

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.

Nov. 22 - 28, 2020

Morning Prayer Sun. Nov 22 at 10:00am
online <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>


This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski
Officiant: Lynne Graham

Readings for this week

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm: 100
Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Altar Flowers this week are Peggy Alison Hamlin In Memory of The Rev. W. Francis and Karlotta Allison, Donald and Geoffrey Hamlin and Elizabeth Hamlin.

Free Soup Night

Wednesday, December 2nd
4:30 to 6:30 P.M.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Montrose, Pa.
Chestnut St. Entrance
Choice of Chicken Noodle
Or Cream of Broccoli
Roll, applesauce, and cookie included

It was Thursday, August 20, 2020. I was recovering well from back surgery the previous week. In fact, I had just finished emailing a couple of members of our congregation to that effect, when I noticed that my legs felt a little weak. Little did I know that before the next morning I would be in the emergency room of the Endless Mountains Hospital, having arrived by ambulance with a gradually-increasing muscle weakness that would end in almost complete paralysis and a transfer to Scranton's Geisinger Community Hospital's ICU.

While there, I received a five-day treatment of immunoglobulin for Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a rare auto-immune disorder that attacks the lining of the nerves, leaving them unable to receive or send impulses to the muscles. It had nothing to do with the back surgery, by the way. Just unlucky timing. I was told from the outset that I would recover, but that it would take a long time. After about six days I was transferred from ICU to a floor with less-intense care. (Incidentally, the ICU is **not** a fun place to be! Not enough nurses, no clock, no TV; it's like being left alone in a cave. Plus, I was pretty scared.)

All told, I was at GCMH for two weeks, then went to the Allied Rehabilitation Center, where I expected to spend three months at least before coming home. As it happened, I was there only six and a half weeks, a record time. They called me their poster child! I received intensive physical and occupational therapies, working on strength, mobility, endurance and fine motor skills. I can't give enough credit to the therapists there for their skill and compassion.

I've been home now for four weeks. My recovery continues; every day I notice an improvement, especially in endurance and strength. Every day I can do something that I couldn't do a few days before. It's frustrating not to be able to do something, but exciting when I discover I can. My doctor, Dr. Khalil at EMHS, to whom I also give much credit - he was the one who first recognized my condition as Guillain-Barre-says full recovery can take another six months to a year. So in a year's time, watch out! I'll be ready to roar!

As scary and horrible as my experience was, I tried to focus on living one day at a time, and observing the positives in the situation. And there were so many positives. I learned patience; compassion for others, like my several roommates; joy in the little things, like daily improvements; and thankfulness for the care I was receiving, or the view of a beautiful day from my window.

But most of all, for experiencing the outpouring of love and concern from so many of you. I was overwhelmed by it. So many cards, texts, email messages, visits from Fr. Charles and Lynne- and most of all, prayers- to me and my son. I credit those prayers and outreach from my church family and friends with having at least as much to do with my recovery as my therapists. They all said they had never seen a Guillain-Barre patient recover as fast as I did. And I would nod and pray prayers of thanksgiving for all of you.

I am so blessed to be a part of the St. Paul's family! You helped me recover, and to realize that Montrose truly is my home now, and in such a rich way. Praise God! And thanks to you!

Cathy Hammons

Wanted Snow Shoveler at St. Paul's Church in Montrose for the 2020-2021 year. Call Dan Graham at 570-396-7611

Vestry Highlights November 12, 2020

We opened the meeting with prayer and approved the agenda.

The minutes of the October 8, 2020 meeting were approved. Lynne reported that Bishop Kevin has suspended in-person gatherings at church effective November 22 through December 20 in an effort to curtail spreading the Coronavirus.

We reflected on the Vestry retreat. Some felt that they did not grasp the purpose of the retreat and felt the content was not focused enough on our three parish relationship. We discussed the early church as one church in many places and extrapolated that to our situation. We are the one church in Susquehanna County with three congregations. As Paul has said, many parts of the same body. As the body of Christ and the Episcopal presence in Susquehanna County, we are called to bring the good news of the Gospel to all. St. Paul's should be doing all in our power to support and build up St. Mark's and Christ Church so that they can be successful in their communities.

Report on updating the internet—we have been monitoring the upload and download speeds of both Frontier and Spectrum. As Frontier seems compatible with Spectrum speeds right now, we will keep Frontier until our contract expires before switching to Spectrum, thus avoiding a termination fee. We voted to pay Kurt Sussman monthly to administer our Facebook and website.

We will offer a free, take-out soup dinner on Wednesday, December 2 from 4:30 to 6:30.

We will not submit a proof of claim to the Boy Scouts of America as they are not indebted to us at this parish.

We approved Christmas bonuses for our staff.

We accepted the Treasurer's report and approved the Assessment and Acceptance to the Diocese as per the statement we received.

We approved the audit for 2019 which has been completed by William Owens.

The Advent booklet has been prepared and will be made available to all who want them.

We need leaders for Morning Prayer and volunteers to write an article for the weekly updates.

Lynne closed the meeting in prayer.

Next meeting: Thursday, December 10, 2020

Coats for the Community

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose
Dec. 16-17 from 9am to 1pm

Check your closets for any warm, gently used coats you no longer need. Ask your grandchildren for their outgrown coats, too. We are accepting donations. Just leave them at church. Talk to John or Dan if you can help with the distribution at St. Paul's Church.

Interfaith Christmas Dinner



We will be collecting 50 boxes of Stuffing Mix for the Christmas Dinner. We need all stuffing donations no later than **Dec. 3rd**. We only need 7 more boxes to meet our goal.



Trehab Thanksgiving Feed A Friend

Due to the Covid pandemic, the program is still going on but being totally restructured without the food drives. They are taking monetary donations. They will not have a designated giveaway day. Their staff will hand out Thanksgiving Food throughout the month of November and recipients will utilize vouchers at the local grocery stores to pick up their turkeys.

Trehab/Feed a Friend
PO Box 366
Montrose, PA 18801



Christmas Toy Tags

We have 4 tags left of the 20 tags. Gifts should be valued at \$30. Gifts are to be unwrapped with the tag securely attached. If batteries are required, please include them with the gift. All Gifts must be brought to the Church by **Dec 6th**.



Donate Diapers for Mary's Baby by Dec. 13

Luke's Gospel tells us that Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." This nativity story tells of a young mother striving to care for her baby under tough conditions. It may also remind us of the challenges faced in 2020 by some young mothers in Susquehanna County.

To connect personally with the struggles of many young mothers today, parishioners of our three Upper Susquehanna County congregations are asked to donate a package of diapers and/or wipes by December 13th. (For shopping comparison purposes, a package of 31 new-born diapers appears to cost in the range of \$10-15.) Bring them to church by Sunday, December 13. The wardens will deliver our donations to different organizations that have agreed to distribute them to mothers in need. The Women's Resource Center and CareNet in Montrose especially need larger size diapers. Christ Church will deliver to the Trehab Food Bank in Susquehanna.

This Advent project will help us focus on preparing for baby Jesus in our lives.

An Advent of Anticipation

Advent is the season that begins the new church year. This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 29 and continues through Christmas Eve. Advent is an anticipatory season as we prepare for Christmas by readying our hearts for the newborn Jesus. During this time of expectancy, we not only remember the birth of Jesus, we call to mind the promise of the second coming.

Along with Christ Church, Susquehanna, and St. Mark's, New Milford, I invite us to consider several components that will help us focus on the season: our spiritual development, community involvement, pastoral care for shut-ins, and, finally, our Christmas Eve service.

Each parishioner will be offered a devotional booklet that will include the Collect for the week, a scripture reading for each day taken from the Daily Office in the BCP, a meditation which uses Lectio Divina (which will be explained in the booklet), and a time for silence and personal prayer. Anyone wishing a printed copy please call the office.

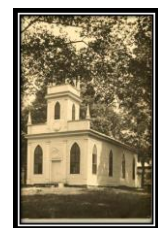
Because baby Jesus is the reason for the season, we will respond to a need in the community by donating baby clothes, diapers, formula, and baby food to Interfaith and the Women's Resource Center. These items will be collected during Advent and blessed in a liturgy on Sunday, December 13.

We will reach out to our shut-ins in a way that allows them to feel included and special. Please give some thought as to what this might be for our parish.

On Sunday, December 20, the three churches and anyone who cares to join us are invited to gather at 3:30 p.m. at St. Mark's for an outside caroling service. We will light candles and have a good old-fashioned sing-a-long with accompaniment.

Finally, we are delighted that Fr. Charles will officiate at our Christmas Eve services. Because of Covid restrictions and probable larger attendance at each church, we will hold services at Christ Church at 4 p.m.; St Mark's at 6 p.m.; and at St. Paul's at 8 p.m.

We hope that the season of Advent will be what each of us needs, not only to wait patiently for Christmas, but to use the four weeks to ponder the gift of the Christ child and how we can respond in love. Lynne



Church Histories on Sale

Betty still has some St. Paul's histories for sale in the office. They are now \$15 for St. Paul's parishioners. Just contact her if you want one. Additionally, during lockdown, Dan has written another book, this time on St. Mark's in New Milford. Entitled *St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Milford, Pennsylvania 1817-2020*, it also provides a history of Grace Episcopal Church

that was located in Great Bend from 1852 to 1954. It will be printed in November. St. Mark's was one of the first Episcopal churches in Northeast Pennsylvania.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Fr. Arthur, Charlotte Ellis, Cathy Hammons, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon & Patrick Gallagher.

Birthdays for November: Brenda Syle 11/23.

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.*

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.

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 15, 2020

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 25:14-30)

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer – Wednesday November 11th – Veteran's Day

In this early morning, as the sun comes up, we have Lord, but a few hours before we reach the Eleventh hour of the Eleventh day in this the Eleventh month of the year. For that is the hour that we stop, pause, in silence to remember our Fallen of all the Great Wars who died in the name of Liberty.

Today in the UK., it is called 'Remembrance Day', in the USA 'Veterans day'. It is a holy day in the life of our Nations, because it is the day we collectively say: "We will remember them." One hundred and two years ago, the Great War ended, the guns fell silent and the millions of men on both sides who had died were buried in graves across France and Belgium.

In the early years of the 1920s, towns, villages around the country erected monuments to the Fallen, listing the names and honoring those who had died in service to the nation. Lord, we honor them today, and we bow in reverence to their sacrifice. In WWII our men fought from Salerno to Anzio, from Normandy to Bastogne and at great cost. Our prayers are with the Airmen, the Marines and Army and Navy too, some of tender years who fought and died that we might live free from tranny and evil.

We will not forget Lord, today we will remember. We remember the jungles of Vietnam and the boys who fought in that great struggle to hold back the evil of Communism. Bloodied, wounded in body and spirit they fought on against incredible odds. They fought for each other when no one else appreciated their effort. They won all the battles Lord, while the Politicians lost the war. We pray for them. We pray for the dead and those who survived to carry their wounds home.

Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, the list goes on and on and we can only pray for those who were the 'Peacemakers for the rest of us:

"Did they beat the drum slowly?

Did they play the Fife lowly?

Did they sound the death march, as they lowered you down?

Did the band play the 'Last Post' and chorus?

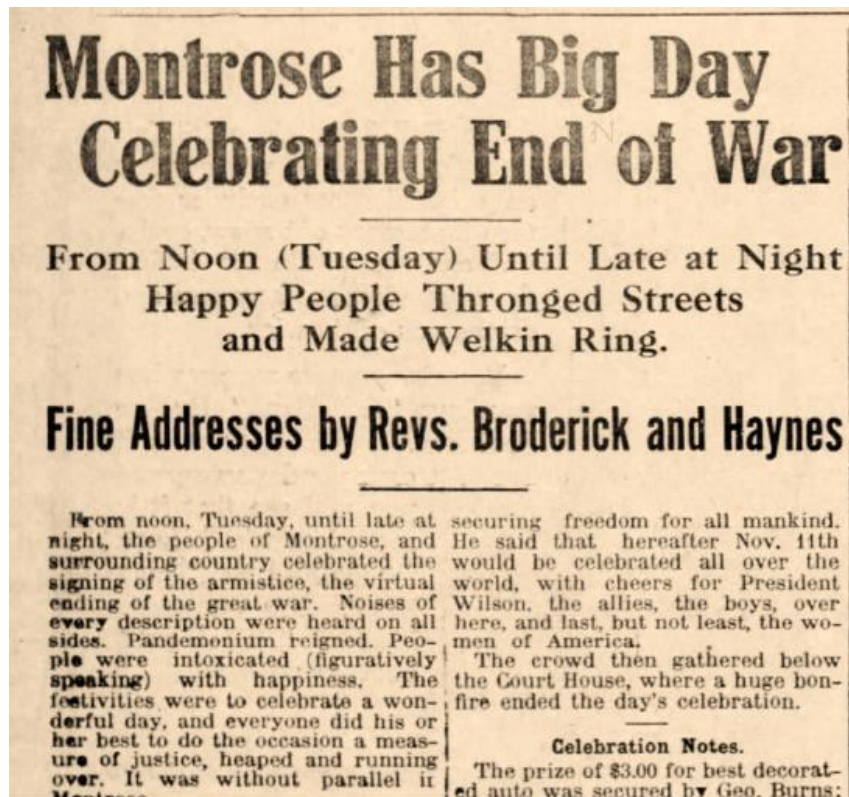
Did the Pipes play the 'Flowers of the Forest?' " (The Green Fields of France.)

On this day Lord we pause, in silent prayer for our Veterans alive and dead. Bless them Lord with your Grace and love. 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.

Veterans Day Last Week



Montrose Democrat, November 14, 1918

On last Wednesday, November 11th, we celebrated Veteran's Day. Originally called Armistice Day to commemorate the WWI soldiers, in 1954, it was changed to commemorate all veterans. On the 11th hour of the 11th day, of the 11th month in 1918, World War I ended. The Montrose churches, including St. Paul's, rang their bells to celebrate with joy. They made welkin ring – made the heavens ring. The following day, Montrose had a parade and an all day celebration that ended with a huge bonfire on the green. St. Paul's Roll of Honor, which lists both the parish's World War I and II participants, shows 17 of our parishioners served in the First World War. Two are shown as having been killed. St. Paul's minister, the Rev. Ernest Wetherill Wood, **resigned and joined the Army as a Chaplain, and went overseas in 1917. He saw action at Aisne, Aisne-Marne, St. Michel, and Meuse-Argonne. He was awarded the French Croix de Guerre and the World War I Victory Medal.**



Indoor Church Services Suspended – Live Streaming To Continue



The November 15th service, led by Carol Marker, will be our last inside church for a while. After this Sunday, the Bishop has suspended all indoor gatherings. As the pandemic cases rise, and the hospital staffs are overworked and exhausted, we can do our part in being pro-active and mitigating the effects of this virus. This decision by the Bishop, in consultation with expert health officials, was not made easily, but is in the best interest of all of us. The "pause" in gathering will be reevaluated at the end of Advent. We will be working on how we will conduct a Christmas Eve service. In the meantime, services will continue to be livestreamed from church with a leader, one lector, the organist, and Andrew to work his magic with technology at the back of the church. Go to our website and click "Live-Streaming".

Montrose Mobile Food Pantry



It takes a village to feed a village. The Montrose Mobile Food Pantry volunteers at the South Montrose Methodist Church on Rt. 29 served almost 250 households on Friday the 13th. Regardless of the weather, these dedicated folks have been there each month to help our neighbors. If you would like to volunteer to help, talk to Karen or Lynne.

Remember When?



Fr. Dan Jones blessing the sleeping bags, November 2017