



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. 29 – Dec 5, 2020

Morning Prayer Sun. Nov 29 at 10:00am
 online <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

The office is closed on Thu. Nov. 26.



This Week's Lay Ministers:
 Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski
 Officiant: John Warriner

Readings for this week
 First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
 Psalm: 80:1-7, 16-18
 Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
 Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

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

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. All Gifts must be brought to the Church by **Dec 6th** or taken to Interfaith by **Dec 9th**. Three of the tags left are for Coats the other one is for a toy. I will leave tags taped to the office door for anyone who wishes to take one.

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.

"VIEW FROM THE PEW"

It's a few days before Thanksgiving. This year, 2020, will go down in the books as one that many people will say brought only disappointment, sadness, confusion, chaos, and uncertainty. You might say, what is there

to be thankful about looking back over this crazy year and I would understand. Covid 19 has brought much sadness, confusion, heartache, loss of jobs, suicide, loneliness, isolation, death, and fear of the unknown; and I could go on and on. Then add on the Presidential election which has caused a flat out no nonsense division amongst the people in our country. The line has been drawn amongst friends, family, and coworkers and as far as I can see, not much room for understanding or hearing the other point of view. Our great country, The United States of America, the super power of the world, land of the free and the brave is very ununited and looking very confused and vulnerable; wobbling on the edge of demise.

You might ask where I am going with all this negativity and doom and gloom? Well, I am going right to where I always go when I need HOPE, COURAGE, and ENCOURAGEMENT. The BIBLE, God's word. I will end this letter to my church family with God's words of HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT, and promises of FAITHFULNESS to us – the people he LOVES.

Psalm 91

This psalm is very comforting, letting me know that God has me in a safe place and is protecting me.

VS 2-3. This I declare of the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I am trusting him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from the fatal plaque.

VS 14-15. The lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them."

Please read the whole psalm and find strength, courage, and comfort.

Philippians 4: 4-9

These words always redirect me back to where I need to be; being grateful for the love and goodness of a God that knows and loves me.

Always be joyful in the Lord, I say it again-rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember the lord is coming..

Don't worry about anything, instead; pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

And now dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.

I pray that on Thanksgiving you will all be able to spend some time thanking God for his love, faithfulness, and sovereignty. Even in this year, 2020, a year for the books, we have much to be thankful for!!!! I love you all very much! Happy Thanksgiving. Karen

"John's Soulful Walkers"

A big thank you to everyone who donated to our team, "John's Soulful Walkers". Diane Lager, our ALS Team Leader, reports that we exceeded our goal of \$1000. We collected \$1,488 and placed #7 in the Top 10 of donations received for our "walk" in the Lehigh Valley! Your support means so much to those living with ALS. For us at St. Paul's this is a wonderful opportunity to support Fr. John Wagner.



Coats for the Community. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose Dec. 16-17 from 9am to 1pm. This will be the last coat give away of the year. St. Paul's always coordinates the final distribution in December to match Inter-faith's Christmas food basket and toy distribution days. If you can help with the distribution on either Wednesday or Thursday it would be appreciated. Let Dan or John know. Thanks.

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

ANOTHER ADVENT OPPORTUNITY

Many of us have curtailed family visits or discontinued them completely during this Covid19 pandemic. The residents at Meadow View have not had visitors since the pandemic began. The staff realizes how important it is for the residents to maintain contact with their family members. In preparation for Christmas, the staff is requesting **NEW, UNUSED Christmas cards** that they might send out for their residents to family members.

If you have a collection of unused cards left from previous Christmases, please contact Lynne or Joyce Printz (her phone number is in the church directory), and we will see that the cards are delivered to Meadow View. Thank you for helping to make this a season of caring.

AUDIT COMPLETED

St. Paul's audit for 2019 has been completed by William Owens Company, Certified Public Accountants. We will follow their recommendation that all Christmas bonuses for the staff go through payroll. The Vestry approved and accepted the audit at their meeting on November 12, 2020.



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

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 December: Dan Graham 12/4, Steve Kupscznk 12/6, James Cain 12/9, Peter Maxey 12/20 & John Warriner 12/31.

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.

Your tithes and pledges can be mailed to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801.

7 Photos this week.

The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2020

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens
his will to make known;
The wicked oppressing
now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name;
he forgets not his own**

Fr. Bill's Morning Prayer

Morning again and we pray---Lord in you we trust, and have our being. We pledge ourselves to you this day. Night has gone and the week with it. Help us in our understanding of all things. Make us wise, for in the past our stupidity has dragged us down. Give us grace that marries our sincere faith to our best efforts.

We have been thinking Lord, about this path that we have walked with you. At times it has been a winding path through forest and woods. If asked, we would say that we are 'Seekers', seeking after the one true God, through his Son Jesus Christ. As Christians, we no longer believe that we are the only path to God. We acknowledge that Moslem or Hindu every Faith seeks truth and that their ultimate goal is God. Nor do we think that any one path is more meritorious than another. Even among other Christian denominations, we see that each has made its own way, with its own tradition. Some have cut a mighty road and we admire their effort and enterprise.

Yet our Episcopal way, is but a simple path. We like it that way. It is not paved, or walled, or even lined in any way with trees or signs. Rather it is an old Pilgrim Route, at times scarcely distinguishable from other paths. It has a kind of old fashioned ambience, a gentle Fellowship, a love of Scripture, a need for grace, a devotion to sacrament, a need to reason and a drive to serve the lost, poor, abandoned and the marginalized. Our hymns are old; our prayer follows an ancient rhythm; we live and worship in the moment, despite knowing that our worship and ministry is elliptical. We are content to 'be', exist, in a particular time and place, worshiping in the 'now' of our God. That may sound as if we are happy to wander in the 'woods' aimlessly! We tend to think that in our searching we have found a home; better still, that we have come home to God, and he dwells in our midst. ---To that extent we are maybe a 'Gypsy People', much as the people of Israel were a nomadic people in the Wilderness for all those years. We too are a Pilgrim people, content not to put our dreams into buildings, cities, castles or towers.

For this reason Lord, we can survive this 'time of plague' and this 'lockdown,' while our church buildings are closed. Our Book of Common Prayer goes with us. We rise to 'Morning Prayer', sleep to 'Evening Prayer' or Compline. Psalms, Collects, Creeds, Petitions are all here for us each day. Our journey and seeking does not stop as the church door closes. That is because the building is not our church. We are the church, the living breathing continuation of the ministry of Jesus in the world. We walk and talk the path he taught us. Is that not right Lord? ---O there are things we miss from when we were together, but we are like Paul Simon's "Old Friends"---separation does not detract from our love and friendship. Together, apart, we endure. We are Lakeside Daffodils, Winter, rain, cold or snow, we emerge once again come the Sun and the Spring. Frost and Ice do not kill us, because we are planted deep in the 'Word' and the 'Word' has come into the world and into our hearts, and that makes all the difference.

Come Lord Jesus, into our homes this day and in this season. Draw up a chair around the glow of this log fire of faith and be among us. The storm is raging outside; the wind is howling menace and pain, but we journey on, singing our song of 'How Great Thou Art'. Rest Lord, in the warmth of our campfire for we are your devoted 'Gypsy People'. 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.

St Paul's Roll of Honor



After reading the Veteran's Day article in last week's Weekly Update, several folks have asked where our Roll of Honor is located. It was framed by Rev. Moulton and is hanging on the east wall in the Parish Hall. Take a look at it the next time you are there. Gold stars indicate that the soldier was killed.

Winter is Coming



And with winter comes winter weather! While we won't get back into church until the end of December, this is just the annual reminder to say: if there is ice or snow and there is a question about church being canceled, listen to WPEL at 96.5 FM.

Remember When We Collected Cans as a Fundraiser?



Well John and Jerry probably do as they were waiting for drop-offs in this picture. It was sticky work as I remember. We separated them at Dick and Sandy Schwab's house, where they were stored in his garage, and Dick would take them to New York and get a nickel a can.

Indoor Church Services Suspended – Live Streaming To Continue



The November 22nd live streamed service was led by Lynne Graham. Readings were done by Dan, and Joyce Printz played the organ Prelude – Come ye Thankful People Come and We Gather Together, the Organ Meditation, and Postlude. Andrew, all the way in the back, taped the service. It was the start of our Live Streaming only services, which will continue through December 20. We hope to be back at church by Christmas.

Plans for next week, the first Sunday of Advent, are to have a reader, lector, organist and of course, Andrew to Live Stream it all. The first Advent Candle will be lit during the singing of the first verse of O Come, O Come Emmanuel which you can sing along with at home. The bulletin will be sent via E-mail on Wednesday and will also be on our website. Try and tune in!

St. Paul's Sign Gets Re-cabled



St. Paul's interactive sign, which was put in in 2016, had to have its cable replaced this week. The cable connects Betty's computer with the sign, letting her make updates from her desk. Kurt Sussman, our tecky guy, replaced the old cable with new.

Inspirational Saying Requested



Speaking of signs, the Vestry is always looking for new inspirational sayings to put on our sign. It's one of the ways we communicate with our community and everyone coming down Church Street sees it. Just let a Vestry member know if you have an idea. It has to fit on the sign in two panels.