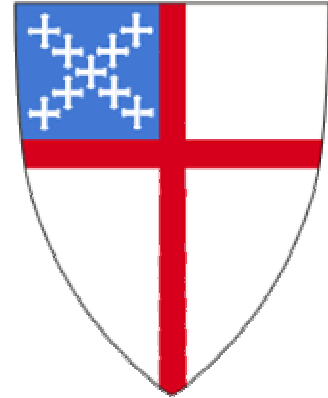


The *Epistle*

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



Volume 6, Number 3

A Message from our Fr. Mike

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

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Worship

Holy Eucharist – Rite II
Sunday, 10:00 am

*Published:
October 30th, 2006*

An October to Remember

What a good October it has been at St. Paul's! If only the Red Sox were in the World Series, it would have been nearly perfect. We dedicated the labyrinth on a beautiful fall Sunday morning, we had a very successful cleanup day and got the grounds ready for winter and we celebrated Halloween with a party for our younger children decorated by our older children and teens. We had a budget meeting that took a careful and prayerful look at 2007's finances and the planned reduced level of support from the Diocese of Massachusetts. And, we had a meeting with the minister and some parish leaders from Grace UMC about the possibility of having them rent space from us on Sunday mornings in 2007.

I mention the last two of these events together because they have the potential for significant impact on the parish for 2007 and beyond.

First I want to discuss the budget for 2007. In 2007 we are anticipating a grant of \$15,000.00 from the diocese, adding that to all other anticipated sources of income (pledges, rents, fund raisers and so forth) the parish's total income is projected to be about \$117,000.00. Holding expenses to their 2006 levels in almost all cases, the total cost of running that parish for 2007 is projected to be about \$131,000.00. There is a \$14,000 gap between the two

([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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Building God’s Kingdom

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, the day when a peace agreement was signed with Germany ending World War I.

Armistice Day was established with a proclamation by President Woodrow Wilson which reads in part: “Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in heroism of those



who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.” On June 1, 1954, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

On Veterans Day this year, let us remember and honor those men and women who gave of themselves, and let us continue to pray for our men and women currently serving in the military.

Worship

Clear our minds and hearts, O Lord, of anything that might keep us from centering on you. May this time of worship be an enriching experience for us all.

Sunday Worship

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

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

Second Sunday Offerings

Each month, on the second Tuesday of the month, we collect various food (and non-food) items for the Hopkinton Council on Aging Food 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.

On November 12th, we’ll be collecting paper goods.

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.

If you have a prayer request, please call Sue at 508-881-5361 or Lori at 508-435-3353.

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.

Adult Bible Study

The Bible Study group meets Sunday evenings, 5-6:30pm (coincident with the J2A group). For more information, call Amy Kent at 508-435-0221 or email her at aandjkentfamily@comcast.net.

The group is currently studying the Book of Acts.

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.

NOVEMBER

Acolyte Training – Nov. 4th

St. Paul's will hold an Acolyte training session on Saturday, November 4th at 10AM. All are invited to participate. If you are interested, please contact Ruth (whitehaller2@comcast.net) or Vicki Jacobson (Vicki.jacobson@comcast.net) or the church office.

First Sunday Breakfast – November 5th

On the first Sunday of every month, the Kitchen Krew will be serving breakfast from 8:45-9:45 in the parish hall. Please join us for some fellowship (and a good meal!).



Book Club – November 13th

This month the book club is reading *The Good Book*, by Peter Gomes. The club meets at the church on the second Monday of each month, this month on November 13th from 7:30 — 9:30 PM. All adults are invited.

St. Nicholas Giving Tree – November 19th

Every Advent, we celebrate the coming of St. Nicholas with a Giving Tree. On this day, children of the parish choose stars from the Giving tree with names/ages of needy children in our community. Their gifts are returned at the Feast of St. Nicholas celebration on December 3rd.

DECEMBER

Feast of St. Nicholas – December 3rd

We celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas with the presentation of the gifts for the St. Nicholas Giving Tree. The children bring their gifts (unwrapped) to the 10AM service and place them at the altar. It is a great way for our children to live the gift of giving to our community.

Nativity Display – December 9th / 10th

Does this holiday season leave you so frazzled that you've forgotten the true meaning of Christmas? Time to get less busy and remember the reason for the season?

Join us for the St. Paul's Nativity display on Dec. 9th/10th, to enjoy the many ways in which the story of Christ's birth has been interpreted and portrayed. Last year we had over 40 unique crèche sets from all over the world!

Times are to be determined, the event will include light refreshments and warm fellowship. We hope you can join us and are encouraged to display your set(s) and traditions with others. We will be setting up Friday evening from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., during which time you can drop off your set. The utmost care will be taken with each set. You are also welcome to set up and dismantle your own display.

For more information check with Kate Correia at (508)881-7219, Diane Belamarich at (508)397-9487 or Lori Robak (508)435-3353.



Word of advice

An old evangelist was telling another man how he might improve his lifestyle. "You know," answered the wayward fellow, "I've been aiming to do that."

"Well," said the preacher, "quit aiming and start shooting."



Membership Class

If you are an adult who has made St. Paul's your church home and are not yet officially a member of Saint Paul's or the Episcopal Church, talk to Fr. Mike about joining the Membership Class. This class will begin meeting in November at a time, date and place to be announced. Sign up and begin the discussion about the details of where and when the class will meet. Topics covered will include the history of our tradition, current challenges to the church, and why membership is important.

There is a list of current members of St. Paul's in the hallway outside Fr. Mike's office. Likely, you made the list if you were baptized in the Church, or officially transferred your membership from a prior parish). See Fr. Mike or ask the church office to be sure.



Scouting for Food

Parishioners in Hopkinton, please remember the annual Scouting for Food drive on Nov. 4th. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Cub scouts of Hopkinton will be collecting food for the Hopkinton Food Pantry to help our local residents in need. They will be driving through neighborhoods on Saturday, November 4th, beginning at 10AM to collect plastic bags of food to benefit the Hopkinton Food Pantry. Food items may also be

dropped off at the Hopkinton Middle School or Colella's Market between 10 and 2 on the 4th.

Frequently needed items include:

- Canned meat (spam, hash)
- Canned meals (beef stew)
- Juice and juice boxes
- School snack items
- Cleaning products
- Toiletries and paper products

On a regular basis, the Council on Aging's Food Pantry benefits over 60 Hopkinton families in their time of need. If you can, please consider nourishing our community through this important event.

If you are aware of anyone in our community in need of assistance, please contact the Council on Aging, Mary McLeod at (508)435-3656 or Marlene Troupes at (508)435-8758.

Stewardship News

We are pleased to announce the stewardship campaign for this year has begun. Your annual support provides the majority of St. Paul's budget and by pledging you allow vital financial planning to take place for the coming year. John and I would like to thank everyone who helped us in getting together all the pledge information last year.

2007 is going to be a very important year for St. Paul's and we ask everyone's help through the careful consideration of individual giving and the financial future of this church. You will be receiving more information about the stewardship drive in the coming weeks and we look forward to discussions with you all about how to strengthen St. Paul's. Please feel free to contact Chris at (508)529-4733 or John at (508)435-5015 with any questions or comments you may have.

Chris Estey and John Diercks, Stewardship co-chairs

All Saints' Day

In the first days and years of Christianity, all Christians were often called saints (see 1 Corinthians 1:2, NRSV). As time went on, certain Christians who lived holy and sanctified lives became special examples of truly living "above the crowd" in their dedication and service on God's behalf. As other Christians recognized these very pious souls, the Roman Catholic Church began to cherish them as true saints, commendable as examples to be remembered and appreciated. It was and is still the Pope who, after a thorough examination of the life of the holy person under consideration, can officially designate the person as a saint.



Protestants, following the New Testament, may still consider all Christians as saints. Yet those very unique Christians who have exhibited great commitment to Christ in special ways are often hailed as being saintly, especially after death. Phillips Brooks, for example, an Episcopal priest in Boston, was honored for his godliness with a statue placed in front of Boston's Trinity Church. The sculpture depicts Christ resting his hand upon Brooks.

On All Saints' Day, all Christians should remember those like Brooks who have faithfully passed the torch of faith and service to Christ's followers.

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

figures, and that gap points to the thing we have all known, at least at the intuitive level—family sized churches have great difficulty affording full time clergy. For almost a year we have been working with St. Paul's in Millis, Christ Church in Medway and

a consultant (paid for the Diocese of Massachusetts) in an exploration of the options available to small churches. The best looking options can lead to healthy parishes with vibrant worship and enhanced ministries through collaboration. Christ Church in Medway has been working on this for longer than we have, and they are ready to engage in serious discussion about working with another parish or parishes in forming a shared clergy arrangement—perhaps a cluster with one full time priest and one or more part time priests. We will meet with our consultant and the teams from St. Paul’s Millis and Christ Church Medway on November 8, 2006 to begin to bring our year of study to a close. Breaking the tradition of “one priest, one parish” is a major move for any church. Is Saint Paul’s Hopkinton ready to break the mold and be part of something new? Come to the meeting and be part of the discussion.

Second I want to talk about having Grace UMC as a tenant at Saint Paul’s. Grace UMC has been renting space on Sunday mornings at the Hopkinton Middle School for about three years. They hold a single service at 10:00 AM, hold Sunday School for children during their worship, and meet for fellowship after the service. Does this sound familiar? In the meeting with their minister and two parish leaders, it became clear that our worship space (with an organ!), classroom space and parish hall (with a kitchen!) represent something they long for—dedicated space that looks and feels like church. With willingness to be flexible about schedule on both sides, it could be possible for St. Paul’s to receive revenue from renting space to Grace UMC, and for Grace UMC to move into a place much more conducive to worship. The potential rental income would reduce the gap between our anticipated income and expenses next year and beyond. We will meet with a larger group from Grace UMC on November 2, 2006 for the purpose of getting to know each other better and for forming a task force to work out a proposal for the schedule and financial considerations

involved. Come to the meeting and be part of the discussion.

October has been a very good month, and November promises to be even better. Come and be part of shaping St. Paul’s future.

Mike+



Finding God?

Occasionally, a troubled person may say something like, “My life’s a mess. I’ve tried to handle my problems alone, but without success. Maybe I need to find God.”

The truth is that God has been seeking them. That’s the message of the Bible. The story after Adam and Eve sinned is the tale of God’s searching for them. God called, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9, NRSV). Their guilt made them fearful of God, yet God sought them out — as a parent searching for his children.

When we spurn God, attempting to live life on our own terms, we alienate ourselves from the loving Creator. We suffer the consequences: guilt, shame, lack of inner peace, joylessness. Our lives lose real meaning and hope.

Jesus said, “I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in darkness” (John 12:46, NRSV). God was in Christ seeking us that we might find the fullness of life which is the great gift for each of us.



A Message from your Sr. Warden

We have all experienced the happiness and spiritually uplifting times in our parish over the past year since Fr. Mike has joined us full-time. Because of the stability, peace and energy he has helped bring to our church

family, it is easy to forget the difficult situation we were in and some of the hard work that we still have before us.

At the 2005 annual meeting, we voted to proceed with a part-time Priest-in-Residence clergy representation for the fall, transitioning to a full-time Priest-in-Residence for 2006. This plan was made possible with a \$45,000 congregational development grant from the Diocese. The grant is disbursed in a graduated manner with St. Paul's receiving \$30,000 in 2006 and \$15,000 in 2007. The initial larger distribution was meant to get us on our feet assuming that the following year we would stabilize and begin to grow in membership and pledge income, and therefore require less assistance to meet our budgetary needs. After 2007, we no longer receive congregational development funds from the Diocese.

I am pleased to say that we have stabilized and got back on our feet and have experienced growth in membership and pledge income. But in order to continue the growth and be able to keep a strong clergy leader like Fr. Mike, we need to be creative in our thinking and dig deeper during the upcoming pledge drive. To be honest and outwardly blunt, I know it is a tiresome message to say we need to try to give more. But the reality of the situation is that the parish's income needs to grow annually in order to keep things at the current level, especially with the phasing out of the diocesan assistance. It has to grow even more significantly to improve programs and upgrade facilities.

Your vestry in conjunction with Fr. Mike's creative thinking and endless energy is exploring even more ways to save money and provide the kind of clergy leadership and programs that St. Paul's needs and deserves. We are exploring the possibility of renting our facilities to the Grace United Methodist Church who lacks a church building to hold their services in and conduct their programs. This would be a win-win

situation for them and for us. It would require flexibility on both sides regarding service times and staggering the use of the other areas of our facility. As many of you know we are also having meetings with Christ Church in Medway and St. Paul's in Millis in conjunction with Alice Mann from St. Alban's Institute. We are exploring ways that local parishes can work together, whether that means sharing resources or a clustering type arrangement. Our focus with any of these options is to provide our parish with a consistent clergy leadership, strong pastoral care and make St. Paul's a wonderful place to worship and be part of.

With your continued prayers, faith and hard work, St. Paul's will continue to grow stronger and build on the stabilization and positive energy that we have had over the past year. We will continue to keep you informed of the progress of our work, and invite you to be part of the process.

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 is hosted by the hospitality crew and supported by families and parishioners. Hosting a coffee hour amounts to bringing enough goodies for about 50-75 people (mostly little ones!) and setting up/tearing down the coffee during the service.

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
David Spengler	(acting) Asst Treasurer
John Diercks	Stewardship
Chris Estey	Stewardship
Peter Dittman	Epistle/Website
Sue Ramsley	Spirituality
<vacant>	Outreach
Gretchen Carr	Hospitality

Vestry meets monthly, on the 1st Wednesday of the every month. Next Vestry meetings: November 1st, December 6th.

Copies of prior vestry meeting minutes may be found on the website. Browse to the following link for details on how to access the minutes:

<http://stpaulhopkinton.org/vestry.html>

As other minutes 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). 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, should be submitted by November 25th, for publication December 1st.



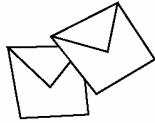
Just for kids

Say "Thank You!"

Have you ever sent a thank-you card to someone for a gift you received? You can send thank-you cards for things besides presents. There are many people around you who do very thoughtful things for you every day. Celebrate this Thanksgiving by sending homemade thank-you cards to the people you are thankful for.

What you need:

- A list of people to thank (as many as you want)
- Paper (colored construction paper or white copy paper)
- Crayons, markers, paint, stickers, etc.
- Envelopes (optional, unless mailing)
- Stamps (if mailing)



What to do:

1. Next to each name on your list, write something that person has said or done that was helpful or kind.
2. Fold each sheet of paper in half like a card. (If you're using an envelope, make sure it fits inside.)
3. Decorate the card's front with drawings, stickers, etc.
4. Write a short note on the inside, thanking the person for the thing he or she did or said.
5. Deliver the cards in person or by mail.

Some people you may want to thank:

- Family members
- Sunday school teachers
- School teachers
- Friends
- Neighbors
- People at church



Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for all the good things in our lives. God is pleased when we are thankful because He knows that we remember the wonderful things He does for us every day.

Directions: Use the picture clues below to figure out the verse about being thankful. The minus (-) sign means take out the letter(s). The plus sign (+) means to add the letter(s).



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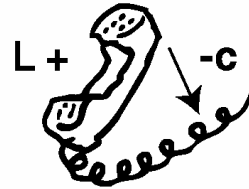


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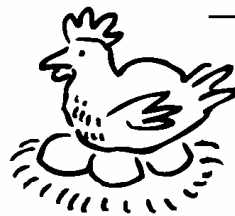
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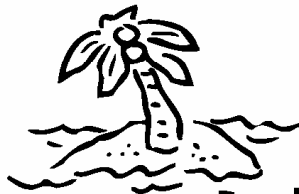
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Psalm 107:1

Answer: "Give thanks to the LORD for he is good."

Calendars

November 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	2 11:00 AM Prayer group	3	4 10:00 AM Acolyte Training
5 8:45 AM First Sunday Breakfast 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	6	7 Election Day	8	9 11:00 AM Prayer group	10	11
12 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	13 7:30 PM Book Club	14	15	16 11:00 AM Prayer group	17	18
19 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 St. Nicholas Giving Tree 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	27	28	29	30 11:00 AM Prayer group		

December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 PM Drop and Shop	2
3 Feast of St. Nicholas 8:45 AM First Sunday Breakfast 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 St. Nicholas Giving Tree 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	4	5	6 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	7 11:00 AM Prayer group	8	9 10:00 -2:00 Nativity Display
10 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 11:30-1:00 Nativity Display 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	11 7:30 PM Book Club	12	13	14 11:00 AM Prayer group	15	16
17 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	18	19	20	21 11:00 AM Prayer group	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Day 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 4:00 PM All Ages Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:45 AM Church School 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2						