



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.

July 26 – Aug 1, 2020

Morning Prayer in the Memorial Garden
Sunday, July 26 at 10:00 am or inside if bad weather.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher & Nancy Dooling

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Officiant: Tom Undercoffler

Counters: Steve Kupscznk & Richard Marker

Greeter/Usher: John Finlon & Ann Kiefer

I was transfixed by a recent photo of the congregation of St. Paul's worshipping in the garden.

In the garden. In the garden!

As my eyes moved over the scene of people gathered for worship surrounded by the trees, flowers, and grass, my mind went to Genesis 2.

The whole of Genesis 2 is the second story that uses the imagery of a garden to talk about creation. It is a wonderful story of God the Creator forming the universe, crafting the planet we call earth, and eventually molding humans from the earth. Then, God invites the partners to join in the care of creation and its expansion. Genesis 2 is our Birth Narrative.

In the garden God, creates humanity and community. And, God creates humanity and community in His image. God says, "Let there be," and there it is. In the garden.

In the garden. How many times this imagery is used in the Scriptures. Let your mind wander. I wonder if all those garden stories are creation stories?

As I meditated on the photo of the people gathered in God's garden, I wondered "what is God creating?"

Will they hear God's call to be co-creators? What image will this gathering take? What will the workers in this vineyard grow? How will these shepherds join God in seeking the lost? What message will this garden community share with all who hunger and thirst? Who will be fed and nourished from the vineyard of these gardeners? What will their table look like? Who brought the fish and loaves?

It all started in a garden.

Sometimes, when things get tarnished, when life gets dirty, when weeds seem to be taking over, when the basket seems empty, the river is down to a trickle, the noise of chaos and conflict are overbearing, it might be time to go out into the garden to sit and listen to the sounds of creation around you, to wonder at the sky above, to feel the rich earth below, to be amazed by the rainbow of life's color. To join with God and Creation.

"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom he had formed." (Genesis 2:8)

Fr. Charles Cesaretti

Birthdays for July: Stephanie Calby July 25 & Arthur Jones July 29.

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.*

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.

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.

3 Photos this week.

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

"Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen." *Matthew 13:24*

In this morning light we pause to pray to you O Lord, thanking you for the night, rest and renewal that you bring. The day time comes calling, the animals are all awake and we look to the new day that has dawned.

Prayer arises to you, it is but a figure of speech, because we know that you are here. We feel your Spirit among us as you promised, indwelling, surrounding, penetrating all that we are and all that we do.---We are taken up in this oneness of being, one in soul with the essence of your divinity. It is a conflict for us Lord, for we know in our heart's true core that we are not worthy. Our sinfulness and our base humanity is shamed by the light of your goodness.---Yet, we know the depth of your forgiveness, the love of your sacrifice and the transcendence you bring,---breathing, cleansing, healing, forgiving that transforms us beyond the stain of our human nature. Thank you for this being, and opportunity to walk with you, talk with you and serve in any way the Gospel that you lived and preach.

"Walk with me," you say, "the steps and paths that I have trod. The way is stony steep, rough and hard upon the feet. The wind and rain will lash at your face, blind your eyes and soak deep into your tired bones. Know that my way is the way of Calvary and the cross. I do not promise happiness, sweet success, wealth or gain. No recognition, praise or honor comes with my name. Take this rope around your waist and come where I lead.

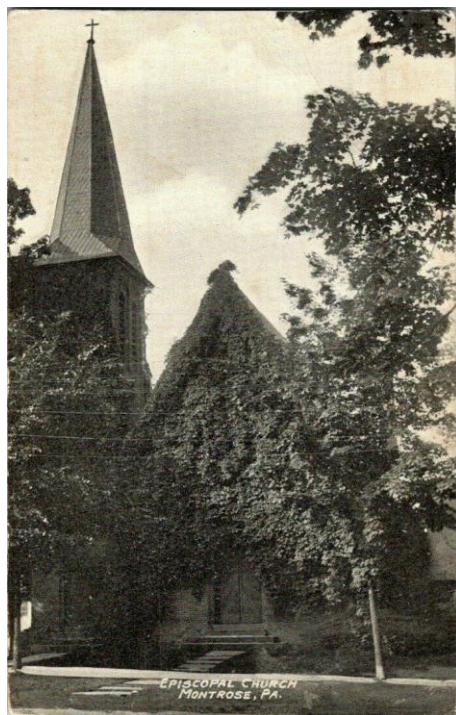
Your words are comfort Lord, in this trail of tears we call a life. Slowly but slowly, the years have stripped away our vanity and now we see that all is naught that does not lead to you. Our foolish wants, childish ambition and need for recognition, our selfish gains, our broken pride, personalized hurt and stubborn unwillingness to forgive.---You have changed us Lord, held up a mirror to our foolish ways, forced us to sing in tune and to listen to one another. You have made us conform to the needs of the many and tossed our egoism into the deepest hole of the Ocean.---Growing old, we thank you, that you have made us, once again children, sitting in the classroom of your stories and love.

One and one now make two; and two and two make four; forty percent of forty is sixteen. Your lessons go on teaching us in every way and every day. "If anyone would be great among you, he must become the servant of all. For who is greater, he who sits at table or he who serves?"-----'Peace be with you', has been your constant message. 'Love one another', the song that you have sung. Continue to teach us Lord, for we are stupid in the ways of the Spirit, learners in this class of special needs. Bring to us the gifts of your Spirit that turn stupidity into wisdom, and unknowing into understanding. Give us the courage to change into the wonder of this great Body and Spirit of Christ.

Only then will, this world of ours change and your Kingdom truly dwell in our midst. Amen

Fr. William McGinty (Fr. Bill) of Christ Church, Forest City, writes a daily Prayer that he sends out in Email. If you would like to be on Fr. Bill's list just let Dan know.

1916 Photograph of St. Paul's



Another nice early photograph of St. Paul's was found on a postcard posted 1916. It was sent by a man who was visiting relatives in Montrose and had attended service at St. Paul's. Again, it makes us wonder how parishioners got in the door. Obviously, not much light came in the rose window. The picture itself was probably taken several years earlier.

The Rev. Ernest George Nosworthy Holmes, a deacon, became our rector from 1914 to 1918. He had been born in England and had originally been a Methodist minister. He was ordained an Episcopal priest while at St. Paul's. In 1916, the year the card was posted, during Rev. Holmes tenure, a new Episcopal Hymnal was released, replacing the 1892 one.

Morning Prayer in Memorial Garden, July 19th



Three for three – we can't ask for better weather. Cathy accompanied us on the piano doing a prelude, postlude and interval meditation. Everyone seemed to like the participatory readings and prayers.