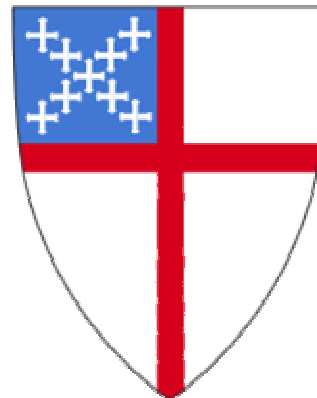


# The *Epistle*

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



Volume 7, Number 5

***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:  
January 18th, 2008*

***Epiphany 2008***

*This year Easter is early, March 23. Since the Season of Lent is always 40 days long (weekdays only—no Sundays), our season of Epiphany will be compressed this year.*

*We have already watched the prophets, angels, shepherds and wise men come to Bethlehem in the Epiphany Pageant. In the coming four weeks we will hear stories from the Gospels that recount events in Jesus' life that revealed him to his disciples as the Messiah. We will hear stories of his baptism, of his calling of his first disciples, and of his transfiguration. These biblical accounts, including the coming of the magi, were signs to the church that Jesus was just exactly who he claimed to be—the Son of God.*

*There are more Epiphany readings than our short season this year will accommodate, so we will get to share them in the few first weeks after Trinity Sunday on May 18. These readings will walk us through miracles and teachings that also served as signs to the early church that Jesus was the "real thing."*

*For those inside the church the stories we will share are powerful reminders of the ways we know Jesus to be the Lord. For the world outside the church, a world that increasingly does not know or share the language of our faith, we need different ways to offer proof that Jesus was and still is the "real thing."*

*[\(cont. on page 4\)](#)*

***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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## **Three Kings Day**

January 6 marked the day of Epiphany, the arrival of the three kings or wise men.

The three kings were the Gentiles who “came from afar” to offer gifts to the Christ child. The meaning of the event is that Jesus

came as Lord not only for Jews, but for Gentiles as well. Christ is the Savior of the world — the whole world.



Three Kings Day — or Dia de los Reyes in Spanish — is celebrated in many places around the world on January 6. Last year in Phoenix alone, more than 25,000 Latinos and others celebrated Three Kings Day. During the festivities, there are parades with camels bearing the “kings,” toys are given to children, food is shared and folk dancers perform. Many women bake bread with a miniature plastic Jesus inside each loaf. The person who ends up with the figurine is obliged to host a party for others on February 2, Candlemas Day.

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## **Worship**

*On this first Sunday after Epiphany,  
we recall Jesus’ baptism as he  
identified with fallen humankind.  
Today let us gratefully remember that  
Christ is here ready to meet us where  
we are.*

### **Lenten Worship**

The following observances will be at St. Paul’s throughout Lent:

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Noon and 7:30pm services

Wednesday Evening Eucharist – weekly at 7:30pm

There will be a gathering at 6:30pm, prior to the Wednesday service, in the clergy office for those who want to **Pray the Psalms**.

### **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.

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### **Collaborative Ministry**

The Hopkinton-Medway Collaborative Ministry (HMCM) continues to define itself and how it will operate to most effectively support the ministries of both St. Paul's and Christ Church's parishes. To read more of the HMCM, please browse to it's website at:

<http://hmcm.stpaulhopkinton.org/>

### **Prayer Group**

The Prayer group, led by Lori Robak and Sue Ramsley, meets regularly on Tuesdays at 9:45AM in Fr. Mike's office. Please join them any Tuesday 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, praying 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 at:

<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 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, a number of devotional sites can be found at:

<http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/devotionals/>

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.

### **Adult Bible Study**

Held on Sunday evenings at 5:00pm, the group will be using a 12 week study guide entitled "David – Developing a Heart for God". If interested, please call or email Amy Kent at (508)435-0221 or [aandjkentfamily@comcast.net](mailto:aandjkentfamily@comcast.net)

All are welcome!



## **Upcoming Events**

### **JANUARY**

#### **Youth Group Meeting – January 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1pm-3pm, to plan the Youth Group Dance. The 2nd annual Dance will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, February 9th. Please come and help plan this event.

#### **Annual Meeting – January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Saint Paul's Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 12:00 Noon on January 27, 2008 in the parish hall. We will gather for a pot luck supper at 11:30 AM, and conduct business as we enjoy dessert. This year's meeting will mark the parish's chance to embrace the future by entering into a collaborative ministry with the Diocese of Massachusetts and Christ Episcopal Church in Medway. A copy of the proposed Collaborative Covenant

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is posted on the parish's web site, and paper copies are available at church. Y'all come, eat and participate!

## FEBRUARY

### **Antique Appraisal Night– Feb 8<sup>th</sup>**

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Parish Hall, Skinner of Boston will be appraising items - \$10/item or 3/\$25. The event is limited to 40 items. Come join us to enjoy the fun or reserve your appraisal tickets now by calling Dianne Belamarich at (508)397-9487. Light Refreshments will be served.



### **Urban Adventure – Feb 10<sup>th</sup>**

ALL PARENTS AND TEENS (grades 8-12) are invited to attend the 2008 J2A Urban Adventure Kickoff meeting to be held on Sunday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM -- following the pot luck lunch after church. Please contact Jiggs Kent and/or Sue Ramsley for additional details. Please join us!

### **Bishop Cederholm Visit – Feb 17<sup>th</sup>**

Bishop Cederholm will be visiting with St. Paul's on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. His visit will begin with meetings with the Christ Church and St. Paul's Vestry's, followed by a 1PM celebration of the Holy Eucharist at St. Michael's in Holliston, with coffee and dessert afterward.

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## **Thank You Saint Paul's**

*Thank You to all the Saints of Saint Paul's for your love and generous gifts to Judy and me this Christmas. The wonderful gift certificate for dinner at Café Italiano will brighten some special occasion, and your many other gifts will have already warmed our hearts. Thank you for allowing us to be part of the wonderful family that is Saint Paul's.*

Mike & Judy Billingsley

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## **What awaits us**

We're at the starting gate of a new year. What will it hold for us? Only God knows. Yet if God knows, why not try to discover his plan for us each day?

We should carry on a daily dialog with God. Following his lead is always interesting and challenging. And much of the time it's filled with wonder and joy.

I remember the story of a small boy who prayed to God at the end of a fun, interesting Monday: "It's been a wonderful day, God. What do you have in mind for Tuesday?"

What does God have in mind for you in 2008? Keep in touch with him, and you'll enjoy the trip around the sun.  
—Charles Ferrell

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## **Message from Fr. Mike (cont.)**

*There are two great signs that we can offer to the world that Jesus is the risen Lord, and he offers them to us in scripture. The first sign is love. In John's Gospel (Chapter 14, the Great Discourse), Jesus says that the world will know us as his disciples by the love that we show to each other. The Greek word for this love is agape—a kind of love is willing to sacrifice for the good of another. We can prove Jesus is the Lord of heaven and earth by the way we embrace and support each other. The second sign is the way we "put ourselves out" to care for the world. Matthew recounts this for us (Chapter 25). Jesus tells his disciples that the way they treat the hungry, the naked, the sick and even those in jail as the true indication of their faithfulness to him. Maybe this second sign is love also.*

*The pageant is over, and the wise men have gone home. In our shortened season of*

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*Epiphany, we enter into the heart of the new calendar year by seeking to become more and more deeply the kind of church where Jesus is revealed to the world. We will do this by the way we love and care for each other in the church, and by the way we give of ourselves as we care for those beyond our parish family.*

Mike+

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## Lent begins

On Ash Wednesday, February 6, Lent begins.

During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.

One might go on a spiritual retreat, for example, spending time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian. During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith.

Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

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## How the Boy Scouts came to America

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday. It is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting and to tie that to the last element of the scout law: a scout is reverent.

In 1909, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce was visiting London. Late one afternoon the city was enshrouded in

heavy fog. Boyce lost his bearings in the murk and was approached by a boy of about 12 carrying a lantern. The boy offered to guide Boyce to the address he was seeking. When Boyce produced a shilling, the boy replied, "No, sir, I am a scout. Scouts do not accept tips for good turns."

That comment piqued Boyce's curiosity. He wanted to learn more about scouting in Britain, so the boy took him to the British Scout headquarters. He was so enthralled with what he heard there, that he decided to get scouting started in America.

Churches with a Scout troop, whether for boys or girls, are blessed by the troop's presence. They perform valuable service projects, learn and practice good values, health and survival techniques, discipline, and helpfulness toward others.

Let us offer scouts our gratitude when we see them helping the handicapped, assisting the elderly, directing the flow of church traffic, repairing or painting church property, and assisting us in many and various ways. We all benefit by their presence.

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## From Your Senior Warden

Happy New Year! I hope everyone's holiday season was joyful and peaceful. 2008 will bring more fellowship activities, more youth programs and Christian education, and most of all implementation of our collaborative ministry which we have worked hard at for several years to develop. This will be discussed in depth at the January 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting so everyone can have a say on the plan. Your support and opinions are vital to its success moving forward, so please plan to attend and participate in the discussion.

The collaborative ministry allows us to keep consistent clergy representation, share the burden of administrative tasks, and combine forces with our brothers and sisters at Christ

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Church to provide better and stronger education programs and activities. Many of the small family-size parishes in today's world are finding it difficult and, most of the time, impossible to provide stability and the types of programs that people need and want. Combined with the cost of maintaining full-time clergy, the simple dollars and cents do not come close to working out. By forming a collaborative ministry, these burdens are shared and become more manageable.

When Bishop Cederholm visits us in early February, I'm sure he will be pleased and encouraged by the progress we have made since his last visit. It is because of your faith, hard work, dedication and generosity that we have turned our tough times around and are now growing and once again heading towards vitality.

Lastly, as my term as senior warden expires in January, I would like to thank the vestry for their hard work, dedication and energy in solving the problems that have arisen and for keeping the parish running smoothly. I would also like to thank each and every parishioner for your generous support and your confidence in the vestry to do the work that needs to be done to maintain a healthy parish. I offer my best wishes to Steve Pelletier as he takes over as senior warden. His strong leadership skills and spiritual energy have been and will continue to be a huge asset to the vestry and our parish.

Faithfully Yours,

*Jay Jacobson*  
*Senior Warden*

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## **Overcoming personal troubles**

Never deal with troubles on your own. Spend time considering them in God's presence. Ask for guidance, insight and wisdom.

Ask a trusted friend to listen as you explain your difficulty.

At a local library, find books and other resources that address your problem.

Make an appointment with your pastor or church counselor and explain the situation as best you can. Seriously consider any suggestions you receive.

Don't freeze up or ignore the problem. That will only make it worse. Instead, look at the problem in all its ugliness, keep praying and use your best judgment to face it head-on.

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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).

## **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**

In typical Episcopalian style, we celebrate and enjoy fellowship at Coffee hour following our Sunday worship.

Grace Church begins coffee for their hospitality hour following their service and we clean up the coffee after our hospitality hour. The two coffee 'hours' are separate, which means we are always in need of volunteers as hosts. Hosting a coffee hour means bringing and setting up the goodies before the 10:30

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service, keeping the coffee pots filled as needed, and cleanup afterward.

A sign up sheet is available outside the Kitchen in the parish hall.

On the second Sunday of each month, we hold a **Pot Luck Lunch** after the service. Check the website calendar for details.

## Outreach

### ***Project Just Because...***

Please continue to remember St. Paul's community outreach program with **Project Just Because**.


You can browse to their website for their needs and for information on how you might help those in need in our community:

[www.projectjustbecause.org](http://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](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
Ruth Warner	Property
John Diercks	Stewardship
Peter Dittman	Epistle/Website
Steve Pelletier	Stewardship
Gretchen Carr	Hospitality

The vestry meets monthly, at 7PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, in the Parish Hall, with the next meetings scheduled for Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Copies of prior vestry meeting minutes may be found on the website. Browse to the link below 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

Once a month, typically mid-month, 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.



## Just for kids

### Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

*Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.*

#### What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

#### What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

**Just for KIDS**

**LOVE**

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF LUKE 10:27

In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself."