning Prayer. The service will include communion, and with the support of our organist and choir, will also feature music. For those unfamiliar with Morning Prayer, it is shorter than the normal Eucharistic service (about 45 minutes long), and provides a peaceful and prayerful start to your Sunday.

eDevotional

St. Paul’s daily devotional and parish announcements are available by email from edeotionals.com. If you wish to subscribe, simply visit “**edeotionals.com**” click on “**join a group**” and enter the code: “**njab9**”

Prayer Website

Through the considerable efforts of Sue Ramsley and Lori Gillin, St. Paul’s now has a prayer website:

<http://stpaulhopkinton.org/prayer/>

This website was established for prayer requests for those in our faith community.

Prayer Update

We continue to pray each week during the Sunday service for both residents of specific streets in Hopkinton, and residents of neighboring towns. We’d also like to add different professions to this list each week (firefighters/teachers/store employees/accountants /nurses) so if you’d like to add your profession or that of a loved one, please leave a message with the church office.

Flowers on the Altar

Flower offerings may be made at any time of the year to the Glory of God, in thanksgiving for a specific blessing or in memory of a loved one. The flowers or plants enhance the chancel and remind our parishioners of a specific blessing or memorial. After the

services the flowers/plants are delivered to sick/shut-in parishioners.

If you'd like to dedicate flowers on the altar, please contact [Ruth Warner](mailto:Ruth.Warner@comcast.net) at 508-435-6349 or send email to: stpaulhopkinton@comcast.net.

Upcoming Memorials

August 14 – Paul Gillin
August 21 - OPEN
August 28 – Susan Cholakis
September 4 – Pat and Roxanne Donahue
September 11 – Altar Guild
September 18 – Andy and Ginny Starkis
September 25 - OPEN

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER

Welcome Sunday – September 11

After a wonderful summer, St. Paul's looks forward to welcoming parishioners to the beginning of our Sunday School season.

Plan to arrive early (before the 10AM Service) to ensure that your children have your children registered and to give them time to meet with their teacher(s).

Following the service, there will be a luncheon/reception in the Parish Hall.

The Golf Tournament – September 12

On September 12th, St. Paul's Church will be sponsoring a golf tournament followed by a silent auction at Hopkinton Country Club, for the benefit of Hopkinton-based **Project Just Because** www.projectjustbecause.org

There will be prizes, a raffle, wonderful items up for bid at our silent auction and, through the generosity of Connelly Chevrolet/Acura, chance to win a **Car !**

The tournament is open to anyone who likes golf and wants to benefit worthy charities. Bring your friends, clients or boss and have a full day of fun whether you are a beginner or expert golfer.

Whether you're playing or can help with finding or donating items for the silent

auction, for more information contact Phil Robidoux at 508-625-1333 or cjrecovery@comcast.net. Foursome forms can also be found on the Project Just Because site: www.projectjustbecause.org

PolyArts – September 17

St. Paul's will again have a baked goods table at the Hopkinton Polyarts festival this year. Bakers are needed for providing baked goodies and volunteers will be needed to staff the table. Help will also be needed for clean-up. This is a wonderful way to introduce St. Paul's to the community.

If you're baking something, it needs to be wrapped and brought by the Parish Hall on Friday, the 16th. Please though, nothing that might need refrigeration after baking.

OCTOBER

Pot Luck Dinner – October 15

St. Paul's is planning a Pot Luck dinner in the Parish hall for October 15th. Be sure to mark your calendars – more info to follow in the next Epistle.

Thank God for Grandparents

A small boy walking with his grandfather was gently being tested by the elderly man. "How far are we from home?" asked the grandfather.

"I don't know," the child answered.
"Well, where are you?"

"I don't know."

"Looks to me like you are lost. Doesn't that worry you?"

"No, Grandpa," the boy responded, "I can't be lost. I'm with you."

Grandpa chuckled and smiled. Then he gently patted the boy on the head.

Like the boy who felt safe with his grandfather, we are not spiritually lost when we are with God, for God knows the way.

Sunday School Begins September 11th

St. Paul's Sunday School program will commence on Welcome Back Sunday on September 11th.

The class structure will be as follows:

- ❖ *Godly Play* (three years old through 1st grade) – This wonderful curriculum lets the class bring stories to life from the Old and New Testament using 3D figures.
- ❖ *Living the Good News* (2nd/3rd grade and 4th/5th Grade) – 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.
- ❖ *Journey to Adulthood* (6th thru 10th grade) – The J2A and Rite-13 groups offer age appropriate curriculum, discussion and worship.

Registration for Sunday School classes will begin around 9:45am on Welcome Back Sunday, with classes beginning at 10:00am. Children will join with their families in the Church for Communion.

We look forward to seeing you!

- Vicki Jacobson

Note from the Vestry (*continued from page 1*)

attention for much of the past year or more.

Worried over the state of the parish, the Vestry met early in January with the Bishop and other diocesan representatives to create a plan to reverse the trends and renew the spirit and vitality of the parish. That plan, centered on the growth of the parish, recognizes that without growth, our parish mission remains elusive.

The vestry believes that parish growth can be achieved by communicating and emphasizing the parish's youthful spirit through shared worship and community outreach. In the spring, St. Paul's was awarded a financial grant by the Diocese for community communication and outreach – to help us achieve our mission and objectives. Over the coming months, you can expect to see renewed messages of St. Paul's, re-establishing itself in the community, and you can expect to see additional parish events that are specifically geared toward renewing our sense of self and our faith community.

In nature, the fall season often becomes a time where preparations are made for winter hibernation – we are blessed in our ability to use our gifts to look forward to our Welcome Back Sunday with a sense of renewal, with new beginning, and hope for a time of growth and excitement.

With warm regards and shared fellowship.

- your Vestry

Happy Birthday August and September Birthdays include:

Abi Foster	August 2
Nick Cholakis	August 4
Michaela Mikulis	August 5
Kimberly Garabedian	August 30
Jack Litchfield	September 2nd
Rich Litchfield	September 8th

More Birthdays!

Becky Diercks	September 14th
Andy Starkis	September 15th
Joan Gimskie	September 16th
Cindy Farrell	September 24th
Bruce Lichtenstien	September 25th
Christopher Willett	September 25th

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a Parish ministry that is responsible for keeping the Church ready for its Sunday worship. They arrange for the flowers (memorials and/or thanksgivings) on Sunday mornings, and perform many other behind-the-scenes tasks to ensure the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

Altar Guild is looking for new members for the fall. Training can begin anytime. For more details, talk with Ruth Warner.

Choir

Gretchen Carr would like to remind everyone that the choir will be back in full swing on Sept. 11th and thereafter.

The choir is also looking for people who enjoy singing or play an instrument. They can contact either Janet Moorman or Gretchen for info.

Hospitality

The Hospitality crew is alive and well. The coffee hour after Sunday's worship will be there whenever possible. There's a signup sheet in the Parish hall.

Hospitality will also be hosting a pot luck scheduled on October 15th. Keep an eye out for more info to follow.

Outreach Donations

Please continue to remember St. Paul's community outreach program with **Project Just Because**.

"Project Just Because" Needs...

- Household toiletries
- Clothes (adult and children) in good condition.
- Blankets
- New underwear and socks
- Kitchen accessories
- Towels and sheets
- Children's toys, games, and books.

You can also browse their website for additional needs:

www.projectjustbecause.org



Gifts For Our Children

There are many gifts we can give to our children:

1. The gift of oneself as a very loving father or mother.
2. The gift of being available for counsel, guidance and encouragement.
3. The gift of a spiritual foundation by affirming God, praying with and for the children.
4. The gift of showing sympathy for the poor, handicapped, ill, unemployed, persecuted and others.
5. The gift of being an example in seeking justice for all, being completely fair in dealing with others and being truthful at all times.
6. The gift of being a good steward of time, talent and possessions.



7. The gift of showing how to keep debt to a minimum and savings to the maximum.
8. The gift of keeping one's life in balance so that no activity, such as work, prohibits family activities.

9. The gift of discipline in terms of eating, exercising, reading, doing home chores and worshipping together.

10. The gift of humor, enabling fun and joyfulness to be a prominent part of family life.

—Charles Ferrell

Helping St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church constantly strives to maximize its financial resources in order to accomplish its goal of doing God's work here on earth. We believe that the following activities offer fellowship, fun, great products and a chance to contribute in a relatively painless manner to St. Paul's many activities. We hope that our parishioners and friends will support us in these endeavors.

Use St. Paul's web site to buy from Amazon.com

A link to the Amazon associates page is now live on the St. Paul's website, www.stpaulhopkinton.org. St. Paul's receives a percentage of the sale on all purchases on Amazon from this link.

Your Vestry

Janet Moorman	Senior Warden
Ruth Warner	Junior Warden
Phil Robidoux	Treasurer
Jay Jacobson	Clerk
Susan Cholakis	Assistant Treasurer
John Diercks	Stewardship
Chris Estey	Stewardship
Peter Dittman	Epistle
Sue Ramsley	Spirituality
Ralph Edwards	Outreach

Epistle

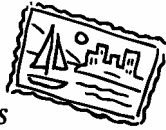
Beginning with this issue, the Epistle will be being distributed electronically (as a .pdf file), published on the St. Paul's Website (www.stpaulhopkinton.org), and also available in hard copy form.

If you would like to receive the Epistle electronically, please send email to Peter Dittman at pdittman@comcast.net.

Next Deadline for submission

If you have articles, suggestions and/or announcements for the next Epistle, it should be submitted by September 26th, for publication October 1st.

Make a Postcard Puzzle



What adventures did you have this summer? Share your travels with your friends and family.

Here's what you need:

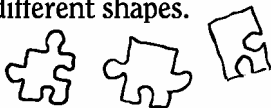
A postcard or picture from your summer adventures

- pencil or pen
- scissors
- envelope
- pieces of paper



Here's how to make it:

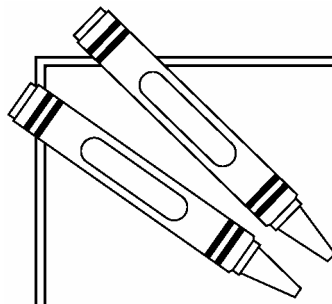
1. Cut your postcard or picture into 8 or 10 pieces of different shapes.



2. On a piece of paper, write a note telling about your trip or draw a picture of your favorite part of your summer.

3. Put the puzzle pieces and the note into an envelope.

4. Mail or give the envelope to a friend or family member. If you need to mail it, make sure you have the right address and the correct postage stamp. (A grownup can help.)



Just for KIDS

Postcards from Paul

The Apostle Paul went on many journeys. He wrote many letters to his friends and to churches he had visited.



▶▶▶▶ Unscramble the letters to find some of the places Paul visited.

WORD BANK

ANTIOCH	CYPRUS	TARSUS	PERGA	CORINTH
ATHENS	EPHESUS	ROME	PHILIPPI	ICONIUM

G R E A P H I P L I P P I C H A N T I O
 _ _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ △ _ _ _ _ _
 R I O T C H N S E S H U E P Y U S C P R
 _
 M O N I C U R U S S A T
 _
 T H E N A S M E O R
 _

What did Paul do on his journeys?

“ _____ the kingdom of God, and
 ○ ↑ △ ☆ ♥ ♡ ○ ✕ □
 _____ those things which concern the
 △ △ ☆ ♥ ♡ ○ ✕ □
 Lord Jesus Christ”

— Acts 28:31, KJV

Answers: PERGA, PHILIPPI, ANTIOCH, CORINTH, EPHESUS, CYPRUS, ICONIUM, TARSUS, ATHENS, ROME; PREACHING, TEACHING