



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>

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

June 21 – June 27, 2020

Random Thoughts

Tonight, I'm in a funk. Like many of us, I guess I am feeling the stress of extended lockdown. I suppose that doesn't lend itself to an inspirational message. I have a lot of thoughts running about in my head, but nothing seems to coalesce into something to put on paper. I spent most of the afternoon weeding underneath the blueberry bushes so we can finish constructing the new fence that holds up the netting. Last year the birds didn't really attack the berries even after we picked what we needed and left the rest for them. The sun today was hot, but I'd rather work in the sun than swat gnats in the cooler evening. We've had some gorgeous days this week. Now we need a gentle rain, hopefully not the crushing storms that rage through lately.

I find it easy to get lost in the peace of working outside. Prayer comes easily in the quiet as I remember those who are sick or lonely along with random thoughts about the beauty of God's creation. Later in the evening, as I watch the news, I often feel guilty for being so far removed from the struggles going on "out there." Black Lives Matter, protests, and the Coronavirus pandemic flood the news, but I feel isolated from these issues. Regardless, unfortunately, they bring me down. My heart reaches out, but does Jesus expect more, and if so, what? I do know that exposure to these issues in our small, rural town is very different

from living the issues on a daily basis in an urban setting. This is something I need to grapple with and pray about.

So another random thought comes to mind. We have two hummingbird feeders hanging outside our kitchen sink window. One feeder has four flower ports, the other has six. At any given time, there are always one or two hummingbirds swirling about, sometimes as many as six. In other words, the number of feeding ports is greater than the number of birds. But the birds would rather fight over who gets to eat than line up and feed together. I've seen hummingbirds dart like an arrow from across the yard to scare away a feeding bird. I'm sure it has to do with the male territorial thing, but it gets me thinking about how people can act the same. How many of us are satisfied with "enough"? Why do we run to the grocery store to buy milk and toilet paper in quantities that would last us and the ten families down the street for a month? I guess, in the case of humans, it's a matter of trust and looking out for number one. When Jesus said, "Love your neighbor", he probably meant, if you have enough, that's enough. They need some too. It's a hard lesson; another one for me to grapple with.

Enough thoughts! Tonight I realize that I am just anxious for us to worship together again and that I need to be with the people I love – my church family.

Lynne Graham

Vestry Highlights June 11, 2020

The Vestry did not meet in April due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Vestry meeting in May was canceled because Fr. Arthur was sick with Covid 19.

The Vestry met via Zoom, but due to technical difficulties, we ended up having a conference call. This was less than ideal as hearing one another was difficult.

We opened the meeting with prayer and approved the agenda and the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting.

Lynne reported that St. Paul's has been assigned by the Diocese to Convocation I, a grouping of regional churches including St. Paul's, Troy; Christ Church, Towanda; Church of the Redeemer, Sayre; Trinity, Athens; St. Mark's, New Milford; and Christ Church, Susquehanna. This group's wardens met with the Diocesan staff on May 6 as a kind of check-in. The wardens and clergy met again on May 26 to be led through the Diocesan guidelines for re-opening.

Out of the initial Convocation meeting came the idea of a Prayer Wall. Redeemer in Sayre initiated this ministry as they are located across the street from Robert Packer Hospital. Our vestry agreed that we would like to construct a transportable "wall" and place it where people can express the need for prayer. We can include these prayer requests on our weekly update list, the Prayers of the People, and with the DOK.

The Vestry discussed calling a task force to prepare our plan for re-gathering at church. This plan must be approved by the Bishop before we can meet outside or inside and the same plan will apply to community groups wishing to use the building.

Depending on the pandemic situation, we tentatively scheduled our annual service at St. Matthew's for August 23.

We received the Treasurer's report. We approved the funds for Owens to audit our

books for 2019. St. Paul's received a Payroll Protection Plan loan from the federal government to be used for payroll of staff and utilities. We approved expenditures to put LED lights in the Celtic Room and to purchase Coats for the Community now that the Salvation Army stores have opened up.

Vickie closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, July 9, 2020

For Our Times

Darkness cannot drive out darkness,
Only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate,
Only Love can do that.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Patience Pays Off

In my growing up years, the question of "What's for dinner?" was always answered with "Wait and see pudding!" I guess it was supposed to teach us patience, but it didn't make us any less hungry to see dinner on the table. The dear folk of St. Paul's have been patient and resilient as we have weathered our time of physical distancing, but patience has not made us less anxious to be worshipping together. I am happy to report that this afternoon; a task force of John Warriner, Esther Welden, Carol Marker, Sandy Seeger, and Tom Undercoffler will meet to draw up a plan for us to begin to gather again for worship services. The plan must be approved by Bishop Kevin and then the information disseminated to all parishioners before we can meet. Outside groups will need to follow the same guidelines that we establish.

Once we have the Bishop's approval of our plan, we will need to obtain the necessary supplies for safety--hand sanitizer, extra masks, etc.--before setting a date to re-gather. Betty is still working part time, so we need to be conscious of her time needed to prepare bulletins. We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable in whatever format we use for worship. As much as we all want to be

together again, our priority must be safety for everyone.

Give yourselves a pat on the back. It's been a difficult several months, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please know that your patience is appreciated and that we are doing everything we can to move us toward communal worship as quickly as possible. See you soon at church!!!

Lynne

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, look with favor, we pray, as they 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.*

2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning Our song shall rise to Thee**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty
God in three persons Blessed Trinity!**

Birthdays for June: Ben Zalewski June 17, Lynne Graham June 18, Jack Lasher June 20, Mary Zalewski June 21, Charlotte Ellis June 23 & Margaret Baker June 24.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Justin, Rita Leigh, Fr. John Wagner, Eric, Fr. Arthur & Mo. Jenny.

Statements If you would like a midyear statement please email me stpaulsmontrose@epix.net or call the office 570-278-2954. Betty

Your tithes and pledges can be mailed to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801. Or you can slip your pledge under the office door if you happen to be going by the church.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact: you can call the parish office during office hours. After hours call Lynne Graham 570-934-1160.

5 Photos this week.

Morning Prayer

Lord we pray in this morning light, our humble petition rises to you. Give us grace to see in you, something more than religious noise. For when we completely surrender and let you carry us along; storms, trauma, tragic moments, we cross, as did the folks of old. Then we become as one, with you Lord in that time. We become you, you become us, one Spirit, one heart, one mind. --- Perhaps that is what we long for, even in our prayer. To lay down the burden of this life and be one in Spirit with you.

Fr. Wm McGinty, Christ Church, Forest City

St. Paul's Hello

The Warriner family sends a big hello to everyone and hopes everyone is doing fine.



We miss you!

Tom and Barb say hi, and Tom is hoping to get back to church and say his Alleluia!



Montrose Mobile Food Bank June 12th

