

Etc.....June 2009

Dear Friends,

Hospitality is a vastly under-appreciated Christian virtue. Maybe it is not emphasized because it can be such a difficult charge; being open, gracious, welcoming and pleasant to people who come into your midst. The Christian key to this virtue is actually *being* those things, not simply *acting* that way. Hospitality is important.

My internship at St. Paul's is ending. My journey towards ordination continues as I complete a second internship placement at Trinity Church in Haverhill. If all goes as planned and hoped for, I will be ordained to the transitional diaconate next June (just like Viki was on the 6th).

Please accept my deep gratitude for the time we have spent together. Most importantly, I am grateful for the hospitality that the community offered to me, Windy and Hannah Maeve. From the very first day we all felt very welcome, embraced and at home at St. Paul's. In all of my church going years, I have never felt so welcomed as I have felt at St. Paul's.

Thank you for the trust you gave me with the youth of the community. It was a challenging year for the youth program, but the leaders that have surfaced over the past months are poised to solidify a core group of really great young people who are hungry for fun and are just as hungry to serve the world through the Church.

As you have gotten to know me you might have noticed that I do like to talk. Thank you for listening. (And Martha, thank you for trusting me in the pulpit). It has been wonderful to be able to practice preaching and serving at the altar with your community.

I know that you all know what a wonderful priest you have in Martha. She has been a very generous, forgiving and wise mentor to me. Her support and encouragement made my time with you possible. Martha, thank you.

St. Paul's is a hospitable community. God speaks with an infinite number of voices. God's voice resounds in the real and enduring openness that this community is. While I am departing St. Paul's we'll be up at Emery House, God willing, for a very long time. We try to be hospitable up there. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop in. We are waiting for you.

With Gratitude and in Christ,

Brent

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Gay Pride 2009! In the great Christian tradition of supporting, allying with and being a marginalized community, St. Paul's will be celebrating Gay Pride this year in style. **June 9** - (Tuesday) 7:00 PM A screening of "The Bible Tells Me So", a documentary featuring Bishop Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire and first openly gay bishop in the Anglican Communion.

June 13 - (Saturday) Join the Diocese of Massachusetts procession in Boston's Gay Pride Parade, meet at Trinity at 11 a.m. **June 14** - Pride Sunday (Our GLBTQ Brothers and Sisters will be lifted up). If you have any questions, see **Brent Was, Nancy Jukins or Sue Olson.**

~ Prayers, Songs & Blessings ~

with Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, S.S.J.E

at St. Paul's Cathedral, 138 Tremont Street

2:00 Refreshments and Music on the Porch
2:30 – 3:30 Music, Lessons, Blessings and Prayers for the Journey

If you would like to march in the Pride Parade with other Episcopalians,
meet on the steps of Trinity Church, Copley Square, at 11 a.m.

You are invited to a fun-filled afternoon and evening event at St. Paul's Church on Friday June 26 starting at 2 p.m. Senior Youth group members are also invited to a church sleepover! The schedule is as follows.

Tentative schedule:

Friday June 26

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Community Room Clean-up/painting

4p.m. - 5:30p.m. Junior and Senior youth group Activities/games

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Clean up and dinner preparation

6p.m.- 7 p.m. Dinner and kitchen clean-up

7 p.m.- 7:45p.m. Surprise Guest

8 p.m. Junior youth group pick-up Senior Youth Group Activity 9:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m. Movie

11:00-11:30 p.m. lights out

7:30 am breakfast and activity

9:00 a.m. Senior youth group pick up.

Please contact Tricia Mansfield with any questions (978) 465-2785.

St. Anna's Chapel Restoration We had hoped to begin summer worship in St. Anna's on June 14, but the work on the windows will not be complete until late July, so we will hold summer worship in June and July (one service at 9:00 am, beginning June 14) in the sanctuary, and hope to be able to worship in St. Anna's in August.

Restoring Saint Anna's Chapel – An Update

Exactly one year ago in May on Pentecost Sunday the Capital Campaign for the restoration of St. Anna's Chapel began as a three-year plan. Having just passed the anniversary of our first year in

the Capital Campaign we can happily and thankfully see that the first stage of the process is nearing its end.

The stained glass windows on the Summer Street and the altar sides of the chapel had been removed last summer and have been repaired at the Lyn Hovey Studio. They are ready to be returned and reinstalled.

The roof on the Summer Street side has been completed and the staging and scaffolding has been removed. Kevin Kidney and his crew replaced all of the slates on that side with new (and beautiful) slate recently quarried in Vermont. All of the salvageable slate removed from that side has been stored to be used as needed on the roof on the graveyard side. Nothing unexpected was found except for one or two boards that had to be replaced. The reason for the roof being in such good shape was stated repeatedly as being "because the roof was so steep, water and snow came off immediately". As a result there were no additional/hidden costs involved. We even learned that the City of Newburyport had waived the permitting fees. Finally regarding the roof, for those of you that look closely at it, you will see that at the peak there are two places where slates are missing. This is not an oversight, but rather those are the points where fasteners were located into which the contractors attached their safety ropes (the workers on the roof always wore a safety harness secured by ropes to these points) and it is these two points that will be used for the same purpose when they come back next year to repair the slate on the other side.

The masonry work planned for this year is not yet completed. Richard Irons and his masons have finished the Summer Street side and are at this time still working on the altar wall. As work progressed we found the repair to these walls has had to be more extensive (and expensive) than previously realized. Over the years water has entered within the walls and done a fair amount of damage to the mortar, particularly leaching out the lime leaving nothing but sand behind. As a result parts of the walls and buttresses had to be rebuilt which is obviously more time-consuming than simply re-pointing.

Overall we are extremely pleased with not only the progress, but with the care and detail the three contractors have taken. Thanks to your gifts, to careful management and to these skilled workers for their talents we are able to see St. Anna's as it was 150 years ago and as an important Newburyport visual landmark today.

Questions have been raised about Summer Services in St. Anna's Chapel. Although Rev. Hubbard and the rest of us would like this to occur sooner rather than later, we find that there is still going to be a good bit of sawdust and dirt within the building at least until the windows have been reinstalled. When all of this year's work is completed later this summer a thorough cleaning will occur and only then can it be used for services.

In order for all of this work to continue into the next phase we need to emphasize the importance of making your pledge payments in a timely fashion. And for those of you who agreed that you would or could pledge when members of the capital campaign committee initially contacted you, we would be blessed if you could step up and help us at this time. We are also awaiting word that the Preservation Restriction that we negotiated and signed has been accepted by the Massachusetts Historical Commission which in turn would free up the money that was awarded us last summer by the Newburyport Community Preservation Commission.

In addition we are aggressively seeking grant money from numerous foundations in Massachusetts as well as local banks, again the Community Preservation Fund, and the Arakelian Foundation. We also continue to seek out and reach potential private donors, particularly those people interested in historic preservation. And please, if you have any other ideas or contacts, let Bronson deStadler or Bill Hobbie know about them.

Our update would not be complete without giving a heartfelt "Thank You" to all the generous people who have pledged, donated, and made gifts. We feel blessed to belong to such a supportive and committed church community, and we feel blessed to have Saint Anna's Chapel as part of our worship life. We are well on our way to our goal of returning this "historic jewel" to its original condition. With you and God's help we will see this project completed by Pentecost in 2011. **Bill Hobbie & Bronson deStadler**

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From the Property Committee –

The summer season is barely underway, but already we are making some good progress on several needed projects around the building and grounds, almost totally with volunteer help (not including the Chapel, of course!). I will leave it until the July Weathervane to describe many of these, but for now, we want to solicit some additional volunteer help. The following are some small to medium-size projects we would like to see completed this summer.

- a) wire-brush and paint the wrought-iron railing at the Undercroft (church school) entrance.
- b) wire-brush and paint the wrought-iron enclosures around the two graves in the front churchyard.
- c) Paint the galvanized railings on the front porch entrance. These have never been painted since the porch was constructed 20 years ago !
- d) Sand (as necessary) and apply an appropriate preservative and coating to the wood railings on that front porch (also untreated since construction).
- e) Scrape/sand, and paint the main church entrance.
- f) Scrape/sand, and paint the entrance door on the front porch.
- g) Scrape/sand, and paint the undercroft entrance doorway.

If you are willing to tackle one or more of the above, please be in touch with me. We will supply necessary paint, etc, and everything can be done on your own schedule.

We also hope to repair/paint the Parish Hall ceiling where it is water-damaged, but that is not a one-person task !

Finally, we may organize a couple of work-sessions to attempt to straighten some of the severely-tilted gravestones. If participating in this task is of interest to you, let me know as well.

Meanwhile, enjoy your summer! It's been a long winter coming!
Til next month.....

Doug Peck [978-465-8798] doug@portlines.com

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El Salvador

Fun Fact: El Salvador, about the same size as Massachusetts, has almost 1000 varieties of butterflies; more than all of the US lower 48 states combined.

Grim Fact: (below is an excerpt from a recent article in the Los Angeles Times)

Nearly two decades after El Salvador's civil war, a new generation is experiencing what [Father Antonio] Rodriguez calls a naturalization of death. He says he's seen the change in his own spiritual evolution since arriving here from Spain in 2000.

"Death has become natural to me. Ten years ago, this kind of thing was an inconceivable scandal to me. Now I live with death in a very natural way. If it happens to me, imagine those born into this culture.

"Death made natural."

Through the end of April, 1395 Salvadorans had been murdered in 2009, an average of 12 per day.

The outreach committee has started fundraising and is making plans now for further fundraising and arrangements relative to the trip planned for Jan 2010. It is important for anyone considering participating in the trip to get involved right away.