



# ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE

February 2012

## Coming Down The Mountain

*Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.*

Dear friends,

Towards the end of February, we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration – the story about Jesus taking Peter and John and James up to the top of a high mountain, and there beginning to shine with a dazzling otherworldly brightness. As if that were not strange enough, Elijah and Moses appear and begin talking with Jesus. This is truly a “mountain top experience”: an incredible moment of mystical encounter and spiritual inspiration, a glimpse into a reality far beyond our own. It is full of symbolic meaning, both foreshadowing Jesus’ rising after his death and solidifying Jesus’ place in the line of the great Hebrew prophets. And when they come back down the mountain, the disciples’ journey turns more directly towards Jerusalem and the Cross.

Peter responds to this mountain top experience the way so many of us respond to similar moments of peak experience in our own lives: by trying to contain it, to hold onto it and prevent it from slipping away. In his desire to cling to the present moment as long as he can, he offers to build three dwelling places, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.

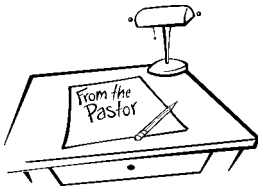
I find it interesting that Peter doesn't offer to build a dwelling place for *himself* on the mountaintop along with them. He seems to simply intend for Jesus, Moses and Elijah to stay in the huts on the mountain, allowing Peter to visit them whenever he wants to, but also giving himself the freedom to come and go. Perhaps the vulnerability of being in this sacred zone of mystical encounter and spiritual inspiration is too much for him to handle all the time. Peter wants access to it, but also wants to be able to go back into the more familiar (and less dazzling) realm of his everyday life. I appreciate that desire for a life lived in-between the mystical and the practical.

If this was indeed Peter's thinking, it raises the question of how often Peter would have returned to the mountaintop to approach the mystical place of vulnerability, inspiration, and awe. Daily? Once a week? A few times a year? And what about us? How often do we approach the places of inspiration and awe in our own lives? And how much do we allow those moments to shape the ones that follow when we've come back down the mountain?

Whether they take the form of a visit to a special mentor or friend, a solitary walk through the snow around a lake, or a time of silent prayer in the back pew of our church, visits to such places are essential to endow our lives with humility, direction, and hope. By offering us an encounter with the transcendent reality, they provide shape and context to what we do in the rest of our lives. How would you describe your “mountain top place” to someone who asked? What have your visits there done to transfigure your own life? When will you visit again...?

Chris +





## Adult Confirmation / Reception

If any adults are interested in being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church this spring, now is a great time to talk to Rev. Chris about it. Generally the process involves a some reading, a few meetings for conversations about the Episcopal Church's approach to Christianity, and then the Confirmation itself (which is in late April). If there are enough people interested, we could do this preparation together over a handful of gatherings in the coming months. If you're curious and would like to learn more, please speak to Chris before Valentine's Day.

## Ash Wednesday Services 7:30am and 7:30pm February 22, 2012



"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"

Please join us for our services of Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.

## "Blessed are the Peacemakers" ...

Adult Christian Learning Series for Lent 2012

Sundays beginning February 26 from 11:30am to 12:15pm

Throughout the Gospel, peacemaking is at the heart of Jesus' teaching and ministry. But for Jesus, peacemaking is far more than simply "making nice" to get along. The peace that Jesus offers is a peace that balances self-worth with respect for others, that restores dignity where it has been lost, and that leads to healing rather than standoff. This Lent, come explore how our faith offers us resources and guidance to be instruments of peacemaking in various parts of our lives. We'll meet Sundays in Lent in the Library after the service from 11:30 until about 12:15. Come to a few or to the whole series!

- 2/26: Making Peace with Others  
*Christian approaches to managing conflicts*
- 3/4: Making Peace with God  
*Finding our way back after God lets us down.*
- 3/11: Making Peace in our Communities  
*Restorative Justice as a pathway to community reconciliation*
- 3/18: No Session: Women's Brunch
- 3/24: Making Peace with Other Faiths  
*Constructive Christian perspectives on other faiths*
- 4/1: Making Peace with the Earth  
*Ecological stewardship as part of our spiritual health*



## PRAYER LIST

As Lent begins at the end of this month, we will be starting a new prayer list. We are happy to keep any names on the list from the current prayer list, if prayers would continue to be helpful. So if you have placed a name on the prayer list and would like to keep it on the list, please contact Tracy ([info@stpaulsbedford.org](mailto:info@stpaulsbedford.org)). Names that are not re-added to the list will be removed as of the first Sunday in Lent, February 26. Of course, names can be added at any time, simply by writing them on the board in the parish hall, calling the office, or speaking with Chris.

## Pastoral Emergencies

In a pastoral emergency (urgent hospitalization, death, or immediate crisis) if there is no answer at the office, please try to reach Chris at his home number.

## Weekday Morning Prayer at St. Paul's Church

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
8:40 a.m.



## March "Family Sunday" Switch

Looking ahead to the March Calendar, we will be switching "Family Sunday" that month from the 1st Sunday of the Month to the 2nd Sunday (March 11). March 11 is also Girl Scout Sunday, and this will allow all our young people to attend church that day to either participate in or witness this annual celebration of girl scouting. On the 1st Sunday that month, March 4th, we will offer full Sunday School programs. Also, the 8:00 a.m. service will be held March 11 rather than March 4. Thanks to Joan Reddy, Cathy Presti, Amanda Hubbard, and Carol Hokana for adjusting to this change. We know it might create additional burdens for some parish families, but we hope that with this much advance warning it will not be too disruptive. Thanks for your cooperation!

Chris +

## Vestry Corner

At the Annual Meeting on January 29, the vestry said goodbye to three members, Carol Hokana, Cassie Baker, and Paul Ciaccia. We are grateful to each of them for their faithful service to the vestry, their willingness to speak their minds, and their dedication to the work of St. Paul's.

The 2012 vestry features both familiar faces in new roles and brand-new faces, as we welcome two newcomers to the executive board and two new members to the vestry. Linda Moosick joins us as clerk, and Sharon Healey will serve as junior warden, after completing four years as a member at large. Katie West has shifted to a member-at-large, beginning a three-year term, and Jeff Zwicker joins for the first time. We also welcome Shea Kuhl as our youth member. We look forward to continuing the good work of the church in the year to come.

The vestry will hold its annual retreat on Sunday, February 12, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm at Bethany House/St. Anne's Convent in Arlington. We will meet at the church in the morning to carpool and caravan to the convent. The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, at 7:30pm in the parish library. All are welcome to attend.

With best regards,

*Emily Mitchell, Senior Warden  
Sharon Healey, Junior Warden*



Thanks to all the potential confirmands and parents who came to our kickoff meeting for Confirmation class on Sunday, January 22. We are grateful for your willingness to explore this new stage in your life as Christians, and look forward to great conversations in the weeks to come.

Our next class will be Sunday, February 5, after church. Participants should bring their favorite Bible verse and be prepared to discuss it. We'll also talk about our Baptismal covenant and what it means, and discuss options for our confirmation service project. We will have one other meeting in February: check your email for the final schedule.

The pre-Confirmation retreat at the Barbara Harris Camp will be Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral of St. Paul in downtown Boston on Saturday, April 28, at 10:30am, with Bishop Tom Shaw presiding.

With blessings,  
*Emily Mitchell, Arthur Fergusson, John Mitchell,  
and Chris+*

## Community Table

Volunteers are needed for this month's Community Table. We will be assembling the meat loaves on Wednesday, February 8th at 7PM at church.

If you would like to help cook, please be at the Bedford Food Pantry on Thursday February 9th at 2:30.

If you would like to help serve, please arrive at the food pantry by 4:50 PM on the 9th.

Questions? Contact Sharon Healey.

## INREACH

The Inreach Committee has been busy providing meals to ill and needy parishioners as well as families with new babies. Depending on the situation, we provide two to ten meals per family in a given month. We have also been sending out get well, sympathy, and congratulatory cards, arranging transportation for appointments, and visiting/calling people who may be homebound or could use extra special care. If you are in need of any of these services or would like to participate on the committee, please contact any of the following members: Jan Gurley, Lisa Hafer, Sue Marasa, Ellen Ryan, and Rene Seaton.

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

February is Youth in Service Month at St. Paul's. Please check out our display on the new Outreach bulletin board in the hallway (and thanks to Alex Healey for the idea!). We will be gathering for a service outing some time this month, though the details are still being worked out. Please watch your email and our Facebook group for more information.

*-Emily Mitchell and Arthur Fergusson*

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

The Middle School Youth group will be meeting February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 during the church service. We will be decorating cupcakes for the upcoming Community Table on Thursday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers to bring cupcakes, frosting, and decorations.

We are planning a Sunday morning field trip to St. John's Monastery in Cambridge. We will notify everyone, once the date is set. It is looking like the tentative date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday evening March 4<sup>th</sup> for a special evening youth group meeting with Chris. Pizza and dessert will be served! 5:30-7:00pm.

We will be helping out with the Massachusetts Special Olympics basketball tournament in Worcester, Sunday March 11<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

*Karin Baker and Matt Skavenski*

## ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's Epiphany. We are reveling in the realization of Christ saying "Alleluia" because Jesus came to live and be just like us. Throughout Epiphany the children will be creating Alleluias to adorn the sanctuary. We'll explore where and how Jesus lived by looking at maps to see where he lived, and seeing pictures of period houses. We'll dress, perform chores, and share a meal. We'll talk about how Jesus lived and taught us to live as much like him as we can. The children will celebrate St. Paul, hearing of his long journeys and how in many cities along the way he established churches and in his absence kept them going by writing letters, lots of them. We'll hear the wonderful story of young Samuel who hears Jesus in the middle of the night, and hear the story of Jesus choosing his friends and asking them to follow him. This is a fun and wonderful season. Alleluia.

*-Cathy Presti*

## WOMEN'S GROUP

**Movie Night – Sarah's Key  
Monday, February 6th  
7 PM at the home of Lynne Wolf**



Join the Women's Group on Monday, February 6th at Lynne Wolf's to view and discuss the movie Sarah's Key.

The movie, based on the book by Tatiana de Rosnay, begins in Paris in July 1942 as Sarah, a ten year-old girl, is arrested with her family by the French police in the Vel' d'Hiv' roundup, but not before she locks her younger brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment, thinking that she will be back within a few hours. In 2002 on Vel' d'Hiv's 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah.

This tragic and compelling story of the Holocaust and its impacts on people's lives should engender much thought provoking discussion.

**Save the date**

Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Brunch will be held at the home of Christine Anderson. Watch for details.

## CATECHESIS NEWS!



Catechesis families,

It has been good to get back into our usual routines in the Atria after the long December break. Catechesis I learned the parable of the Leaven (yeast) by doing it – take 3 measures of flour, add a little yeast and water, and watch it rise! Every year it seems magical – many of the parables are about small things being important, to which preschoolers can relate. The following week they got to eat the resulting bread. Catechesis 2, our older group, learned about the Presentation of Jesus in the temple, a ‘post nativity’ story which is less familiar to most of us. Both classes heard new stories of the Good Shepherd, and reinforced the old – the fact that all are secure, loved and cared for is a foundation of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum for this age range.

Lent will begin in February, so we will soon be learning about the Easter events and locations in Jerusalem. At this point in the year there are also plenty of materials and activities from prior lessons to choose from and work with. We are very grateful to some new parents (Carrie Mathews and Eric Anderson) and youth (Cassie B, Helen P, Brooke M. and Emma P) for offering to assist this new year – others please let us know if you can help in any way, as the schedule for Session 3 is being assembled. With enough people, typically assistants only need to serve once or twice a session. A big thank you to the faithful people who have continued for many sessions now! This couldn’t run without each of you.

Sincerely,  
*Amanda Hubbard, Ellen Ryan and Carol Hokana*

## Notes from the Nursery School



We have had a great month at preschool. The children returned from the holidays full of energy. They were excited to be back to school to see their friends and get into a regular routine. We all enjoyed a special pancake day where the children made their own pancakes and we also celebrated pajama day and everyone wore their pjs to school.

Our month will soon change from the cold, white winter to a pink and red Valentine’s Day. We will celebrate with a week of “friends and friendship”, culminating with Valentine Day parties. Later in the month we will enjoy Teddy Bear day with some special activities for the younger children and Pet Day will be a special day for the older class.

I want to thank the parish for the new ceilings in the classrooms. The rooms look so bright and clean with new ceilings and windows. I appreciate the support the parish shows this school.

Enrollment is ongoing. We have openings in our two day and our three day program. If you know of any nursery school age children, please send them our way.

*Lee Frank*

# OUTREACH AT ST. PAUL'S

## FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH:

# Youth in Service

### SHARPEN YOUR PENCIL AND START SEARCHING

Be sure to take a look at the new Outreach Bulletin Board in the hallway. Celebrating Youth in Service this month, there is a word search related to St. Paul's youth activities to challenge those waiting in line for coffee.

### TOILETRIES NEEDED AT THE WOMEN'S LUNCH PLACE

The Women's Lunch Place in Boston provides a safe, comfortable daytime shelter, nutritious food, and services for over 150 a day for women who are homeless or poor. During February the Girl Scouts of St. Paul's are collecting toiletries including soap, shampoo, conditioner, body cream, razors, combs, brushes, hair accessories, toothbrushes, dental floss, toothpaste, tampons, pads and deodorant. (No mouthwash.) Travel size items, hotel shampoo/soaps are especially helpful.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

### BOY SCOUT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

All past and present Boy Scouts are invited to participate in our first Boy Scout Sunday. For more information contact Peter Ricci [stuckeybowl@verizon.net](mailto:stuckeybowl@verizon.net).

### GS COOKIES FOR THE MILITARY OVERSEAS

February 5 at coffeehour Girl Scouts will be selling those famous cookies. If you don't want to risk the calories, buy a box to be sent to our troops overseas!

**COMMUNITY TABLE** Once again, Middle School youth will be providing dessert, decorated cupcakes for the dinner February 9. Anyone interested in helping out with the dinner, please contact Sharon Healey.

### UPDATE on PROJECT LINUS

Sunday, January 15 we blessed 11 blankets delivered to a local pediatric ward. Thank you to everyone who knit, crocheted and contributed to buy yarn for this ministry. Yarn and patterns for hats and Linus Squares are always available at the back of the Parish Hall. Our goal for next year is to have some blankets knitted by our youth.



Girl Scouts®

**GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY MARCH 11** All Girl Scouts past and present remember to wear your Girl Scout pin on Sunday, March 11 as we celebrate Girl Scout Sunday. This year is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Girl Scouting in the USA. For more info on GS Sunday, contact Caroline Larson.



### SUPPORT ST. PAUL'S THROUGH AMAZON!

Buying those gifts Santa forgot at Amazon.com; don't forget to visit St. Paul's website first: [www.stpaulsbedford.org](http://www.stpaulsbedford.org). Click on the Amazon link on the homepage, and every dollar you spend earns money for St. Paul's. Every purchase counts!

### Save the Date!

Our annual trip to support the Massachusetts Special Olympics basketball tournament in Worcester is **Sunday, March 11**. Registration begins February 1<sup>st</sup>, so look for an email from Suzanne Johnson early this month. See Suzanne Johnson if you have any questions. Hope you can join us.

*Karin Baker and Matt Skavenski*



## Small Group Ministry "Pilot" Begins this Month!

As part of our hope to deepen and broaden our adult education offerings, for the next few months St. Paul's will be offering a "pilot phase" of a new small group ministry. The intention for establishing a small group ministry is to provide a space for people to build relationships with other members of the parish through reflecting together on the things that matter most of them about their lives. A few groups of between 6 to 8 people are being formed to meet roughly bi-weekly between now and May 1. The goal is to try out various topics and structures for discussion so that we can get a sense of what might work best when we launch the program on a wider scale in September. If you'd like to participate in this pilot phase, we still have room for a few more folks! Please let Rev. Chris know by Sunday, February 6 if you would like to be included. Otherwise, stay tuned and look for more information in the fall!

*-- Sue Runkle, Paul West, Sharon Healey, Amanda Hubbard, Arthur Fergusson*

### Family Day at St. Paul's Cathedral!

Shake off those winter doldrums and come on down to the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston as they kick off their 100th anniversary year with a family fun day. This a great opportunity for a winter outing into Boston, with activities and programs for all ages. Bishop Barbara Harris will be on hand for conversation and photos at 10am, craft projects and scavengers hunts are available for younger children and teens, and there will also be time for songs and prayers celebrating the Cathedral. Light snacks are provided throughout the day -- and best of all, it is **TOTALLY FREE!** Take the T to Park Street or park in the Boston Common Garage for \$5.00. More information available at [www.diomass.org](http://www.diomass.org).

**A new Parish Directory will be available this month!**

### Super Bowl Sunday – Purchase Soup to Go!



Purchase St. Paul's homemade soup, chili, and pasta sauce to round out your Super Bowl menu--For Sale- Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> @ coffee hour.

Volunteers need: Anyone interested in preparing soup to be sold, please see Roberta or Sue for containers.

Thanks to all who continue to participate in the "Tab" program, which supports the Shriner's Burn Hospital.



**Keep those tab tops coming!**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**100 Pine Hill Road**  
**Bedford, MA 01730**

Sunday Service of Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.  
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Telephone: 781- 275-8262  
Fax: 781- 687-9070  
E-mail: info@stpaulsbedford.org

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*Staff:*

The Reverend Christopher S. Wendell, Rector  
Tracy Lane, Parish Administrator  
Joan Reddy, Music Director  
Bob Godoy, Sexton

*Officers:*

Emily Mitchell, Senior Warden  
Sharon Healey, Junior Warden  
David Woodward, Treasurer  
Linda Moosick, Clerk

*Vestry:*

Betsey Anderson  
Arthur Fergusson  
Lisa Hafer  
Shea Kuhl  
Rene Seaton  
Katie West  
Jeff Zwicker

### **Making the House Ready for the Lord**

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but  
still nothing is as shining as it should be  
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an  
uproar of mice—it is the season of their  
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves  
and through the walls the squirrels  
have gnawed their ragged entrances—but it is the season  
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And  
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard  
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;  
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling  
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly  
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will  
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,  
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know  
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,  
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.



-- Mary Oliver