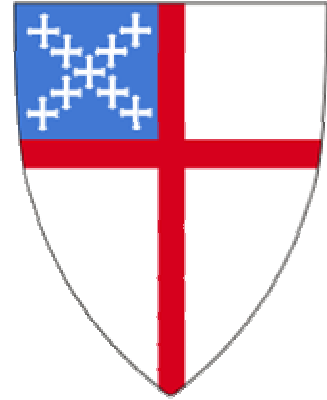


The *Epistle*

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



Volume 5, Number 10

A Message from our Fr. Mike

***St. Paul's
Episcopal Church***

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Worship

Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Sunday, 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist – Rite I
4th Sunday in month,
10:00 am

*Published:
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This Summer at Saint Paul's

I went to the Memorial Day Parade in Hopkinton today, and listened to the High School Band play the National Anthem, and watched as wreaths were placed at town cemeteries and on the monuments on the town common, and bowed my head in prayer with the few hundred who also came out. Amongst St. Paul's veterans, Ralph Edwards marched in the parade, Ernie Paolini followed along, and I saw Stewart Merrifield watching as we approached the end of Mayhew Street and the cluster of cemeteries there. Like them, the WWII generation was out in numbers. They were marching, watching and listening, and every now and then I think I saw a tear in an eye or two.

Mother Nature thinks summer has just begun, but we all know that it began on that Memorial Day. School will let out, but the kid's hearts and minds have already fled to the beaches. I can only imagine the struggle the teachers are going through as V-A-C-A-T-I-O-N comes ever closer.

Life at Saint Paul's will continue throughout the summer.

We will worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. The services will be a little more casual than our normal schedule. Since Sunday School is on vacation, we will have a children's sermon every week in addition to the normal homily. We will follow up each service with hospitality—with a seasonal addition of lemonade and iced tea for those hot and sticky mornings to come.

([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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Ode to the sands of a friendly beach

Specks of beige, brown, black and white
Shimmering in the sunshine's light
Shifting, sifting, day by day
To make a beach where I too, may
Lie down like you beside the sea
And briefly bask in eternity.
Share with me this peaceful hour.
Share with me your tranquil power.
-Peggy Ferrell



Worship**Sunday Worship**

The Summer Sunday worship schedule is centered on the Holy Eucharist, Rite II, celebrated at 10AM with a children's homily and an adult sermon.

All of our services typically feature traditional and contemporary music and enjoy the support of our organist and choir. For the summer, the vestry has made special arrangements for music while Carol Spengler takes a welcome break.

Prayer Group

Lori Robak and Sue Ramsley are leading prayer group that meets on Thursdays at 11AM in Fr. Mike's office. During the summer hours, the meetings may be sporadic, so please call ahead to be sure a prayer group is meeting on that day. You may also direct any prayer requests to Lori (LoriRob@aol.com), Sue (sueramsley@comcast.net) or Fr. Mike (stpaulhopkinton@netzero.com).

Prayer Website

Please remember to visit the prayer website:

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

In addition to prayer requests, the website features special prayers, book summaries and recommendations, and links to other websites of interest. There is a special prayer request form on the website for people wishing to add their prayer requests to the site.

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 can be taken home by the donor or can be delivered to sick/shut-in parishioners.

If you'd like to dedicate flowers on the altar, please contact Ruth Warner at whitehaller2@comcast.net, 508-435-6349 or the church office at 508-435-4536.

Electronic Devotionals

There are many good devotional websites available these days. For instance, browse to:

<http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/devotionals/>

There you will find a number of links to other devotional sites. These include devotionals for women, couples and people who want an easy way to read through the Bible in a year.

If you are interested in receiving a particular devotional, just go to the website and click on a choice for the day. You can also sign up for weekly newsletters, etc.

A Summer Message from your Senior Warden

Another summer is upon us! We have accomplished a great deal together since the beginning of 2006. Our visioning process is well underway. We have opened dialog with Christ Church in Medway and St. Paul's in Millis to promote inter-parish cooperation. The Diocese has arranged for a consultant (Alice Mann of the Alban Institute) to work with the three parishes. Our meetings have been positive and energetic. After our next meeting in September, we hope to have a large meeting in November so that all interested parishioners can be brought up to date with our work.

Attendance and participation within our own parish is growing as well. Areas where we can still use volunteers to help out are Altar Guild, Hospitality and Sunday School. If you are able to donate time to one of these ministries, please let Fr. Mike or any vestry member know.

Another way we all can help over the summer months is to keep current with our pledge payments. It is very common in most churches that attendance is significantly lighter in the summer, and as a result, so are pledge collections. This makes it difficult for the church to meet the monthly obligations during these months that do not go away for vacation!

Over the 18 months, we have been working with a \$5,000 communications grant presented

to us by the Diocese to boost our communications capabilities. To date, we have upgraded our old and tired office stationery, put together visitor welcome packages, purchased a computer for the Rector's office to replace the old computer that recently broke down, purchased 3 new *The Episcopal Church Welcomes You* signs to replace missing or damaged signs around town, and sponsored and advertised 2 fellowship centered events. With the remaining grant money, we are purchasing multimedia equipment for the church. This equipment will greatly boost our ability to effectively host large events, such as the Diocesan Safe Church Training session in November. Our Christian education program will also significantly benefit. The equipment will consist of a large screen LCD monitor, a combination VCR/DVD, and CD players for the classrooms (the current curriculum comes with a music CD that we have not been able to use because we lack CD players). This multimedia upgrade will also give us the ability to hold family movie nights, show videos for Christian education (both for the children and the adults) and make parish wide presentations during coffee hour and annual meetings. I am excited by all we have been able to accomplish with this grant.

We will continue to have informal gatherings during the summer, hopefully with a creative theme. Your vestry will continue work planning for the fall and for the future.

May God's love and peace be with you all.

Faithfully Yours,

Jay Jacobson
Senior Warden

Realizing that each of us has times of loneliness or alienation, let us greet one another with the assurance that God's love is present for us all.

Note from Fr. Mike *(cont. from pg. 1)*

During the week the office will be open for its normal hours—Mon–Thu 9:00 AM to Noon. While the office is open, some work will be done on cleaning up and sprucing up in preparation for the fall. The vestry will be challenged to pick out some paint colors at the June meeting, and the goal will be to have the entry hall and parish hall completely repainted by the time Sunday School starts up again. I also want to do some straightening up—mostly the sign posts and flag pole which should at least be approximately plumb!

There is also a major plumbing project to be accomplished—that of bringing the septic system up to code before the pre-school starts up again. (Many thanks to those of you who contributed to the Building Fund!)

There are going to be many many opportunities this summer to volunteer a few hours at Saint Paul's as we tend to interior and exterior maintenance. If you have little bits of time that you can give, talk to me or to Ruth Warner. We want to look new and fresh for the fall start up of Sunday School. Remember, "Many hands make for light work!"

Please also remember that while you are on vacation, the expenses at church continue. Please keep up your pledge so our treasurer won't lapse into despair as he tries to keep up with the bills.

Summer is prime time for meeting folks who are new to the community—please be present for church when you are in town, and help us greet and fold our new arrivals into our parish family.

Enjoy your summer. It is a gift from God and not to be missed. Also come and enjoy summer at Saint Paul's, it should be delightful.

Mike+

Prosperity and Generosity

The clergyman Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) once warned his parishioners to be aware of the problem of focusing too much on their possessions "lest prosperity destroy generosity."

Dr. Beecher was following the teachings and practice of his Lord Jesus, who was never prejudiced against wealthy people. In fact, he sometimes sought them out.



Consider the tax collector, Zacchaeus, for example. Jesus saw him perched in a tree and asked him to come down. Then Jesus told Zacchaeus that he was going to have lunch at his home right away. Jesus had invited himself to dine with the rich man who was hated by many!

Before Jesus left the man's home, Zacchaeus was thoroughly changed. Instead of being focused upon prosperity, he became centered on generosity. He said to Jesus, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much" (Luke 19:8, NRSV).

The man's prosperity had evolved into generosity all because of one visit from Jesus.

What changes might occur in our lives, if we allow Christ to visit us?

St Paul's Sunday School Wrap Up

It's hard to believe school is out, and summer is here!

We've had a wonderful Sunday School year at St. Paul's. With close to 50 children from 28 families, we have had a very successful and rewarding Christian education program.

We will be wrapping up the St. Paul's School Year this coming Sunday June 11th.

Following the last Sunday School class, we will have an Ice Cream Social during coffee hour to celebrate such a successful year! Hospitality will provide the ice cream, so please bring a topping of your choice to share with everyone.

Once again, we want to extend our thanks and gratitude to all of the folks who have dedicated their time to teaching our children.

On May 21st we invited all parents to stay for coffee hour and discuss next fall's Sunday school program. We had several folks volunteer to help teach or be a second adult in the classroom. To comply with Safe Church standards, it is our goal to have two adults in each classroom next fall. To meet this goal, we are strongly encouraging every parent to become involved with the program. We will have dedicated lead teachers for each class, but we ask that each parent volunteer to be the 'helper' or second adult in the classroom.

We will be publishing the Fall '06/Spring '07 Sunday School calendar in the next few weeks in an effort to give everyone a chance to plan ahead to volunteer to be in a classroom a few Sundays during the session.

If everyone pitches in 2 or 3 Sundays, we can guarantee that each classroom has two adults.

Have a fun and safe summer, and we look forward to teaching your children again in the fall!

Vicki Jacobson
Sunday School Coordinator

Vision and Options for St Paul's

For the past few months the vestry has been spending Tuesday nights working on identifying a vision for Saint Paul's future. The work has been very meaningful, and a report of the topics and discussion is posted in the Parish hall. The work has also been aided by meetings with "learning teams"

from Saint Paul's in Millis and Christ Church in Medway. The Diocese of Massachusetts has provided a consultant from the Alban Institute, the Rev. Alice Mann, who has helped all three parishes enter into a process of self examination called, "Options for Small Churches." At our last meeting we turned our joint work from self study to exploring options. This is dovetailing nicely with our own vision process as we struggle with what our hearts and minds tell us about who Jesus is to us, who we are in relationship with Jesus, and what that means about ministry.

One of the surprises along the way has been the very parallel histories of the three parishes, especially when it comes to attendance over the last fifty years or so. All three parishes enjoyed a bloom during the 1960's—participating in a trend that affected all of the mainline protestant denominations and other organizations such as the Lions, Kiwanis, and Masons. Then all three parishes went into the steady drift toward reduced attendance and financial support, again participating in a broader trend. All three parishes experienced a second bloom in the late 1990's, bucking the national trend toward continuing decline. Christ Church, Medway in particular, experienced not only the same peaks and valleys that St. Paul's, Hopkinton, but almost exactly the same numbers at almost the same times. I think that the message is that we are not alone in our struggles or in our hopes for the future.

In very broad terms, the options we are studying are to grow dramatically, radically change our thinking about ourselves, or to find our niche. Bishop Cederholm has made it very clear that he has no expectations about the outcome of our work, but that he does hope and pray that our study and the actions we eventually take will lead us to health. One of the things we are already discovering is that in each parish we have considerable resources that can be helpful to the other two parishes, and that there is a potential for sharing these resources that

might enhance the life and ministry of all three.

The work is not yet done. We have summer reading to do and specific assignments to accomplish, but already the outlook is positive.

As you put pins in the map to identify your home, provide data for the parish phone directory, and most of all, pray for the vestry and the learning team, you help Saint Paul's move into the future.

Mike+

A Few Ways of Praying

1. Put your hands together and make a bowl-like vessel of them. Ask God to fill your entire being with the Holy Spirit. Expect to feel a powerful presence within yourself.
2. Pray in "radar" mode. Recall how radar works? A radar transmitter sends out electronic waves. When the waves hit an object, such as a boat, a building or a vehicle, they bounce back and appear on a monitor.

So, try praying by letting your mind/spirit send forth loving thoughts toward God and others. When you sense that there is a response within yourself, sit silently and enjoy what you feel.

3. As you travel in your car or go on a walk, look around to see what God may be trying to show you. A beggar, a handicapped person or children at play, for example. Send an arrow prayer toward God and say, "Heavenly Father, please let those people feel your presence and your power. And help me to do the loving thing toward them."

If you are walking in or near gardens or woods, look at the captivating beauty of flowers or trees or a flowing stream. Offer a prayer to God for the blessings of nature which lift up the human spirit. The more we appreciate the

wonders of our fascinating world, the more we will sense the presence of God.

4. Spend time thinking about God's purpose for you. What do you think God's will for you is? Pray for empowerment and guidance in doing the will of God.
-

Help Wanted

The Altar Guild is looking for new members. Free Training! For more details, contact Ruth Warner at whitehaller2@comcast.net.

We anticipate a need for Sunday School Teachers in the fall – please consider dedicating some of your time, even if it's only on a part-time basis, to help teach our children. No special credentials are necessary, just a willingness to spend some time. We are especially in need of a second (male) leader for the J2A group, which had been held Sunday evenings and run by Jennifer Timpany. Contact Vicki Jacobson at Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net.

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.

Hospitality

Coffee hour after Sunday's worship is organized by the hospitality crew. Please consider hosting on a Sunday. Hosting means bringing food and treats for 50 or so people, coffee setup and tear-down. There's a signup sheet in the Parish hall or contact Gretchen Carr at carrg@franklin.k12.ma.us

Outreach

Project Just Because...

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

.... Needs...

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

For additional needs, check out their website:

www.projectjustbecause.org

Helping St. Paul's Church

We constantly strive to maximize our financial resources in order to accomplish our goal of doing God's work here on earth. One of the ways we do this is in affiliation with Amazon.com.

A link to the Amazon associates page is available at www.stpaulhopkinton.org. St. Paul's receives a percentage of the sale on all purchases from Amazon through this link.

Your Vestry

Jay Jacobson	Senior Warden
Ruth Warner	Junior Warden
Phil Robidoux	Treasurer
Dianne Belamarich	Clerk
Christine Meyers	Assistant Treasurer
John Diercks	Stewardship
Chris Estey	Stewardship
Peter Dittman	Epistle/Website
Sue Ramsley	Spirituality
Ralph Edwards	Outreach
Gretchen Carr	Hospitality

Next Vestry meeting: July 11th

Remember, copies of vestry meeting minutes may also be found on the website, though to keep them somewhat private to the parish, there is no link to them from the website. To find copies, point your browser to the following link:

http://stpaulhopkinton.org/minutes/2006_may.pdf

Other copies are available, starting with 2005_september.pdf through 2006_march.pdf (following the naming convention "year_month.pdf" – all lower-case). As others are posted, they will be announced via email.

Epistle/Communications

Epistle Distribution

The Epistle is distributed electronically (as a .pdf file) and is also available on the St. Paul's Website (www.stpaulhopkinton.org). Paper copy is also available in the parish hall. If you would like to receive the Epistle electronically, please send email to Peter Dittman at pdittman@comcast.net.

Of course, we also welcome your opinion on any communications from the vestry/church.

Signing off for the summer

This is the last Epistle for the summer months. It has been a blessing (and pleasure) to be able to write these newsletters. I look forward to picking this up again in the fall. The next Epistle will be published around the mid-to-late August timeframe – in time to talk about back to school activities and news. Best wishes to all for a safe and joyous summer!

Yours in faith,
Peter



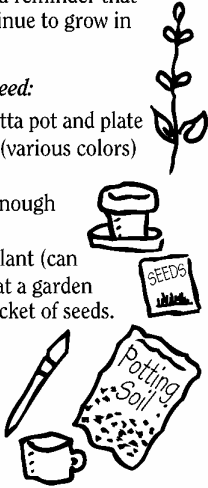
Just for kids

Growing in God's Word

Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

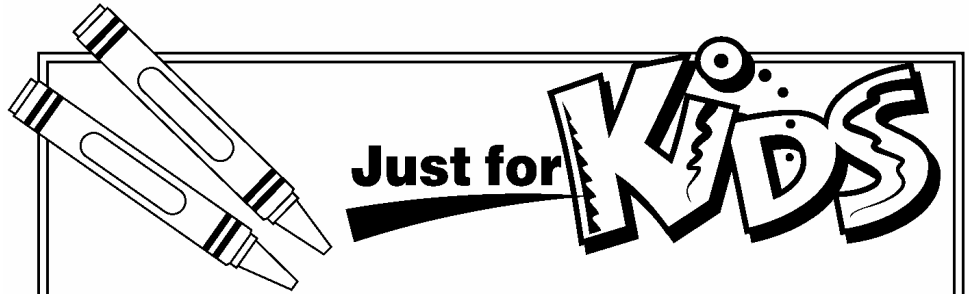
What you will need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant (can be purchased at a garden nursery) or packet of seeds.
- Newspaper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



What you do:

- 1) Spread some newspapers out on a table for your working area.
- 2) Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
- 3) Paint designs on the pot and plate. Make sure you clean your brush in the cup of water when changing colors.
- 4) When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the collar (top part of the pot) write: "Growing in God's Word"
- 5) Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With an adult's help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
- 6) Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant every day and keep the soil moist.
- 7) Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you, too, need care as you grow in God's Word.



GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

God wants you to be "planted" in His Word and to grow up serving him all your life.

Unscramble each underlined word, and write it in the blanks below. Use the definitions as clues.

Psalm 1:3 NIV tells us what we should be like:

"He is like a (1) etre (2) dpeltan by (3) smatres of (4) rawte, which (5) ledsiy its fruit in (6) sonsea and whose (7) afle does not (8) rithew. Whatever he does (9) spropres."

1. _____ (a wood plant with one main stem or trunk which has many branches)
2. _____ (rooted into the ground)
3. _____ (small rivers)
4. _____ (a colorless and transparent liquid)
5. _____ (produces, gives)
6. _____ (a time of the year)
7. _____ (flat, thin part of a plant growing from the stem — usually green)
8. _____ (to dry up or wilt)
9. _____ (succeeds)

Answers: tree, planted, streams, water, yields, season, leaf, wither, prospers