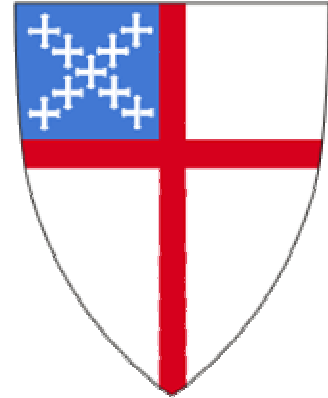


The *Epistle*

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



Volume 8, Number 1

A Message from our Fr. Mike

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

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Worship

Holy Eucharist
Sunday, 10:30 AM

*coffee and hospitality
afterward*

*Published:
October, 2008*

Fall 2008

Why I am an Episcopalian

Have you ever asked yourself why you are an Episcopalian? My first attempts to plumb the mystery of why I am and Episcopalian resulted in long and involved stories of how I grew up and what shaped my personality. They were interesting exercises, but when they were done I realized that "it was all about me" and not the Episcopal Church.

What is it about the Episcopal Church that has drawn me to it?

The first thing is that Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God and Second Person of the Holy Trinity, is at the center of everything the Episcopal Church does. Whether it is our worship, or our giving to a local charity, or our Sunday School, or our vestry meetings (Yes serving on the vestry can be a spiritual experience!), Jesus is there at the center of it inspiring us to be and do things that transcend our normal boundaries.

The next thing is the way the Episcopal Church embraces intellectual integrity. We have to take a lot on faith, but we are constantly asking questions and pushing beyond easy answers. As an Episcopalian I can ask questions about theological or even doctrinal matters and find others who are willing to embrace those questions with me rather than condemn me for "lack of" [\(cont. on page 3\)](#)

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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Worship

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.

St. Paul's Cycle of Prayer, as noted in the bulletin, rotates through the church membership list.

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.

The famous Christ Church, Medway fair and silent auction will happen on Sat November 15 from 9-4, and Sunday Nov 16 after church from 10-2.

Sunday Services are 8:45 at Christ Church.

Prayer Group

The Prayer group meets regularly on Tuesdays at 10:00 AM 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 or email St Paul's church.

Flowers on the Altar

Flower offerings may be made at any time throughout 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 offering may be taken home by the donor or will be delivered to sick/shut-in parishioners.

If you'd like to dedicate flowers on the altar, please contact the church office. Open dates for 2008 Nov 9 and Dec 28.

Blessing of the Pets



St Paul's and Grace Methodist as inspired by St Francis of Assisi held a service in front of the church.

Those attending the baptism and worship service that followed found various resting places for their dog and cats and.....



All were well behaved even while there was howling in the choir selection for the day.

Internet Security

St Paul's internet security practices prevent the use of individual's contact information.

The office staff at the church is committed to conveying your request, offer, etc. to the appropriate person. Please use the church email address and phone listed on the first page. Messages will be forwarded!

Helping St. Paul's with Amazon.com

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.

Grand Wine and Beer Tasting

November 8 from 7-10PM

Join us for wine, beer, appetizers and an evening of fun. This event is generously sponsored by Commonwealth Wine and Spirits, Inc, Atlas Distributors and Colella's Supermarket. \$20 per ticket, \$35 for two Tickets can be purchased at the service desk at Colella's Supermarket, 61 Main St, Hopkinton or with a call to the church office.

Message from Fr. Mike (cont.)

faith" or "disobedience." It is also possible to reach the end of the day and find that I have come to a different conclusion about a question or an issue without having to part company with those who disagree with me.

The next thing, I think, is the deep sense of tradition the church embraces. Did you know that our Rite Two services are taken from the earliest recorded worship of the Christian tradition? The crafters of the 1979 BCP looked all the way back to the year 214 for sources for a modern-language service for Holy Eucharist. The Rite One services

are firmly rooted in the language and tradition of the late middle ages. These services give me a connection to the “saints in heaven,” as we participate in worship they knew and loved. I also love the way we use Holy Scripture as we worship. Almost every Sunday or Feast Day we read from the Old Testament, the Psaltery, the Epistles and the Gospel—honoring the entire Bible.

Another important thing is relatively new to the Episcopal Church—leading society as we all experience change. Since the 1960’s the Episcopal Church is participating in seeing things that need changing are to be changed in good ways. I read something recently that said, “If you are waiting for the future, make it happen.” Our church has embraced the novel (meaning new and challenging) idea that all people are children of God. This means people who have experienced divorce, people of all races, all genders, all sexual orientations, and even people of other faiths are children of God. In our Baptismal Covenant we promise to “Respect the dignity of every human being.” Wow! This has freed us to admit that some changes are long overdue, and to help shape those changes.

These are reasons that I am an Episcopalian — why are you?

Mike+



Greening the Church

A paper recycle basket is located in the lobby of the church under a table for the bulletin you no longer need. Thanks Mary Arnault for delivering the paper to the recycle bin.



Eagle Scout Project

As part of their Eagle Scout projects, Matt Dry and Nick Dittman have been working diligently to enhance the church grounds.



Nick has created an elegant walkway into the church that is lined with special bricks. Matt and his crew have created a meditation area using the cross that used to hang above the altar as a centerpiece. Take some time to explore and feel the place of peace that has been created.



The **Buy a Brick Fundraiser** campaign has provided the funds for these projects. Several of the bricks are in place – but it’s not too late to order more! Order forms can be found in the lobby area of the church. The bricks are 4X8 and cost is \$50.




Labyrinth

Volunteers are needed to clean out this area for the grass is growing.... Check with Ruth Warner for details.



Memorial Garden


Thanks to Ernie Paolini for keeping this garden looking spiffy!



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild at St. Paul's is in need of parishioners who are willing and have the time to dedicate about 4 hours a month to the Church. You need no prior training we will work with you until you are comfortable on your own. If we can get enough people we could even schedule 2 per week making the task take 1/2 the time. It is a ministry that is behind the scenes for those who prefer that type of work and it is very rewarding to work with and understand more about the Eucharist.

Please consider joining us! And thank you Vicki for all you help with Altar Guild.



Choir

We are so fortunate to have such dedicated and talented choir members; their wonderful voices lead us in worship every Sunday!

Unfortunately, several of our choir members are facing serious health issues – we pray for their good health daily.

Anyone in the congregation who would like to support our musical offerings on Sundays is invited to join in our weekly rehearsals which happen every Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. in the parish hall classroom next to the kitchen. We practice music for that day's service and occasionally we rehearse future music after church.

We would like to invite the children in the church to join in Sunday singing – and learn about reading music as well. Junior Choir rehearsals will begin after the service and after a quick snack, on a regular basis, time to be decided by those who wish to participate. Please see me after church to sign-up for Junior Choir, age 5 and up.

I would also like to offer piano lessons to anyone interested, young or old, for a modest fee – either at my house or at the church. Please call St Paul's Church and the message will be relayed.

Carol Spengler



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 of your choice before the 10:30 service, keeping the coffee pots filled as needed, and cleanup afterward.

A sign up sheet is available outside the Kitchen in the parish hall. October 19 and 26 are open for volunteers. Partner up with others for as we know, many hands make light work....

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

Ushers arrive about 20 minutes prior to the service to greet people and hand out the bulletin. They count the people who are at the service and convey that number to the rector. They take up the collection and they bring the elements to the altar. Following the service they clean up the pews.

Thanks to all the people who help with this task. If you would like to join them, please let us know for we can always use help!



Outreach

Our FIRST Day of Caring...

will be Saturday Oct 18. The saints of St. Paul's will spend 4 hours at Project Just Because. The task is sorting recent donations of winter clothing. Please come anytime from 1-5PM. Car pooling saints should meet at the church at 12:45 to caravan to the site on South St. A sign up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Please let us know if you plan to join us.

Our Christmas contribution to Project Just Because takes the form of a present. During the November 23 service parishioners will be able to draw a name from the tree and shop for a gift. Gifts will be collected at the December 7 service, St Nicholas Day.

Project Just Because...

Please continue to remember St. Paul's community outreach program with Project Just Because. Donations of clothing, food, etc that are immediately usable. Please check the dates on food for expired foods must be discarded. St. Paul's is a central collection area for this project.

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

Phones for seniors

Please drop your old cell phones off in the basket by the front door. These phones are collected in behalf of the Hopkinton Senior Center. Proceeds from the sale of the phones funds health services that are not covered by insurance or Medicare.

St Paul's' Membership

In order to assure communication please make sure we have your current address, phone number and email address. If you have changes or updates, please send them to the church office.

Your Vestry

Steve Pelletier	Senior Warden
Sue Ramsley	Junior Warden
John Pavlov	Treasurer
Mary Arnaut	Asst Treasurer
Dianne Belamarich	Clerk
Ruth Warner	Property
Frank Chase	Stewardship
Sally Snyder	Communications
Gretchen Carr	Hospitality
Dave Spengler	

The vestry meets monthly, at 7PM on the 1st Wednesday of the month, in the Parish Hall, with the next meetings scheduled for Wednesday, November 5.

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>

A paper copy of the minutes is available in the Church Hall.

As other minutes are posted, they will be announced via email.

Epistle/Communications

Once a season, 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). If you would like to receive the Epistle electronically, please send email to the church office.

We welcome suggestions about and contributions to the content!

Letter From Our Asst Treasurer

As assistant treasurer for St. Paul's, the majority of my responsibilities are recording and depositing the weekly collections and

other income; paying the bills; keeping detailed records of income and expenses; and preparing all the giving statements and financial reports. I also give a status of our "Budget Vs. Actual Income and Expenses" at the Vestry meeting each month. I am happy to report that the monies received has allowed St. Paul's to stay current with its financial obligations on a monthly and year-to-date basis.

What are the sources of income that has allowed St. Paul's to meet our financial obligations? First, central to our financial health is pledge money. Without the pledges, St. Paul's would not be able to operate or keep up with the rising cost of heat, electricity, snow removal, lawn maintenance, building maintenance, assessments, and more. A second major source of income is the rent money we receive from Playhouse Preschool, Grace United Methodist Church, and the other rent we get throughout the year from renting the church hall. The third source of income in 2008 was the grant from the Massachusetts Diocese and the money from Christ Church in Medway as part of our collaborative ministry. The collaborative ministry will continue next year, but 2008 was our last year for a Diocese grant, so we have the challenge of making up the grant money on our own. Another note worthy source of income is fund raising and gift donations. Thanks to church members who have made a gift donation and to those who helped with our rummage sales, Polyarts, recycling, and special events which all contribute to income for St. Paul's.

In 2009, the challenge of meeting our expenses without the Diocese grant will mean finding ways to increase income and control expenses. As a member of the Vestry, I know we are focused on both. For example, after an energy analysis provided by Ken Ramsley, Ruth and Jim Warner have been working to reduce heat loss from the hall windows by insulating them with a layer of wood and plastic frames. This will help to reduce our cost of gas as we go into the cold months ahead. Also, we have also been able to increase our income from renting our hall

and classrooms to different organizations. Our major renter Playhouse Preschool may be leaving us in 2009, so we will work diligently to find a suitable replacement renter for the undercroft space.

If you have any ideas about how to reduce costs, increase income, or on the handling St. Paul's finances, I invite you to contact me. Your comments, suggestions, and ideas are always welcome. Also, if you would like to see a detailed financial report for St. Paul's, I would be happy to provide you a copy and answer any questions you have. Just let me know. Thank you again for all your support of St. Paul's.

Sincerely, Mary Arnaut

An Alternative for Adult Christian Formation.

We are all a little over-the-top busy now days, and Bible reading and Sunday School are hard to fit into the schedule for most adults. Last year at my continuing education at Virginia Seminary, the new Dean, the Very Rev. Ian Markham, talked about a blog he did weekly on either the propers for the week or a topic of interest, and how over time it had become a forum for conversation. I know a good idea when I steal one!

It has taken me most of the year to figure out what a blog is, and how to do one. Now I have one at EngagingOurFaith.blogspot.net. On Monday mornings (depending on the week) I post some commentary about the lessons for the preceding Sunday or some hot button issue. The blog allows folks to read it and comment on what I have written. This allows for a "virtual" conversation on the topic.

If you would like to check it out, please be my guest. If you would like to comment on what you see, that's even better!

There is a link from Saint Paul's web site, or you can just Google [EngagingOurFaith](#) to find your way.

Meet me (and others) in cyber space!

Mike+

Let's talk about The Shack.

William P. Young's recent book, *The Shack*, combines a heart touching story with about a pound and a half of theology. If you would like to spend an evening with others discussing the message of *The Shack*, please sign up in the Parish Hall over the next few Sundays.

The tentative date is Sunday Evening, November 9, 2008 at 7:00 PM over dessert and coffee.

Adult Forum—10 Principles for Spiritual Parenting.

The Adult forum will meet at the Church on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 PM to discuss first two chapters of the book *10 Principles for Spiritual Parenting*. Copies of the book are available at a very low cost from Amazon.com. Everyone is welcome.

Halloween Party

The **Halloween Party** has been cancelled due to the lack of volunteer help.

Message from our Sexton

Ruth Warner has some good news to share!

- Linda Lee's Girl Scout troop planted flowers and shrubs by the two church signs on Rt 135. The plants were donated by Hopkinton Gardens on Lumber St. And they were kept

hydrated by Jiggs, Roxanne, Ruth and others. It looks terrific!!

- Our furnace consultant tells us that we do not need a new one!
- Jim Warner has been creating storm windows for those big, drafty windows in the Church Hall. They look good and will keep us warm this winter. Thanks Jim!!
- Scott Dryden and his crew have completed the fall clean up of the grounds and they are looking good.

And, when you see Ruth, tell her how much we appreciate all of her efforts!!



Can you find your name tag on this wall? If not, let us know and we will happily create one for you.

Results of Rummage Sale

The proceeds from the sale were \$1200. The goods that did not sell were collected by Planet Aid. It was "a lot of work and some fun." Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success.

Planet Aid is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the environment and creating sustainable development in Africa and Asia.

We collect and recycle used clothing and shoes in 19 states in the USA. Items donated to Planet Aid are resold and proceeds are used to support education, community development and HIV/AIDS programs in Africa and Asia.



We partner with individuals, schools, organizations, companies and government agencies to inform about and contribute to community based development.

Nativity Display

The annual display of Nativity scenes is scheduled for December 6. Share your special crèche. Gift baskets will be sold. Donations of new or nearly new items for these gift baskets are appreciated.

For kids of all ages, can you find this cross in the church? Find it! Write the location and your name on a paper and leave in the church office. Your name will appear in the next issue of the Epistle.



St. Paul's Redeemables Ministry

Did you know that St. Paul's has raised operating funds through the collection of redeemable bottles and cans ever since the Massachusetts Bottle Bill was enacted in 1983? The town of Hopkinton offers the redeemables concession at their town recycling center to charitable groups on a rotating basis. St. Paul's "owns" this concession approximately 8 Saturdays per year. Bob Snyder schedules the concession for the town and also mans the station on the St. Paul's Saturdays. The upcoming St. Paul's Saturdays are October 18, November 22, and January 3.

To contribute, bring your clean returnable bottles and cans to the town recycling center between 7AM and 3PM on one of those Saturdays. Separate plastics from aluminum from glass. (Bringing glass in the same cardboard boxes that they're sold in is helpful.)

This activity has raised about \$2300 for St. Paul's since 2006, as well as keeping our planet a bit greener.

(A recycling container has been placed in the St. Paul's kitchen for the purpose of collecting returnables from Church activities. Please rinse out these bottles and cans before putting them in this container. Otherwise, just leave them in the sink.)
One last note – please contact Bob if you can help with the concession duties on November 22.

