

**Mission Statement for St. Paul's: To proclaim God's love
by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Mon. to Thu. 8:15am to 1:00pm

stpaulsmontrose@epix.net

<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Dec 10 - 16, 2017 Upcoming Events

(Events are at St. Paul's unless specified otherwise)

- DOK Mtg. Sat. Dec. 9 at 10:00AM
- **DEC. 10 JOINT SERVICE & CAROLS WITH ST. MARK'S IN NEW MILFORD AT 11:00AM – NO SERVICE AT ST. PAUL'S THERE IS A POTLUCK BRUNCH AFTER THE SERVICE AT ST MARKS. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE.**
- Bible Study Tue. Dec. 12 at 5:30PM
- Sleeping Bags Dec. 13 at 1:00PM
- Deacon's Mass on Sun. Dec. 17 at 10:00AM with Rev. John Davis
- Dec. 17 Greening of the Church & Brunch after service
- Dec. 17 Tri State Gospel Singers 3:00PM



Interfaith Christmas Dinner

We will need all Stuffing donations for the Christmas Dinner for Susquehanna County Interfaith by Sunday December 10th.



Toy Tags

Toy tags for Interfaith Christmas Bureau. All gifts should be approximately \$25.00 and should be unwrapped with attached tags and attached batteries if needed. All items will need to be dropped off at St. Paul's by Sunday December 10th.



Poinsettias for the Christmas Altar

The cost of Poinsettias will remain the same as 2016 at 20.00 per flower. Please remit your check to the office as soon as possible or place in offering plate on Sundays. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. You may designate in memory of or in honor of someone if your wish. Thank you.



Tri-State Gospel Singers

The Tri-State Gospel Singers will perform at St. Paul's on Sunday, December 17 at 3 pm after the 10 am service, the greening of the church, and brunch.



Bread Collection

The Vestry has started a Sunday collection to provide bread for the Montrose Mobile Food Bank once a month. We expect that the cost would be around \$250 per month to provide bread for the monthly distribution which is the 2nd Friday of each month from 11:00 to 5:00.



Friday Night Holiday

Open House at the Graham's

December 8, 2017 @ 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. We will have finger foods and cheer. No need to bring anything. From church, take Rt. 706 West until you pass Ventresca Tax Services. Take the next right on to Davis Rd. Turn right on Griffis Hill Rd., drive 1.8 miles and take the only left on to Dayton Rd. Drive down the hill and up the other side. We are the house on the left at the top of the far hill.

Advent Bible Study to Begin

As Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ, we will begin to ready our hearts by studying the Scripture lessons offered by the Diocesan congregational resources. Through the rest of November and December we will suspend our parish/Vestry meetings at which we are working on our "parish profile" in readiness for a new rector. Instead, we will meet on Tuesday evenings at 5:30 for Bible study. Soup and salad will be provided. Please plan to attend on December 12 and 19. If we truly seek spiritual growth in the parish, this is a beginning. Come, let us adore Him by filling our hearts and minds with God's word.

St. Paul's Cycle of Prayer: Edward stark; Richard & Susan Stone; Thomas & Brenda Syle; April Taylor-Kirkpatrick & Eric Kirkpatrick

Thanksgivings: *Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us, especially during this past week. Amen.*

Sleeping Bag Ministry News

On Wednesday, November 29th we emptied our shelves and delivered ten sleeping bags to Flo and Jim Wheatley in Hop Bottom for distribution to needy shelters. The day prior to our coming, Jim had delivered 75 sleeping bags to Manhattan.

There were seven volunteers already at the Wheatley farm when we arrived working on bales of socks, wool hats and gloves that are included in every sleeping bags.

It is difficult to describe this humble huge ministry which has grown to national level so we invite you to pick up a newsletter at the back of the church and be amazed. Please consider spending a few hours at our little satellite that meets the second Wednesday and second Saturday of the month at 1:00 downstairs in Room #1. If you cannot climb the stairs, we can bring work upstairs to the parish hall and all are invited to bring a friend along. It is amazing what our hands can do when the heart leads.

Blankets, sheets, warm fabrics are always needed and need not be new but only clean and can be placed in the parish hall marked for sleeping bags.

Every sleeping bag made at St. Paul's includes this message:

May this sleeping bag, made for you with love, be a comfort and sign of God's healing presence.

May it warm you when you are weary.

May it surround you with ease in your suffering.

May it encircle you with caring when you are in pain.

May it comfort you when you feel alone.

May it remind you of God's abiding love.

Pledges

Please return your pledge of financial support, time, and talent. Your pledge acknowledges God's goodness in your life and is important to your well-being and St. Paul's.

WINTER COAT DRIVE AND DISTRIBUTION UNDERWAY

American Legion Post 154 has started collecting winter coats for its annual Coats for the Community program, now in its 11th year. The organization is seeking new or clean, gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, along with blankets, to help keep our neighbors a little bit warmer this winter. Children's coats are particularly in demand. Last year, the group gave away more than 1,600 coats. Donations can be dropped off at ProCare Physical Therapy, St. Rt. 706, Montrose, St. Paul's Church, 276 Church St., Montrose, and American Legion Post 154, 14515 State Route 3001, Montrose. Anyone who needs a warm winter coat is welcome to this free event. Coats will be distributed at:

- **St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose**
Dec. 19 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Dec. 20 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Dec. 21 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

You can also call the Post at 570-278-1649 to arrange a pick up or to ask questions.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Brad Darde, Joe & Esther Welden, Rick Arrowsmith, Jennie Bowen, Sarah Bertsch, Becky Stasko, Sara, Kyle, Kathy Warriner, Janice, K'ann, Pat & Charles.

Mobile Pantry

The Montrose Mobile Panty holds a free monthly food distribution the second Friday of each month. This program also addresses the food insecurity issue that faces some of our neighbors and friends. Volunteers are needed the day of the distribution starting at 11:00 through 5:00. To donate, volunteer or to sign up for yourself please call 571-214-2184.

Our collections for the Food Bank & Women's Resource Center are the first Sunday of every month. Blessings and thanks for your support and participation.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for Justin Stone & Jerome Washo who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as Justin & Jerome begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life. Amen.*

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. *Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.*

SEND COMMUNICATIONS: minutes, special events etc. to the office, for the parish office to disperse.

Pastoral Emergency: call the parish office during office hours. After hours, you may call Lynne Graham at her home 570-934-1160.

St. Paul's Altar Flowers: If you wish to reserve, a Sunday please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the church. Then fill out an Altar Flower Card. Please use one card for each request, enclose your check for \$36.00 with the card in the envelope provided, and place it in the offering plate or send it to the parish office prior to the week that you are doing flowers. For those wishing to supply your own flowers please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church and fill out an altar flower card indicating you will do your own flowers. Thank you!

CHURCH CLOSURES please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

6 Photos this week

Deck the Halls

The Country Store Christmas elves were at work last week making wreaths for sale at the Store. This is an annual tradition and the elves used their artistic talents to decorate the fragrant Balsam Fir. When done, they looked quite professional and all had a good time!



Country Store a Success

Well, we did it again! St. Paul's 2017 Country Store on December 2nd was a hit. With a lot of help, we made over \$2,500, which gets distributed to local charities. We want to thank everyone who helped in any way including: the donors, the bakers, the cooks, the sales folks, the crafters and those that helped setup and take down. A fun job well done.





The three weeks of St. Paul's Advent Bible study started this week. It is scheduled for Tuesday night at 5:30 and soup and salad are served. You can come to one without coming to the previous ones. Good fellowship abounds.

