

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S
1957 – 2009
Ed Stark

Margaret Merrell completed her *History of St. Paul's Parish* in 1956. Her *History* began with the organization of a Congregational Church in the home of Joseph Raynsford in 1810, and St. Paul's formation as a part of the Episcopal Church, again through the vision and the efforts of Joseph Raynsford, in 1831. Much of St. Paul's subsequent history is contained in the minutes of vestry meetings, and in the parish newsletter, *News and Views from St. Paul's*, which began monthly publication in the year 2000.

Margaret Merrell's impact on the Episcopal Church was nearly as profound as that of Joseph Raynsford. After graduation from the Eastman School of Music and service in the United States Marine Corps, she became secretary-treasurer of the Hudson Stuck Hospital operated by the Episcopal Church in Fort Yukon, Alaska. Later, she served as secretary to the Bishop of Alaska, in Fairbanks.

From 1966 to 1973 Miss Merrell served as a lay missionary at St. Michael's Mission on the Wind River Indian Reservation in the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming. In 1973 Margaret was ordained Deacon in the Diocese of Wyoming. In 1974 she was ordained Priest becoming Vicar-in-Charge of the Shoshone Episcopal Mission at Fort Washakie. The Rev. Miss Merrell returned to Susquehanna County in 1979 becoming Rector of St. Mark's in New Milford and Christ Church in Susquehanna. When she retired, she was succeeded by the Rev. Canon Carol Horton, another ordained member of St. Paul's. The Rev. Miss Merrell passed away in 2007 at the age of 85.

St. Paul's has always been home to exceptional people. When St. Paul's choir was first vested in 1912, a young man, Robert Welden volunteered to carry the processional cross. Forty-two years later Robert was awarded a silver Celtic cross in honor of his service as Crucifer. Eight years later Robert was again the guest of honor at a dinner honoring *fifty* years of service. Finally in 1977 Robert Welden decided to retire as Crucifer, after *another* testimonial dinner recognizing his *sixty-five* years of continuous service.

Shortly after publication of Miss Merrell's *History*, St. Paul's Rector, The Rev. Mr. Francis Allison resigned to become Executive Director of the Diocesan Conference Center at Glen Summit, Pennsylvania, and in 1957 calls went out to four candidates to replace the Rev. Mr. Allison. A salary of \$4000 per year, a \$400 car allowance and the use of the Rectory were offered, but the position wasn't filled until the salary had been raised to \$4200. Finally, the Rev. Mr. Chester Harris, Rector of Calvary Church Wilkes-Barre became St. Paul's twenty-third Rector, serving in that position for sixteen years.

In 1965 St. Paul's purchased the property east of the church. The following year, the house was demolished and the property was refurbished as a garden, dedicated to the memory of Miss Mary Mitchell who had served as a nurse in the Civil War. The Miss Mary Garden has been a place of quiet beauty ever since. It has been used for outdoor Sunday services for many summers since 1965.

St. Paul's has a history of working with other churches in the area; in 1968 Fr. Irwin, Rector of Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church was guest of honor and speaker at St. Paul's Annual Parish Meeting. In 1982 the pastors of St. Paul's and the Methodist and Presbyterian churches, at a regular ecumenical breakfast, discovered that Msgr. Deuell of Holy Name of Mary had for some time been taking baskets of food to families in need in the local area, regardless of religious affiliation. Following this breakfast, the four congregations created the Ministry of Christian Service, to provide assistance to families in need in the general area. Initially the Ministry created a clothing bank through collections of used clothing, but eventually Susquehanna County Interfaith took over clothing distribution. For the next twenty-five years the Ministry of Christian Service, financed by the four churches, concentrated on food assistance over the Easter and Christmas periods and assistance, as needed throughout the year. In 1982 one hundred eighty-six people were helped with clothing, food baskets and children's Christmas gifts. Later, the Ministry of Christian service began to work with Susquehanna Interfaith to provide assistance during the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. In the early years, Christmas food baskets went to about one hundred families, with Christmas gifts for the children of those families. In 2009, preparations were made for 650 baskets for Easter.

In 1969, Fr. Harris organized the young people of the parish to conduct Matins during Lent, prior to leaving for school in the morning. In 1972, the young Readers were honored at a dinner at the Montrose House.

Over the years, St. Paul's has acquired a number of notable works of art including paintings, enamels and stained glass windows. In 1928 George Comstock presented a painting, *Moses Striking the Rock*, in memory of his wife, Eliza Edgar Comstock. The painting was thought to have been painted by Leandro Bassano in about 1650. Bassano, along with many other painters, did paint "Moses Striking the Rock", but research has shown that Bassano did not paint the work presented to St. Paul's. It is quite possible that St. Paul's version is the product of a student artist, attempting to emulate the techniques employed by Bassano.

It is worth noting that, before the painting could be displayed in the Guild Room, some 'retouching' was done, to bring the dress standards of some of the Israelite ladies up to 20th Century standards.

The painting had been displayed for many years in the Guild Room, but when the Room was redecorated in 1970, Vestry voted to find a buyer. Photographs were sent to art galleries throughout the country, but the best offer was for storage, at a reasonable fee! Instead, the painting was moved to its present location, over the mantle of the fireplace in the Parish house.

Regardless of the painting's authenticity, it represents some interesting insights into the experience of the Israelites, searching under Moses' leadership for the land promised by God. It also reflects something of their – and Moses' - understanding of their relationship with God. Moses 'struck a rock' at least twice in the forty-year ordeal. Moses was an

experienced shepherd and when the Israelites began to suffer from a lack of water, it is quite possible that he would have found water, relying on his shepherding skills. Moses, however, sought God's help and God instructed Moses to strike a specific rock, whereupon a supply of water was provided, as though by a miracle.

Much later in the forty-year journey, the Israelites again faced a severe shortage of water and again, they turned to Moses who in turn, again, sought God's help. It is thought that this time God told Moses to *tell* the rock to give up its water. Instead Moses *struck* the rock twice. God again supplied the needed water, but punished Moses by denying him the opportunity to enter the Promised Land.

Another painting, displayed in the church auditorium, is even more notable than 'Moses'. The painting, entitled *Memoralis* (The Recording Angel) was painted by Carl Gutherz, an early American artist. The painting was presented by Marshall Goodheart, son of the artist, and his wife, Anna Warriner Goodheart, daughter of St. Paul's *Rector Emeritus*, the Rev. Edward A. Warriner. It had been displayed at the Paris Exhibition in 1889 as an example of early American art.

In 1973, the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery of Memphis, Tennessee asked for a photograph of *Memoralis* to be used in a book on Gutherz' paintings. Later in 1988 the painting was loaned to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for display with other works of early American artists, at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, the Brooks Museum and in the Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, in commemoration of the 1889 Paris Exhibition. Later *Memoralis* returned to its original place, above the door to the cloister where the 'Recording Angel' seems to be checking on the comings and goings of St. Paul's parishioners.

The two enamel plaques on the East and West walls at the front of the Nave, were given to St. Paul's by Mrs. Samuel D. Warriner, wife of the donor of St. Paul's parish house.

The enamels depict an event, reported in the Old Testament lesson from Genesis and read on the 11th Sunday after Pentecost.

Jacob, son of Abraham, loved Laban's youngest daughter Rachel, but Jacob was tricked into working fourteen years for Laban, but instead, was given Leah, the older daughter, before he was allowed to have Rachel for his wife. Eventually, of course, God re-named Jacob, Israel; Jacob and Rachel became the parents of Joseph; Joseph acquired a coat of many colors, and eventually saved Egypt from famine.

Erin Elzi of the Frick reference museum in New York tells us that our enamels represent an artistic style developed in Limoges, France some four hundred years ago, and revived in the nineteenth century.

During the middle ages a number of artists had portrayed the story of Jacob, Laban and Rachel in oil paintings, and some of these paintings were used, in turn, as the basis for enamel-on-copper works like those given by Mrs. Warriner. As yet we don't know when,

where or by whom the enamels were created, but they serve as a colorful reminder of God's constant concern with each of our lives, and of the way that concern influences us and our world.

St. Paul's has been home to a number of people who were ordained to the Priesthood of the Episcopal Church, and St. Paul's has been something of a pioneer in the ordination of women to the priesthood. Miss Margaret Merrell, a long-time member of St. Paul's, one of St. Paul's first licensed lay readers, and the author of "*A History of St. Paul's Parish*", was ordained Deacon in 1973, then Priest in 1974. In 1995 another member of St. Paul's, Mrs. Carol Horton was ordained, and both served, eventually as Rectors of St. Mark's and Christ Church. In 1999 after the retirement of the Rev. Henry J. Pease, St. Paul's hired the Rev. Mrs. Elizabeth Moulton as St. Paul's first woman Rector.

In 1966, Ladd Keith Harris, son of the Rector and Mrs. Harris graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary. St. Paul's presented Ladd for ordination to the Diaconate; later, Ladd was ordained Priest, beginning his ordained ministry in the Diocese of Central New York. In 1977 Janet Watrous, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Watrous, was ordained Deacon, and later ordained Priest. In 2009, she became Interim Priest during the final stages of the parish's search for a new Rector.

Montrose is the County Seat of Susquehanna County, but it is essentially a rural county, with the limited population and limited resources typical of rural areas. From its beginning in 1831, St. Paul's has been uniquely blessed with financial support. Even so, its mission has almost always been a distinct challenge. Prior to St. Paul's formation in 1831, the Episcopal Church was represented in this part of the Commonwealth by a missionary, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Marks. The Rev. Mr. Marks ministered to congregations in Springville, Stevensville, Carbondale and New Milford. From 1831 to 1834 he served as Rector at St. Paul's and eventually rectors were found for the other churches, but their retention was frequently a problem.

In 1943 Bishop Sterrett dealt with the problem by creating the "*Susquehanna County Cooperative Ministry*" with two clergymen, the Rev. Mr. Philip Steinmetz, Rector of St. Paul's, and an assistant, the Rev. Mr. Christopher Atkinson in charge. The new Ministry included St. Paul's, St. Mark's and Christ Church. After a year, the Rev. Mr. Atkinson left and a series of rectors served St. Mark's until the Rev. Mr. Eugene Geromel was ordained Deacon in 1973, taking charge of St. Mark's and Christ Church under the leadership of St. Paul's Rector, the Rev. Mr. Henry Pease.

The scarcity of ordained leadership has been a problem throughout the history of this part of the Diocese. For many years St. Mark's and Christ Church have had to share Rectors; St. Andrew's (Springville) last Rector resigned in 1880 and St. Matthew's (Stevensville) lost its last rector a few years later. The distance between the parishes in District VIII, from the cathedral in Bethlehem has added, at least to the perception of the problem and at the same time, the distance from the Triple Cities in New York from the cathedral in Syracuse has been cited as a source of frustration within the Diocese of Central New York. As a result, in 1975 extensive discussions were held concerning the creation of a

new diocese to be made up of parishes in the southern part of the Diocese of Central New York and the northern part of the Diocese of Bethlehem. It was proposed that the new diocese have its cathedral in Binghamton, New York. After considerable discussion, the plan was dropped as impractical.

The Diocese of Bethlehem has made many attempts at including District VIII in its activities, making sure that the District is represented on various diocesan commissions, making pilgrimages to and holding diocesan meetings, and the Diocesan Convention in the District. In 1976 Bishop Gressle confirmed thirty people in District VIII, after which a picnic was held at St. Matthew's. Bishop Gressle attended the picnic wearing a wig, in honor of St. Matthew's long history.

Every parish has 'facilities' problems. Every year or so, St. Paul's vestry minutes refer to the 'water problems' in the basement of the parish house. For many years, each rainstorm was followed by anything from excessive dampness to several inches of water in the basement, and on more than one occasion Vestry learned that the problem had been solved, only to appear yet again after the next storm. One solution involved a sump dug under the lawn in front of the parish house, with a sump pump. This solution served reasonably well until the pump failed without giving notice.

Finally, in 2004 B-Dry Systems of Binghamton, New York was hired to solve the water problem. The solution cost \$10,500, not only solving the problem, but in doing so, greatly increased the value of the parish house to the parish and the community.

In 1976, after nearly a century of inactivity, St. Andrew's last parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith, were authorized to find a buyer for the building housing St. Andrew's in Springville, and it was finally sold.

St. Andrew's had begun life as St. Jude's in 1817. St. Jude's Rector, the Rev. Mr. Samuel Marks resided in Springville. He was Rector of St. Jude's as well as Rector of St. Mark's in New Milford, also holding services at St. Matthew's, and occasionally, in Carbondale. Asa Packer who later became President of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, built St. Jude's first church building in 1829, but a controversy within the parish resulted in St. Jude's being re-chartered in 1832 as St. Andrew's. The parish became inactive when it's last Rector, the Rev. Mr. George Stroud resigned in 1880.

The maintenance of church property is a perpetual expense. In 1963, a major restoration campaign raised nearly \$20,000 for repair work in the church and the parish house. Much of the deterioration needing repair was caused by water and dampness in the basements of the two buildings. In 1971, it became apparent that the life of the church's slate roofing was in need of major repair or replacement. Chester Rose was given the task of raising money for the replacement of the roof which cost more that \$18,000. In 1980 major repairs were made to the steps at the entrance to the belfry. A wheelchair ramp was installed as a part of this project; these two efforts cost \$3377.00. Unfortunately the ramp was found to be too steep and, in 2009, a campaign was begun to build a new and more

useful ramp in the Garth, leading to the entrance to the cloister, between the church and the parish house.

Finally the \$10,500 paid to B-Dry Systems ended the periodic requirement for pumping out the basement and greatly reduced the rate of deterioration of parish property. Herbert Syle supervised the refurbishment of the basement of the parish house, and Vicki Calby organized the decoration of the walls. Lucia Merwin and her daughters, Talissa and Rasun Mehringer designed murals based on illustrations in the Book of Kells, depicting the four gospels. After they had outlined the figures, James Cain and Nathan Syle filled in the various colors. The basement of the parish house, thus, became the 'Celtic Room'.

The Book of Kells is sometimes referred to as the Book of Columba. It is housed at Trinity College, in Dublin, but spent several centuries in the Abbey of Kells, in County Meath. It is thought to have been produced by Celtic monks in around the year 800, or, perhaps, by St. Columba himself, at Iona, off the west coast of Scotland, the site of the first Christian Church in Scotland.

Over the years, St. Paul's music program and its organ have been crucial in supporting the expressions of gratitude, hope and joy contained in countless acts of worship.

In 1866, Mr. William Cooper, Organist and Vestryman, was authorized to travel to Boston to procure an organ for St. Paul's. According to the Rev. Miss Merrell's *History*, he was able to purchase "a fine organ for \$1000, which is really worth \$1500 to \$1800".

In 1907, Vestry allocated \$2.50 per week to be paid to a boy to pump the organ, but by 1908 Vestry had decided that it was time to purchase a new instrument. In 1912 the new water-powered organ, constructed by the Beeman Company was installed, at a cost of about \$3000. The new organ was dedicated to the memory of St. Paul's Rector Emeritus, the late Rev. Edward Warriner. The Choir was vested for the first time in 1912, partly in honor of the new organ. Robert Welden, Joe's Dad, began his 65-year service as Crucifer, leading the choir in the processional. Miss Fannie Bunnell, in the middle of her forty-three year career as organist played the new organ until her retirement in 1934. Miss Bunnell was succeeded as organist, by a number of gifted musicians including Mrs. Wallace Goodfellow, Mrs. Ralph Wade, Mrs. May Little and Glynnis Morgan, a high school student, daughter of Warren and Mary Morgan. Joyce Prinz also served as St. Paul's organist; Katherine Couper Watrous, mother of the Rev. Janet Watrous, played the organ, usually on special occasions. In 1994 Mary Ann DeWitt retired after thirty-two years as St. Paul's organist. Three years later, Scott Zimmerman, Montrose Area High School Choir Director was hired as St. Paul's Organist.

The organ served for many years, with periodic repair, upgrading and refurbishment, but in 1995, it was decided that major changes were in order. A new console was constructed and various electro-mechanical components were replaced with modern, solid-state electronic devices. The cost of upgrading the \$3000 instrument was approximately \$24,000.

St. Paul's is a part of the Diocese of Bethlehem. 'Bethlehem' means place of Bread', and in 1998 the Diocese conducted a "Share The Bread" festival in a location more central to the Diocese, in the Armory at Wilkes-Barre. Robert Smith designed a new banner, based on the Tiffany window representation of our patron, St. Paul. The banner was carried in the procession opening the 'Share The Bread' celebration.

The Bishop, the Right Reverend Paul Marshall took the occasion to present the Diocese's "Woman of the Year" award to a long-time member of St. Paul's, Mary Jane Syle, for her twenty years of work within the parish and the Diocese. Later that year, the Bishop and Mrs. Marshall attended a retirement dinner for the Rev. Mr. Pease. The Rev. Everett Francis was hired as Interim Rector, during the search for a new Rector, and Maggie Sock and Paula Placko began producing a newsletter, "*News And Views From St. Paul's*". The following year Helen Viteritto was hired as St. Paul's Parish Secretary.

In 1999, The Rev. Elizabeth J. Moulton was hired as St. Paul's Rector. The rectory had been sold earlier in the year, and the proceeds from the sale - \$65,000 - were deposited in the Diocesan Investment Trust and designated as "St. Paul's Housing Fund". The Rector's Compensation package was modified to include a housing allowance, permitting rectors to use the allowance for rent, or to build equity in privately-owned housing. Later in the year, Ed Ochse and Kevin Brewster spent several weeks, refinishing the floor of the church auditorium. Vestry pledged \$1000 to the Presiding Bishop's Fund to be used in the rebuilding of homes destroyed by a hurricane, in Honduras. The following year, St. Paul's sent \$500 for the Diocese's Sudan Refugee Emergency fund.

In 2000 John Pease, son of retired Rector Fr. Henry Pease attempted to start a business in Ecuador. He had left his wife and three sons to travel to another country to purchase needed equipment. During his absence his wife was murdered and his children abducted. Fr. Pease traveled to Ecuador, rescuing his grandchildren and bringing them to live with him in Wyoming County. Vestry voted to authorize two offerings to help with his expenses.

Scott Finlon and Heather Brewster started the New Year – 2001 – by traveling to New York City to represent St. Paul's at a Nightwatch celebration in the cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Garfield and Elizabeth McKenzie had been faithful and active members of St. Paul's for many years. In 2001 their daughters, Anne Rogers and Betsy Bailey donated a new slate walk in the Garth in their memory. Kay Watrous donated \$5000 for St. Paul's Outreach program, and \$5000 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

The daughter of Jack and the Rev. Elizabeth Moulton, Dr. Katherine Moulton had just begun teaching Geology at Kent State University in Ohio when she died in a traffic accident. A memorial fund was set up in her memory, to finance a girl's school in Kajo Keji, our companion diocese in the Sudan. The school is called the "Dr. Katherine L. Moulton Memorial Secondary School for Girls. The men of the region hand made, and fired 75,000 bricks for use in the building. Later, in 2003 St. Paul's new chapter of

Daughters of the King established a scholarship fund, for a woman from St. Paul's companion parish in Kajo Keji. In August, the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese met for a picnic at St. Matthews where they heard Jack Moulton report on progress in Pomoju Parish.

A memorial service was held in honor of Jonathon Randall who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center in 2001 in New York. Jonathon was the son of Charles and Hedi Randall of Silver Lake.

The parish house added immeasurably to the life of the parish and the community when it was built in 1927, and in 1965 St. Paul's was further enhanced by the purchase of the property on the west side of the church. This, the 'Knoll' property has become St. Paul's Memorial Garden, dedicated to the memory of Miss Mary Mitchell, who served the Union Army as a nurse, during the Civil War.

The date of the parish Annual Meeting had been established as the Sunday nearest St. Paul's Day, in January, but in 1973 Vestry approved revisions to St. Paul's charter (1) moving the date of the Annual Meeting to the first Sunday in May; (2) changing the minimum age required to vote to 18; (3) defining 'contributing member' as a baptized member making financial contributions to the parish, attending services with reasonable regularity; and, (4) establishing Vestry at nine members, each eligible for two three-year terms, two years to elapse between two-year term periods.

In 1973 the Rev. Mr. Geromel was ordained Priest, and appointed Rector of St. Mark's in New Milford, with responsibility also for Christ Church, Susquehanna. It was decided that since St. Paul's, St. Mark's and Christ Church constitute a single ministry, services would be shared with Fr. Pease conducting services at St. Paul's and St. Mark's one Sunday each month, with Fr. Geromel taking two services at St. Paul's. Fr. Pease was designated 'Priest-In-Charge' of St. Mark's, Christ Church and St. Matthew's, with responsibility for the cemetery in Great Bend, formerly associated with Grace Church. Further, Fr. Pease arranged for the Rector of Zion Church in Windsor, New York to conduct periodic services at Christ Church.

In 1976 increases in the cost of heating the buildings and a very cold winter led to moving Sunday morning worship services from the church to the parish house, and a coffee hour was initiated, possibly in response to the intimacy resulting from the informal seating arrangement in the parish house. The following year the coal-fired furnace used to heat the church was replaced by an oil-fired furnace at a cost of over \$15,000.

In 1985 a Community Access television channel was installed in the basement of the parish house; St. Paul's began making video recordings of the 10:00 AM Sunday service, broadcasting the service at 11:15 AM.

In 1987 Fr. Pease began teaching a two-year course, "Education for Ministry", organized by the University of the South. Seven members of the class graduated in 1987 and a second EFM session was started.

In 1979, St. Paul's investments had been moved from the County National Bank to the Northeastern Bank, because of the ability of the Northeastern bank to pay increased dividends. The investments were again moved, in 1985, into the Diocesan Investment Trust where another increase in dividends was realized.

St. Paul's has had responsibility for maintaining St. Matthew's in Stevensville for many years, maintaining the building and grounds, and making sure that worship services are held at St. Matthew's during the summer months. In 1990 two Boy Scouts, H.T. Allen and Matthew Lewis organized cleanup and repair sessions at St. Matthew's as part of their qualification for Eagle Scout status. Kevin Tompkins, their Leader was approved by Vestry to receive the St. George Award for his work with the Boy Scouts. In that same year, Sarah Cornell, a High School student, was elected as Youth Member to St. Paul's Vestry.

In 1992 Two older members of the parish were honored, Florence Courtright for her many years of outstanding Christian service to St. Paul's, on her one hundredth birthday, and Garfield McKenzie, who had been elected "Man of the Year" by the Montrose Chamber of Commerce.

In 1998 St. Paul's began to take a more active part in the annual Independence Day celebration; Hap Syle organized a hot dog sale, during the parade, in the Garden. The proceeds of the sale, \$318, were given to The Rev. Carol Horton to be used in repair and refurbishment in Christ Church, Susquehanna.

The Rose window, over the entrance to the church, had begun to deteriorate, and in 1993, Conrad Bour was hired to refurbish it. The Rose window and two of the stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired at a cost of \$13,000. The windows were returned and re-installed the following year.

In 2002, under the leadership of Rachel Warriner Bartron, Tom Syle, Paula Placko and Joyce McCleary, and with \$15,000 donated by St. Paul's, an After-School End-of-Day program was started, at the Lathrop Street Elementary School. The program offers supervised activities for students who would otherwise arrive home before their parents. The After School End-of-Day program received a grant of \$1000 from the Diocese's Social Ministry and Good Neighbor program, and another \$5000 from the TALBOT Hall fund; Rachel Bartron became the new End-of-Day program Director.

Also in 2003, a fire destroyed much of the Fairdale Community Church, and St. Paul's sent \$100 to help with repairs to the building.

Bill Rathbone, son of Patty Ochse Aiken and one of St. Paul's acolytes, enlisted in the Army National Guard. In 2003 Bill graduated from Basic Training at Fort Benning, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, specializing in Heavy Equipment operation in the Army Engineer Corps. Bill was deployed to South Korea. Also in 2003, the Rector's husband, Jack Moulton traveled to St. Paul's companion

parish, Pomoju parish, to provide agricultural assistance in planning for the 2003 growing season.

A chapter of the “Daughters of the King”, the St. Brigid Abbess of Kildare chapter was established at St. Paul’s. Sarah Bertsch-Johnson was elected President, Margaret Baker, Vice President, Brenda Syle, Treasurer and Judith Ochse, Secretary. The following year, the Daughters of the King began to support the education of a young woman, Meling Segovia, in the Diocese of Kajo Keji.

The year, 2004, was busy year for St. Paul’s. Rachel Barton started a “Mother’s Day Out”, with mothers and pre-school children meeting in the second floor of the parish house, on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 am. The diocesan Talbot Hall fund made an award of \$5000 to the End-of-Day after school program, and the parish congregation donated \$1390 to Kajo Keji, matched with \$1390 from Rev. Elizabeth and Jack Moulton. A plaque was placed on the wall of the church, dedicated to the memory of Mary Harris Morgan, who had served St. Paul’s for nearly sixty years. The plaque was placed adjacent to Mary’s pew.

St. Paul’s was notified of the sudden death of Dr. Ray Horton, husband of the Rev. Canon Carol Horton, Rector of St. Matthew’s and Christ Church. Dr. Horton was a noted musician and teacher. He was organist at Sr. Mary’s Abbey at the Delbarton School in New Jersey, where he was also head of the music department. He was also organist and music director since 1975, at St. Park’s Episcopal Church in Needham, New Jersey. Dr. Horton and the Rev. Carol had been married for 23 years.

In 2005, the Rector, the Rev. Elizabeth Moulton began her sabbatical; The Rev. Canon Charles Cesaretti began his service as Interim Rector during Rev. Moulton’s absence. Fr. Cesaretti has retired in New Milford, from his position on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, in New York.

A new chapter, #2499-5 of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew was formed in 2005, with Fr. Dan Sullivan of St. Stephen’s Wilkes-Barre as sponsor. Members of the chapter are Ed Ochse, David Calby, John Eidenier, Jack Moulton, Scott Zimmerman, and Al Leigh. Jerry Sock and Gene Daniels are expected to join later.

Rachel Bartron started a ‘Mothers’ Day Out’: Mothers and small children meet at 11:00am each Monday, in the Sunday School rooms above the church, for informal play.

Jack Moulton has traveled to Russia, Mozambique, South Africa, Romania, Macedonia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Southern Sudan and Uganda over the past several years, providing agricultural advice. This year he spent two weeks in Paraguay, as a part of his service through the American Agricultural Association.

Rachel Warriner Bartron, granddaughter of the Rev. Emeritus, Edward A. Warriner, was appointed St. Paul’s Senior Warden. Rachel is St. Paul’s second woman to serve as senior

warden, following Sue (Little) Smith. Sue Smith passed away in 2005; she will be sorely missed.

The Diocesan Episcopal Church Women has found a need for underwear and socks, in the public schools for children of families in need. Judie Ochse, School Nurse, has seen the same need in Montrose; St. Paul's began a celebration of 'Undie Sunday', October 16th, when parishioners are encouraged to bring children's underwear and socks for distribution throughout the school district.

The Rev. Mrs. Moulton announced her intention to retire at the end of 2005. The following year, 2006, the Rev. Canon Charles Cesaretti was hired to serve as Interim Rector until a new, full-time rector can be found. Fr. Cesaretti had retired to New Milford, from a position on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, in New York City.

Fr. Cesaretti graduated from Rutgers University in 1962 with a degree in History. He received a Master of Divinity degree in 1965 and a Master of Theology degree in 1975. He was ordained Priest in 1965, serving in parish churches from 1966 to 1974. Subsequently Fr. Cesaretti served on the Executive Council of the Diocese of New York and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church in the United States, retiring in 1998. Fr. Charles had served the Church in Central America, Africa, the Middle East and Northern Ireland. He served as Interim Priest at St. Paul's from 2006 until 2009; during his service at St. Paul's, he engaged the parish in an intense period of self-examination, encouraging significant expansions in parish outreach within the community, the diocese and, especially, in St. Paul's companion parish, in Pomoju in the Diocese of Kajo Keji, in the Southern Sudan.

A quartet made up of Molly Brunner, Ryan and Matthew Ochse, and Zachry Warriner played special music as a prelude to the Childrens' Christmas Service on Christmas Eve, 2005.

During the year, St. Paul's began to celebrate the Eucharist at 5:30 pm each Wednesday; the service is a Healing Service, on each third Wednesday. The 'Mothers'-Day-Out' program expanded to two days per week, on Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00 noon and on Fridays from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Children, mothers and grandmothers meet for art, music and seasonal activities.

In 2006 a committee was organized to search for a new rector. Nancy Finlon and Scott Quigg are co-chairmen; the committee includes Else Brunner, James Cain, Vicki Calby, Ellie McKeage, Ed Ochse, Betty Smith, Jerry Sock, Ed Stark and Mary Jane Syle. The committee began the development of a parish profile.

Bill Rathbone, son of Patty Aiken is stationed with the U.S. Army at Kandahar Air Base in Afghanistan.

Zachry Warriner, son of Sue Warriner was named Montrose Are School Student of the Month.

Daughters of the King began making prayer shawls to be given to people in need of comforting.

The Rev. Canon Carol Horton has accepted a call to St. Thomas' Church in Alexandria, New Jersey. She will also resume teaching Music at the Delbarton School.

Sarah Warriner and Scott Finlon have assumed leadership of the Journey to Adulthood program. Eleanor McKeage, long-time member of St. Paul's; Vestry member; Clerk of Vestry; Altar Guild Director; Property Chairman; named Montrose Chamber of 'Commerce Citizen of the Year.

St. Paul's began a 'Crafter's Corner' on the first Friday of each month. People with special crafts are encouraged to display their crafts, for sale, as a fund-raiser for the parish and as a way for crafters to profit financially from their special skills.

Jackie Viteritto, sixteen year old daughter of Helen Viteritto, Altar Guild Director and former parish Secretary died in an automobile accident; a scholarship fund has been set up, in her memory, and a number of fund-raising events have been planned to contribute to the fund.

St. Paul's Youth Group has decided to raise \$7000 for Bishop Paul's New Hope campaign. The New Hope campaign will fund schools and educational programs for children and youth in Kajo Keji, our companion diocese in the Southern Sudan.

Judy Ochse, school nurse in the Montrose Area School District realized that many children in the district need underwear and socks, among other things and so she started a project to collect items needed by the schoolchildren. The list of requested items includes clothing items, underwear, socks, toothbrushes, books, stuffed toys and blankets. Sophie Reimenschneider named the project, "Project Lamb" in memory of Jesus as the 'Lamb', and because of the fleece used in making the blankets. Sophie, Molly Brunner, Matthew and Ryan Ochse, and Ben Zalewski were able to put themselves in the frame of minds of children about to spend their first night in foster homes. They put together a list of items to be collected and distributed, then packaged the collected items and delivered them to the nurses at the Lathrop Street and Choconut schools.

During Easter Week 2007, five hundred and fifty families six hundred needy families received Easter dinners, distributed by a consortium of area churches and welfare agencies. More than six hundred families were fed during Easter Week of 2008. Food, and more than \$6000 was contributed. Each family received, along with the food baskets, a card inviting them to pick up a free coat, sweater and blanket at the American Legion Post.

In 2008, the tradition of summer services at St. Matthew's was continued. Services were held each Saturday at 5:00 pm from July 5th through September 6th. A summer Music Camp was held at St. Paul's, for children ages 4 to 12 at 9:00 to 11:30 AM on June 24-27 at St. Paul's. The Music Camp was under the direction of Sarah Birchard and Jamie Dean-Brackett.

Members of St. Paul's attended the funeral of The Rev. Mr. Henry J. Pease, retired Rector of St. Paul's, on April 19th, 2008 at St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre. The Rev. Mr. Pease was Rector of St. Paul's from 1972 to 1998, the second-longest serving Rector after the Rev. Edward A. Warriner. The Rev. Mr. Pease came to St. Paul's after having served as Assistant at St. Stephen's. During his retirement, he served as Priest-in-Charge at St. George's, Nanticoke. He had also served for many years as Adjunct Professor of Economics at King's College in Wilkes-Barre.

Paul Spencer Adkins, son-in-law of Jennie Adams Bowen was soloist, again, at St. Paul's Sunday service in May of 2008. Paul is a prominent operatic tenor, winner of the first Luciano Pavarotti Voice Competition, having performed throughout the United States and Europe.

In June, Maggie McGee Sock completed ten years as the founder and leader of the team producing *News and Views From St. Paul's*.

St. Paul's vestry organized a *Spirit of Summer at Historic St. Paul's* program, beginning with Paul Adkins' performance on May 25th. The program included the Daughters of the King Celtic Dinner on June 6th; Children's Music Camp on June 24-27th; participation in the July 4th parade; Youth Movie/Crafts Day on July 12th; Guest Preacher, the Rev. Morgan Silbaugh on the 13th; participation in the County Library's Blueberry Festival; Saturday services at St. Matthew's; and Ice Cream festival on August 3rd; and Susan Klein, a puppeteer, performed at the morning service on Sunday, September 14th. Sixty-five children attended the Music Camp in June.

On June 17-20, twenty-five children of the Diocesan 6th, 7th and 8th grade children were housed at St. Paul's for the diocesan Junior High Mission. The children visited Salt Springs Park, ending with a white-water rafting trip on the Delaware River.

On August 13, The Diocesan ECW held a picnic at St. Matthew's in Stevensville. The Rev. Edward K. Erb was the speaker and the Rt. Rev. Paul Marshall celebrated the Eucharist. St. Paul's annual parish picnic was held on September 14th, also at St. Matthew's.

Charles Warwick, candidate for the Diaconate, spent the summer of 2008 as an Intern at St. Paul's.

People attending worship services at St. Paul's are met by an usher, who hands out bulletins and directs worshippers to available pews, and by Greeters, who try to make visitors, especially, welcome. St. Paul's has also begun to make a 'Welcoming Loaf' of

bread available, to visitors, at the coffee hour following the service. A recipe for bread, to be maintained in the freezer in the kitchen, has been prepared.

Angel Food Ministries began in Georgia ten years ago when a church began putting together food baskets, at very low price. The Ministry exists all over the country today, and St. Paul's has begun to participate. Frozen food parcels valued at well over fifty dollars are provided for \$30 each, on the third Saturday of the month, at the Bridgewater Baptist Church. Volunteers from each of the local churches assist in taking food reservations and in distributing the packages.

On Sunday, September 14th, St. Paul's began a venture in evening worship. St. Paul's will host an ecumenical vesper service on the 2nd Sunday of each month, at 5:00 pm. Members of each of the churches in Montrose will participate. Each service will include readings of Psalms and scripture, silent meditation, reflections and music. Each service will be followed by a simple meal. The meal following the first service was prepared by members of Holy Name of Mary Church.

The school year, 2008-2009 has been designated in the Diocese, the "Year of the Child". September 28th, 2008 began the Year with the monthly Children's Service, with children serving as assistant ushers, greeter, lectors and junior choir. Fr. Cesaretti preached a special children's sermon. September 28th was also "Undie Sunday" when churches in the area collected money and clothing items to be distributed through the various school districts. The Adult Forum, held in the parish house after the morning worship service had resumed on September 14th, after a summer break. The Forum focuses on discussion of God's intent for our lives.

St. Paul's Search Committee continued its efforts to produce a parish profile, and to think and to pray in the process of finding a new rector. St. Paul's has also begun to think, instead of about three independent parishes within the same geographic area, about three congregations: St. Marks New Milford, Christ Church Susquehanna and St. Paul's Montrose – all 'under one Roof'. At this time, none of the three parishes has a Rector; the parish is beginning to think very seriously about worshipping 'under one roof' – and – under one leader.

St. Paul's 'Crafters Corner' re-opened in October, 2008. Area Crafters display their wares on the third Friday of each month, providing exposure that has resulted, in a number of cases, in crafters being able to offer their items in area stores. Crafters Corner makes available many attractive gift ideas, but also features some excellent lunch opportunities, in St. Paul's kitchen. Brunch is served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and dinner, from 2:00 pm until 6:00.

St. Paul's and Holy Name of Mary again shared the 'Blessing of the Animals' on Sunday, October 5th. This event commemorates the life and ministry of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, birds and the environment, and helps to remind us of our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation.