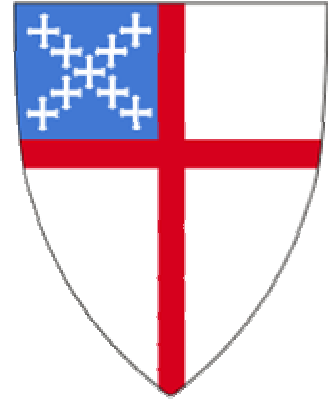


The *Epistle*

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



Volume 5, Number 6

A Message from our Sr. Warden

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

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Worship

Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Sunday, 10:00 am

*Published:
January 31st, 2006*

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our annual parish meeting on January 22, 2006. The meeting was very positive, especially with the encouraging words of the financial and stewardship reports. With the arrival of Fr. Mike and his positive spiritual energy and experience in congregational development, our parish has turned the corner and is now in position to put the recent difficulties to rest.

I have found that it is a pleasure to serve on the vestry. The meetings are conducted with respect; love for both St. Paul's and for God. As always, the vestry meetings are open to all and are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Copies of the approved meeting minutes are available on the table outside of the parish office.

During 2006 there will be many fresh and different opportunities for adult Christian education, family events to promote bonding, spiritual growth and to honor and serve God. Any suggestions that you have to improve our parish or something you would like to see happen are always welcome. Please feel free to offer your ideas to Fr. Mike, myself or any member of your vestry.

*Faithfully Yours,
Jay Jacobson
Senior Warden*

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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Valentine

My heart overflows with love,
Fashioned in our courtship
Planted in our marriage
Blossoming in our children.

A love that has been
Pruned by life's realities and
Strengthened by its triumphs.

A love that has grown
because the responsibility
and freedom to give and
to receive have been
shared.



A love that continues to
seek its Source
In the sunshine of
God's Love –

For it is there that we find
Our reason for being and
Our reason for loving!
-Peggy Ferrell

Worship

Sunday Worship

The Sunday worship schedule centers around the Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10AM, this is celebrated for the first three Sundays of the month. 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 19th and early 20th century.

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

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.

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 (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.

Prayer Group

Beginning January 5th, Lori Robak and Sue Ramsley will be leading prayer group on Thursdays at 11AM. Please join them any Thursday for the entire hour, or just to stop in to request prayer together for a specific concern. The group will meet in a room off of the parish hall or Fr. Mike's office. All are welcome to join this informal prayer time and are welcome to pray silently or aloud.

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

February 5th – In Memory of Frank and Gretchen Edwards by Ralph Edwards, and In celebration of the birthdays of Gwen and Ernie Paolini by Ernie Paolini.

February 12th – In Memory of Valerie Wilson by Amy and Jiggs Kent, and in Memory of

Frank Travers III and Frank Travers IV by Jane and Dave Desilets.
February 19th – In Memory of Aloysius Donahue by the Donahue Family,
February 26th – in Memory of Stephen Jacobson by Vicki and Jay Jacobson.

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

Scout Sunday – February 5th

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday. It is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting and to tie that to the last element of the scout law: a scout is reverent. The Boy scouts in the parish will hold a brief flag ceremony - all scouts (cubs, brownies, girl scouts) are encouraged to come in uniform.

Family Pizza Night– February 24th

We're planning a family pizza night, February 24th (note the date change) beginning at 5pm in the parish hall. Come join us for some family fellowship!

MARCH

Ash Wednesday – March 1st

Two services will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, one at noon, the second at 7:30pm. The Wednesday evening, 7:30 services will continue throughout Lent.

April

Rummage Sale – April 29th

Mark your calendars and start saving that Rummage!

Help Wanted

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

We still have need for Sunday School Teachers – please consider dedicating some of your time, even if it's only on a part-time basis, to helping teach our children. We are especially in need of a second (male) leader for the J2A group, held Sunday evenings and currently run by Jennifer Dilegge. No special credentials required. Contact Vicki Jacobson at Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net.

The Hospitality crew is looking for a coordinator – the responsibilities include keeping the Sunday morning coffees 'staffed', and organizing the periodic socials and catered events (e.g., the annual meeting). If you're interested, please contact Ruth Warner at whitehaller2@hotmail.com.

Sunday School News

St. Paul's Sunday School program has continued to do well this holiday season. The beginning of January we had the Epiphany Pageant with eighteen youth participating. For pictures and the script, go to

http://stpaulhopkinton.org/releases/pageant_2006.htm

At the Annual Meeting we discussed the need for increased participation of adults in the Sunday School program. We will be holding a Parents Meeting in May to discuss where we are and where we need to head for the Fall 2006 enrollment. Watch for further announcements on date and time.

Upcoming Events – the next All Ages worship is scheduled for Mar 5th (Mar 1st is Ash Wednesday) where we will distribute Lent Boxes and have the annual Burying of Allelujachs.

Sunday school (including Rite 13) will be held on all Sundays in February.

J2A classes will be held on February 12th, 19th and 26th from 6:30 to 8:00 in the parish hall.

Vicki Jacobson

How the Boy Scouts came to America

In 1909, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce was visiting London. Late one afternoon the city was enshrouded in heavy fog. Boyce lost his bearings in the murk and was approached by a boy of about 12 carrying a lantern. The boy offered to guide Boyce to the address he was seeking. When Boyce produced a shilling, the boy replied, "No, sir, I am a scout. Scouts do not accept tips for good turns."

That comment piqued Boyce's curiosity. He wanted to learn more about scouting in Britain, so the boy took him to the British Scout headquarters. He was so enthralled with what he heard there, that he decided to get scouting started in America.

Churches with a Scout troop, whether for boys or girls, are blessed by the troop's presence. They perform valuable service projects, learn and practice good values, health and survival techniques, discipline, and helpfulness toward others.

Let us offer scouts our gratitude when we see them helping the handicapped, assisting the elderly, directing the flow of church traffic, repairing or painting church property, and assisting us in many and various ways. We all benefit by their presence.

Kumbaya and the Bible

What do they have in common?

Well, the answer is probably nothing, but there is a connection. Recently, the Bible was translated into the language of Gullah (Wycliffe Bible Translators). Gullah is a blend of English and African languages that developed among the slave communities on the islands off the South Carolina coast near Charleston after traders mixed slaves who spoke different languages to thwart uprisings and escapes. Today, there are 250,000 Gullah speakers in America.

The phrase "kumbaya" in Gullah is really just a heavily accented version of the English phrase "come by here" that developed sometime around the 1920's. American missionaries took the song to Africa in the 1930's, where it was later "rediscovered" in Angola in the 1950's, leading many to believe that the song had its origins in Angola.

Here's something you might recognize:

We Fada wa dey een heaben,
leh ebrybody hona ya nyame.
We pray dat soon ya gwine
rule oba de wol.
Wasoneba ting ya wahn,
leh um be so een dis wol
same like dey een heaben.
Gii we de food wa we need
dis day yah an ebry day.
Fagib we fa we sin,
same like we da fagib dem people
wa do bad ta we.
Leh we dohn hab haad test
wen Satan try we.
Keep we fom ebil.

(thanks to Dianne Belamarich finding this!)

Annual Parish Meeting

St. Paul's Annual Parish Meeting was held on January 22, 2006 after the 10:00 A.M. service. Twenty-nine members attended the event which included a catered lunch. The 2006 vestry, the proposed 2006 annual budget and St. Paul's 2006 Diocesan

Convention Delegates (Frank and Mary Chase) were unanimously approved.

General reports on the finances, stewardship, Sunday school program, altar guild, property, hospitality and fund raising were given. There was much positive news regarding St. Paul's financial state as well as the encouraging results of the recent stewardship campaign. The main highlights were:

- ✠ The pledge collection rate in 2005 was near 100%. This is a very high number for any church.
- ✠ The final results of the 2005 income and expenditures yielded a surplus of \$7,900 to assist in our 2006 projected budget.
- ✠ St. Paul's has received a \$15,000 parish development grant from the Diocese for 2005 and 2006 to assist in our growth and development. These two grants have been incorporated into the 2006 budget.
- ✠ The approved 2006 budget projects to having a small surplus at the end of the year.

Fr. Mike discussed the responsibilities, duties and relationship of a Priest-in-Residence with the vestry. He summarized the history of St. Paul's recent problems and the results of his discussions with members, concluding that the lesson learned from this past history is that St. Paul's needs to be honest about who we are and where we want to go. Then Fr. Mike presented some goals for the near future including:

- ✠ Re-energize the adults in the life of the congregation through adult Christian education.
- ✠ Increase the number of volunteers for Sunday school so that there are 2 adults present in each class to be consistent with the safe church requirements of the Diocese.
- ✠ Have those involved with the Sunday school program and altar service attend the Diocesan Safe Church Training class.

- † Move forward with the long process of correcting the parish register and record keeping to be in conformance with the Canons of the Diocese.
- † Set realistic goals and expectations for the future.

The meeting was held with an atmosphere of positive energy and the feeling that St. Paul's is positioned for growth and strengthening of our extended family bond.

Jay Jacobson, Sr. Warden

Humor

Amish Virus

Your latest email reads: You have just received the Amish Virus!

Since we do not have electricity nor computers, you are on the honor system.

Please delete all of your files.

Thank thee.

Golden Phone

A man in Topeka, Kansas decided to write a book about churches around the country. He started by flying to San Francisco and worked east from there. Going to a very large church, he began taking photographs and notes. He spotted a golden telephone on the vestibule wall and was intrigued with a sign which read: "\$10,000 a minute." Seeking out the Pastor he asked about the phone and the sign. The Pastor answered that the golden phone was, in fact, a direct line to Heaven and if he paid the price he could talk directly to God. The man thanked the Pastor and continued on his way.

As he continued to visit churches in Seattle, San Diego, Greensboro, Tampa, Chicago and all across the United States, he found more phones with the same sign with the same answer from each Pastor.

Finally, he arrived in Massachusetts. Upon entering a church in Hopkinton, behold, he saw the usual golden telephone. But THIS time, the sign read: "Calls: 35 cents." Fascinated, he asked to talk to the Pastor. "Reverend, I have been in cities all across the country and in each church I have found this golden telephone. I have been told it is a direct line to Heaven and that I could talk to God, but, in the other churches the cost was \$10,000 a minute. Your sign reads 35 cents. Why?" The Pastor, smiling benignly, replied, "Son, you're in Hopkinton now... it's a local call."

Thanks to Sue Ramsley for these smiles.

Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays include:

Lori Robak	February 8
Brittany Dilege	February 10
Therese Robert Berry	February 23
Denise Mikulis	February 26

Moving Forward - A note from Fr. Mike

The 2006 parish meeting was a very positive event in the life of Saint Paul's. With recovering Sunday attendance and stable finances, some truth was told about the past, and a context acknowledged that will help us to make meaningful plans for the future. The Parish Profile, done in 2000, identified an important need in the parish—one that we can move toward meeting over the next months.

There are relatively few of the adult Saints of Saint Paul's involved in Christian Education. Every adult needs to be engaged on a continual basis in moving his or her heart closer to the Lord. For some adults this means taking part in a structured program of study as a student. For others this means

undertaking the personal study that is involved in teaching children our youth.

Pat Donahue and Michael Smith have agreed to work with me to brainstorm ideas on how we can make time and space for improved Adult Christian Education at Saint Paul's. We need your help as we explore possibilities that will meet this important need in our parish's life. Please call me at home 508-435-0209 or at church 508-435-4536 if you can be part of our imagining together about moving forward into Saint Paul's future.

Mike+

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.

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 signup sheet in the Parish hall.

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
- 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

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. St. Paul's receives a percentage of the sale on all purchases on Amazon from this link.

Your Vestry

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

Next Vestry meetings: March 7th, April 4th

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_january.pdf

There are copies for the months: 2005_september.pdf, 2005_october.pdf, 2005_november.pdf and 2005_december.pdf. As others are posted, they'll be announced.

Epistle/Communications

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.

Thanks to Sue Ramsley for researching this for us!

Epistle

The Epistle is distributed electronically (as a .pdf file) and is also available on the St. Paul's Website (www.stpaulhopkinton.org). Hard 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.

Next Deadline for submission

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



Just for kids

LOVE IS AN ACTION!

Love is about doing for others. For this Valentine's Day (or any other time of the year), create a coupon book that helps you serve others with love.

Here is what you need:

- index cards or colored paper (as many as you need)
- stickers (optional)
- colored markers or crayons

Here is what you do:

1. Think of the different people you can show love to. For example, parents, brothers, sisters, friends, neighbors, teachers, grandparents, etc.
2. Make a list of different things (acts of love) you can do for these people to show them you love them.
3. On each index card or colored paper, write these words:

This coupon is good for:



With love,
[Sign your name]

4. Write one "act of love" on each coupon's blank line.
5. Decorate each coupon with drawings, designs or stickers.
6. You can give people one coupon each or staple a few together into a coupon book to give to each person.



In 1 Corinthians 13 Paul writes about love. He tells us what love does and does not do. Let's find out about love!

Use the alphabet code to fill in the blanks.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

LOVE IS

16 1 20 9 5 14 20

LOVE IS

11 9 14 4

LOVE WITH THE TRUTH

18 5 10 15 9 3 5 19

LOVE

16 18 15 20 5 3 20 19

LOVE

20 18 21 19 20 19

LOVE

8 15 16 5 19

LOVE

16 5 18 19 5 22 5 18 5 19

... THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

12 15 22 5

ANSWER: PATIENT, KIND, REJOICES, PROTECTS, TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES, LOVE