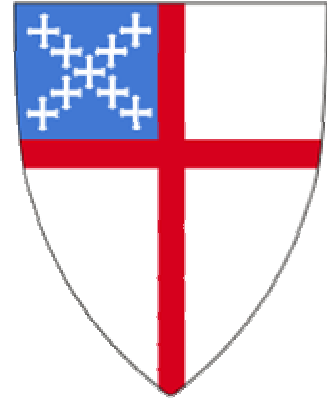


# The *Epistle*

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



**Volume 5, Number 9**

***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  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in month,  
10:00 am

*Published:  
April 30th, 2006*

***The 2006 General Convention is Coming!***

*This June the elected delegates from all the dioceses of the Episcopal Church will converge in Columbus, Ohio to form the world's largest legislative body. Together with the House of Bishops, the House of Delegates will convene The General Convention of the Episcopal Church, United States of America, a body that has met without fail every three years since the founding of our denomination as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States back in 1781.*

*The bicameral structure of the church's legislative body is an intentional parallel of the Legislature of the United States, and is intended to emphasize the uniquely democratic polity of our denomination. We are a church of bishops, but our bishops are elected by the people and clergy of individual diocese. Together, the bishops we elect form one house of our legislature. The other house is formed by delegates elected by the Annual Convention/Council of each diocese, and of course, the folks who vote at those annual events are elected by the individual parishes of the church. In January we elected Frank and Mary Chase to be our delegates at the next Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts.*

*([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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## **Don't help a Butterfly**

There is a story about a man who kept watching a cocoon. The man knew a butterfly would emerge, but it seemed to take forever. Finally, being impatient and wanting to free the struggling insect, he took a knife and split the cocoon.

The butterfly was born, but it could not fly. The man had prevented a very necessary struggle that the butterfly needed. That struggle forces body juices into the insect's wings, giving it strength to fly.

Perhaps there is a lesson for us in the story. Those who have had some great struggles in life are often better for enduring the difficulties. Losses, rejection, disabilities and disappointments can teach us patience,



strengthen us spiritually, and make us better, more kindly humans.

Theologians sometimes use the phrase "No cross, No crown." It was victory over the Cross that made Christ King.

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## **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 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.

### **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

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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.

### **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**

### **May**

#### **Family Cookout – May 12<sup>th</sup>**

On Friday night **May 12<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>**

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!)



### **From the Stewardship Corner of the World...**

Where does the time go? Is it Fall already? No, no, no...Chris and I are not here to jumpstart the next Stewardship campaign!

We do, however, want to take a moment to remind everyone about those wonderful "Building Fund" envelopes that we all have as pledging members to St Paul's. *Please* do not overlook or ignore them. Our Building Fund remains severely depleted after last year's septic episode and normal / routine maintenance issues.

We would like to encourage everyone to make use of these envelopes, and make periodic replenishment contributions whenever possible in order to increase the fund balance to where it can respond to "small emergencies" in an efficient manner. The alternative would be a fund raising event if we have another significant building issue with a still depleted building fund, and I think we'd all rather avoid that!

So, the next time you see a "Building Fund" envelope, please don't recycle it. Please put whatever you can into it – whether it is \$5, \$50 or \$500 as every penny will be important some day – and bring it with you to services on Sunday morning. Hopefully the next crisis is a long way off, but one never knows.

For those who may not be pledging members and who still want to contribute, please feel free to donate via check and put "Building Fund donation" on the memo line, or see either Chris, myself or another Vestry member to arrange for a donation. And if you are curious about actually becoming a

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pledging member, please ask any one of us for more information.

Thank you!

John Diercks and Chris Estey

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

*Every time it meets The General Convention considers action on resolutions and canon changes. Since the 1960's the heart of the resolutions have concerned the ordering of society and the Church's prophetic role in promoting Godly change. If you think back on the Church's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement, the continuing struggle to end Capital Punishment, and the efforts to achieve equal rights for women you can get some idea of The General Convention's social activities.*

*Sometimes The General Convention acts to elect a new Presiding Bishop. This is one of those years. Presiding Bishops are elected to a single 9 year term. This year the Most Reverend Frank T. Griswold steps down and another will be elected to take his place. I'm happy to say that the Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta is one of those amongst the nominees.*

*The General Convention is almost always called upon to approve recent elections to the episcopacy. It was this function in 2003 that brought more interest and news coverage to The General Convention than the Episcopal Church as experienced in ages.*

*The General Convention is coming. If you would like to learn more about the issues it will debating, the election of the new Presiding Bishop, and the potentially controversial actions it might take concerning elections to the episcopacy, please join me on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, starting May 10, for a look at the*

*latest news and discussion about what it might mean to us here at Saint Paul's.*

Mike+

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### **What it's all about**

Van Marter, a journalist and minister, was named Distinguished Alumnus by the San Francisco Theological Seminary. As part of his acceptance speech he said, "Every morning I remind myself that it's not about me, it's about God. It's never about what I'm doing, but about what God in Christ is doing in me. It's not about my institution or any other, it's about God. It's on the very bad days and on the very good days that we're most tempted to believe that it's all about us. But it never is."

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### **Thank you!**

A huge **thank you** goes to the Altar Guild and everyone else who helped to make our Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday so spectacular!

A hearty thank you also to all those who contributed to and participated in the Rummage Sale.



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### **Help Wanted**

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

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required. Contact Vicki Jacobson at [Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net](mailto:Vicki.Jacobson@comcast.net).

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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.

## 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 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](http://www.projectjustbecause.org)

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## 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](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

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: June 6<sup>th</sup>

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](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.

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## **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](http://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](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 May 26<sup>th</sup>, for publication June 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Just for kids

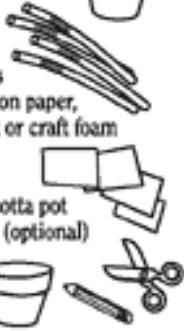
## A Cheerful Bouquet for Mother

Make a beautiful bouquet for your mom that will cheer her up for many days — and it doesn't need any water or sunshine!



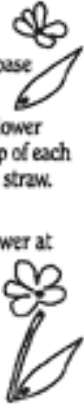
### What you need:

- 12 bendable straws
- colored construction paper, colored card stock or craft foam
- craft glue
- hole punch
- bud vase or terra cotta pot
- clay or play dough (optional)
- scissors
- pencil

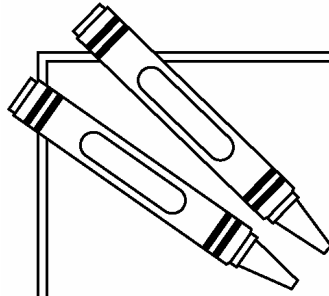


### What you will do:

1. Cut the colored paper, card stock or foam (or a combination) into 24 or more flower shapes and 24 or more leaf shapes (about 1-2 inches). Make them different sizes and colors.
2. Punch a hole in the center of each flower and one near the base of each leaf.
3. Bend each straw and push the flower shapes (2 or more layered on top of each other) onto the short end of the straw. Do not go past the bend.
4. Put a little glue behind the flower at the hole to hold it in place.
5. From the bottom of the straw, slide 1 or 2 leaf shapes onto the straw and glue them in place from underneath.
6. After the glue has dried, put your flowers in a bud vase or display them in a terra cotta pot.\*
7. \*If you use a terra cotta pot, place a fist-sized ball of clay or play dough in the bottom of the pot. Push the straw ends into the clay or play dough. When the clay or dough dries out, it keeps the flowers arranged without them falling over.



*Your mother will appreciate the time and love you put into making this cheerful bouquet for her.*



# Just for KIDS

## Mothers of the Bible

God wants us to love and honor our mothers — not just on Mother's Day, but every day. The Bible tells us about many mothers who loved God.

Use the code to discover each mother's name.

4+ 1☝ 1⌘ 2∩ 1∩

2☝ 1∩ 3∩ 3⌘

1+ 4∩ 1+

3∩ 1☝ 2☝ 1☝ 3⌘

3⌘ 1☝ 4∩ 1☝ 2☝

3⌘ 1☝ 4+ 4+ 1☝ 3⌘

2∩ 1☝ 2☝ 2⌘

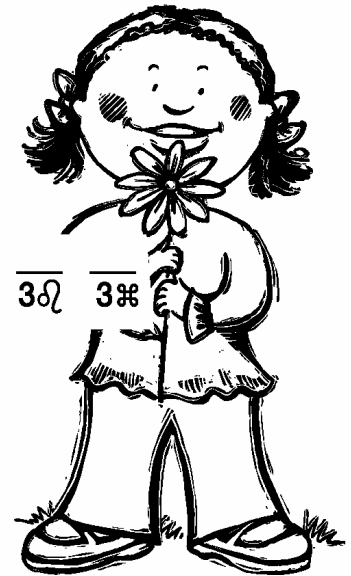
1+ 2∩ 1∩ 3☝ 1☝ 3+ 1+ 3∩ 3⌘

2∩ 1+ 1☝ 3⌘

2☝ 1☝ 2+ 3⌘ 1+ 2∩

2☝ 1+ 3+ 1+ 4⌘ 1☝ 3⌘

CODE					
	☝	+	∩	⌘	∩
1	A	E	I	O	U
2	R	C	L	Y	M
3	Z	B	S	H	T
4	D	N	V	K	G



ANSWERS: NAOMI, RUTH, EVE, SARAH, HAGAR, HANNAH, MARY, ELIZABETH, LEAH, RACHEL, REBEKAH