



Parish of Saint Paul
 1135 Walnut Street
 Newton MA 02461
 (617)527-6642

The Rev. Dr. Carol Flett,
 Priest-in-charge

office@parishofstpaul.org

The Epistle

May 2007

Upcoming Events

May	16	Knitting Ministry at Ginny Fruhan's house	7:30pm
May	20	Eucharist at St. Pauls	8:15am
May	20	Picnic at the Cove – no 10:30 service	11am-4pm
May	23	Vestry Meeting at Pearce's	7:15pm
June	2	Mark McKone-Sweet Ordination to Diaconate	10:30am
June	3	Youth Sunday, Mark McKone-Sweet	8:15 and 10:30am
June 9	9	Organ Concert by Reiko Akasaka	7pm
June	10	Combined Service at Newton Highlands Congregational. Eucharist at St. Paul's at 8:15am	10am
June	11	Salvation Army Dinner	4:30pm
June	17	Summer Schedule Starts – One Eucharist Service	9:30am
June	17	Gulf Coast Mission Sendoff Coffee at St. John's	11am

Letter from the Priest-in-charge

Dear Friends:

The cover letter of this month's St. Paul's Epistle is devoted to updating you on recent discussions that I have had with the Vestry and a few parishioners about the Priest-in-charge process and the future of St. Paul's. Apparently, some parishioners have misunderstood the PIC process and some have heard rumors of misinformation about the future of St. Paul's.

Let me reiterate **NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH** – not by the Vestry or the diocese.

In October 2006, St. Paul's began a self-imposed 3-year process to **"increase its membership and build connections with our partner parish, St. John's, as we celebrate our friendly and inclusive community of faith."** The Vestry and parish will use this focus statement as a guide for how it will allocate its resources of time, talent, energy over the first phase of the discernment process.

This 3-year discernment process began in October 2006, when the Vestry and the parish voted to ask our diocesan bishops if my responsibilities and title as Interim could be broadened to include the role of Priest-in-charge (PIC). This arrangement extends my time at St. Paul's and changes my role from supporting the parish in their Search for a new rector, to supporting the parish as it discerns leadership options for its future. The PIC process is a process used in at least 15 parishes in the diocese who are all discerning their future before they call a rector.

According to the process, at the 2 ½ year mark, the Vestry and the parish vote whether to begin a search for a new rector, or to consider another option, such as blending with a neighboring parish and calling a new rector who would serve the newly blended parish. Thus, by April 2009, St. Paul's must have determined what kind of ordained leadership matches the future needs of the parish.

Letter from the Priest-in-Charge (continued)

Here's what we are doing right now to strengthen our parish: In a series of parish bag-lunch meetings in spring 2006, we realized that there are three issues facing St. Paul's Church:

1. the need for an increasing number of members that would provide a **critical mass for programs and lay leadership**;
2. a way to involve more parish members to **prevent the "burnout" of over-committed lay leaders**;
3. and enough members to provide a **financial base** that could support a full-time rector who might live in the rectory and need health insurance.

Due to your generous pledges for 2007, St. Paul's continues to have a balanced budget and to have a healthy financial portfolio of investments. **Finances are not the current challenge.** St. Paul's can afford my $\frac{3}{4}$ -time position because we receive significant income from the rental of the rectory and I do not need health insurance from St. Paul's. Now the more pressing issues are **how to increase membership** and **increase the level of participation among current members to prevent the burnout of ongoing leaders.**

Burnout can happen when a few people end up taking on too much. To strengthen our community, we want **everyone who considers himself or herself a member of St Paul's to be involved in some aspect of the parish's ministry.** This does not have to mean a huge commitment of time or resources: you can join the Adult Choir, the Altar Guild, host a coffee hour, donate altar flowers, teach Christian Formation classes for children or adults, participate in the Knitting ministry, the Outreach Committee, care for church Property and assist with physical improvements to bathrooms and a kitchenette, and visit the elderly. The Vestry has developed a new "organizational chart" to show the opportunities for lay leadership—take a look and see where you would like to join in!

Increasing membership is a major focus of the Vestry this year. We are in the process of developing a new plan to invite new members into St Paul's. We will be communicating more with you about this very shortly in an all-parish meeting. Because of the emphasis on increasing St. Paul's membership, a new position has been created on the Vestry – Evangelism. Betty Murray will be visiting each committee or guild in the parish and helping them to explore how their particular area of ministry could be a way to draw new members to St. Paul's. For example, the Knitting Ministry meets every Wednesday morning at the Lincoln St. Café. It has attracted the attention of customers. Several customers have recognized members of the group as friends or neighbors and asked about St. Paul's Church. Strangers have come over and asked if they could sit and knit with the group.

What might your committee do to bring new members to St. Paul's? Think of all the external groups in which members of St. Paul's are involved: Newton Town committees, public school committees, Council on Aging, Clubs, etc. How have you personally talked about St. Paul's with your friends and neighbors and invited them to attend worship or any of our programs? The growth of St. Paul's depends on every member reaching out and inviting others to join our wonderful, inclusive community of faith.

Peace, Carol

Worship News

Worship at the Cove on Sunday, May 20, 11 - 4 pm

At the Cove we will celebrate the Eucharist at 11 a.m., followed by a fun-filled old fashioned picnic and softball game! Bring your gloves, hats, bats and balls and have fun! Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:15 am at St. Paul's for those who cannot attend the service at the Cove with St. John's.

If your last name begins with the initials A-D, please bring a beverage – soda, lemonade, or a fruit drink.

E-H please bring a salad – garden, potato, or fruit.

I-L please bring paper products – plates, cups or plastic utensils.

M-Q please bring condiments – mustard, ketchup, relish or pickles.

R-U please bring bread – rolls for hamburgers and hot dogs.

V-Z please bring finger-food desserts.

If you would rather contribute to the purchase of meat, please speak to Father Tim. In case of rain, the service and picnic will be in St. John's upper hall.



Sat. June 2, 10:30 am

Diocesan ordinations to the diaconate

Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St. Boston

(park in the Boston Common Garage or travel the Green line T to Park St. station)

One of our parishioners, Mark McKone-Sweet, will be one of those ordained to the transitional diaconate on Sat. June 2, 10:30 am at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul at 138 Tremont St. Boston at the annual diaconate ordination service. He has been sponsored for ordination by St. Paul's, and I will be one of his "presenters" as his sponsoring priest. Maureen and the Discernment Committee began this process with him and I assumed Maureen's role when I began at St. Paul's. We are very proud of Mark, who has completed 3-years of seminary education at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, two years of field education (at St. Paul's in Natick), a summer unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at a hospital in Providence RI and he passed the national Graduate Ordination Exam Phew! You may have been following his process in his monthly messages to the parish in the Epistle. Now he is ready to be ordained as a transitional "deacon" and in six months, he will be ordained to the Priesthood. The ordination service is awesome and grand and all the Ordinands are asked to invite members of their parish choir. etc. to participate in the service. We are all invited to attend the service.

On Sun. June 3, 8:15 & 10:30 am, which is also Youth Sunday at St. Paul's, Mark will serve as a Deacon for the first time. A Deacon has the responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel, preparing the altar for Communion and giving the Dismissal. Following the June 3 service, St. Paul's, Newton Highlands will have a special cake and celebration for him. Gifts are appropriate! Ask Carol for ideas. Mark has been called as Assistant to the Rector at St. Paul's, Natick, beginning May 1.



Family Sing!

The Junior and Senior Choirs and their Families will all sing the anthem together on **Youth Sunday, June 3**. Please join as we sing the lovely Pentecost song!

Schedule:

Thursday, May 31 at 6:00 pm -- combined rehearsal for Junior and Senior choirs and Family
Sunday, June 3 at 9:30 am -- warm up for the 10:30 service



Newton Highland Village Day – Sunday June 10

St. Paul's congregation will worship with the NH Congregational Church at 10 am
Holy Eucharist will be offered at St. Paul's at 8:15 am so we can all walk to the NH Congregational Church together.

Sun. June 17, Holy Eucharist will be offered at St. Paul's at 9:30 am
prior to the Coffee hour at St. John's where a special "send off" will be given to the combined parishes Mission Trip to the Gulf Coast. Please attend the celebration at St. John's!

Christian Formation

As we search for a replacement Christian Formation Director, Karyn Barry, the Christian Formation Director at St. John's, has agreed to work for St. Paul's for five Sunday mornings, 9-10 am (1 hour) to keep our program going until the end of the school year. She is prepared to offer the same program that she offers at St. John's during this short time period. **It will be a unit on Holy Communion.** Please attend these last five Sundays - April 29, May 6, May 13, May 20 and June 3, 9:15-10:15 am

You are invited to attend the **“Youth Service” on June 3, 10:30 am service**, when we will acknowledge the fruitful year of Christian Formation that the children and youth of St. Paul's have had together. Two youth recently Confirmed (May 5) will give the homily, younger children will assist the Altar Guild, usher, ring the bell, read the lessons, lead the Prayers, and serve the chalice. Those who have faithfully completed a 3-week unit on Holy Communion will bake the communion bread and be recognized for their faithful understanding of the Lord's Supper.

Adult Formation

“The Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church” continues on Sundays May 6, May 13 at 9:15am. No classes on May 20 (we're at the Cove) or on May 29 (Memorial Day weekend).

Tues. evening “Bible Study” begins a 6-week unit on the Lord's Prayer, “Lord, Teach Us How to Pray”, from May 1- through June 5, 7-8:30 pm. The curriculum costs \$15 per person or family. Each week we will talk about one of the verses of the prayer: God, the Kingdom, obedience, feeding ourselves, forgiveness and crying for help. Come and learn how to make the Lord's Prayer more meaningful in your daily life. Contact Carol to let her know how many curricula to order.

Reaching Out

The Outreach Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at a member's home. The next meeting is May 2nd at the Meyers. New participants are always welcome.

The Lenten Food Drive was very successful. Thank you for your donations. The Staffords and the Meyers divided the food between The Newton Food Bank and The Somerville Mental Health Clinic. Charlotte and Dave delivered food to the Food Bank and Mary Lou Pierron will take the rest to Somerville.

Money collected from the plate the first Sunday of each month is used for outreach. The January, February and April plates totaling \$257. combined with \$243. from the Outreach budget was used to buy gift certificates from Home Depot and Bed, Bath and Beyond to be distributed by “Gifts from the Heart” a program sponsored by Bishop Cederholm to assist Katrina survivors. Thank you for giving generously on the 1st Sunday of each month. The May plate will be used to provide diapers for the babies at Second Step.

St. Paul's will be cooking and serving dinner at the Salvation Army in Framingham on Monday June 11th. Volunteers are needed to cook the meal beginning at 4:30, to serve dinner at 6:00 and to help clean up. We are usually out the door by 7:00. St. Paul's has provided meals at the Salvation Army for many years. In March Jack Blay's Cub Scout troupe helped serve the meal. We hope you will take this opportunity to join us.

Faith and the Environment

RACHEL CARSON: May 2007 marks the centennial of Rachel Carson's birth. Marine biologist and zoologist, Rachel Carson inspired the modern environmental movement with her 1962 book “Silent Spring.” That book warned against the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use on the environment, in particular the effects of DDT on birds. A best seller in the United States and overseas, it brought national awareness to the impact of synthetic chemicals on our environment and spurred legislative changes in some of our pesticide policies. But unfortunately some of these policies are more “honored in the breach than in the observance.”

LAND CARE: For example those yellow pesticide warning signs have again started “sprouting” in Newton--despite alternatives to these poisons that pollute the air, soil, water (especially in Newton where all runoff flows into the Charles River) and may cause cancer or neurological damage, especially to children. Despite a group of environmental activists who, over the past thirteen years have informed people about alternatives; despite the City’s official Integrated Pest Management Policy.

This week has brought yet more reports, of breast cancer striking friends or the recurrence of cancer in women who had had treatments for breast cancer. Three years ago Anne Caputi, an acquaintance of mine, recounted her battle with this dread disease in a powerful article, “Killing Me Softly with His Lawn.” (The “Newton TAB”) Commenting upon the high rate of breast cancer in this City at the time, she noted the irony of a request from a pesticide applicator who once knocked on her door. He wanted a car moved because the spray would have ruined the finish. (Today a woman’s lifetime risk of developing breast cancer has nearly tripled in the past fifty years.) She concluded,

“drumming my immunity with his spray can
shortening my life with his lawn
killing me softly with his lawn.”

Anne died November 18, 2006.

BUT WE MUST CONTINUE RACHEL’S WORK: More optimistically, Chris Gruener, Manfred and Margaret Hummel, Kathy Murphy-Anderson and daughter Suzanna, Laura Powers-Patey, and Maeve Ward took part in the “Step it up Congress/Cut carbon 80% by 2050” rally on April 14 at the Newton Community Service Center. Organized by the well-known environmental author Bill McKibben, it was a national action that took place at nearly 1400 sites across the country. (To prevent the type of emissions that would have occurred had gathering points been in large cities.) The more than 150 excited local participants (some bike- or hybrid-car owners) chatted, sang, listened to guitar music and inspiring speeches, and had photos taken. The rally made the front section of the following week’s “Newton TAB” which showed the crowd pointing to the photovoltaic solar panels on the roof of the NCSC building for which the Green Decade Coalition/Newton had raised \$20,000.



So, Rachel, we keep trying. By the way, for information about organic land care, link onto www.greendecade.org and then onto GreenCAP.

Maeve Ward, Coordinator

News Notes

Summer Flower Opportunity!

Help bring the beauty of summer indoors when we worship. Make a donation in honor or memory of something, or someone, for our Sunday altar flowers. July 8 or 22, August 5, and September 2 are among the dates available. If you're interested, please leave a note in the "Flowers" basket in the office, or contact Amy Radin or JoAnn Grigoli.

Organ Recital

Reiko Akasaka, organ
Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, and Heiller

Saturday, June 9 at 7:00 pm

Parish of St. Paul

1135 Walnut Street
Newton Highlands, MA

Donation
Reception will follow

This is a pre-concert for recitals that Reiko will perform in Italy this summer. As the winner of Gherardeschi Prize at the 2006 Italian Organ Music Academy-Shirakawa of International Music Festival in Japan, Reiko will tour and give two organ concerts in Italy -- one is an Italian program on an Italian style organ, and another is a German program on a German style organ. Reiko will play mostly pieces from German program for the concert at St. Paul's.

Boston City Singers - Spring Concert

Reiko Akasaka is accompanist, and playing the piano and organ. They are making Australia concert tour this summer!

Saturday, June 2 at 7:30 pm
Parish of All Saints
209 Ashmont Street
Dochester, MA

Donation

Family Weekend Experience

with Bishop Bud Cederholm at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.
June 22-24, 2007

All kinds of families come together for this weekend experience that truly refreshes body, mind and spirit. Fun abounds with water sports, hiking, campfires, theme nights and games. Reflection time together with peers, intergenerational activities and daily creative worship open the way to grow in faith and understand God's love in deeply profound ways. Come feed your soul and connect with your family members, friends old and new, and with God. For information, contact Amy Cook, Diocesan Resource Center (617/482-4826, 645); acook@diomass.org.

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