



Parish of Saint Paul
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The Epistle

September 2007

Upcoming Events

Sep 6, 2007	5:30pm Choir Robe Fitting 7pm Adult Choir Rehearsal Starts
Sep 9, 2007	8:15am Contemplative Service 10:30am Eucharist with Music 10:30am Sunday School Registration 12pm Calendar Meeting 1pm Potluck at Ward's
Sep 12, 2007	7:30pm Knitting Ministry at Ginny's - Ginny's
Sep 13, 2007	5:30pm Children's Choir Rehearsal Starts
Sep 16, 2007	9:15am Sunday School 12pm Worship Committee
Sep 19, 2007	7:15pm Vestry Meeting at Joan's
Sep 23, 2007	12pm Lunch with Vestry
Sep 25, 2007	7pm Kushner Book Discussion
Sep 30, 2007	10:30am Blessing of the Animals/Outdoor Service

Wardens' Report

Sunday, Sept. 9, is Welcome Back Sunday, when we return to our schedule of a contemplative service at 8:15am, followed by a family service with music at 10:30am. Welcome Back Sunday is also the time to sign up your children for church school classes, overseen by John Falcone, our new Church School Director. John will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. We are delighted that all of last year's church school teachers have elected to continue their service, and we look forward to a vibrant year of our children's learning and participation in the life of the church.

We are also delighted to announce that we have childcare in place for all Sundays starting Sept. 9, from 9:30am to 12:30pm. You should feel free to leave your kids downstairs with the childcare providers for all or part of the church service, or to bring them with you into the sanctuary-as you prefer. By having childcare available through 12:30, we hope to give parents the option of a short respite to have coffee after church before resuming their parental duties. Naturally, kids are always welcome at coffee hour-it's your choice.

That same afternoon, on Sunday Sept. 9, Maeve and Bill Ward are hosting their annual Backyard Potluck. Here is the invitation from Maeve:

Come, join us! The Wards are having their annual summer pot luck at their house but for a number of reasons it's to take place following the coffee hour on Welcome Back Sunday, Sept. 9, from 1pm to 3pm. For those who don't know St. Paul's pot lucks offer lots of yummy treats! So bring a favorite dish you'd like to share, chairs or blankets, games, and -- of course --the kids! Hope you can make it! We don't plan to provide grills. In case of bad weather we will stay put at Church.

Please also mark your calendars on Sunday Sept. 23 for a Vestry-hosted lunch following the 10:30 service. This is a chance for the Vestry to bring everyone up to speed on our search for a new Priest in Charge, as well as other new initiatives in the parish.

Finally, there is news of our Bishop Gayle Harris: she was apparently in Ohio recently for the consecration of The Rev. Hollingsworth (prior priest in the Diocese of Mass.) as bishop in that diocese. Gayle fell down a flight of stairs and is presently in a neck brace. We also heard officially from Bishop Tom Shaw: "We ask your prayers for Gayle who was hospitalized on Saturday with severe back pain. At this point, no diagnosis has been made. As we learn more from her medical care providers, we will update you on Gayle's condition and progress."

As Bishop Gayle is the person who will assign us a Priest in Charge, this will obviously impact our schedule for finding an appropriate candidate. We ask your prayers both for Bishop Gayle and for our parish as we move through this difficult time. The Vestry will keep you informed of our progress.

All the best,
Bernice and Joan

Faith and the Environment

UPDATE--The Faith and the Environment Committee of the Green Decade/Coalition/Newton: Recently on a lovely late summer afternoon, the second meeting of this Committee met in St. Paul's Meditation Garden. Members enthusiastically exchanged ideas and shared experiences about how to care for God's Creation. (So evident in this peaceful setting.)

For example they heard about a tree-planting project that is to take place under the auspices of the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. On Tuesday, September 25 at 9:00 am participants will meet at the Wilson Chapel on the ANTS campus to learn about the day's program. Including orientation, worship, the tree planting by groups of four, and a barbecue and talk. A similar program is planned for Saturday, September 28. Though the organizers would prefer for volunteers to work a whole day, a lesser commitment of time is possible. Would you like to take part? Contact Maeve Ward.

(Newcomers: The Green Decade is a Newton-based environmental organization that networks at the local, state, and national levels.)

NEWTON'S FARMERS' MARKETS: Want to find really fresh produce and fish, yummy baked goods, maybe pet a goat, and enjoy camaraderie? Come to the Farmers' Markets on Tuesday afternoons at Cold Spring Park or Friday afternoons in Nonantum. At the Tuesday Market you will find five organic vendors selling not only produce but flowers, mustards and preserves. These last make great gifts. (You will also see conventional purveyors and one Integrated Pest Management vendor.) The Markets function until the end of September.

GOOD NEWS: A federal court has temporarily blocked the Shell Oil Company from drilling exploratory wells this summer off the coast of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Because of the potential threat to ANWR from an oil spill that would be extremely hard to clean up. Again--temporarily--the use of dangerous, mid-frequency sonar for training exercises off the southern coast of California by the U. S. Navy has been halted. Sonar has been adversely affecting whales and other marine mammals around the world--causing severe injury, maybe death.

Maeve Ward, Coordinator

News Notes

Did you see the following in "Newton Community Education," Fall, 2007, p. 4?

"Special Events"/"Micro-Development in Belize: Newton Recycles for 'Plenty,'"/"Chris Gruener, Presenter"/"Learn about Plenty, a nonprofit, nonsectarian United Nations NGO which facilitates micro-development projects. Several area public schools and faith communities are already working in Newton to support Plenty's school garden and hot lunch programs in Southern Belize, projects which are funded through local recycling efforts. Find out how you can volunteer to help expand the project...."/ Saturday @ Episcopal Parish of St. Paul 3 - 5 pm, October 13"

Did you see the photos that Isabella, Betsy, Keith, Alex, and Laura took to document their trip to New Orleans?
Watch for the date of an upcoming discussion that they will be leading regarding their efforts to help rebuild in the aftermath of Katrina.

Celebrations

September Birthdays

1 Eldiane Elmeus
5 Elaine Kell, John McDargh, Sasha McDargh-Dunn
6 Freddy Elmeus, Constance Williams
8 Mary Lou Pierron
12 Joe Alviani
28 Mark Donahue

September Anniversaries

7 Ben & Phyllis Evans

Articles are due on the 20th for publication on the 1st
Submissions to epistle@parishofstpaul.org