

**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 17 - 23, 2017 Upcoming Events

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

- 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
- Bible Study Tue. Dec. 19 at 5:30PM
- Coat Giveaway Tue. Dec. 19 at 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Coat Giveaway Wed. Dec. 20 at 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Coat Giveaway Thu. Dec. 21 at 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Holy Eucharist with Rev. Dan Jones Dec. 24 at 10:00am
- Christmas Eve. Service with Rev. John Davis at 7:00pm
- Deacon's Mass on Sun. Dec. 31 at 10:00am with Rev. John Davis

Readings for this week

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: 126

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Marker, Carol Lasher & Ben Zalewski

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski & Sean Eckert

Counters: Dan Graham & Steve Kupscznk

Chalice Bearer: Brenda Syle

Lector: Brenda Syle

Intercessor: Nancy Dooling

Greeter/Usher: Maggie Sock & Nancy Dooling

Hospitality: Lunch & Gospel Choir

Altar Flowers this week are from Vida Kiefer & John Finlon in Memory of Vida Finlon.



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.



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. Must be received by Dec. 19 to be in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.



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.

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.

St. Paul's Cycle of Prayer: Tom & Barbara Undercoffler; Ralph & Marlene Very; Edgar Warriner; Katherine Warriner

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

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.

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

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

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

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for Raymond Warriner & Peter Maxey who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as Raymond & Peter 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.*

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!

5 Photos this week

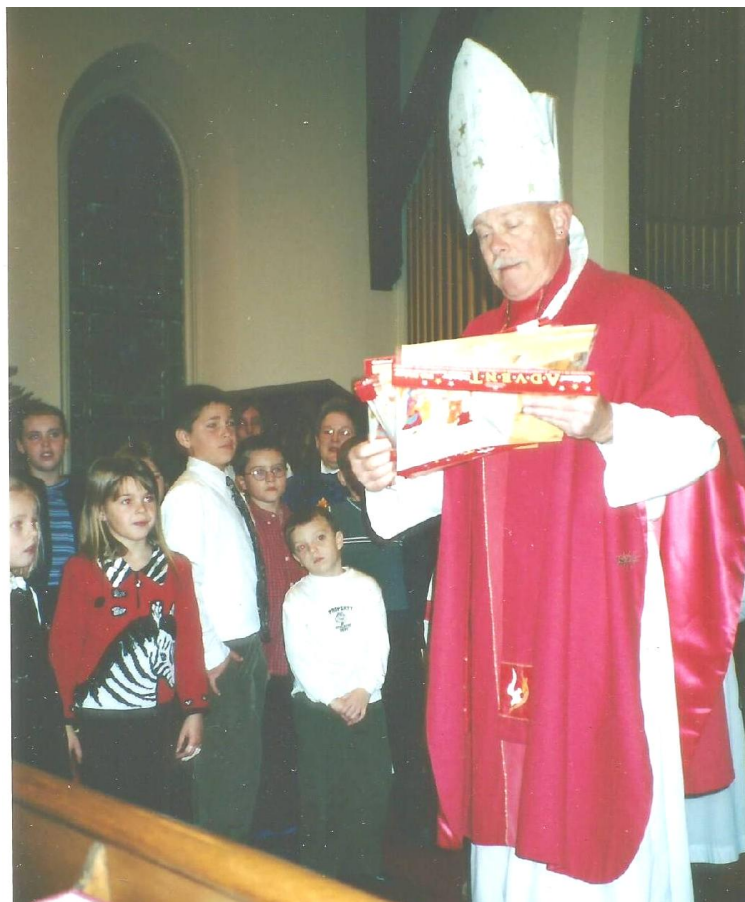
O Come O Come Emmanuel

Advent started Dec 3rd. Ben Zewleski did the traditional lighting of the first candle on the Advent Wreath reminding us Christ is the light of the world.



Memories of St. Paul's Christmases Past

Jerry and Maggie Sock found some old pictures of St. Nicholas coming to St. Paul's in 2001 and 2002 and shared them. Jerry dressed up as St. Nicholas, mitre and all, and gave out Advent Calendars and gold coins to the Sunday School children. Good memories, warm times.





Tuesday Night Bible Study

Neither rain nor snow nor dark of night kept the faithful Bible studier's from their Tuesday night meeting. Thanks to Maggie for a good warm dinner. You can still come next Tuesday for the last session before Christmas.

