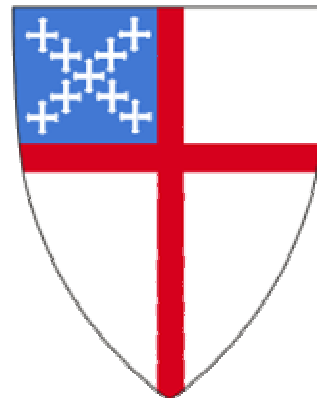


# The *Epistle*

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



Volume 6, Number 9

***A Message from our Fr. Mike***

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

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***Worship***

Holy Eucharist – Rite II  
Sunday, 10:30 AM

*coffee and hospitality  
afterward*

*Published:  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007*

***Sea Trials***

In my Coast Guard days I had a friend who had participated in the sea trials for a new Coast Guard Cutter. The ship was one of the then brand new 378 foot "Secretary Class" cutters, and featured something very new to the Coast Guard—speed. The "378's" had a gas turbine engine that gave them the potential for dashing around at about 30 knots—a huge advance over the ship on which I served with top speed of 18 knots.

Sea trials are a time of extensive testing for every system of the new ship, with the goal of finding out what needs to be perfected. They are not like a test drive in a new car, where you see if you might like it or not, then purchase it or not. Sea trials are intended to find out what needs to be tweaked to make the new ship better—a ship that is already 90% or better paid for and to which you are already deeply committed.

May 1, 2007 was the beginning of sea trials for the collaborative ministry between Saint Paul's and Christ Church in Medway. We have a plan! Part of the plan for this time from now to the end of December is to re-establish a clergy pastoral and administrative presence at Christ Church by having the church office open for "office hours" during the week. This piece of the plan I'm calling

*(Continued on page 5)*

***Mission*** *The mission of St. Paul's is to minister unconditionally to all in the name of Christ through shared worship, teaching, healing and service.*

***Vision*** *St. Paul's is called to be an embracing, nourishing and life-giving family in Christ. We are called to care for each other, for our community and for the world.*

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**When is a house a home**

A house is a home when it is infused with love, when there is acceptance that never wavers, and where there is always food for the mind, for the spirit, for the body and for those in need. Is your abode a house or a home?



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**Worship**

*As we celebrate the Pentecost, we pray that the Holy Spirit may empower us and unify us so that we are truly "one in Christ." Welcome, friends! We rejoice in your presence.*

**Sunday Worship**

The Sunday worship schedule is centered on the Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:30AM. 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 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 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 or visit the prayer website.

**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](mailto:aandjkentfamily@comcast.net).

The group is currently studying the Book of Acts.

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### **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 Dianne Belamarich at (508)397-9487 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 go to the website and click on a choice for the day. You can also sign up for weekly newsletters, etc.

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## **Upcoming Events**

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

### **MAY**

#### **May 6<sup>th</sup> PotLuck Coffee Hour**

Stop by and bring your kitchen's finest to coffee hour following the May 6<sup>th</sup> service. Pot Luck – come and enjoy some fellowship!

### **JUNE**

#### **June 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday School Teacher Appreciation**

June 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the last day of Sunday School for this school year. The day will be capped

off with festivities to show our appreciation for the teachers who gave of their talents for our youth. Please join us on that Sunday.

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## **A Mother's Example**

When I think of my mom, especially on Mother's Day, I recall a scene I witnessed many times during my childhood.

Late at night, just before bedtime, my mother would sit in a rocking chair in the darkness with her head bowed in prayer. When it was nippy, the glow from the space heater revealed a lovely scene that fascinated me.

My bed wasn't far away, and just before I fell asleep I often saw my mother praying. Her face was beautiful and aglow. She radiated holiness and serenity, and I was deeply affected.

I never once talked to my mom about her prayer life. I was only 17 when she died. As traumatic as it was for me, I wonder if it weren't a rather easy transition for her. After all, she seemed to live with one foot in heaven.

—Charles Ferrell

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## **Stewardship Corner Note.....**

I think, by now, everyone knows that Chris and Jen Estey will soon be departing our crazed Red Sox corner of the world for the land of Ohio.

So, this is not a note asking for additional pledges, nor a request for contribution of time. Rather, this is a heartfelt "thank you" to Chris for his work and time over the past few years with me and others on the current and past vestries. The same heartfelt thanks are also owed to Jen for her work and

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wonderful voice in the choir above us every Sunday morning.

Quick story – some of you know this, but many of you do not... Chris and I worked together many years ago (yeah, we're old enough to say "many years" – yikes) in Boston, and then lost track of each other for a while. In the years that followed we lost a mutual friend and wonderful woman in the 9/11 tragedy, grew our families and settled, unknowingly, in neighboring towns and only a few miles apart from each other. Then one day about 5 years or so ago, Chris, Jen and the boys appeared in St Paul's. My jaw dropped in surprise and funny stories have been rehashed ever since. New stories, of course, have been developed as well.

So, Chris, I offer you my heartfelt thanks. Without you and your friendship, the past few years would not have been nearly as much fun, and you have helped keep many of us (but especially me) sane through some very difficult times. Without your efforts each of the past few years the Stewardship drives would not have had the success that they did. Ditto for the Sunday school program. For your even keel and sense of humor I am eternally grateful.

There is a church and community in Ohio that does not know quite yet the blessing they are about to receive; I do, and am truly sorry to see the Estey family leave us for their gain is our loss. But most importantly, and I suspect everyone in St Paul's shares this wish, I am very excited for you. I wish you the best of luck, safe travels and good fortune. But most of all I wish you DirecTV in your home upon your arrival at your new home so you don't miss a beat of the Red Sox season.

Stay in touch,

John

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## Rummage Sale

It is with great pleasure that we announce this spring's Rummage Sale saw a new record at the cash register. The sale netted nearly \$2000 (we're still awaiting the final figure) – exceeding our previous record in the 1700's.

A heartfelt thank you and great appreciation goes to a number of people, all of whom were critical to its success and the great fellowship that has become an integral part of these events.

The vestry has voted to allocate one-half of the funds to the building fund (to seed the church exterior painting campaign), and one quarter each to our community ministries: Project Just Because and to Heifer International.

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## Keys to a successful marriage

Husbands and wives focus often on God, who holds them together. When two become one in a Christian marriage, they vow to remain one until death parts them. Oneness takes thoughtfulness, constant communication and daily deeds of kindness.

Words are extremely important to sustain a marriage. Words hotly spoken can kill love, while words tenderly spoken can enhance love. Husbands and wives need constant assurance by hearing words of love and by deeds done to show love in action.

Remember that the bonds of matrimony are a good investment only when the interest is paid daily.

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## Off the Net

*[Editor's note: – we often receive emails from friends and/or family members, all very well intentioned, that tell some story about life and then at the end implore us to send it to some*

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number of other contacts for good luck, fortune, blessings or whatever. If you have received an email that you would like to share with others, please forward it to [epistle@stpaulhopkinton.org](mailto:epistle@stpaulhopkinton.org) for inclusion in a future issue of the Epistle.]

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

"Mondays in Medway."

*It's been quite a while since the church office at Christ Church has been open on a regular basis, so we are expecting that it will take a little while for the idea to catch on. As the idea does, once again, become part of the life of Christ Church, it could well lead to another day in Medway—details are yet to be determined. Another part of the plan for the remainder of 2007 is to continue pulpit exchanges between Christ Church and Saint Paul's, similar to the ones we have shared since February. Again, the details are to be determined.*

*One part of our sea trials that was not planned is this week's funeral for young Nicholas Souza—the almost 16 year old lacrosse player who died so suddenly and unexpectedly on May 5. The size of a burial service for this popular young man has drawn upon the resources of Christ Church, Saint Paul's and the larger community of Medway. Already we can begin to see the benefits of working together and the promise of larger ministry for both parishes in the years to come.*

*As the next months unfold there will be surprises and awkward moments. God grant us the grace to see each of these occurrences as a chance work on perfecting the covenant agreement that will shape our future when our sea trials are behind us.*

*Please keep Saint Paul's, Christ Church and our future together in you prayers.*

Mike+

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## **Armed Forces Day**

Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday of May, is a time to remember and appreciate people who have served or who are now serving in the military.

Today, service members are volunteers who willingly leave their families and homes to serve as protectors, defenders and servants of our beloved country. Their roles often involve great danger, perilous missions and harm to their bodies, minds and spirits.

Let those in military service know that you appreciate their service and sacrifice on behalf of America. Pray for them, speak appreciatively to them and let them know of your support.

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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. 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](mailto:whitehaller2@comcast.net).

## **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)

### **Second Sunday Offerings**

Each month, on the second Sunday of the month, we collect various food (and non-food) items for the Hopkinton Council on Aging Food Pantry. While specific needs are announced during announcements in preceding Sunday services, and are also found on the home page of the website, you are always welcome to bring additional items - your gifts are always needed by those in our community.

### **Choir**

The choir is 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**

Grace Methodist has agreed to start the coffee each Sunday morning. St. Paul's is responsible for the clean up after our service. If you have volunteered to host the coffee, you will need to be at the church to set up the "goodies" by 9:50. Grace UMC's service is over at 10.00 AM.

There is a pot luck lunch scheduled for Sunday, May 6th. Please plan on bringing something to share. It should be fun. Our hope is to have these periodically.

We need volunteers to sign up for coffee hour for the remaining Sundays in the year. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hall or contact Gretchen Carr to sign up.

### **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.

### **Your Vestry**

Jay Jacobson	Senior Warden
Sue Ramsley	Junior Warden
Phil Robidoux	Treasurer
Mary Arnaut	Asst Treasurer
Dianne Belamarich	Clerk
John Diercks	Stewardship
Chris Estey	Stewardship
Peter Dittman	Epistle/Website
Steve Pelletier	Stewardship
Gretchen Carr	Hospitality
Roger Mahoney	

The vestry meets monthly, at 7PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, in the Parish Hall, with the next meeting on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

It is with great sadness that the Vestry accepted Chris Estey's resignation from the Vestry (see the Stewardship note in this issue). So it is also with well wishes, sincere thanks for their time, energy, and quick wit, and our love and God's spirit that we say *adieu* on their journey westward to Ohio.

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.

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## **Epistle/Communications**

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)). If you would like to receive the Epistle electronically, please send email to Peter Dittman at [epistle@stpaulhopkinton.org](mailto:epistle@stpaulhopkinton.org).

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 May 25<sup>th</sup>, for publication June 1<sup>st</sup>.

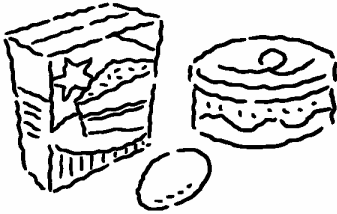


## Just For Kids

### Cloud Cookies

Jesus was "lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, NRSV).

When you make these cloud cookies, remember what the angels said to his apostles: "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven" (verse 11).



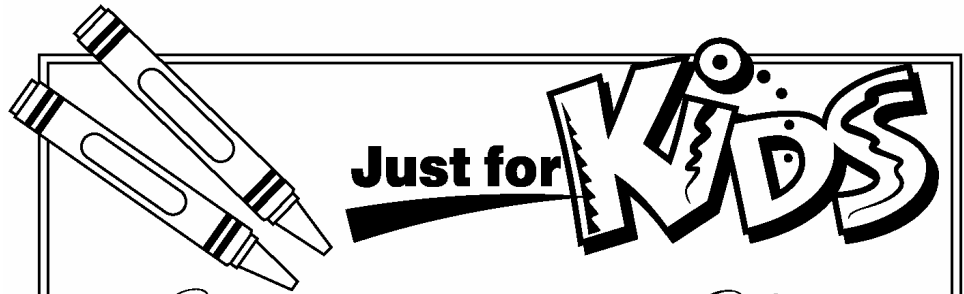
#### What you need:

- An adult to help
- 1 white cake mix
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 container (6 oz.) of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 3 cups powdered sugar



#### What you do:

1. Combine cake mix and egg.
2. Fold in whipped topping.
3. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto powdered sugar and coat well.
4. Place on ungreased cookie sheet.
5. Bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until tops are firm.

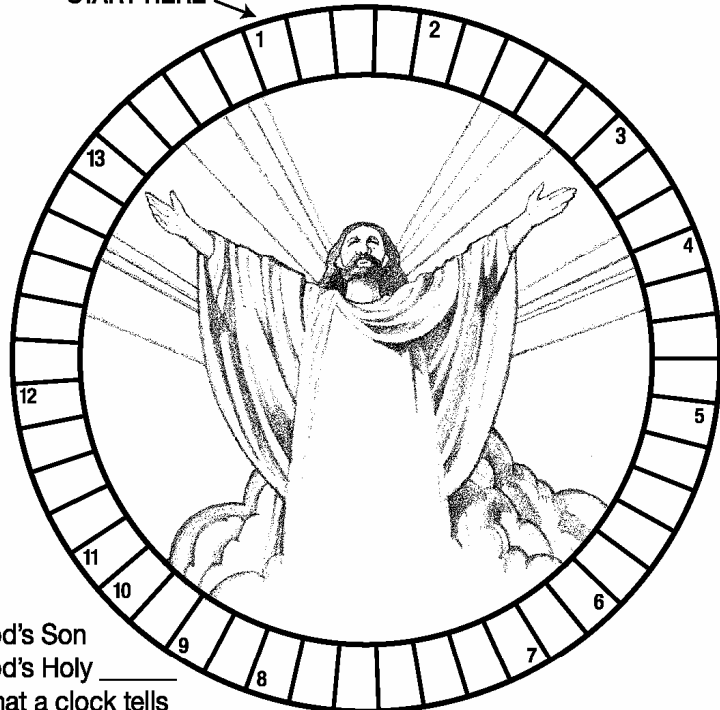


## Ascension of the Lord

On the day Jesus left his disciples and went up in a cloud to heaven, he said to them, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18, KJV).

Read the clues below. The last letter of each word is the beginning of the next word.

START HERE →



1. God's Son
2. God's Holy \_\_\_\_\_
3. What a clock tells
4. Our planet
5. Where Jesus is now
6. Opposite of Old Testament
7. An onlooker
8. Place to see clouds
9. Modern word for thee
10. Opposite of down
11. Authority or strength
12. Comes back
13. Searches for

Answers:  
 1) Jesus; 2) Spirit; 3) time; 4) Earth; 5) heaven; 6) new; 7) witness; 8) sky;  
 9) you; 10) up; 11) power; 12) returns; 13) seeks

## Calendars

### May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	3 11:00 AM Prayer group	4	5 Vestry Retreat
6 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	7 7:00 PM Christ Church/St. Paul's Church meeting	8	9	10 11:00 AM Prayer group	11	12
13 <b>All Ages Worship</b> 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	14	15	16	17 11:00 AM Prayer group	18	19
20 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	21	22	23	24 11:00 AM Prayer group	25	26
27 <b>All Ages Worship</b> 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	28	29	30	31 11:00 AM Prayer group		

### June 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>Sunday School Teacher Appreciation</b> 10:30 AM Church School 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	4	5	6 7:00 PM Vestry meeting	7 11:00 AM Prayer group	8	9
10 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	11	12	13	14 11:00 AM Prayer group	15	16
18 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	19	20	21	22 11:00 AM Prayer group	23	24
25 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 5:00 PM Adult Bible Study	26	27	28	29	30	