

ST. PAUL'S REPORTER

Deepening our relationship with God, in Christ, through prayer, worship and loving servant-hood.

September, 2011

From the Rector...

We are a welcoming congregation witnessing God's justice, mercy, and reconciling love.

We seek a deeper communion with God, with each other and the rest of God's creation.

We reach beyond ourselves, both in our shared spiritual journeys and in our service to our neighbors, near and far.

We meet God together in our shared worship, prayer, study, service, and fellowship.

We love and serve the Christ we find in each other.

Meeting us right where we are...

This summer I have been spending time looking for the point of ignition in my own soul. So much happens in life, so much distracts, so much vies for our attention. But there is a place in each of us that is the place of growth and learning. This place, regardless of who we are, is the place where we are praying: the place where our souls cry out "Abba, Father" or we have only sighs that are too deep for words.

But there, in that place we are tender. We don't know what we need to know. We long for answers there but have mostly questions. We might as well admit that in this place we are only beginners.

Like it or not, if we are on this journey of growing into the full stature of Christ with others, we have these places where our competency is questioned. We have times where we question if we have anything to bring to the situation. We wonder if we will ever learn anything—"What I've learned from experience is that I haven't learned from experience."

That is the vulnerable edge where we pray. If we are alive, we have these edges. Remembering them keeps us fresh in our work, in our family lives, in our life with God.

Maybe your learning edges are in your relationships with others. What habits/assumptions/practices do you have that keep you stuck? Maybe your learning edge is within your professional life. Maybe your learning is about reflecting on what gives you life.

Pray at the edge. When I say pray, I don't just mean grovel, but pray as Jesus taught, "Our loving Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." Remember God wants to meet you at this boundary between heaven and earth and bring in more of the kingdom here in this place, an experience where we are all full of the love of God.

Remember, we are beloved of God and Jesus will give you what you ask in his name—that is to say he will give you what is consistent with his mission and purpose—of reconciling our lives to God and each other, all people.

I've been intrigued more recently at the studies coming out of McLean hospital and their studies of recovery from anxiety and depression and a positive understanding of God. Those who had a belief in a benevolent God were able to be less anxious and recovered from depression more quickly.

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- KEEP IN TOUCH!
- OFFICE HOURS;
- MON—FRI
- 8AM TO 12:30PM
- EMAIL
- Info@stpaulsnatick.org
- PHONE

508-655-5880

www.stpaulsnatick.org

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<http://commonhealth.wbur.org/2011/08/does-god-make-you-worry-less/> and *Journal of Clinical Psychology* Volume 67, Issue 7, pages 691–700, July 2011. While in many ways this is no surprise, it bolsters what the life of a faith community is about, what church is about, to help us live at the boundary of learning, of unknowing, with the love of God behind us, and the communion of saints urging us forward.

I am grateful for a parishioner sharing with me her recent insights about her resentment with God for the struggles she's had with much illness. Finally after these struggles, she has come back to claim the love of God for her, which she realizes she needs to help her through her daily life. It makes a difference when she can invite God into the places of her struggle. She remembers the struggle of Jesus and how God didn't avoid that experience in her life. It helps. Remembering the love of God helps us reframe the challenges of life and brings us strength. Being at a distance and outside the love of God hurts and works against us.

Thanks for your patience... Thanks Courtney and Karen!

Thanks everyone for your patience with the cancellations and postponements from Irene. Thankfully I know of no injuries in the parish from the weather, and have heard of few instances of damage. The retreat is postponed either until Jan. or Feb. in winter-time, which could involve activities of skiing, snowshoeing, ice-skating, along with other fun retreat times—the camp works much better now with a full gymnasium available; or we can simply wait until next year for the last weekend in August which we have reserved.

Thanks for the tremendous organizing work of Courtney Edman and Karen Van Voorhis as they brought together an amazing group of adults to lead many wonderful elements of a parish retreat. I look forward to us furthering many retreat elements into our life this year as we can bring them into our common life during the normal year. Please look for notices from various ministry leaders.

Parish Picnic, September 25, 4:30 -7pm at the rectory

Join us at the rectory at 99 Walnut St. for our fall parish picnic. The patio is done and the yard is ready for hosting, thankfully. I was grateful to have two college students help me complete the patio this summer, Ryan Stuart and Michael Skib of Earlham College, who were in town looking for work.

Solar panel decisions

The vestry will be making some final decisions about whether solar panels are to be installed on the rectory: All our roofs were studied on church properties for sunlight exposure and structural engineering studies have been done, along with feasibility and insurance expectations and pay-back returns on the total investment. This is in addition to reference checking and legal review. The only roofs where pv (photo-voltaic) panels would make sense due to sunlight exposure are those on the rectory. The panels would come through a company working with federal tax credits for non-profits. Thanks to a great team of Michael Kintanar, Raphael Herz, Fred Cowen, Clint Heyd, Matt McCue, Joan Dedian, Marilyn Lee for overseeing the steps thus far.

Well done, faithful servant....The Rev. Dr. Bill Lawson

St. Paul's on Monday, August 29th said thank you for the life of the Rev. Dr. Bill Lawson. Bill was the rector at St. Paul's from 1965-1975. He was a warm pastor, an effective administrator, and an innovator

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who brought an enthusiasm for parish ministry that is still remembered in our congregation today. Bill started several social ministry efforts that continue or thrived long after his tenure at St. Paul's: the United Parishes initiative, which brought churches of different denominations together to work on areas of mission; the FISH program an emergency feeding program which became the start of the Natick Service Council and the food pantry. Carolyn Hasgill still serves on altar guild today she said because "Bill asked me!"

A Word of Thanks... re: Natick Housing Authority Work

I received this email note this past summer from Jay Ball, a member of the Ark Builders at Temple Israel... I was grateful to receive it.. thanks Mark St. Hilaire and Kristin Arnold for your good organizing and invitations!

Jon --

I can't begin to tell you how delighted I was when Mark St. Hilaire and Kristen Arnold, Mal and Pat Sockol, Roberta Caruso and Richard Perry, Corinne Daniels, Ed Murphy, Carolyn Hasgill and Maureen Sullivan all showed up this morning to help the Temple Israel Ark Builders work on renovating two vacant Housing Authority homes. It pleased me on a number of levels: two families are coming closer to having a clean, pleasant place to live, the Housing Authority is closer to two more small rentals contributing to their break-even budget, our Temple Israel gang and your parishioners got to meet and make some new friends, we all got a chance to do some good for total strangers and -- much to my amusement -- some of your 7:30 Mass attendees came face to face with other St. Paul congregants that attend at 9 o'clock and that they'd never met !*

Today, Jon, was a day that moved me like few others have in my 76 years. We did some real good, and I look forward to more such days in the months to come.

Jay

*As you undoubtedly know, Maimonides outlined eight levels of Tzedakah, or righteousness (the word is often mis-translated as 'charity'): the highest is to help a man find employment, so that he can support himself and his family and no longer be dependent upon others. The next highest is **'to give to the poor without knowing to whom one gives, and without the recipient knowing from who he received'**. That's what we did today -- together."*

Thanks Jay and thanks to God for the good work continuing in us. May we all continue to join the work of God daily.

Welcome to Chloe Abu-Jaber and Philip Kutta, additions to our youth leadership team

I am excited about starting this fall with Philip Kutta being a seminarian for us. Philip and Chloe Abu-Jaber who has recently graduated from UNH will share the role of relational evangelists in our youth ministry. They will join our excellent team of adults supported by Amy Till as Director of Christian Formation in creating a fun, safe, learning environment for our youth community of SPY.

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New learning opportunity for our children's and youth choirs

I am grateful Monique Weiss-Byrnes is introducing an additional dimension to our childrens and youth choirs. The RSCM curriculum helps begin a deeper option of learning that is measurable and supports the development of leadership and skills in music. It doesn't take the place of our normal choir work, but gives us another dimension. Over time, I see this kind of program creating a remarkable depth to our music programs. Please support it as you are able.

Neighborhood fellowship groups?

In speaking with Philip our seminarian, I am grateful for his experience in Africa of neighborhood church groups that meet from time to time to share a meal and pray and support one another. I think this idea has real potential for strengthening the spiritual and relational fabric of our parish. Camino groups will be discussing this, but others may wish to converse as well. How we move beyond "Bowling Alone" is an important ministry and mission of the church in today's culture. If you wish to consider this idea some more, please contact me: joncstrand@gmail.com or call Pat to arrange a time to meet (508)655-5880.

In Christ,

Jon+



Every Friday that's what Louise Hale has given to St. Paul's for the past 8 years. Every Friday Louise came to the office to help me with the Sunday bulletin and anything else that needed to be done. I consider her my "right-hand person". Louise is giving up her "Friday mornings with Pat" and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all that she has done for us --

THANK YOU, LOUISE!



Prayer Shawl Group

Many of us have benefited from the beautiful prayer shawls that have been lovingly created by the Prayer Shawl Group at St. Paul's.

Our next meeting will be on **Sept. 14** from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in Gale House
Please contact Gail Inferrere.

Save the Date!! Rummage Sale

Saturday, September 24 9am - 1pm.

See page 8 for more details

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

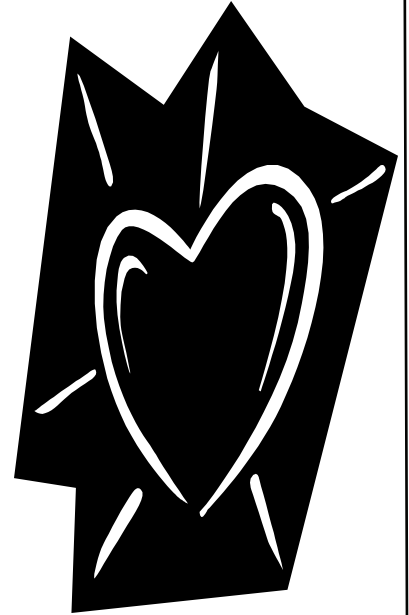
*The following is the list of parishioners with birthdays and anniversaries during September.
Please share their joy by congratulating them in person, by telephone or card, and by praying for them on their special day.*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Pat Nelson, Derek Ball
Jack Cuddy, Rose St. Hilaire
Eric Edman, Michael Meyer
Cary Holmes
Francesco DiCenso
Thomas Berger, Julian Brady,
Natalie Williams, Brooke Wong
Alexander Kouré, Sage Nguyen, Kevin Feeney
Clint Heyd, Lorraine Horgan, Ellie Ball
Shannon Lightcap
Bianca D'Antonio
Rob Steckbeck
Courtney Edman
Joanne Berger-Sweeney
Bryan York
Conor Lucenta
Aaron Jaynes, James Barrera
Rich Mullane, Chloe Abu-Jaber
Stephen Yancey
Megan Cuddy

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Nicole & Marc Elliott
Mike & Alisa Skatrud
Ann Marie & Ed McLaughlin
Elaine & Brice Zwicker
Betsy & Andrew Komjathy
Amy & John Till
Alan & Rachel Curtis Bayliss
Martin & Jackie Everett
Marilyn & Walter Lee
Jacqueline & James Axford
Kim & Scott Bennet,
Shannon & Stephen Giordano
Cindy Westervelt & Kathy Spellman
Debbie & Richard Pierce



*Watch over thy children,
O Lord,
as their days increase;
bless and guide them
wherever they may be. Strengthen them
where they stand;
comfort them
when discouraged or sorrowful; raise
them up
if they fall
and in their hearts
may your peace which
passes understanding
abide
all the days of their lives through Jesus
Christ our Lord.*



PARISH NOTES

Holiday Fair Leadership Almost Complete

We give thanks for Melinda Stoops for stepping forward to co-lead our Holiday fair, but having another co-leader is more fun. Melinda brings excellent administrative capacities and thoughtful hospitality to this event which goes to help those in need. Do you have ideas and interest in putting your flair to such an event.

We have many good elements in place for such a fair—bakers, crafters, silent auction support, kids crafters, decorating team. All we need, however, is someone to bring together all the elements with a little love and sweat.

If interested please contact the co-leaders of our Outreach team: Eric Lightcap) or Miriam Kimball.

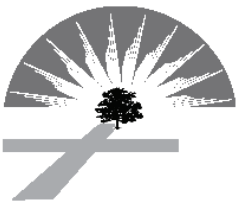
We will need to find such a coordinator by Sunday, September 11, to further support this lovely day of community and caring or to discern how we are called to serve in a new way.

At St. Paul's, we try to practice shared ministry and rotation of leadership, depending upon inspiration the Spirit gives and the unique gifts each person brings. This means we sometimes find ourselves waiting for leadership or deciding not to do something for a while until there is energy to do it. "Call" is an essential element in all the work we do.

Our Holiday Fair is a Saturday event the weekend before thanksgiving. The Fair is community, cooking, crafts and silent auction, all of which goes to support people in need in our town, our region and abroad. This is a major Outreach fundraiser and a fun community event. Through this fair we have raised over \$60,00 in the past 10 years to support essential ministries - Natick Service Council, our sister parish in Haiti and Interfaith Hospitality Network among others.

FALL 2011 CAMINO GROUPS

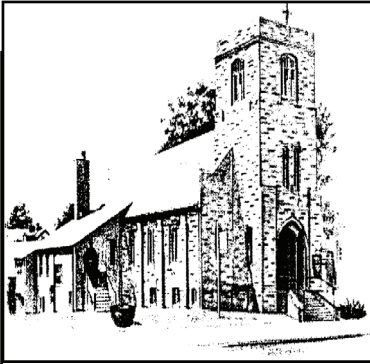
FALL 2011 CAMINO GROUPS ARE COMING! We have a rich selection of new and exciting adult education opportunities again this fall. Camino groups are small groups of adults that usually meet over the course of four to ten weeks and enable us to get to know each other better, introduce us to new ideas and activities, and help us to grow in our faith. Fall groups will be announced shortly and most will begin meeting in late September or early October. For more information, or if you have an idea about a future Camino group, please contact Courtney Edman or the Rev. Paul Kolbet



Soiree Concert - Save the date - Saturday, October 15!!!

This year St. Paul's Choirs is performing their bi-annual Soiree Concert. The Soiree is a fun performance venue for the choir members of St. Paul's. It provides them opportunity to have fun singing solos or small group secular pieces. This year we have a *Harry Potter Theme* for the Choirs! This is also a fundraiser for the choir and music outreach of St. Paul's. Invite friends and neighbors in the community to support music!





MINISTRY FAIR: TWO SUNDAYS THIS YEAR!

September 18th and 25th

The traditional Ministry Fair will be held in Sherrill Hall on Sunday September 18th, at the coffee hours following both the 9:30 and the 11:10 services. If you lead a ministry or a group at St. Paul's, this is your time to share your work by passing out information or showing photos or videos. Please contact Karen Van Voorhis (kvanvoorhis@hotmail.com) if your group would like a space at a table at the Ministry Fair this year.

Additionally, on Sunday September 25th, we will have a miniature version of the prior week's Ministry Fair, using a display table at the coffee hours in Sherrill Hall. Groups are free to use this table to continue to display a condensed version of their information and other materials.

This is the last year that Karen will be organizing the Ministry Fair. Work includes sending e-mails, coordinating with group leaders, and planning physical space on the actual day of the fair. This is a great ministry for someone who prefers contributing to once-a-year (vs. continually ongoing or year-round) events. If you're interested, let Karen know and we can plan this year's Ministry Fair together.

Contact Karen Van Voorhis with any questions.

ST. PAUL'S ACOLYTES GEAR UP

for a New Year of Service

Wanted: Young people in Grades 3 – 12 to serve as Gospel bearers, torchbearers and crucifers. Ideal candidates are enthusiastic and conscientious. You'll really go places as you work in teams to lead worship and assist the clergy! No experience necessary; all training, support and vestments provided. Newcomers always welcome.



Questions? Contact Becky Lightcap or Karen Van Voorhis

Visit our table at the Ministries Fair, September 18 after the 9:30 and 11:10 services!

B-SAFE Thanks!

Thank you to everyone who shopped, donated, prepped, cooked, drove, served or attended the field trip during our B-SAFE week August 1-5. We came together as a group -- from teens to retirees -- and successfully provided food and a day of fun to 80 campers and staff. Thank you for donating your time and energy to this worthy ministry! We raised over \$1,000 to cover the costs of food and the field trip. We also extend a special thanks to Roche Brothers and Tilly & Salvy's for coming through once again this year with generous grocery donations to support of this work.



Save the Date - Saturday, September 24, 9am - 1pm.

Rummage Sale

Our annual rummage sale is coming SOON! We're looking for gently used 'stuff' around your house that you're no longer using. Seasonal clothes (clean and unstained), coats, boots, shoes, household items (nothing broken, please) books, jewelry, kids stuff too! In years past, our biggest challenge has been getting rid of all the unsold items. Last year, we got a Salvation Army truck to come to the church at the end of the sale and take almost everything away. It was great! They do not take any children's furniture, strollers, car seats, or any toys that are not in their original, unopened containers. To decrease the amount of items that we have to dispose of, we will NOT be accepting any strollers, car seats, cribs, or swings. We also can not accept, TVs, computers, monitors, or electronics. Please help us by finding other homes for any of these items.

Take in will start on Friday, September 23 from 3-7pm. Unfortunately, we do not have storage to keep dropped off items before Friday afternoon. Volunteers to help set up on Friday afternoon / evening are most welcome! Even if you can only help for an hour, we need you! Workers both during and after the rummage sale are needed as well. Does a teenager in your family need hours of community service? Letters of proof of hours served can be provided. Contact Linda Heyd if you have any questions about donations.



Parish Historian at St. Paul's?

Louise Hale has served as St. Paul's Parish Historian over many years, and we are most grateful for her long and faithful service.

Louise has indicated a desire to step down.

Does anyone feel called to take over Louise's responsibilities? This is a vital ministry to preserve and document the history of our church. The Diocese of Massachusetts has an annual meeting for Parish Historians, and there is a newsletter that offers regular support and guidance.

Please contact Marilyn Lee or Joan Dedian if you would like more information on becoming our Parish Historian. Thanks so much!

Dates for 2011 at The Miracle Kitchen, Framingham: A Local Outreach

The Miracle Kitchen, located in the Salvation Army building in Framingham, has been serving an evening meal to people for nearly 30 years. It is open 5 nights a week and currently serves 80-100 people each night. Volunteer groups provide the main dish, vegetable or salad, and dessert as well as servers.

St. Paul's volunteers are needed to provide the meal and servers at the Miracle Kitchen on the following dates in 2011. You can sign up for one, two or more dates.

October 12 December 14

Please contact Corinne Daniels

OUR HEART, OUR HOME, OUR TREASURE.

INVEST IN ST. PAULS - 2012



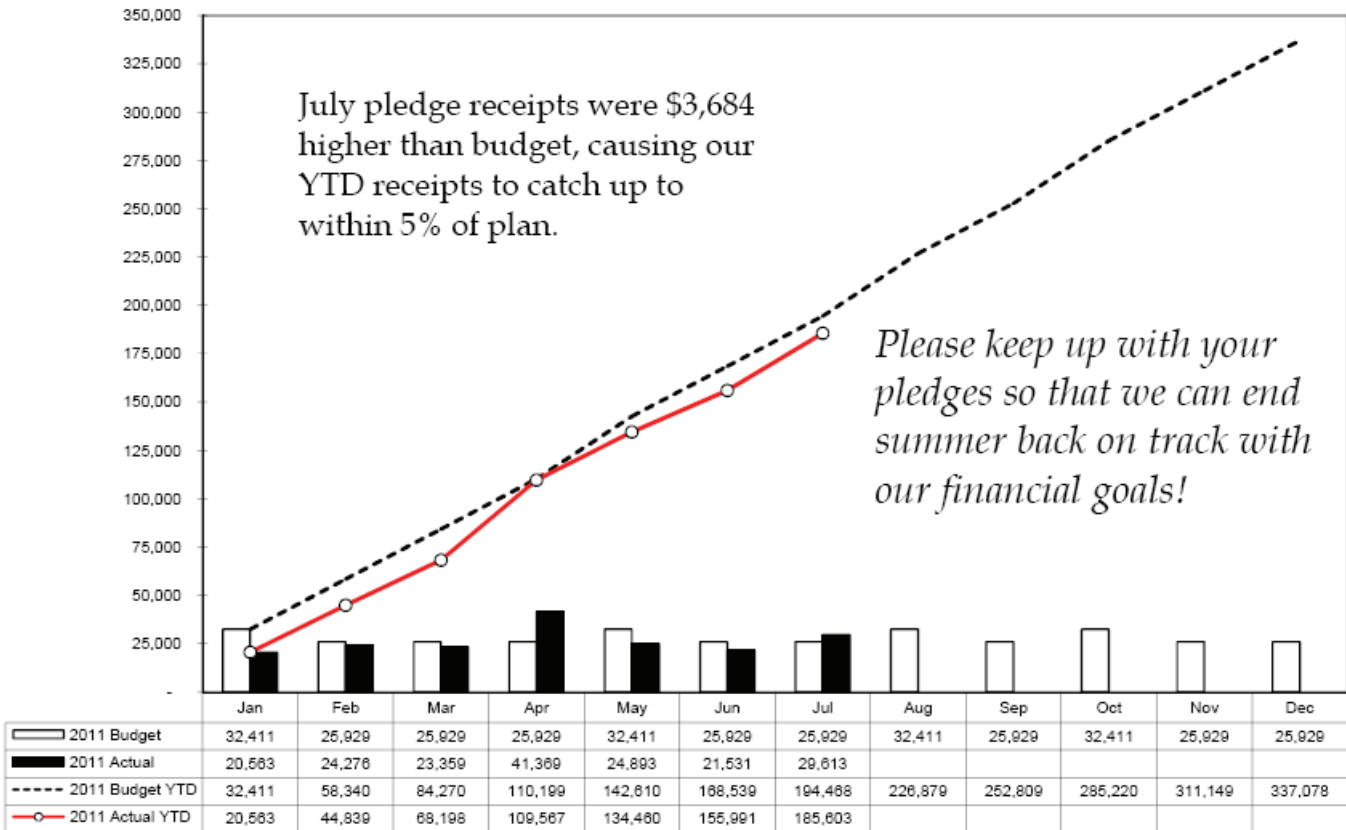
2012 stewardship information will be available starting the last week in September. We hope to hand-deliver materials this year, rather than mailing them, to save on postage, so please plan to pick yours up after Sunday services in late September or early October.

October is pledge month! Ingathering Sunday will be on October 30th, when all pledges will be celebrated and blessed. Your 2012 pledge may be submitted via pledge card or e-mail anytime during the month of October.

You may notice small yellow cards hanging in the pews on Sunday mornings – if you pay your pledge periodically or electronically, and are uncomfortable not contributing to the offering plate when it is passed around during the service, feel free to use these yellow cards to indicate that your pledge is being paid in another way.

Thank you for trusting us with your treasure.

2011 Current Year Pledge Receipts



Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN)

St Paul's serves as one of fifteen host congregations for the Metrowest IHN a cooperative, interfaith partnership offering hope to homeless families with children through safe transitional shelter, meals, and supportive case management as they seek permanent housing.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE NEARLY 50 VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED US HOST IHN FAMILIES MAY 19-26. The food was yummy. The fellowship was friendly. The bedrooms and common living spaces were beautifully arranged and quickly disassembled. You gave of your time and kept the families in your prayers. Thank you.

For anyone who wants to volunteer but has not had the Training class, St. Paul's will hold a Training Class in Sherrill Hall on September 6, from .6:30 - 8:30 PM.

St. PAUL'S WILL HOST IHN FAMILIES SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 2. WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Did you know that it takes on average nearly 50 volunteers to host IHN families for one week at St. Paul's? Please consider volunteering September 25 to October 2 as we provide home cooked meals, cozy bedrooms, and fellowship for our guests. There are volunteer options for everyone's talent and schedule. Volunteer options include:

Set up Crew. On September 25, help us turn our classrooms into bedrooms, the chapel into a living room, and Sherrill Hall into a family dining room. Volunteers meet in Sherrill Hall at 12:30 and should be finished by 2:30. Even an hour of time would be greatly appreciated as we make beds and arrange furniture.

Breakdown Crew. At the end of our host week on Sunday, October 2, our guests leave at 7:00 am. Volunteers meet in Sherrill Hall and get right to work breaking down bedrooms and restoring classrooms so that church school classes can begin at 8:45am.

Breakfast Food Hosts. Breakfast hosts provide basic foods (e.g. cold cereal, bread, frozen waffles, orange juice, milk, fruit, etc.) so that guests can make their own breakfasts each morning. Hosts are informed of family preferences and any food allergies before host week. Purchased food can be dropped off in Sherrill Hall on September 25.

Dinner Hosts. Dinner hosts are responsible for donating, preparing and serving the dinner food for our guests (and the evening hosts). You can prepare the meal at your home or in the parish kitchen. Dinner is typically served at 5:30. Some dinner hosts like to simply stay and serve as evening hosts too, thereby having more opportunity to interact with guests.

Evening Hosts. Evening hosts greet guests when they arrive at Sherrill Hall at 4:45pm. Hosts eat and socialize with the families until 7:30 when the overnight hosts arrive. This is a great family volunteer opportunity, since the children of host and guest families can play together.

Overnight Hosts. One male and one female overnight host are on duty each night. The overnight hosts arrive at 7:30pm and leave by 7:30am. They make sure everyone is settled in by 10:00pm and retire to the host bedrooms. In the morning, hosts wake the guests (6:00am) and help them with breakfast before guests leave at 7:00am. This is a great way for married couples to volunteer together, although singletons can (and do!) volunteer to be overnight hosts too.

Laundry Volunteers. After our guests leave on October 2, plastic bins with bedding will be ready for volunteers to take home and launder. Each bin contains bedding for one twin size bed and towels.

Bins are picked up and returned to Sherrill Hall.

Sign-up on the volunteer poster board in Sherrill Hall or contact Deb Valle () or Grace Kelemanik or another member of the St. Paul's IHN Team (Joanne Murray, John Till, and Claire Fields).

Fund Raiser

Get ready to bid! The second Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN) online auction starts on September 1st. Items range from Red Sox box seats to a two-hour harbor cruise to wine tasting at Legal Seafood. Check out all the great items available at www.biddingforgood.com/MIHN

MIHN Day Center

First Baptist Church, Natick

MIHN Host Congregations

Christ Lutheran Church, Natick
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holliston
Crossroads Community Church, Framingham
The Dover Church
Federated Church of Ashland
First Congregational Church, Natick
First Parish Church in Framingham
First Parish Church, Wayland
Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick
Pilgrim Church, Sherborn
ham
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Natick
Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills
Unitarian Universalist Area Church, Sherborn
Wellesley Congregational Church
land
Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

MIHN Support Congregations

Christ Church United Methodist of Wellesley
Eliot Church, Natick
First Baptist Church, Framingham
Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick
Holy Spirit Catholic Community, Wellesley
Most Precious Blood Church, Dover
Needham Congregational Church
Newton Highlands Congregational Church
Peace Lutheran Church, Wayland
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Framing-
ham
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Holliston
St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Sherborn
St. Zepherin & St. Ann's Parishes, Way-
land
Sha'arei Shalom, Ashland
Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley
Temple Beth Torah, Holliston
Temple Or Atid, Wayland

Royal School of Church Music Voices for Life training for St. Paul's Choirs



I hope you have had a wonderful summer. I am grateful for the enriching opportunity in the participation in the Royal School of Church Music America's choir workshop this past summer. It was a nourishing and uplifting music environment for children, youth, adult youth, adult choristers and organists and choirmasters. The Royal School of Church Music's program wonderfully develops the chorister for music leadership in liturgy. There were a total of 190 music friends present with superb music staff inspiring us in rehearsals throughout the week. The choirs sang Evensong and Compline daily and ended the week with Sunday Eucharist and Evensong. The week was full of fun both in rehearsals and outside activities such as a dance and variety show for children and youth. I am very excited about introducing the RSCM Voices for Life at St. Paul's this year. The gifts from this music practice heard from the children and youth this past week were priceless!!!

St. Paul's Choirs/RSCM Voices for Life - Novice Training Sessions

This year St. Paul's is an affiliate member of the RSCM. The choristers have the *option* of developing their skills for music leadership through the use of the **RSCM Voices for Life** materials. A **Novice Training Session** of *two to three individual music sessions* will be given to each chorister to introduce them to the material. These sessions will happen between August 29th and September 18th before the first choir rehearsals. The RSCM acknowledges each chorister with a ribbon as they complete each book. Choristers levels will be determined at the sessions. An RSCM *parent music meeting* is scheduled on Tuesday, *August 30th* at 7:30pm at St. Paul's. The choirs will be acknowledged on *Sunday, September 25th* for completing their RSCM Novice Training and beginning their weekly music journey leading liturgy! YEAH!!!!

The Thursday session is the one dedicated to the RSCM Voices for Life training. All children, youth, and adults are welcome in choirs without having to take the training. The rehearsals on Sundays will continue to offer music, voice, and music leadership learning but without the Voices for Life materials. We invite everyone to attend the RSCM music parent meeting on Wednesday, September 14th at 7:30 pm at St. Paul's.

Life Skills

The RSCM music training develops the music skills individually as well as gives them life skills. Monthly there a life skill will be emphasized - teamwork, communication, listening, risk taking, respect, commitment, punctuality, attendance, dedication to team, responsibility, etc. For example: listening - a discussion of what this means, how it works with team, at school, with family and what each individual decides to work on for the month. Records of attendance and development of life skills will be kept and progress is acknowledged during ribboning or every quarter.

Soiree Concert - Save the date - Saturday, October 15!!!

This year St. Paul's Choirs is performing their bi-annual Soiree Concert. The Soiree is a fun performance venue for the choirs members of St. Paul's. It provides them opportunity to have fun singing solos or small group secular pieces. This year we have a **Harry Potter Theme** for the Choirs! This is also a fundraiser for the choir and music outreach of St. Paul's. Invite friends and neighbors in the community to support music!

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Children's and Youth Choir Rehearsal Schedule - 2011 -2012

The RSCM music training requires a longer practice time for the learning and developing of the music skills to receive ribbons. Below find a rehearsal schedule for choirs which will be reviewed at RSCM parent music meeting.

Thursday - 3:15 - 4:45 pm - Voices for life skills training for youth and children's choir (snack provided)

Sunday - 8:00 - 8:45 am, 12:30 - 1:15 pm - children's choir rehearsals for liturgy

Sunday - 3:00 - 4:00 pm - youth choir rehearsal for liturgy

The hope is for the choristers to participate in music leadership in some way at weekly service when they arrive at the peace. This weekly participation is wonderful training for their experientially learned leadership in liturgy. Each week will be different and creates an array of wonderful intergenerational music opportunities for them.

St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal Schedule for September

August 29 - Sept 18: Novice Training Sessions

Sept. 14: RSCM Parent Music Meeting - 7:30 pm - St. Paul's

Sept. 18: First Choir Rehearsals

Sept. 25: RSCM Choir Acknowledgement during liturgy

October 15: Soiree Concert

Thank you for your wonderful support and commitment to St. Paul's Music Ministry. I look forward to speaking about RSCM Voice for Life with you and arranging a novice training session time for your child. If you would like to schedule a time the week of August 29 please respond and give days and times that work for you. Tell any friends and neighbors. All are welcome to the choirs of St. Paul's!

Musically, Monique

Monique Weiss Byrnes

Organist/Choirmaster ,St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Natick, MA



Choir Invitation



All are welcome through the month of September to join a choir at St. Paul's.

This year the choirs are having their bi-annual *Soiree Concert* on October 15th. This is a musical event for the choirs that supports the St. Paul's music and outreach.

Contact Monique with any questions.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

St. Paul's Children's Choirs

Thursday - 3:15-4:45 pm - RSCM *Voices for Life* training

Sunday - 8:00 - 8:45 am, 12:30 - 1:15 pm - rehearsals for liturgy

St. Paul's Youth Choir

Thursday - 3:15 - 4:45 pm - RSCM *Voices for Life* training

Sunday - 3:00 - 4:00 pm - rehearsals for liturgy

St. Paul's Family Choir

Sunday, September 11 - 10:30 am rehearsal for liturgy, sing at 11:10 liturgy, 12:30 - 1:15 pm rehearsal

Sunday, September 18 - 10:30 am rehearsal for liturgy, sing at 11:10 liturgy

St. Paul's Adult Choir

Thursday - 7:30 - 9:30 pm in the chapel

Sunday - 8:30 - 9:30 am rehearsal for liturgy, sing at 9:30 am liturgy

Vocal and Instrumental Music Offerings for Liturgy

Vocalists and instrumentalists contact Monique to schedule a rehearsal and date for music offerings during St. Paul's liturgies for the months of September and October.

Thanks,
Monique

Christian Formation News

Dear People of St. Paul's,

I am so excited about my new role as Director of Christian Formation at St. Paul's! I feel honored to have the opportunity to work with our staff and volunteer teachers and leaders in order to provide spiritually grounded, fun, and meaningful Christian education to our children and teens.



A major part of my job is to create church school and youth group volunteer roles that fit the lifestyles of the members of our community. Sometimes in non-profit organizations, it seems volunteers are asked to do one job, but somehow end up taking on much more work than they planned. If we have well-defined roles, such that there is something for everyone, then no one person will feel the need to become a Christian Ed superhero! Many people are able to sign-up to be a church school teacher, youth group leader, or special needs aide a few time a month, but others might rather help with one specific special event. Still others might rather work behind the scenes with registration data, communications, or supplies. There are so many ways you can help. Please come to the Christian Education table at the ministry fair at coffee hours on September 11, 2011 to learn more about these roles...and sign up!

Over the past few years, the Christian Formation Steering Team and SPY Steering Team have considered how we might best do the work of educating and supporting our children and teens, without feeling like we are asking for a bit too much from our volunteer teachers and youth leaders. We do not want to be a church where the same core group of adults teach Sunday school or run youth group year after year. We all know that leads to burn out and hard feelings, and really is not the best we can do for our children and teens.

If we can grow our numbers of volunteer teachers, we can form 3-person teaching teams and put together a rotation such that 2 of the 3 teachers are in the classroom each week. Since we typically have 3 meetings a month, this means that each teacher is in the classroom 2 times a month. To get 3-person teams in place at each of our 8 Sunday morning classes, we need 7 more volunteers.

Our youth groups for children in grades 6-12 are in a similar situation, with 56 youth likely to attend. Our adult leaders love working with youth, but they deserve some Sunday evenings off too. A few of our more seasoned leaders are stepping into non-teaching support roles this year, and while this is incredibly helpful, it means we need many new people to join our youth ministry teams. We want enough volunteers to set-up rotations such that each adult will be at youth group 2 Sunday evenings a month. This means we need 9 people to join our youth leadership team. Spending time with our fantastic young people is a fun and rewarding way to volunteer!

Are you interested in learning more about our teaching and youth leadership teams? Please email me at amy.till.spy@gmail.com. Are you not into teaching or leading, but you want to do your part and help out? Let me know by email or head to the Christian Education table at the ministry fair at coffee hours on September 11, 2011.

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Thank you so very much to Susan Lemieux for processing our registration data and creating our rosters. Thank also to all of you who have already volunteered to help with church school and youth group this year. If possible, please attend the teacher and youth leader mini-retreat on Sunday September 11 from 1:00-4:00. It is going to be a great year!

Peace to all,

Amy Till

Director of Christian Formation



Church School Begins on September 18!

Saint Paul's Sunday School Classes are open to all children ages 3 through grade 5. For more information, please contact Amy Till at amy.till.spy@gmail.com.

Registration - If you are new to St. Paul's or have not received and responded to a re-registration email, kindly fill out a new registration form. Forms can be found on the church website or on the Christian Education bulletin board in Sherrill Hall. Completed forms can be mailed to the church office, dropped in the collection plate, or sent to via email to stpauls.natick.registrar@gmail.com. Thank you!

Church School Timing and Schedule

We offer two church school options for children ages 3 years through grade 5:

8:45 a.m. – Children grade 2 and younger will be brought into the 9:30 a.m. church service at the Sign of Peace. Children in grades 3-5 will join their families at the beginning of the service.

10:45 a.m. – All children will be brought into the 11:10 a.m. church service at the Sign of Peace. Classroom locations by grade are sent to registered families via email and are posted in Sherrill Hall during the first month of classes.

Church School will be held on the following dates through the end of 2011:

September 18 and 25, October 2, 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20, and December 4, 11, 18

All church school teachers and youth leaders

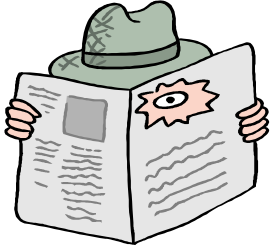
Are cordially invited to attend our

Christian Education Mini-Retreat

On Sunday, September 11, 2011

From 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Sherrill Hall

Light refreshments will be served.



SPY News

St. Paul's Youth Groups (SPY) Begin on September 18!

Saint Paul's youth groups are open to all youth in grades 6-12. For more information, please contact Amy Till at amy.till.spy@gmail.com.

Mandatory Parent Meeting - This year our SPY Steering Team has decided to reduce the number of parent meetings to just 2. The first parent meeting is considered mandatory and will be held in the Chapel during your child's SPY session on September 18.

Relational Youth Ministers - Starting new this fall, we introduce the role of Relational Youth Ministers. Chloe Abu-Jaber and Philip Kutta will be present at our Sunday youth gatherings to complement our team of adult volunteers and help our programs run smoothly. Please join me in welcoming Chloe and Philip to our youth ministry team!

Upcoming SPY Schedule:

Sunday, September 18 - All SPY groups meet at their regular times and places:

- **Rite-13** (Grades 6&7) 4:00-6:00 p.m. Drop off in Sherrill Hall, pick up in Church
- **J2A** (Grades 8&9) 5:00-7:30 p.m. in Sherrill Hall
- **Confirmation** (Grade 10) 5:00-7:30 p.m. Gather in Sherrill Hall, end in Gale House
- **Senior SPY** (Grades 11&12) 5:00-7:30 p.m. Gather in Sherill Hall, end in Gale House

Sunday, September 25 – No SPY. Please join us at the Rectory for our parish picnic!

**September 11th - Return to
7:30, 9:30 & 11:10 Sunday Schedule**

**Anniversary Remembrance
and Reflection**

On September 11th, we will remember the 10th anniversary of 9/11. The sermon, prayers, hymns and readings should support our continued reflections.

While church school starts the following Sunday, there will be children's chapel at both the 9:30 and 11:10 services.



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