



Parish of Saint Paul  
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# The Epistle

January 2008

## Upcoming Events

Jan 14	7pm	St. John's Book Group
Jan 15	7:30pm	Outreach Committee at Ellie Pandorf's
Jan 16	7:30pm	Knitting Ministry
Jan 17	5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
Jan 20	9:30am	One Service
	11am	Annual Meeting (see attached)
Jan 24	5:30pm	Junior Choir Rehearsal
Jan 27		Bishop Shaw Visit
	9:30am	One Service
Feb 2	6:00pm	Jazz and Jambalaya Event
Feb 11	7:30pm	Bridging Committee - John Cochran's

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Sunday January 20

One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.  
Rev. Miriam Gelfer, Celebrant.  
Miriam is Dean of the Charles River Deanery  
and Rector at Grace Church, Newton

Brunch served following service.

The Annual Meeting will begin about 11:00 a.m.

## Christian Formation

### Simpler Christmas At Church School

Many thanks to Maeve Ward and Laura Powers-Patey for leading our enthusiastic Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 9) Church School session! Children and parents were on hand to talk about the connections between Christmas, creation and a more commercial-free life. Our "Happy Birthday, Jesus" banner included loads of gifts we thought would fit well on Jesus' birthday/Christmas list: peace, family and friends, beautiful nature scenes, food for people and animals, warm homes, even some "super love ray guns" to spread God's nonviolent love around! Some of us made "Christmas coupons" for family and friends on recycled note cards; promises to "clean my room" or "play with siblings" were popular "buy-nothing" Christmas gifts.

Others created natural bird-feeders from corn sryup, birdseed and pine cones as Christmas gifts for their backyard avian friends. Many added to a handout listing greener-gifts ideas. One child noted that consuming oil for wars detracts from a green Christmas. Samples of the children's creations found

their way to the coffee-hour table where Betty Murray had provided a decorated cake to honor the occasion.

For more information on the growing movement to celebrate holidays more simply, check out the Mennonite website [www.buynothingchristmas.org](http://www.buynothingchristmas.org).

### **Adults Making a Difference for our Children**

Our Simpler Christmas celebration continued on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec. 23) with our "Ecological Ornament Exchange." Many thanks to Betty Murray for providing beautiful ornaments for our parish Christmas tree, and for donating lovely wood carved decorations for the nature-friendly ornament swap! The children (and several adults) loved them! Thanks also for her kind and yummy donation of hot chocolate and cookies for students and parents after an energetic Pageant rehearsal.

### **The Christmas Services**

Red bows attached to the pews and to the steps leading to the altar as well as garlands of berries and pine festooning the altar railings as well as "glowing" red poinsettias greeted parishioners and visitors during the Christmas season. "I've never seen the Church look so beautiful," exclaimed a longtime member. Thanks go to Burke and Isabella Lanzillo for helping their parents, Jane and Dana Lanzillo, decorate with both new and reused materials. A grateful "Thank you!" as well as to the members of the Altar Guild.

Effusive thanks are also in order for Eliza Blay, the grand organizer and orchestrator of this year's Christmas Pageant early on Christmas Eve. It was a wonderful and moving pageant, put together with the help of the Junior Choir as well as many teens, grade-schoolers, adults, and even one new infant member of the St. Paul's community! Swaddled in sheepskin he received adoring lambs, worshipful shepherds, and the three wise men who had trudged far (up and down the aisle!)

Incense, trumpet music, the adult choir, and the singing of "Silent Night" to candlelight enhanced the elegant second Christmas Eve service. Thanks to all who made this special spiritual experience possible.

The following week the significant service of "Lesson and Carols" took place to complete the cycle. Again thanks to all.

And--especially--thanks to "Rusty" (the Rev. Russell Page), our Celebrant, and to Reiko Akaska, our Music Director

And a partridge and a pear tree..." St. Paul's kids passionately sang this refrain during a festive Christmas potluck supper (as well as during the Epiphany Progressive Dinner) sing-a-long. Much enjoyed by all.

John Falcone, Church School Director, and Maeve Ward, Chair, Publicity



### **Planning for the Church School Year**

Thoughts, ideas, passions about Church School? The Church School teachers and organizers will be meeting during January to discuss topics and special events for the first half of the '08 church school year. Contact John Falcone on Sunday during coffee hour with your input!

## **Bridging Committee**

### **Jazz and Jambalaya**

Second Annual Jazz & Jambalaya Mardi Gras Fundraiser will be Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> At St. John's from 6 - 9 p.m. The Dixieland Jazz Band, "The Swamptones" will provide live music, and there will be mask-making for the kids. Everyone is encouraged to be creative with costumes! All proceeds from this event will be used in the recovery and rebuilding efforts in New Orleans. A suggested donation of \$25 per person or \$50 per family includes dinner, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages.

We need volunteers to cook Mac and Cheese, decorate and help with clean up. Please sign up in the Parish Hall or contact Betsy Blagdon if you would like to volunteer. Tickets to the event will be on sale soon!

### **Help us to help the people of New Orleans!**

#### **Lenten Series**

Tim Rogers will lead a Sunday night series focusing on living into our baptismal commitment and how that relates to our Outreach efforts both in New Orleans and in the greater world.

#### **Pentecost BBQ**

After our lively Epiphany progressive dinner with Trinity and St. John's, we are planning a Pentecost BBQ. Tentative plans include grilling, an evening service and ice cream.

#### **New Orleans**

The second trip to New Orleans will actually be a series of trips of 8-10 workers, during the weeks of June 10-16; June 17-23, and June 24-30. We will raise \$10,000 to finish a gutted house for one family. The project involves helping to raise money for the plumbing and electrical work and sending a group of volunteers to spend a week doing finish work, like wallboard and painting, under the direction of a contractor. Although the needs of the people in New Orleans are still staggering, this is an opportunity for us to help in a small way by helping at least one family get back into their home. Please see Keith Hatfield, Laura Patey or Betsy Blagdon for more information. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to help others. If you are interested in joining the effort and making the trip (or even if you think you might be) or would like more information, please talk with John Cochran as soon as possible.

## **Worship**

#### **Junior Choir Rehearsal Schedule**

Thursday, Jan. 10 at 5:30 pm -- rehearsal

Thursday, Jan. 17 at 5:30 pm -- rehearsal

Thursday, Jan. 24 at 5:30 pm -- rehearsal

Sunday, Jan 27 at 10:00 am -- warm-up for singing at 10:30 am



THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF SAINT PAUL PRESENTS

For our third year of these presentations, your committee decided to focus on two main events. We decided to "go big" and invite noted author Rabbi Harold S. Kushner to be our guest for the fall event. Much to our delight, he agreed. (Thanks for that go to John McDargh!). Partnering with Newtonville Books, we ordered the books and hosted an open book discussion evening in September. Over a dozen people from the parish and the community participated in a varied, moving discussion of the issues raised in Rabbi Kushner's tenth and most recent book, *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*.

In October, we opened the Parish Hall doors wide to let a near-capacity audience hear from Rabbi Kushner in person. More than 85 people listened to the wit and wisdom he brings to topics such as loss and disappointment. Not one to sugar coat, Rabbi Kushner reminded us that in many cases, adjusting our expectations can help us cope with what life serves up.

These "Beyond the Daily Grind" events are all created and presented by The Parish of St Paul and are open to the wider community. They are funded through a Congregational Development grant that was awarded to the parish by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The committee welcomes input and ideas, and plans to reconvene after the holidays to plan for the next event. If you have questions or comments, please contact Amy Radin.

## Knitting Ministry



The Knitting Ministry, (shown above *sans* Charlotte Stafford), met in early December to finish the afghan they have been working on since June for Carol Flett. Carol was a loyal member of the knitting group during her time at St. Paul's. Present projects include hats and mittens for the Mitten Basket as well as blankets and shawls.

## News Notes

We were sad to learn of the recent death of Brewster Goode who had attended St. Paul's over several years. For more information contact Maeve Ward.



The report that Laura Patey and Maeve Ward wrote regarding the fall Mass Audubon Conference (which appeared in last month's "Epistle") had been referenced on the Conference website.

The Book Group will next meet this Monday, January 14th at 7:00 pm to discuss the delightful book, "Three Bags Full" by Leonie Swann. Please mark your calendars - look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

## January Celebrations

### Birthdays

3 Aaron Montgomery  
9 Kaitlyn Hubner  
10 Emily Walsh  
12 Burke Lanzillo and Tim S. Dunn  
26 Eleanor Lynch

### Anniversary

2 Chris and Liza Meyer

**ANNUAL MEETING  
January 20, 2008  
AGENDA**

<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<b>Miriam Gelfer Rector, Grace Episcopal Church Dean, Charles River Deanery</b>
<b>Buffet Brunch</b>	
<b>Call to Order</b>	<b>Bernice Cramer, Co-Warden</b>
<b>Declaration of Open Session</b>	
<b>Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting</b>	<b>David Montgomery</b>
<b>Greetings from the Dean</b>	
<b>Co-Warden's Report</b>	<b>Bernice Cramer</b>
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	<b>Lee Hatfield</b>
<b>Report of Permanent Funds</b>	<b>Chris Meyer</b>
<b>Stewardship Committee Report</b>	<b>Lee Hatfield</b>
<b>Worship Reports:</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	
<b>Music Director's Report</b>	
<b>Worship Assistants' Report</b>	
<b>Worship Committee Report</b>	
<b>Committee Reports:</b>	
<b>Bridging Committee</b>	
<b>Christian Formation</b>	
<b>Faith and Environment</b>	
<b>Hospitality</b>	
<b>Knitting</b>	
<b>Mediation Garden</b>	
<b>Outreach</b>	
<b>Publicity</b>	
<b>Nominating Committee Report</b>	<b>Bernice Cramer</b>
<b>Special Recognitions</b>	<b>Bernice Cramer</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>	

Articles are due on the 20<sup>th</sup> for publication on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Submissions to [epistle@parishofstpaul.org](mailto:epistle@parishofstpaul.org)