

**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 2 – Dec 8, 2018 Upcoming Events

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

- Holy Eucharist Sun. Dec. 2 at 10:00am
with Rev. John Wagner
- **Country Store Sat. Dec. 1 9AM to 3PM**
- "Memory Luncheon" for the recovery
community on Sunday, December 9 at
12:30 p.m.



It's Country Store Time

The Country Store is Sat., Dec. 1st from 9 to 3. As always, we need many helpers and many donations. Most importantly, come have a hot bowl of soup or chili and share some fellowship with your Montrose community.

**Montrose Community Chorale Presents
Annual Christmas Program**

The annual presentation of 'Christmas in Montrose' by the Montrose Community Chorale will be presented on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, 367 Church Street, Montrose, PA. Thomas Welch is the director and accompanist is Kristen Burkhart.

'Christmas Presence', a cantata, will be presented as a 'Gathering of Hope, Peace and Love'. A freewill offering will be accepted and benefit the community. Refreshments will be served in the missionary room.

From Mary Ann DeWitt, 570 278 2791

Dob1940@outlook.com

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.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Carol Marker & Barb Undercoffler

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski or Sean Eckert

Counters: Carol Marker & Sandy Seeger

Chalice Bearer: Esther Welden

Lector: Richard Marker

Intercessor: Esther Welden

Greeter/Usher: Sandy Seeger & Stephanie Calby

Hospitality: Marsha & Sandy

Readings for this week

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms: 25:1-9

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

**Altar Flowers this week are In Memory of
Loved Ones.**



Stuffing Mix



Susquehanna County Interfaith is collecting Stuffing Mix for the Christmas Dinner Giveaway. Our goal is 50 Boxes, we have passed our goal already. Thank You to everyone that has donated stuffing mix. Last day is **Sun. Dec. 9th.**



Christmas Flowers

The cost of Poinsettias will remain the same as 2017 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. I must receive envelopes by **Dec. 23.** Thank you.



Toy Tags

St. Paul's will be doing 20 toy tags this year 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 **Sun. Dec. 9th.**

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

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: Steve, Martha & Kyle Kupscznk; Carol & Jack Lasher; Al & Rita Leigh; George & Mary Beth Manns

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH **STUDIES FOR ADVENT 2018**

A few members of St. Paul's have spoken with me concerning a form of study during the Advent 2018 season. I'm more than amenable (excited, actually) about such an offering. I envision offering studies on the first three Sundays in Advent (Dec. 2nd, 9th, and 16th). Since the fourth Sunday is the day before Christmas Eve (the Eve of the Eve???), I've not scheduled a study session for that date.

My plan is to meet in the Guild Room during the Sunday coffee hour. I plan on beginning about 11:30 and ending by not later than 12:30.

It is my intention to offer the following:

Sunday, Dec. 2nd – Prophecies of the coming of the Messiah

Sunday, Dec. 9th – The birth in Bethlehem of Judea

Sunday, Dec. 16th – Conclusion of the birth in Bethlehem of Judea.

Now, please, if your plans permit you to attend only one or two sessions, then, by all means, do so. If your plans require you to depart by noon, go in peace! Neither your dropping in and out, nor your early departure, will be seen as rude.

Please know that I see Advent as a smaller, slightly less somber, penitential season for preparing for the anniversary of the Birth of the Christ Child, not unlike Lent is to the Feast of the Resurrection.

As always, if you have any questions, please do ask. Fr. John

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

TREK TO THE CRECHE, 2018

This is a program to help folks get out and about and enjoy just a bit of easy exercise this December. It is loosely based upon a program initially developed by Episcopal Health Ministries. As with all such programs, please speak with your physician prior to beginning any exercise regimen.

That which we'll be attempting to accomplish is walking the equivalent distance that Mary and Joseph travelled from Nazareth of Galilee to Bethlehem of Judea. Scholars deduce that they made this trip in about four days. Keep in mind, however, that the primary means of travel in that society was walking, so not even an advanced pregnancy would have slowed them too much. We will be taking 23 days (1st Sunday in Advent through Christmas Eve) to complete our trek and, since none of us is likely to be avid walkers like Mary and Joseph, we'll be working in teams of 2 or 3. Working in small teams will not only permit us to ease into a walking routine, but will also provide the opportunity for some meaningful conversation while we're "on the road". The distance to be walked is roughly eighty (80) miles. For teams of 2, that would require an average of 1.75 miles per day per member while, for teams of 3, 1.16 miles per day per team would be needed.

Please appoint one member of your team as "captain" to record and give the weekly team mileage to me. You can certainly give me that mileage each Sunday during Advent, or you can e-mail it to me on Sundays (frjohn@ptd.net).

The climatological data for Montrose show that the average high for December is 35°, while the average low is 17°. Average snowfall for the month is 15". In consideration of that

historical data, as well as to protect your health, please make sure that you speak with your physician prior to undertaking any exercise regimen.

I mentioned earlier about "easing into" a walking routine. Here's what's on the horizon...

During Lent of 2019, in teams, we'll be walking the equivalent distance from Montrose, PA to Jerusalem, Israel, in time to arrive for the Resurrection. That likely seems like an insurmountable task but, having worked with this program at previous parishes, it is most definitely doable! Not only that, the weather in spring is far more conducive to being outside...

😊 (and, for spring, we'll permit rowing, weightlifting, Zumba Dancing, or other forms of exercise)

So, pick your teams, select your captains, and do let me know if you have any questions. Please also know that Lynne will be contacting other Montrose Churches and inviting them to join us this Advent as well as next Lent. So, you might just have an opportunity to greet others of God's Kids out and about!!

Fr. John



Bread Collection Update

As you know, St. Paul's started a second collection on Sundays to provide money to buy bread for the Montrose Mobile Food Pantry once a month. We expected the cost to be about \$250 a month and that has been our goal. The monthly distribution takes place on the second Friday of each month. Thank you for your generosity. The recipients of the Food Pantry services are depending on us.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Brad Darde, Becky Stasko, Kathy Warriner, Joe & Esther Welden, Charlotte Eckert, Alice Wood, Jean Williams, Charlotte Ellis, Esther McLaughlin, Jeanette, Jeanne & Bart Conklin, Steve Kupscznk, Kristina & Richard Marker.

The holidays are sometimes difficult and lonely for some people.

The Church of the Epiphany is pleased to offer a short prayer service to honor the difficulties of this time of the year, particularly for those who have lost a loved one, had a difficult life change, or just feel blue amid all the tinsel and lights.

All are welcome to attend a 'Longest Night' gathering to bless the blues and sadness on Saturday, December 22 2018 at 6:00 pm. Please come and light a candle in honor of your loss or transition. If you wish, please join us for Communion at 5:00 pm.

The Church of the Epiphany is located on 25 Church Hill, Glenburn Township. Please call 570-563-1564 or send an email to: COTE@epix.net and let us know you are coming, or for more information. The Episcopal Church is a spiritual home free of judgment and inclusive for all.

The struggle with darkness and grief is difficult at this time of the year. We all have losses that need to heal. Come, light a candle for your loved one or yourself.

Sleeping Bag Ministry Requests:

NEEDED items are: warm hats, gloves and scarves. Fabric yardage, 1 yard minimum blankets and flat sheets (no fitted sheets please) sample size soaps, shampoo, tooth paste mini size tissues Items need not be perfect, only Clean. We are OVER STOCKED with toothbrushes, socks, and neckties. Thank you to everyone who works to make this ministry possible and all are welcome to join us on the second Wednesday and second Saturday of each month downstairs in Rm. #1. No sewing, ' only need to tie a knot !!!!!

Send Communications: minutes, special events etc. to the office, for the parish office to disperse.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for Dan Graham & Sandy Seeger who celebrate their birthdays this week and next. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as Dan & Sandy 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!

1Photo this week.

Country Store

The year is flying by and it is time for the Country Store! It is this Friday, Dec 1st. But of course, somebody has to set it all up. On Wednesday, a stalwart group of "setter-uppers" braved the weather and got us ready. Thanks ladies for a job well done.

