



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.

Aug 23 - 29, 2020

**Morning Prayer in the Memorial Garden
Sunday, Aug 23 at 10:00 am or inside if bad
weather.**

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Barbara Undercoffler & Karen Blye-McAbee

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Officiant: Ellen Ely

Counters: Steve Kupscznk & Richard Marker

Greeter/Usher: Vickie Calby & Martha

Kupscznk

Readings for this week

First Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms: 124

Epistle: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Make a Joyful Noise

Have you ever wanted to sing your heart out besides in the shower? Your opportunity is here! The residents at Meadow View Skilled Nursing Center have been on lockdown since March. They have had no visitors and thankfully, because of no visitors, no cases of Covid-19. We had to stop reading Morning Prayer with them, which we did monthly before the pandemic. The residents need a boost in spirits.

We are looking for volunteers on Wednesday, August 26, to meet at Meadow View at 10:30 a.m. to show the residents that we haven't forgotten them. They cared for us in their day

as teachers, electricians, plumbers, grocery store workers, dental hygienists, etc., etc. Now is our turn to show them we remember their contributions and we care about them. They need us now.

We will remain outside the building. We will say a shortened, modified version of Morning Prayer, which the residents say they miss. Then, using their piano keyboard played by Joyce Printz, and St. Paul's new amplifier and microphones, we will sing hymns and secular songs familiar to them. We need your voice and it doesn't matter if you're a virtuoso or can't carry a tune. There will be no America's Got Talent judges present. The residents will be inside and they need to hear us. Believe me, this will be a bright spot in their day regardless of our singing abilities.

Another idea is to bring a hand-made poster board sign with a happy message. Something joyful that they can hang up as a remembrance of our time with them. Use your imagination. They will be grateful.

Hope to see you at Meadow View. If it rains on Wednesday, we will try again on Thursday same time.

Lynne

Who Do You Say I Am?

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is the scripture verses known as Peter's Confession of Christ. Jesus called Simon Peter and his

brother Andrew as his first disciples. They were fishermen and dropped their fishing nets without a backwards glance. Peter is portrayed throughout the Gospels as pretty rough around the edges. I imagine he had no idea where a life of following Jesus would lead.

Time and again, Peter says the wrong thing or asks Jesus for an explanation of a parable. He blunders his way along, trying to do the right thing. He may not have been the sharpest pencil in the box, but Jesus chose him for a reason. Peter tried to walk to Jesus on water, but his faith waivered and Jesus had to save him from drowning. Peter suggested building shelters for Jesus, Moses and Elijah on the mountain of the transfiguration. He made an inappropriate response to the transfiguration by focusing on earthly things. Peter told Jesus, "You shall never wash my feet" and was rebuked for his misunderstanding. And, of course, Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed after Jesus' arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. That must have truly been a low point in Peter's life.

We all have some of Peter in us, don't we? We ask inappropriate questions, we bumble along in our faith journey, we're not sure of the right way to respond to Jesus. Our prayers are too infrequent and our faith waivers. Like Peter, we just don't get it most of the time. But, Peter got it right when it mattered. Jesus asked him, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." He nailed that one! Jesus goes on to say that "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." That's a powerful confirmation of Peter's deep understanding of the one thing that mattered. We can all claim that confession, too. We say it in the Apostles Creed every Sunday. And with Jesus' affirmation of his church and that it will not be

overcome, we can know that Jesus chose us for a reason too.

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord*

...

The Book of Remembrance is a book in which the names of the members of each parish who entered into life eternal and for whom a memorial thank offering has been made are recorded each year. The Book of Remembrance tradition was established in 1938 in loving memory of Ruth Linderman, treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Bethlehem from 1913 until 1938.

Due to Covid-19, the Diocesan Convention will be held virtually this year on Oct. 3, 2020. The Book of Remembrance tradition will be pre-recorded, and read, on-line the day of the convention. Due to the change in procedure this year, I am requesting that all names be sent to the Diocese no later than Sept. 11, 2020. The names which are received after Sept. 11 will not be read this year and will be held until next year's Diocesan Convention, 2020, and read at that time.

Checks for the memorial offerings should be made out to "The Diocese of Bethlehem – BoR (Book of Remembrance)" and sent to the:

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
333 Wyandotte Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Thank you for being flexible during these unprecedented times. The deadline for submitting names to be read at this year's convention is Sept. 11, 2020. All names submitted after that date will be read at the convention in 2021.

Birthdays for August: Robert Aiken 8/23, Thomas Syle 8/25, Margaret Burgh 8/28, James Earley 8/29 and Patty Aiken 8/30.

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.

5 Photos this week.

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart comes evil intentions, murders, adultery, fornication, thefts, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile." *Matthew 15: 16-20*

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer

On this grey wet early morning when the rain has come down to soak the garden and grass, we rise to pray and thank you Lord for this day. Yesterday was a little colder, the sun hiding its face, there is a change in the air, and we pray for all who travel, farmers in the fields, truck-drivers on long weary hauls and all who turn the wheels of our living.

Seasons come and go, in this 'Year of the Plague', undaunted by anything else that is happening. Once again we realize, too late as it seems, that we are not the Rulers of the Universe, Controllers of the Elements, but rather children of chance and circumstance. We exist on this tennis ball that rolls around in space, around a Sun, 93 .1 million miles away. To travel across our 'Milky Way Galaxy' would take 197,000 light years. That is 197 thousand years traveling at the speed of light. At present we can just about travel at the speed of sound; the speed of light is somewhat faster.

Yet Lord, we forget, fail to appreciate, the God who made the stars and put everything in its place. The God of Light and Wonder; the God of many Universes; the God who is not limited by Space and for whom Time does not exist. You, Our God, are pure

Spirit, an Eternal Thought, that sustains, holds, moves, creates, and creates ceaselessly.----Why O why do we hold ourselves so high in our own estimation? When the smallest virus can bring us down; a sneeze, a cough, a touch brings us to our knees. Help us Lord in this time of isolation, fear and plague, to turn to you once more and see in you the source of all life. For you hold us, sustain us, mother us in our time of nurturing.

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.

Sunday Service in the Garden

Again, the weather cooperated and we were able to have the service last Sunday outside. With Cathy Hammons recovering from some surgery, Joyce Printz took up the music duties and played the prelude, the piano meditation (*What Wondrous Love Is This*) and the postlude. Tom Undercoffler volunteered to read one of the lessons. Weather permitting; we will be moving inside the church for the service on Sunday, September 13th.



Montrose Mobile Food Pantry August 14th

As you may know, the Montrose Mobile Food Pantry has moved from the Methodist Church on Church Street to the Community Church on Rt. 29 in South Montrose. Food is still distributed on the second Friday of the month and St. Paul's parishioners are still volunteering. They set up distribution in the parking lot. They had Karen directing traffic and there were no reports of any accidents!!! It all went smoothly. If you would like to help out, talk to Lynne or Karen.



Bread Basket

Please don't forget the bread basket on Sunday. We have not been covering our monthly bread donation.

