

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



## St. Paul's Church Statement of Mission and Ministry

St. Paul's Church, Wickford, is a loving community of Christians seeking to be faithful to God and renewed through the Gospel. We of St. Paul's aim to love God through:

- The sharing of the sacraments, worship and prayer,
- Ministering to people and spreading God's word,
- Seeking to become better stewards of God's gifts,
- Working toward the Kingdom of God within us and in the world.

## **Lent and Repentance**

Lent is a season of repentance. But for many of us, "repentance is an offensive word. It sounds so remorseful".

In reality, it isn't remorseful at all. The root word for "repentance" is the Greek word metanoia, from which our word "metamorphosis" comes. The great image of this is the butterfly emerging from its cocoon; the caterpillar being transformed into new life.

No one is remorseful about that! Nor should we be with repentance, which involves leaving the past and emerging into new life.



## **Report from the Interim Rector**

Jan Grinnell and I hosted a meeting of about thirty members of the congregation on Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup>. We proposed a number of 2011 programs to promote reconciliation, growth and vitality at St. Paul's. Teams were formed to help guide and support each area. **All members of the congregation are encouraged to communicate with the clergy or with members of any team to more fully define, support and/or participate in any of the programs.**

1. **Adventures in Awareness** (scheduled for Sat Feb 12): an introduction to the distinction of personality types as identified by Myers-Briggs, with a call to better understanding one another so that we might value the varieties of talents and perspectives present in the body of Christ. This community building workshop is being led by Frank Poole and Margaret Webb and has been facilitated by Tina Butler [Tina\\_Butler@cox.net](mailto:Tina_Butler@cox.net) and Jeff Manickas [manickasja@cox.net](mailto:manickasja@cox.net).

2. **Parish Youth Day** (scheduled for May 15th): A day to gather with the youth and youth leadership of the parish to share the results of a review of their common experience: What has been their experience of the youth group? What happens now, and what are we aiming for the future? What are the strengths and success, the unrealized goals and aspirations of the youth program? This program is being facilitated by Patrick Greene with the participation of Lori and David Lamb, Sarah LeBlanc, Jayne McBride, Bonnie Brayton-Simmons, and Pete and Beth Bergwall

3. **Conflict Management in the Church** (to be scheduled): An effort to engage elected leaders, committee members, and others in learning how to uphold an environment and a process by which conflict among church members is identified and moved toward resolution. The newly appointed Safe Church Officer of the Vestry is Maureen

Minarik; she and Mike Cerullo will serve as safe church advocates for parishioners who need support in bringing grievances to the attention of the Clergy, Wardens and/or the Diocese. An event focused upon conflict management within the church is being designed with the following team members already identified: Maureen Minarik, Pat Warburton, Camilla de Rochambeau, Diane Hoffman, Jane Brockway and Mike Cerullo, Clare Parker, Wil Tolhurst and Ann Waring.

4. **The Healthy Church** (a study group to be scheduled): A study and planning group focused on encouraging health at St. Paul's. What are the characteristics of a healthy church? In what ways are we evidencing health in our life together at St. Paul's? What new directions are we being called to that are consistent with increasing health? Members would read different articles and books about the healthy church and share their perspectives with one another. The team currently includes the following parishioners: Nancy Shore, Susan Stiles, Thomasine Manickas, Marsha Welch, Peggy Todd and Mimi Dyer.

5. **The YES program** (April 27-June 8)): A seven week series focused upon identifying how an individual's passionate purpose may be realized within the church. This program helps participants say YES to God, YES to self and YES to neighbor. This event is being led by Jan Grinnell, and is being coordinated by Marie Noble. Members identified are Jim Wilson, Ann Waring, Leslie Kershaw, Martha Hitchcock and Jane Tiernan-Reilly.

6. **Forgiveness and Reconciliation** (proposed as a Lenten Study Series): focused on the story of the prodigal son, this series will use the study guide "Boundless Love" to more deeply understand our call to experience failure, forgiveness and reconciliation. Team members already identified are: Bess Wilson, Peggy Todd, Emily McKenney, Thomasine Manickas and Bill Warburton and Sarah LeBlanc.

7. **Reconciliation Sunday** (tentatively scheduled for June 19, 2011): May we gather on Trinity Sunday to celebrate our journey as people of forgiveness and reconciliation? A planning team is encouraging a process to engage as many people in the parish as possible in making this personally and corporately meaningful. Team members already identified are: Susan Stiles, Clare Parker, Jeff Manickas and Diane Hoffman and Martha Hitchcock.

*Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN*

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*From the  
Assistant Rector*



Brothers and Sisters  
in Christ,

By now all those  
who went on the  
Mission Trip have  
returned home and  
are preparing to  
share their

experiences with the rest of the parish in a forum on Sunday, March 6 after the 9:30 service. Please come out and hear about what was (hopefully) an amazing experience for all of those who took part in this trip. I would also like to thank everyone who supported this trip by purchasing pizzas. We sold almost five hundred pizzas and made a large chunk of the money that we hope to raise for this trip. Even though the trip is over we plan on continuing to fundraise to replace the funds we drew from the youth mission fund, so keep your

ears open for upcoming fundraising ideas (hopefully as delicious as the pizzas).

For the month of March very little will be happening with the youth group. I will be leaving very shortly to spend a couple weeks studying in Jerusalem. I will be participating in a course entitled *The Palestine of Jesus* at St. George's College in Jerusalem. This is a two week course which involves traveling around to different spots mentioned in the Gospels and learning about the actual landscape in which Jesus undertook his earthly ministry. I am very excited about this opportunity and can't wait to share this with you all when I return. But, being on another continent, I will be unable to be here present with the youth group so things will be relatively quiet. The Middle School Sunday School teachers are planning on putting on some kind of fun event, but the details for that are not determined yet and will come out from them in class.

Finally, we will be hosting our annual variety show this year on Sunday, April 3. Start thinking about your acts now and contact me or Tina Butler (from March 9th on, it's probably a better idea to be in touch with Tina). We will need all sorts of help with this, so if you're interested in participating but don't feel comfortable performing you can still be a part of this show.

**Dates to Remember:**

March 2nd- Last Wednesday Night Evening Prayer and Dinner until I return

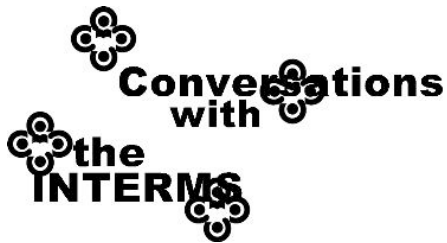
March 5th- High School Ski Trip

March 6th- Mission Trip Forum after the 9:30 service

March 9th- Ash Wednesday

March 30th- Wednesday Night Youth Evening Prayer and Dinner starts back up and resumes weekly meetings

Yours in Christ,  
Patrick+



## Ministry Team Highlights

### Winter Christian Action Notes

Our January meeting was cancelled due to snow.\

At the February meeting, we decided to contribute \$500 to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund and renewed our membership in the Southern Poverty Law Center (\$250). In addition, \$250 will support Welcome House, a Peace Dale shelter and soup kitchen.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of society.

In December, parishioners rang the bell for the Salvation Army in front of Dave's, Wickford. They collected \$736 which will go to our local organization. Thanks to Peggy Sagnella, Emily McKenney, Thomasine Manickas, Chris Waters, Jack Fronce, Ninni Jacob, Dick and Ruth Ann Lewis and Mimi and Dan Dyer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Godley

### St. Paul's Community Garden

An informational meeting will be held at 3 pm., Saturday, March 19, 2011 in the Parish Hall to share ideas for the upcoming St. Paul's Community Garden season. Members from last year and anyone interested in joining us this year are all encouraged to attend. We will be discussing new guidelines, fee schedule and the spring planting schedule. If you have any questions, please email Ted at [tedseymour@verizon.net](mailto:tedseymour@verizon.net) or Rini at [kennrini@gmail.com](mailto:kennrini@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday.

### Self-Study Update

The Self-Study Committee continues to meet twice a month. They have begun writing the Profile and designing a website to showcase it. The Profile is the document highlighting the past, present and future vision of St. Paul's and used to recruit our next Rector. A draft of the document will hopefully be ready for Parish review in May.

*How prepared are we to call a new rector?  
What qualities do we ask the next rector to bring to  
St. Paul's?*

Dear Friends,

We look forward to continuing conversations with you. We already have hosted parish gatherings following particular weekend worship services, and will continue to do that over the coming months. As we move further along in the transition, we will be asking parishioners at these meetings to (1) reflect with us about our progress in preparing to call a new rector and (2) identify the particular characteristics they hope to find present in the next rector. We invite you to make a point of being present at one of the following gatherings so that you might share your insights and understandings:

**Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>** following the 5:15 Service  
**Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>** following the 7:30 Service  
**Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup>** following the 9:30 Service  
**Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>** following the 5:15 Service  
**Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>** following the 7:30 Service  
**Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>** following the 9:30 Service

In addition to these gatherings, you are always welcome to make a personal appointment with David (by contacting Deb Mahoney, our Parish Administrator, who keeps his calendar) to talk about this or any other opportunity or concern.

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.*

See you at a conversation.  
David and Jan



**from the Dir. of  
Music and Liturgy:**

St. Peter's by-the-Sea Church at 72 Central Street in Narragansett will host our Annual Youth Episcopal All-state Evensong March 13, 2011 at 5:00pm. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Choristers from St. Paul's, Wickford will be joined by other youth choristers from St. Michael's, Bristol; St. Luke's, East Greenwich; Emmanuel, Newport; and St. Paul's, Pawtucket. All of these parish music programs are affiliated with The Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Thank you Maria Hyde for your great leadership of our ever-growing youth choir. St. Paul's Youth Choir recently led the Music Ministry for the Saturday 5:15 service, as well as the Sunday 9:30 Liturgy. It's not too late to join up for Easter and our annual concert at St. Elizabeth's in May! I believe Rozanne Fuller, the Director of St. Paul's Children's Choir, has plans for a musical in May also, so now would be a great time to join that group as well!

St. Paul's Parish Choir has had the privilege to sing for several services recently celebrating the lives of deceased members of St. Paul's. Both Don Hamlin, a long-time choir alumnus, and Phoebe Fernald, faithful altar guild member, will be greatly missed.

The Parish Choir will be singing music of Tallis and Farrant at the Choral Eucharist for Ash Wednesday March 9 at 7:00pm. Upcoming music for Holy Week and Easter includes the Kodaly "Missa Brevis," motets of Palestrina and Gesualdo, and Handel anthems. It is a pleasure working weekly with such a dedicated and talented community of singers. St. Paul's truly is a special place! St. Paul's Choirs are always welcoming new members who have a desire to sing in community the great music of the Church. Please contact me to set-up an audition.

Thank you Richard Whaley for enhancing our music ministry with your talents on the trombone

on The Feast of St. Paul and Pat Petersen for your dulcet violin playing on the Fauré in February.

I will be away at my alma mater, March 6, performing as part of an alumni organ recital celebrating my organ professor's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In my absence, please thank the gracious and talented St. Paul's Choir alum Marc Donnelly, who will be the choirmaster/organist that Sunday. Marc is pursuing a PhD in music theory at UCONN, Storrs. We are pleased to have you back in the area Marc!

As we look towards Easter, it would be great to continue St. Paul's custom of bringing guest brass musicians for the Easter Liturgies. At the current moment, because of pledge shortfalls, which have resulted in budget cuts to the music program this year, we will not be able to do this. If you would like to make a gift to enable this to happen, it would be greatly appreciated!

I would like to close with a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, "For Church Musicians and Artists," but it applies to all of us who seek to honor The Divine in all things.

*"O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Peace,  
Mark

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Time to  
Spring Ahead

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS  
TIME STARTS  
SUNDAY, MARCH  
13TH....**



Well, did you figure it out? How can toothpaste and piñatas be used in a meaningful lesson for Sunday school? They can, if the lesson is on respecting others with our words. In February the older grades gathered together for this class in the Parish Hall. First, as a race, they were instructed to empty out the tube of toothpaste and say whether that was easy or hard. EASY, just like when hurtful words come out of our mouths. Afterwards, they were given spoons to put the toothpaste back in the tube. NO WAY, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S TOO HARD. Right, just like how hard it is to take back hurtful words. A visual lesson that's meaningful and fun.

The piñata lesson builds on the previous one. Frequently, we get focused on what we want done or changed. It may be a team winning or a change in leadership or as simple as not wanting a particular store to come to town. We stay focused on our goal and sometimes don't think how this decision may affect those around us. The lesson for the kids helped show this in simple ways. First came the breaking of the piñata. Then, for them, came the end goal of diving for the candy. Here's where the lesson came in; the children were made to freeze in mid-stride and look around them. Some were found stuffing their pockets with all they could hold, some were helping their friends, and some were left out of the fun. The children were then instructed to put the candy down and step away from the smashed piñata and the real lesson began. The children were shown that in their haste to get what they wanted, others were hurt and left with nothing. The mangled piñata was shown as what is left when we don't take the time to think how our actions affect the people around us. The lesson took place on SuperBowl Sunday, so we spent some time talking about teams and how in our frenzy to win, we might hurt people who feel passionate about the other teams or players. Think about the never ending Yankees/ Red Sox debate. We also spoke about our teachers. Sometimes, we get tied up in talking about how we dislike a teacher and how mean they are, but we forget to get the other side of the story and find out if other people like the teacher. We don't always want to hear that people love this teacher or that this teacher helped them, because it doesn't fit with our perception. The focus of these lessons were to show the children that to

truly be Christians, we need to treat people kindly with our actions and our words no matter what- Love thy neighbor as thyself. It's easier to think before we speak, find out both sides of the story (such as with rumors), and speak kindly to others, then it is to "take back" hurtful words and actions once they are done. In Lent, we will be taking these lessons another step further and involving the children in a special character enriching program, when we launch "A Complain Free World" into the Parish House. If you would like to know more, come join us on Sunday mornings. Friends are always welcome.

Speaking of joining us, we are in need of quite a few volunteers to fill teaching slots for next year. Many of our teachers will "retire" and move on to other projects in the church. In order to have classes offered for all ages from P/K-High school, we need people to volunteer. Teachers are needed for most grades. No experience is necessary- new teachers will be paired with more experienced ones. Curriculum is provided. If you enjoy being with children and have a desire to lead them in simple lessons, come join us on Sunday mornings and see what we are about, or call me at home at 294-9908. I've gained so much from these children and highly recommend it. Please help us provide Sunday school for these wonderful children here. It's a wonderful experience, but we can't do it without volunteers. Please help the children.

### **Important Sunday School Dates**

Sunday school will be held on all Sundays in March during the 9:30 am service.

Ash Wednesday Children's Service will be held March 9, 4 p.m.

Fifth Grade, "Emmaus class", will have a mandatory clergy led class on March 6, during regular Sunday school.

There will be an important fifth grade, "Emmaus Class", Parent/Youth meeting on March 13 at 11am in the Parish House.

### **Thank You**

Thank you to all the parishioners who donated to the Sunday School Pennies for Peace campaign. After everything was counted, \$450.30 was sent to Central Asia Institute to help fund education and promote peace in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Thank you.

*Lori*



## News

### St. Paul's "Weekday" Nursery School News

We began the month of February by wrapping up our winter weather unit and talking about hibernation, shadows, and predicting what would happen when the Ground Hog came out to look around. In case you missed it, he did not see his shadow and that means spring is very near. This was great news since this winter has been extremely severe with lots of snow. We can hardly wait for spring to arrive so we can go outside and play in our playground.

There were many holidays in February that we learned about. We learned about Chinese New Year, the year of the rabbit, about the Chinese culture, and celebrated with special treats of rice, oranges, fortune cookies and a dragon parade. After a few minutes of trying to eat rice with chopsticks, the children were asking for spoons. We talked about black history month and Presidents Day. We learned a little about Presidents Washington and Lincoln, and why they were important. We looked for their pictures on bills and coins and stamped their image in playdoh to examine with magnifying glasses. We celebrated Valentine's Day with special treats and played Valentine bingo with candy hearts. The children exchanged Valentine cards, ( good practice writing their names several times) and they made a Valentine card for their parents that we actually put in the mail. We continued our number unit and also our alphabet unit introducing 2 letters a week with the letter sounds. We began an All About Me unit learning our addresses, telephone numbers, birthdays, things we like to do, eat and collect. We will make a take home book with that unit.

Physical Education upstairs in the "big room" continues to be a hit. We wear our sneakers and go through an obstacle course, play circle games, or practice tossing and catching bean bags using our big muscles, coordination and balancing skills.

Registrations continue to come in as we get closer to filling our openings for next September. We have a few spots left in our 3 and 4 year old programs. Give us a call (295-7320) and schedule a tour of the school.

God Bless,  
*Linda*

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### **ST. PAUL'S SPRING FOLLIES**

The "St. Paul's Follies" Variety Show will be presented

by the talented people of St. Paul's on Sunday, April 3 at 3:30 pm in the Parish Hall. This 4th annual community-building event is an opportunity to enjoy participants of all ages displaying their talents in music, dance, skits, poetry



reading--and surprises! Proceeds from a free will offering for the show will help fund this year's High School Youth Mission Trip--Rev. Patrick Greene will lead 19 youth and 6 adults to New Orleans Feb. 20-26 to help in the post-Katrina building effort.

Come one--come all--bring your family and friends to enjoy a spirited afternoon of fun, entertainment and refreshments.

### **CALLING ALL ACTS!**

Seeking fun loving talented individuals of all ages to muster up your courage, throw caution to the winds, be extroverts for a day and participate in the 4th annual St. Paul's Variety Show.

The" St. Paul's Follies " to benefit Youth Missions will take place in the Parish Hall on Sunday afternoon April 3rd at 3:30pm.

All interested or just curious, please contact Patrick or Tina Butler or just call the office and leave contact information.

Patrick [assistant@st.paulswickford.org](mailto:assistant@st.paulswickford.org)

Tina [tina\\_butler@verizon.net](mailto:tina_butler@verizon.net) or 294-2711

## Imagine a Life In Which You Can Say:

**YES! to Your God**

**YES! to Your Neighbor**

**YES! to Your Self**

**Yes!** was developed to help you create that life.

Rather than egotistically creating your own life, **Yes!** uses appreciative inquiry and conversation to help you awaken to the life-giving purpose that is already within you.

**Yes!** is based on several assumptions:

- We are made for a purpose.
- We have been fully equipped with gifts and talents to fulfill that purpose.
- We most closely manifest our purpose when we are at our best, being and doing those things that flow from the core of our being and bring deep satisfaction.
- Life and the abundant life that Jesus' promised comes from what we deeply and profoundly say yes to, for it is in what we say **Yes!** to that we manifest our God given purpose.

"The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet."

*Frederick Buechner*

**Yes!** has two basic purposes:

- To help people discern and manifest in the world their core purpose for being.
- To grow an appreciative culture within church communities.

"To create a better world we don't need better people,  
we just need to help people to discover and be their best."

*Rob Voyle*

St. Paul's Church will be offering the **Yes!** curriculum, facilitated by Deacon Jan Grinnell, beginning Wednesday, April 27. The dates and times are as follow:

Session 1, April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Session 2, May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Day of Discovery, May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Session 3, - May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
Session 4, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm
<b>(skip one week while Jan is out of town)</b>	
Session 5, June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday evening 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Please contact the church office to register, or fill out the form below and put it in the collection plate. (A nominal charge for materials will be determined based on number of participants--see April bulletins.) If you have any questions concerning the course or would like to be part of the course but having a problem making the meetings, please speak with David Dobbins or Jan Grinnell.

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### **Yes! Registration Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**e-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_



## **BOUNDLESS LOVE**

### **The Parable of the Prodigal Son and Reconciliation**

#### **A LENTEN STUDY**

**BOUNDLESS LOVE focuses on forgiveness, reconciliation, gratitude and love – a timely reading and discussion in preparation of our Lord’s Resurrection.**

**This is a six week study.**

#### **Dates**

**Tuesday mornings 9:30 – 10:30  
March 15 through April 19**

#### **OR**

**Wednesday evenings 7pm - 8pm  
March 16 through April 20**

**Sign up by filling out form below  
and return to the office or put in offertory plate**

**Or e-mail Peggy Todd [mct6@cox.net](mailto:mct6@cox.net)**

**The cost of the book is \$10.00**

**Please make check payable to  
St. Paul’s Church with notation Christian Formation**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please check session**

**Tuesday am \_\_\_\_\_**

**Wednesday pm \_\_\_\_\_**

**Phone number \_\_\_\_\_**

**Email \_\_\_\_\_**

**“Forgiveness can remarkably restore our relationships, renew our spirits and revitalize our lives.”**

**—William Arthur Ward**

## GROWING IN INTIMACY WITH GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

From time to time *The Communicant* will include a short timely scripture to read and reflect and respond in writing if so desired.

*Hebrews 3: 12-14*

“Take care brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that runs away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today”, so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end.”

How sad to read in sports records the letters DNF (“did not finish”) behind the name of an athlete for whatever reason - a sprain, exhaustion, violation of a rule, or an equipment problem. It’s sad too when we Christians don’t finish “the race that is set for us”. One of our greatest spiritual challenges is to protect our hearts from becoming hardened and to stay receptive to God’s action in our live.

Take some time to gently examine your life. Are there habits that draw you away from God? What helps you to draw nearer to Jesus Christ, and deepen your relationship with him? Who has been your cheerleader - one who has encouraged you to be faithful? Conclude by renewing your commitment to God through a tangible act of dedication.



### A Keeper

This issue of the Communicant includes the insert "2011 Ministry Guide." It lists the names and contact information for Clergy, Staff and Lay Ministry leaders. Please keep it as a handy reference guide to direct you to the proper source for questions, comments and concerns about a particular area of ministry--better yet, for the person to contact to get more information about volunteering!



### **A Delicious Thank You**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who provided the sandwiches, salads, desserts, etc, etc. for the Annual Meeting. I know how much it was appreciated by all and it’s so nice to be able to sample all the different foods. There was a lot of grazing going on during the meeting which pretty much says it all...

GOOD JOB, GOOD FOOD  
and  
THANKS AGAIN!  
Peace, Ann Waring