

**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 24 - 30, 2017 Upcoming Events

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

- 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

**This Week's Lay Ministers & for Christmas
Eve:**

Altar Guild: Carol Marker, Carol Lasher, Ben
Zalewski, Barbara Undercoffler & Betty Smith

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew
Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski & Sean Eckert

Counters: Maggie Sock & Richard Marker

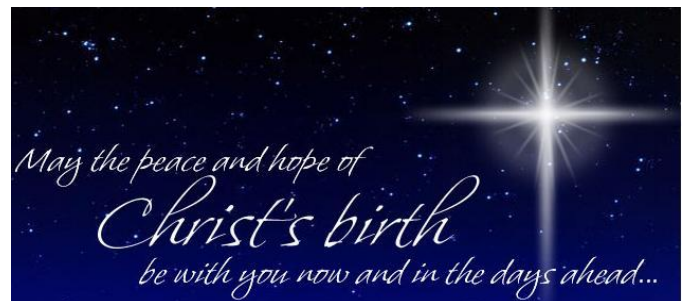
Chalice Bearer: Jerry Sock

Lector: Vickie Calby

Intercessor: Nancy Dooling / Rev. John Davis

Greeter/Usher: Sandy Seeger & Marsha Jones

**Merry
Christmas**



Readings for this week

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Canticle: The Song of Mary

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve. Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

2018 Pledges & Books

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. Pledge Books
for 2018 will be available at the back of the
church. If you did not pledge and want a book
please let the office know.



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.

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

St. Paul's Cycle of Prayer: Joe & Esther Welden, Alice Wood; Mary & Ben Zalewski; Robert & Patty Aiken

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.

Our collections for the Trehab 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 Ann Stone, Kelsey Warriner & Reilly Shingler who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as Ann, Kelsey & Reilly 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!

7 Photos this week

Tri-State Gospel Singers

The Tri-State Gospel Singers performed a Christmas concert at St. Paul's on Sunday afternoon to a packed church. The music was beautifully presented and nave acoustics and sound system were nothing short of awesome. St. Paul's rang with the reason for the season. If you missed it you missed a premiere Holiday event.



Montrose High Key Club

The Montrose High School Key Club helped St. Paul's set up the coats in our Parish Hall for our Coats for the Community distribution this week. These were a fun bunch of young men and women who enjoyed doing something for their community.



Rose Advent Candle Lit

Carol Marker says: "The tradition of the Advent wreath began in Europe around the 16th Century with the Catholic and Lutheran churches. It has been a tradition in my home and church all my life. It symbolizes the "coming of the light in the world". The Advent wreath represents the four weeks of Advent and has one pink and three purple candles.

Ben did the traditional lighting of the pink candle last Sunday indicating it is the third Sunday of Advent. The pink or rose candle was originally called the Gaudete candle. It symbolizes "Joy," the coming of the Christ Child, and we sing the hymns of Rejoice on that Sunday. The church vestments and altar colors are Rose on that day and now being used in the Episcopal Church. The third Sunday in Advent was called "Mothering Sunday" in Victorian England because of the old practice where the rich gave their servants the Sunday off to go home and visit their mothers and the children in boarding schools were sent home. The forth and last candle we will be lit on this coming Sunday.



Greening of the Church

The annual greening of the church was done after the service on Sunday. Ours wreaths are on the doors, the candle holders at the end of the pews were put up and greens and candles were placed in the windows. As part of that tradition, the crèche was set up with the manger that Jerry Sock made long ago along with its shepherds, sheep, camels and the figures involved in the nativity. Memories of childhoods long ago.



Final Advent Bible Study

The third and last Advent Bible Study was this Tuesday. It was capably led by Tom Undercoffler whose questions prompted lively discussion. Barb's home-made soups had everyone going back for seconds. The thee-part series was well attended and the general consensus of the attendees was very favorable. We look to continue Bible study in the future. Tuesday's session was attended by Father John Wagner. Father Wagner will be with us on January 21st and in February as our supply priest.

