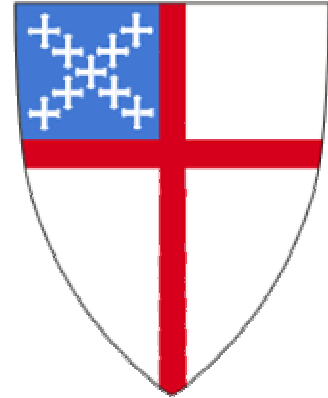


The *Epistle*

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



Volume 6, Number 1

A Message from our Fr. Mike

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

61 Wood Street
P.O. Box 165
Hopkinton, MA 01748

Tel: 508-435-4536
Fax: 508-544-8205

Office E-mail:
stpaulhopkinton1@netzero.com
www.stpaulhopkinton.org

Worship

Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Sunday, 10:00 am

*Published:
August 23rd, 2006*

Welcome Back to Saint Paul's!

We have had fun this summer with smaller and more relaxed services, with children's sermons each week, with weekly reports on the painting project's progress, and with a painting party that almost completed the parish hall in one session; but now it's time to get back to the business of being the Episcopal Church in Hopkinton.

Things will start with "Welcome Back Sunday" on September 10th. We will start by serving breakfast at about 8:45 AM (we need chefs to scramble eggs and bacon and to make coffee, and volunteers to help with shopping and bringing muffins). Then we will introduce our Sunday School teachers and begin Church School registration at 9:45 AM (the new start time for Sunday School this year). Church will begin at 10:00 AM and we will welcome back the choir and our normal order of worship with an entrance procession, choir, service music and all.

This fall Saint Paul's enters into a new relationship with the Hopkinton Senior's Center. The Senior's Center will soon be moving from the basement of the Hopkinton Town Hall into a wonderful new facility, and Saint Paul's will be sponsoring a series of weekly classes in that new facility. The first class will be on Healthy Grieving and the second will be on The Spirituality of Maturity. Both topics are of immediate interest to many of the 1400 or so seniors of the town. The start date is still a little soft for the first class, but should be ([continued on page 5](#))

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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Blessings Count

Some years ago, a newspaper profiled the lives of an elderly Christian couple. When the pair was first married, they decided to use their God-given gifts to help others. They focused primarily upon serving through their church and life-care retirement homes.

Their love and service down through the years prompted a foundation to honor them for their caring philanthropy.

Upon receiving their award, Mr. and Mrs. Davis Illingworth spoke of the motto that had been the guiding rule of their lives:

"Count your blessings, and make your blessings count."



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.

Second Sunday Offerings

Thank you to all who donated items during the summer for the Hopkinton Senior Center Food Pantry. Each month, on the second Tuesday of the month, we collect various food (and non-food) items for the pantry. While specific needs are often announced during announcements in preceding Sunday services, you are always welcome to bring additional items - your gifts are always needed by those in our community.

Prayer Group

Lori Robak and Sue Ramsley are leading prayer group that meets on Thursdays at 11AM in Fr. Mike's office. 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 (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

An events calendar is provided at the end of this newsletter.

SEPTEMBER

Life Line Screening – September 7th

On September 7, Saint Paul's will host Life Line medical screening. Life Line offers

screening for Carotid Arteries, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, Peripheral Arterial Disease and Osteoporosis for \$45.00 per screening (or all for \$129). Saint Paul's has no financial interest in this screening and is hosting this event as a service to the Hopkinton community. For more information or to register for a screening, contact Life Line at 1-800-324-1851 (Pre-registration is required). Information is also available on their website: <http://www.lifelinescreening.com/>.

Welcome Back Sunday – September 10th

Please join our activities for Welcome Back Sunday. All current church members, and especially those whom you would like to invite to worship with us, are welcome. Planned activities include a church breakfast from 8:45 to 9:45AM), Sunday School registration (concurrently), a welcome for new Choir members and a choir practice at 9:15AM.

OCTOBER

Blessing of the Animals – October 1st

A perennial favorite with the children is St. Paul's celebration of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis (c. 1181-1226), founder of the Franciscans, is the patron saint of animals, and in his honor we hold a life-affirming, critter-loving ceremony called the Blessing of the Animals.

You are all invited to bring your pets for a special blessing at this celebration. Pictures and remembrances of those who have passed are also welcome.

There will be no Sunday school on that day.

Rummage Sale – October 14th

St. Paul's is planning to hold its Fall Rummage sale on Saturday, October 14th, so start putting that *rummage* aside! Details for drop off will be announced as we get closer to the 14th (check the website for updates). Contact Ruth Warner at (508)435-6349 or whitehaller2@comcast.net to volunteer.

Mark your calendars and start saving that *Rummage!* Remember, items for donation should be in good repair. Clothing should not be torn or stained.

Halloween Party – October 28th

St. Paul's is planning to hold a Halloween party on Saturday, October 28th – more details will follow in next month's Epistle.

Honor Teachers

James Michener, the author of books such as *The Source and Hawaii*, was once invited by President Eisenhower to a dinner at the White House. He answered the president with these words:

"Dear Mr. President: I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers."



President Eisenhower answered Michener by saying, "In his lifetime a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents, but a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."

Sunday school will be in full swing shortly, so let us honor all of our teachers. They sacrifice their time to prepare lessons, decorate classrooms, teach with loving care, and most importantly, are "there" for their students.

Sunday School News

School is right around the corner, and so is our first day back to St. Paul's Sunday School. This September, we are going to continue with our age appropriate curriculum, with a few exciting changes.

Nursery – the Nursery is being relocated to the old Rite-13 room upstairs in the Parish Hall. (Rite-13 will now share the J2A room since they meet at different times). The freshly painted, bright room will be a welcome change for our little ones.

Godly Play – We are continuing again this year with the fabulous Godly Play curriculum which allows our pre-school thru 1st grade children to use manipulatives to understand the weekly Sunday lessons.

Living the Good News Primary and Intermediate – This lectionary based curriculum incorporates the Revised Common Lectionary (the readings during service) and the The Book of Common prayer. This curriculum follows the readings during the service.

Rite-13 and J2A (Journey to Adulthood) are both in the second of the two year programs.

Rite-13 focuses on celebrating the individuality of each young person and their creative potential. The Rite-13 liturgy (A celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this. Rite-13 will continue to meet during Sunday Service, now using the room with J2A.

J2A - Engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. J2A will continue to meet on Sunday evenings.

We had a lot of discussion surrounding our children entering 6th grade this year. Ideally, we'd like to have offered a 'pre Rite-13' class to these youth. However, we are still struggling with staffing the existing 5 classes that we currently offer. Because of our challenge to attract more Sunday school teachers, we are going to have the 6th graders remain in the Living the Good News Intermediate class. This class will be for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students this year. Next fall, the J2A class will be graduating from the St. Paul's Sunday School and the Rite-13 youths will move to J2A. At that time we will

start a new Rite-13 group which will encompass the current 6th graders (will then be entering 7th grade) and our current 5th graders (they will be entering 6th grade).

Another exciting change to our curriculum is the addition of music! We will be furnishing the classrooms with CD players and have purchased music to accompany the curriculum.

Please remember that, as discussed during our parents meeting, Sunday School will now be from **9:45am** until 10:30am.

I also want to remind the parents that we will be asking that you sign up for a few Sundays during the school year to be an assistant in a classroom. We are striving to have two adults in each classroom at all times. There will be 28 Sunday School days throughout the 10 month period. We'll have the signup sheet available during registration – please come prepared with the dates you are available.

Registration will take place prior to class starting on Sunday Sept. 10th. We look forward to seeing you there!

Vicki Jacobson

A New Nursery for Saint Paul's and an Opportunity for Ministry

One of the immediate benefits of this summer's painting project has been the relocation of the Nursery from the basement to the "Green Room" off the Parish Hall. The new location is bright and fresh and much more welcoming to our parents and their infants and young toddlers. Now we need to staff the nursery with a regular rotation of caring adults and older teens. If you would like to spend an hour or so, roughly once a month, playing with little ones who will be given back to their parents when you are done, talk to Fr. Mike.

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

settled soon. Part of the motivation for Saint Paul's involvement with the Senior's Center is purely service to our seniors, and part of it is to explore this segment of our community as we search for Saint Paul's "niche."

September will see the re-energizing of our vision work and our collaboration with the Episcopal Churches in Medway and Millis. I pray that by year's end, and the 2007 Annual Meeting, we will have a strong sense of our place in our community and a plan for working with these other churches to make Saint Paul's Hopkinton, Saint Paul's Millis and Christ Church Medway strong and vital for the years to come.

Saint Paul's will host a major training event for the Diocese of Massachusetts this fall. Safe Church Training for Saint Paul's and the other Episcopal churches in the nearby area will happen here on November 18. Our Sunday School teachers, employees (Ruth and I) and others who work with children will be attending this training along with folks from other churches. When the training is accomplished, we will be forming a committee to draft up Safe Church Policies and Procedures for Saint Paul's—a document that I hope will also be ready for presentation at the 2007 Annual Meeting.

Summer is ending, and life is beginning anew at Saint Paul's—and you won't want to miss a minute of it. Come see your friends, reengage in your faith and share your God given gifts for ministry. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Faithfully,

Mike+

A Message for September from your Sr. Warden

I hope this summer has been fun and relaxing for everyone. Much progress has been made at St. Paul's. Fresh paint has been applied to the classrooms, parish hall, and kitchen. Hopefully the hallway between the sanctuary and the parish hall will be painted as well. What a difference it has made. I'd like to sincerely thank all who generously donated their time and helped do this work during some very warm summer days.

Our congregational development work will commence again in September with our brothers and sisters at Christ Church in Medway and St. Paul's in Millis. Hopefully we will find ways to combine our energy and resources to benefit all three parishes. I will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

This fall, we will resume our monthly parish dinners. If you have ideas for some fun themes, please pass it on to me, Fr. Mike or any vestry member. One theme that we plan on using is an Oktoberfest. Ernie Paolini has agreed to provide some entertainment for us on his accordion.

Sunday school registration will be held on September 10th. This year in order to provide two adults per classroom, we ask that parents with children enrolled in the Sunday school program sign up to volunteer to be an assistant for one or more Sundays during the Sunday School term. Having two adults present per classroom not only benefits the quality of your child's education, but helps us conform to the Diocesan "safe church" standards.

Over the summer months, Sunday service attendance at St. Paul's significantly increased over that of last summer. This is a clear result of the increase in positive energy and enthusiasm that has been happening in our parish. I look forward to being part of

the continued growth and fellowship over the upcoming months.

Faithfully Yours,

*Jay Jacobson
Senior Warden*



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a Parish ministry that is responsible for keeping the Church ready for its Sunday worship. The guild needs 6 to 8 people to give one hour per month, at their convenience, to set up the altar for Sunday worship, clean up afterward, and arrange the flowers for the Altar (no experience needed!!!). Please consider giving this simple gift of time and contact Ruth Warner at whitehaller2@comcast.net.

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 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

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
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 meetings: September 7th,
October 5th

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

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 September 26th, for publication October 1st.



Just for kids

Make Your Own "Clay"

Make one or more of these different types of homemade play dough. (Ask an adult to help.) Think about God and how He loves us, shapes us and molds us. Squeeze, roll and shape the clay into many different and unique shapes.

Salt Dough

- 3 cups of flour
- 1-1/2 cups salt
- 6 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 3 cups of water
- 3-4 tablespoons oil
- food coloring
- glitter (optional)



Mix the dry ingredients together in a big pan. Add water, oil and food coloring. Whisk until the lumps and food coloring are well mixed. With an adult's help, cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring constantly until the dough thickens and forms into a ball. When the dough cools, knead in the glitter. The dough will keep several weeks in plastic containers or bags.

Rubbery Play Dough

- 2 cups baking soda
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 cup cornstarch



In a pan, mix the ingredients with a fork until smooth. With an adult's help, boil the mixture over medium heat until thick. Spoon onto a plate or wax paper, and let cool.

Oatmeal Clay

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 2/3 cup flour
- 1/2 cup water
- food coloring



Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl. Add more flour if necessary for the dough to form a lump. Knead the dough on a floured surface until it is smooth. Add food coloring to the water before mixing the dough, or divide into balls and add coloring after mixed and kneaded.



Back to school

It is back to school time! You will continue to learn, grow and change. The Bible tells us that we are like clay and that God is forming us everyday.

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Calendars

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 8:00 AM Life Line Screening 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	8	9
10 Welcome Back Sunday 8:45 AM Breakfast 9:45 AM Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers And Church School Registration 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2	11	12	13	14 7:00 PM A Vision for Saint Paul's	15	16
17 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Feast of Saint Francis 9:45 AM Coffee and Donuts outside 10:00 AM The Blessing of the Animals 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 3	2	3	4	5 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	6	7
8 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2	9	10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14 10:00 AM Rummage Sale
15 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2	16	17	18	19 7:00 PM A Vision for Saint Paul's	20	21
22 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2	23	24	25	26	27	28 6:00 PM Halloween Party
29 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1	30	31 Halloween				