

**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

Click on link to email St. Paul's: stpaulsmontrose@epix.net

Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

Click on link to go to our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Dec 29 – Jan 4, 2019 Upcoming Events

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

- **There will be a service on Saturday December 28th at 5:00pm.**
- **No Sunday Service at St. Paul's on December 29th. Combined Service at St. Mark's 10:00am.**
- Sat. Jan. 4 Holy Eucharist at 5:00pm with Fr. Arthur L. Jones, III



Mobile Food Pantry

As you know, St. Paul's supplies the money for the bread through our weekly collections in the "bread basket." Nancy said that this month 284 households received food including 137 children and 210 seniors. Jan 10 will be the next distribution, which is held at the Methodist Church, is run by volunteers and can always use some help.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Joe Welden, Alice Wood, Naomi Bennett, Justin, Rita Leigh & Fr. John Wagner.

Rita Leigh is back at home.

St. Paul's Church History for Sale

Just in time for Chirstmas! The 150 page *A History of St. Paul's Church, Montrose, Pennsylvania 1831-2019* has been published and is for sale in the office for \$20.00. All proceeds will go to St. Paul's. It presents the history of the of Episcopalian beginnings in Montrose in the early 1800s and the establishment and growth of St. Paul's parish and ends with the calling of Fr, Arthur in 2019. If you would like a copy please let Betty know.

Readings for Saturday Dec. 28

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm: 147:13-21

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Gospel: John 1:1-18

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Carol Marker, Betty Smith & Barb Undercoffler

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski or Sean Eckert

Counters: Tom Undercoffler & David Calby

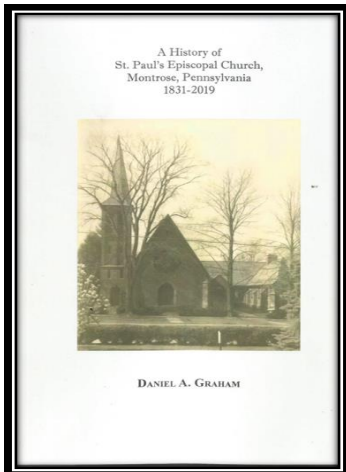
Chalice Bearer: Lynne Graham

Lector: Lynne Graham

Intercessor: Nancy Dooling

Greeter/Usher: Stephanie Calby & Scott Price

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



St. Paul's Service Schedule

St. Paul's will have a Saturday evening service at 5 p.m. on the FIRST weekend of every month and no Sunday service that weekend. We will hold our regular service at 10 a.m. on the SECOND, THIRD, and FOURTH Sundays. Any FIFTH Sundays, of which there are 4 in 2020, we will gather with Christ Church at St. Mark's in New Milford at 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Cycle of Prayer: Glynis Morgan; William Newlin Jr.; Elaine Petrzala; Sandra Seeger

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

SLEEPING BAG MINISTRY

A recent inventory of our supplies shows that we are still in need of clean blankets and the SMALL SAMPLE SIZE OF TOOTHPASTE. Thank you for all your past contributions and help. Come join us soon. Second Wednesday and second Saturday of the month!

Our collections for the Trehab Food Bank & Women's Resource Center are the Evening Service on the First Saturday of every month. Blessings and thanks for your support and participation.

Pastoral Emergency: call the parish office during office hours. After hours, you may call Arthur Jones at 570-665-1707.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for Charles Cesaretti and Karen Blye-McAbee who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as Charles and Karen 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.*

"If you know anyone who wishes to receive the Weekly Update, please let Betty know."

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!

15 Photos this week.

4th Sunday of Advent

*Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.*



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Coats for the Community



On Wednesday and Thursday last week, Coats for the Community had its final coat distribution. Starting at St. Paul's in October and ending here in December, the coats traveled to seven sites in between. We gave out almost 1,400 coats this year; over 300 at St. Paul's. On Thursday, John Finlon was interviewed by Katie Jones of Channel 12 News and Ally Gallo of Channel 16.

Rector's Office Spiffed Up

When it was built in 1926/27, this second floor area was open space. But it quickly was divided into rooms and became the sexton's apartment – kitchen, living room, bathroom and two bedrooms. After the new oil furnaces sharply decreased the need for a sexton, it was briefly rented. Then it became part of the Sunday school and eventually the administration person's office. And now, it's the rector's office. The room just got new drywall, carpet, paint, electricity and trim – stop up and take a peak.



Wreath Making from Christmases Past



Merry Christmas – From All of Us to All of You

What's the season without a holiday party? St. Paul's parishioners do like their social events and the season adds to the fun. Generally, at a St. Paul's event, everyone brings a dish and a lot of sociability. Most social events are announced ahead of time in the Weekly Updates.



Waiting for Special Guests



The Creche sits waiting empty for the traditional greening of the church which took place after service on Sunday. In addition to the Nativity figures, the candle lanterns and evergreens were added. Keep checking the windowsills for the progress of the Wise Men who won't make it to the Creche until Epiphany.

Christmas Eve Service

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

For the first time in a long time, St. Paul's celebrated its Christmas Eve service at 11:00, and it was well attended. The Altar Guild had the altar looking beautiful. The service was marked by excellent musical presentations by an expanded choir, flutist Grace Wood, with organ and piano accompaniment by Joyce Printz and Cathy Hammons, who also sang an offertory solo of *O Holy Night*. The Prelude – *What Child is This* – was played by Grace. The highlight of the service was the St. Paul's tradition of the congregation singing *Silent Night* by candlelight. Tom Undercoffler sang the first verse in German and Grace accompanied him on flute. The service was videoed and can be seen on St. Paul's Website,

Merry Christmas!



