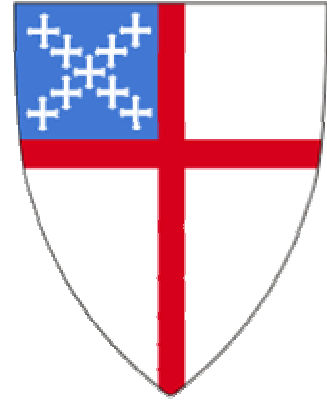


# The *Epistle*

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



Volume 5, Number 4

## **A Message from Fr. Mike**

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

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### **Worship**

Holy Eucharist – Rite II  
Sunday, 10:00 am

Published:  
November 30th, 2005

*Boot Trays. I had never heard of boot trays until early this fall when Judy insisted we needed to buy some. We never had boot trays in Georgia. Then again, we never had boots. Who knew that we would have a white Thanksgiving? But we did, and sure enough, we were in our boots, and we needed to get out the boot trays when we came in from our first adventure in the snow. I guess boot trays are signs of the changing seasons here in New England.*

*The Church is changing seasons too. Advent has begun, and there are a number of signs of Advent that you will see at St. Paul's. The altar, lectern and celebrant are now dressed in blue. The silver has given way to glass for Eucharistic vessels. The Gloria has become the Trisagion, the Alleluias have taken a short rest, and the Gospel of Mark has replaced the Gospel of Matthew in our readings. These are signs of our new liturgical year.*

*Recently, a clergy friend was saying that he heard someone talking about the Twelve Days of Christmas as the last shopping days before December 25. Oh my. Advent is the season of preparation for the Season of Christmas Tide. It consists of four Sundays with lessons that help us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior—of course the remembrance of his birth, but mostly as one who promised to return. The Twelve Days  
(continued on page 6)*

### *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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May the true joy of Christmas Day resonate within each of us as we welcome Christ and welcome each other. May abundant blessings be yours.



This is Christmas: not the tinsel, not the giving and receiving, not even the carols, but the humble heart that receives anew the wondrous gift, the Christ.

—Frank McKibben

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## **Worship**

### ***Christmas Worship***

The schedule for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is:

Christmas Eve--7:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Choir, the organ and a Children's Sermon.

Christmas Day--10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with a Blessing of the Toys. Bring your gifts for a special blessing.

### ***Sunday Worship***

For the fall of 2005 the Sunday worship schedule has been changed. There will be one service at 10AM. For the first three Sundays of the month, this service will be Holy Eucharist Rite II.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we nod to our more traditional members, and celebrate the Elizabethan language of the Holy Eucharist Rite I service.

Once a quarter, there is a month with a fifth Sunday. On those Sundays, we'll have a service of Morning Prayer with Sermon. For those unfamiliar with Morning Prayer, it harkens back to the prayer tradition of the monasteries in the Middle Ages, and reflects

the normal Sunday service of the Episcopal Church during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

All of our services will feature traditional and contemporary music and enjoy the support of our organist and choir.

The 8AM service will be "on vacation" until the 10AM service starts to "fill up."

### **Prayer Website**

Please remember to visit the St. Paul's 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.

### **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 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 508-435-6349 or the church office at 508-435-4536.

### **Upcoming Memorials**

December 4 – In loving memory of Ed Camilla & Ed Holohan by Beth Holohan  
December 11 – In loving memory of Robert Vogel by Roxanne, Pat, Sean and Katrina Donahue  
December 18 – In loving memory of Robin Windrow by the Cholakis family  
December 24 - Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings  
December 31 - open

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **DECEMBRRRR**

#### ***Feast of St. Nicholas – December 4<sup>th</sup>***

St. Paul's celebrates the feast of St. Nicholas with the presentation of the gifts for the St. Nicholas Giving Tree. The children bring their gifts (unwrapped and with their star attached) to the 10AM service and place them at the altar. The gifts will be taken to Project Just Because for their Make a Wish Holiday program.

It is a great time for our children to live the gift of giving.

#### ***Nativity Display December 10<sup>th</sup> / 11<sup>th</sup>***

Does this holiday season have you so frazzled that you've forgotten the true meaning of Christmas?

Then come to St. Paul's Nativity Display on Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 11, and enjoy the many ways in which the story of Christ's birth has been interpreted. More than 40 unique crèche sets from all over the world will be featured at the Display, which will take place in the Parish Hall. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 10 and 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11. Light refreshments will be served.

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For more information check with Diane Belamarich at (508)473-7712 or Lori Robak (508)435-1286

### **Family Christmas Concert - December 18<sup>th</sup>**

Fr. Mike is narrating "the Night Before Christmas" – part of a program that will also include "The Nutcracker Suite". The program, at St. John's in Hopkinton, will begin at 3pm and is free to all, though donations of cereal and cleaning supplies for the Hopkinton food pantry would be greatly appreciated. For more information, contact Everett Carr or check the St. Paul's website as the date approaches.

### **Christmas Eve - December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Eve--7:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Choir, our beautiful organ(ist) and a special Children's Sermon!

### **Christmas Day - December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Day--10:00 AM Holy Eucharist with a Blessing of the Toys. Bring your gifts for a special blessing.

## **JANUARY**

### **Epiphany Pageant – January 8<sup>th</sup>**

The Sunday School classes will be putting on an Epiphany Pageant – If your child(ren) would like to take part, please let your Sunday School teacher know, or contact Linda Lee (hopklee@netscape.com) or Vicki Jacobson ([Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net](mailto:Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net)).

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## **The Blessedness of Receiving**

St. Paul reminded some visiting friends from Ephesus that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35, NRSV). Apparently, Jesus did not say that receiving was not blessed. He just said the greater blessing comes from giving. Jesus was one who both gave and received.

Jesus was often the recipient of gifts, invitations and acts of kindness. He enjoyed

attending weddings, being an overnight guest in someone's home or being a guest for a meal. He allowed Mary to anoint his feet with costly perfume, and did not object when she wiped his feet with her hair (John 12:2-3, NRSV). He even asked for and received a drink of water from the Samaritan woman, although Jews and Samaritans usually had nothing to do with one another (John 4:7, NRSV).

The bottom line is this: Be a giver, but also be a grateful and happy receiver. Giving and receiving both bring blessings. We have a good example of both in the One whom we follow and serve.

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## **Sunday School News**

### **Sunday School Update**

As we enter into Advent and our Christmas Season, I would like to thank our Sunday School teachers for their dedication and commitment to bringing Christian education to our children. And we extend a big Thank You to Jen Dilegge for joining on as a J2A teacher.

Our current group of teachers include:

- In the Nursery we have Kata Pavlov.
- In the Godly Play group (3yrs to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade) we have Eileen Slater, Jo Rector and Alyssa Sarno
- The 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Living the Good News Primary class we have Robin Bloomer and Caroline Correia
- The 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Living the Good News Intermediate class we have Cindy Farrell and George Garabedian
- Rite-13 is lead by Chris Estey
- J2A is lead by Jen Dilegge and Fr. Mike

Please note that we still do have need for Teachers in Godly Play, Rite-13 and J2A. Please consider dedicating some of your time to helping teach our children.

Upcoming Sunday School events:

We will be having the Epiphany Pageant on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. There are both speaking and non-speaking roles. If your child(ren) would like to take part, please let your Sunday School teacher know, or contact Linda Lee ([hopklee@netscape.com](mailto:hopklee@netscape.com)) or Vicki Jacobson ([Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net](mailto:Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net)).

December 4<sup>th</sup> – All Ages Worship (no Sunday School) St. Nicholas and the Giving Tree  
December 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School  
December 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday School  
December 25<sup>th</sup> – All Ages Worship (Christmas), 10am  
December 31<sup>st</sup> (Saturday) – Pageant Rehearsal, 10am  
January 1<sup>st</sup> – All Ages Worship (New Years)  
January 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) – Pageant Rehearsal, 10am  
January 8<sup>th</sup> – All Ages Worship – Epiphany Pageant

Vicki Jacobson

### **Rite13 Update**

Thanks to everyone for making the first 3 months of the new Rite 13 class go so well. Here's how the rest of 2005 will look for the class:

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – All ages worship (St. Nicolas celebration) no class  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – Rite 13 Class meets. Also, coffee hour after service (see below)  
Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Rite 13 Class meets.  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day, no class

As a small service project for St. Paul's, the Rite 13 Class will be providing for the Coffee hour on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Please come and join them for coffee and fellowship after the service.

Chris Estey

### **J2A Calendar**

The J2A group has been busy creating their sacred space. For the last two Sunday evenings, they've been joined by Jennifer

Dilegge and Fr. Mike in painting one of the parish hall rooms for their meeting space. Most of the paint made it onto the walls!

The schedule for remainder of the year shapes up as:

Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – All ages worship (St. Nicolas celebration), church, 10AM  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30-8:00  
Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30-8:00  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day, no class  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – All Ages Worship, church, 10AM  
Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany Pageant, church, 10AM

### **Xmas?**

Every year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading "Merry Xmas!" Some Christians have been offended by the word Xmas. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord.

However, it really isn't. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek — the original language of the New Testament — is the first letter of the word *Xristos*, which translated into English is the word *Christ*.

So **X** is simply an abbreviation for the word *Christ*.

And the letters **mas** are an abbreviation of the word *mass*.

Therefore, **Xmas** really means *Christ mass* or *Christ worship*.

### **The Serious Side of Christmas**

The brilliant German clergyman, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who opposed Adolf Hitler and was killed because of it, made many insightful statements. Concerning Christmas, Bonhoeffer said that modern Christians take only "the pleasant and agreeable out of it and forget the serious aspect, that the God of the world draws near to the people of our little world and lays claim to us."

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He meant that when the presence of the holy light of God is revealed, we should see the seriousness of the magnificent revelation. Bonhoeffer put it this way: "The coming of God is truly not only glad tidings, but first of all frightening news for everyone who has a conscience."

An example of this is found in Luke's description of the shepherds' encounter with an angel: "... the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified" (Luke 2:9, NRSV).

Christmas is about God's immeasurable love invading Earth. It is also about the holy God being revealed among Earth's people, all of whom fall short of the glory of God.

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

*of Christmas are the days between the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, which is observed after sundown on December 24, and the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. Christmastide is the season when we sing our lungs out with glorious carols, remember the babe in the manger and look for the light of the world.*

*I know that everyone is preparing for the family gatherings and gift giving of modern American Christmas. There is nothing wrong with that. But now it is also the time to prepare for Jesus' return. This Advent, please take time to read "the galloping Gospel" of St. Mark. It's easily done in about two hours, and it will set the stage for our new year in the life of the Church. It might just add meaning to the Twelve Days of Christmas this year too.*

*So, boot trays and the Gospel according to Mark—signs of the changing seasons. I recommend them to everyone.*

Mike+

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## **Happy Birthday!**

### **Decembrrrr Birthdays include:**

Shirlee Macomber	December 4
Eileen Slater	December 7
Ruth Warner	December 9
Chelsea Jones	December 14
Everett Carr	December 16
Jennifer Dilegge	December 19
Sandra Jones	December 21
Samantha Lee	December 30

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## **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**

The choir is also looking for people who enjoy singing or play an instrument. If you have an interest, you can contact Janet Moorman, Gretchen Carr or Carol Spengler for more information.

## **Hospitality**

Coffee hour after Sunday's worship are hosted by the hospitality crew. There's a sign-up sheet in the Parish hall.

## **Outreach**

### **Project Just Because...**

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

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.... **Needs...**

- Household items
- 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](http://www.projectjustbecause.org)

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## Hopkinton Nativity Display

There is an initiative underway in Hopkinton to have a Nativity Set placed on the Town Common for the month of December. The group, being led by Serena Doyle, has received written permission from Parks & Rec Department and is planning to purchase a 50" nativity set, at an approximate cost of \$4000. The group is looking to Hopkinton families from various Christian Churches for donations - with the hope that 80-100 families will donate. Click to <http://home.comcast.net/~doyle41/nativity> or contact Serena Doyle at [doyle41@comcast.net](mailto:doyle41@comcast.net) for more information.

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## Helping St. Paul's Church

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

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](http://www.stpaulhopkinton.org). St. Paul's receives a percentage of the sale on all purchases on Amazon from this link.

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## 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

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## Epistle/Communications

### **eDevotional**

By now you've heard that we suspended the daily eDevotional mailings. There was a nominal cost to the service and we weren't too satisfied with using it as a way to communicate to you, the parish.

We've found there are many good devotional websites available these days. For instance, browse to:

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

It contains 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 goes to the website and click on a choice for the day. You can also sign up for weekly newsletters, etc.

Thanks to Sue Ramsley for researching this for us!

### **Epistle**

The Epistle is being distributed electronically (as a .pdf file) and is also available on the St. Paul's Website ([www.stpaulhopkinton.org](http://www.stpaulhopkinton.org)). Hard copy is also available in the parish hall. If you would like to receive the Epistle

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electronically, please send email to Peter Dittman at [pdittman@comcast.net](mailto:pdittman@comcast.net).

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

***Next Deadline for submission***

If you have articles, suggestions and/or announcements for the next Epistle, it should be submitted by December 26<sup>th</sup>, for publication January 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Just for kids

## Countdown of Giving

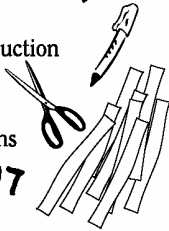
25 24 23

As people remember the gift of Christ, let's remember those around us with little acts of giving.

Make an Advent paper chain to count down the days until Christmas.

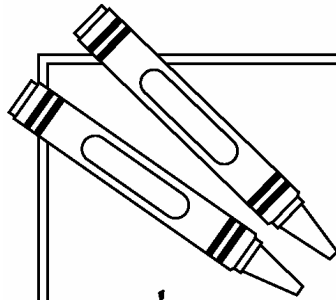
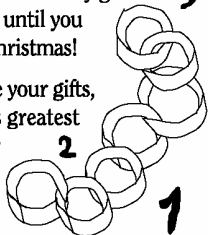
### What you will need:

- 5 sheets of construction paper (8" x 11")
- scissors
- markers or crayons
- tape or glue



### Here's what to do:

1. Cut the construction paper into 1" x 11" strips (You will need 25 strips but you will have extra.)
2. Have fun thinking of 25 different acts of giving you can do for others. (Here are just a few suggestions: Make and send a card; draw a picture; make an ornament; give a hug or a smile; have a cheerful attitude (all day); call someone you haven't seen for awhile or send the person an e-mail; bake cookies to share. The possibilities are endless!)
3. Number each strip with one number, numbering them 1-25.
4. Write one giving idea on each strip. You can repeat some.
5. Tape or glue strips into a paper chain, with number 25 first, counting backwards to 1.
6. Start on December 1 and give the gift on link 25. The next day give gift 24. Continue until you reach gift 1 on Christmas!
7. When you give your gifts, remember God's greatest gift to us — His Son Jesus.

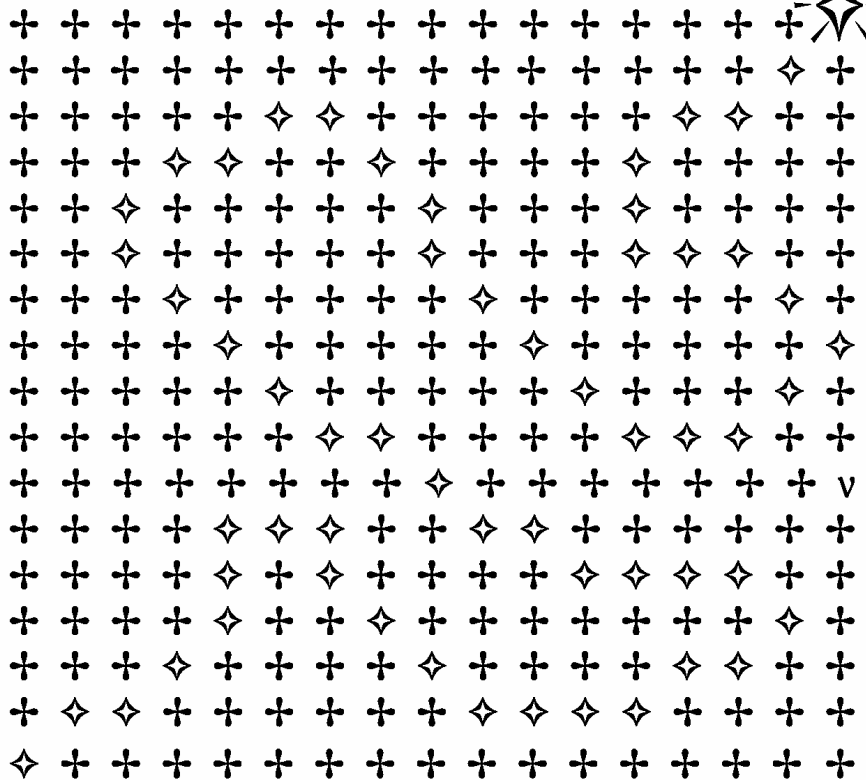


# Just for KIDS

## The Star that Led to the King

The wise men from the East saw a bright star. They followed it to the place where the child who would be King of the Jews was born. When they went inside, they saw baby Jesus with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. (Read Matthew 2:1-11.)

Help the wise men follow the star ✧ path that leads to baby Jesus.



↑  
**START**

Use the code to fill in the blanks and find out what gifts the wise men brought.

♥ = A   \* = E   † = I   ⊕ = O   \* = Y

G ⊕ LD   FR ♥ NK † NC \* NS \*   M \* RRH



ANSWERS: GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, MYRRH