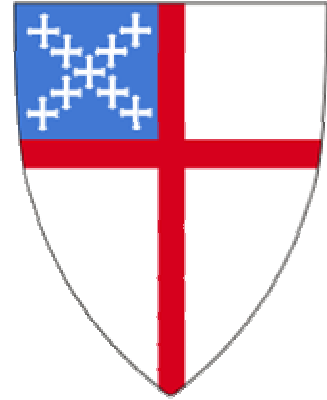


The *Epistle*

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



Volume 5, Number 8

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

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Forming a Vision for Saint Paul's

A friend from my Coast Guard days once said, "When you are up to your rear in alligators, it's hard to remember that you were going to drain the swamp." I think his language may have been a bit more "colorful," than I have used, but that was a long time ago. For a while the leadership of Saint Paul's has been so busy fending off alligators that there hasn't been much time for looking beyond paying the bills for the current month. Now, however, thanks to the success of the pledge 2005 drive, the faithfulness of those who are keeping up their pledges and the financial help received from the Diocese of Massachusetts, we have an opportunity to take a longer view.

I was, once, a pilot and navigator on Search and Rescue aircraft. One of the first lessons of our extensive navigation training was that you have to know where you are to know the way to the place you want to go. Thanks to so many folks who have had the courage to tell Saint Paul's story with great faithfulness, I think we have a good idea of "where we are." The work that will unfold over the next months is to form a coherent vision of our "destination."

*Starting with a meeting over coffee and dessert in February, and moving through the March Vestry Meeting and subsequent meetings
([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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Chartless

I never saw a moor,
I never saw the sea;
Yet I know how the heather looks,
And what a wave must be.

I never spoke with God,
Nor visited in heaven;
Yet certain am I of the spot
As if the chart were given.

-Emily Dickinson

Worship

Sunday Worship

The Sunday worship schedule is centered on the Holy Eucharist, Rite II, celebrated at 10AM 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 at the 10AM 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.

Lenten/Holy Week Services at St Paul's

On each Wednesday Evening of Lent, we will share in a simple and intimate service of Holy Eucharist with Holy Unction at 7:30 PM.

The Holy Week schedule includes services Monday through Friday evenings at 7:30PM. We will also be holding the following services:

April 9 Palm Sunday

10:00AM Holy Eucharist, Liturgy of the Palms and Reading of the Passion Gospel

April 13 Maundy Thursday

6:30PM Agape Feast
7:30PM Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altar

April 14 Good Friday

Noon Prayers, Stations of the Cross
7:30PM Prayers, Stations of the Cross

April 16 Easter Sunday

10:00AM Choral Eucharist

Prayer Group

Lori Robak and Sue Ramsley are leading prayer group that meets on Thursdays at 11AM in a room off the parish hall. Please join them any Thursday for the entire hour, or just to stop in to request prayer together for a specific concern. All are welcome to join this informal prayer time and are welcome to pray silently or aloud.

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

Easter Flowers

Memorial and Thanksgiving flowers will be available to adorn the altar for Easter Sunday. The cost is \$10. You may choose lilies, tulips or daffodils. Order forms are available during the Sunday services, or contact Ruth Warner for with details whitehaller2@hotmail.com.

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



Upcoming Events

April

Maundy Thursday – April 13th

There will be an Agape feast (Pot Luck) at 6:30 to 7:30 in the parish hall, immediately followed by a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Come and bring your favorite salad or dessert.

Marathon day – April 17th

An annual rite of spring in Hopkinton, on Marathon day, we'll again provide parking spectators and runners at the church. The day starts early, gathering at 8:30, to get everything set up. We fill up quickly, likely only an hour or two. If you can volunteer - contact Ruth Warner whitehaller2@hotmail.com.

Rummage Sale – April 29th

The Annual spring rummage sale will be April 29th. As you are doing your spring cleaning, think of St. Paul's before throwing anything out! Drop off starts from April 24th through the evening of the 28th. Contact Ruth Warner for more details whitehaller2@hotmail.com.

May

Family Cookout – May 12th

On Friday night **May 12th at 6:30 PM** we will share food and fellowship in Saint Paul's Parish Hall with a barbeque/cookout. Mark your calendars, more details to follow.

Sunday School meeting – May 21st

Following the 10AM service, during coffee hour, there will be a meeting to discuss the Fall 2006 Sunday school year. If you have school-aged children, please plan to attend and share your ideas (and some hospitality!)

How crucial is the Resurrection?

We cherish the birth of Jesus, his wisdom, his loving deeds, his courage in the face of a brutal death, but it is Christ's resurrection which is absolutely crucial to Christian beliefs.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul explained that the Resurrection was the foundation of our Christian belief system. He insisted that if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then we who believe in eternal life have no hope for it at all. "If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:16-17, NRSV).

Finally, Paul expresses very clearly how critical the Resurrection is to our Christian hope. "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:19, NRSV).

Sunday School News

There's a very busy schedule over the next several weeks:

- Sunday, April 2nd - Sunday School
- Sunday, April 9th - Palm Sunday, Children process with Palms, and continue to Sunday School classrooms. J2A will be held in the evening.
- Sunday April 16th - Easter Sunday - All Ages worship. Unburying of the Allelujuahs and return of the Lenten Boxes
- Sunday, April 23rd - Sunday School
- Sunday April 30th - Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation during Coffee Hour

Please also remember that the Agape Feast (potluck dinner) will be Thursday, April 13th (children have Friday off from school – so it's a great evening event!)

Looking ahead, on May 21st during coffee hour we will be having a meeting of the parents to discuss the Fall 2006 Sunday School year.

Thanks!
Vicki

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

of smaller numbers of vestry members, we have begun to dream dreams and imagine the future of Saint Paul's. In our first weeks of the process we have remembered what the churches of our childhood and youth were like and what they meant to us, and we have tried to capture the best of those recollections to inform our dreaming. We also have focused on the things we want our children to remember about life at Saint Paul's. There is much more to do. When we are done we hope to have our "destination" firmly in mind, and to validate that vision at a parish meeting.

As we move through this prayerful and thoughtful work, the vestry and I want everyone to know what we are up to, and to be part of the process. At coffee hour each week you will find a bulletin board in the parish hall with the report of our meetings in "bullet" form. You are invited to be part of the dialogue by reading the reports, giving them prayer and thought, discussing them with your family members and your fellow Saints of Saint Paul's, and especially by talking with the members of the vestry.

With God's help, we will form our vision for Saint Paul's. Then we will set our course with confidence toward the future God desires for us.

Mike+



Every Sunday is a little Easter

Beginning with the first Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection has been the focus of Christian worship. Because the early disciples were Jews they would have observed the Sabbath on Saturday. However, the first day of the week became the day for Christian worship. It was known as the Lord's Day, the day of Resurrection. Our weekly Sunday worship is a celebration of Jesus' resurrected presence with us - a little Easter each week.

The season of Lent is 40 days long, not counting Sundays. The actual number of days from Lent's start on Ash Wednesday to (but not including) Easter Sunday is 46 days. But because the church sees every Sunday as a mini-Easter celebrating Christ's resurrection, the six Sundays that occur during those 46 days are not counted as part of Lent.



A Message from your Sr. Warden


Our March monthly parish dinner was a huge success! All attending had a very good time and the chili and cornbread chefs shined in the spotlight. Our April parish dinner will be an Agape Feast on Maundy Thursday (April 13th). It will be followed by our traditional Maundy Thursday service including washing of the feet and stripping of the altar. We welcome ideas for themes for future events.

On March 20th, Fr. Mike and I met with representatives from St. Paul's in Millis, Christ Church in Medway and Alice Mann who specializes in congregational development and is acting as a coach for this group. Possibilities of working together, formulating vision plans and parish self evaluation was discussed. Many good ideas and thoughts were exchanged. Hopefully, we will be continuing to meet as a group and work together to solidify and grow our parishes.

We are now halfway through Lent and Easter is fast approaching. I hope you are having a meaningful and spiritual journey towards our celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Faithfully Yours,

*Jay Jacobson
Senior Warden*



Judge not

These are the words of Jesus: "If you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment ..." (Matthew 5:22, NRSV). In our Lord's eyes, hating or bearing a grudge against someone was asking for a judgment no one needs. Vituperation and meanness of spirit, Jesus said, could make one "liable to the hell of fire" (5:22). Even if "the hell of fire" is only a burning sense of guilt and a tortured soul, no one wants to live that way.


Can we learn to set anger aside for forgiveness, as Jesus suggests?



Help Wanted

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

We continue to have a 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.



Chili Cook-off

The Chili cook-off was a great success – good fellowship, outstanding chili, and a tie for the best chili – between Pam Main and Carolyn Garabedian! Rumor has it, this was Carolyn’s first attempt at Chili (it can only get better!). We are fortunate that we have both the prized recipes:

Pam Main’s Chili recipe:

Brown and drain 1-1/2 lbs ground beef. Add:

1 env.	Lipton’s Onion soup mix
1 T.	chili powder to start with
1 tsp	Emeril’s Southwest essence
½-1 tsp	Cayenne Pepper (or more, if desired)
2-28oz cans	whole peeled tomatoes – cut up the tomatoes

Heat for 45 minutes. Add 1 28oz can Kidney beans. Spice to taste with more chili powder.

Carolyn Garabedian’s Chili Recipe:

brown 2lbs ground beef or turkey and drain.

Add to meat:

- 2-3 small onions chopped
- 2 peppers chopped

cook for a few minutes for peppers and onions to soften add:

- 4 cans of 'Del Monte Petite Cut' diced tomatoes with Zesty Jalapenos
- 2 cans of red kidney beans-- rinsed and drained
- 1 small can of tomato sauce

bring to a boil then lower heat. Add 1 small can of tomato paste to thicken sauce

Kudos

We'd like to extend a big thank you to David Spengler for volunteering to temporarily take over the Assistant Treasurer Duties while Sue Cholakis continues her recovery. His help is greatly appreciated!

Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays include:

Gretchen Carr	April 5
Jim Walker	April 7
Rick Correia	April 9
Paula Vosburgh	April 10
Samantha Jacobson	April 17
Donald Wilson, III	April 17
Bill Jones	April 18
Conner Diercks	April 19
Patrick Donahue	April 19
Nigel Slater	April 19
Laura Faden	April 21
Jack Walker	April 26
Kate Cholakis	April 26

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 Gretchen Carr or Carol Spengler for more information.

Hospitality

Coffee hour after Sunday’s worship are 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 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.**

.... **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

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	Hospitality

Next Vestry meetings: May 2nd

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_march.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

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 April 25th, for publication May 1st.



Just for kids

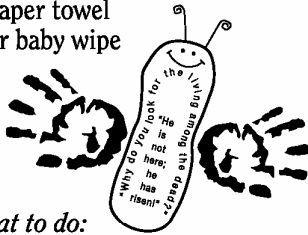
Make a HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY



The butterfly is a symbol of new life and of the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and gave us hope for a new life.

What you need:

- Bible verse Luke 24:5-6 (NIV)
- tempera paint or acrylic paint
- paintbrush
- 1 sheet of light-colored construction paper
- paper towel or baby wipe

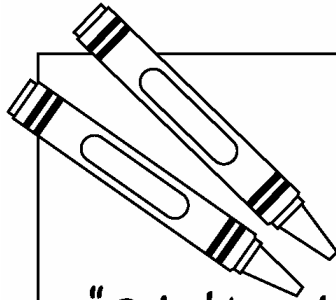


What to do:

1. Draw a picture of a butterfly's body. Make it wide enough to write this verse inside the body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"
 Luke 24:5-6 (NIV)

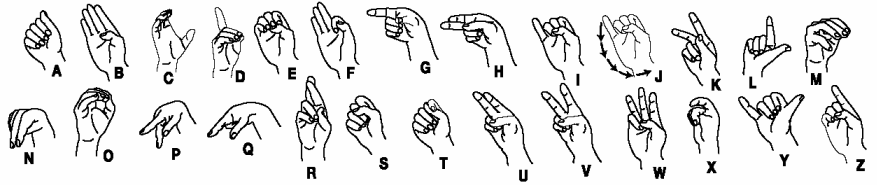
2. Use the paintbrush to paint the palm of your hand.
3. Make a butterfly wing with your handprint by pressing your hand down next to the butterfly body.
4. Clean your hand with the paper towel or baby wipe.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 with the other hand.
6. Let the butterfly remind you of the sacrifice Jesus made for us and of the beauty of his Resurrection.



Just for KIDS

"Behold my hands and my feet ..." Luke 24:39 (KJV)

Hands play an important role in the story of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Use this hand alphabet to retell the Easter story.



Jesus' _____ were _____ to the tree.

Two criminals were also crucified, one on the _____

_____ and the other on the _____ of Jesus.

Jesus cried out with a loud voice, " _____ ,

into your _____, I commit my spirit."

The _____ of Jesus' friends _____

Him from the cross to the tomb.

Jesus showed _____ His _____

to prove He was Christ.

Bring your _____ together in _____

and thank God for His Son Jesus.

ANSWER: HANDS, NAILED, RIGHT, HAND, LEFT, FATHER, HANDS, HANDS, CARRIED, THOMAS, HANDS, HANDS, PRAYER.