




276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801
Office 570-278-2954, Mon., Wed. & Thu. 8:10am to 2:30pm
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.

Sept. 19 - 25, 2021

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Marker & Vera Dunn
Officiant: Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski
Announcements: Lynne Graham
Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth
Lector: Vickie Calby

Readings for this week

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20
Psalm: 54
Epistle: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Altar Flowers this Week are from James P. Bailey In Memory of Elizabeth (Betsy) Bailey.

The Office is closed on Thursday Sept. 23.

All articles for the Weekly Update need to be in by Tuesday Sept. 21 for the Weekly Update on Wednesday Sept. 22.

View from the Pew

I try to read Forward Day by Day every morning as I eat my breakfast. Sometimes the meditations go in one ear and out the other. But yesterday's, September 13 caught my attention. September's meditations were written by Jerusalem Greer, staff officer for evangelism for the Episcopal Church. The

scripture verse for that day was 1 Corinthians 1:10c *That you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.*

In her words: In early 2020, Bishop Curry responded to a question about the future of the church in the face of decline. "The crisis facing our church may be our Good Friday. It may be time to let go of some things that have served us well in the past. And we should give God thanks for those things. But it may be time for them to die. In order for the sun to rise on Easter morning, we must harness all our creative resources and come together to serve Jesus, not ourselves. We must collaborate in order to serve the movement, not to serve the institution."

I thought the meditation for today (Holy Cross Day which honors the role the cross plays in the death and resurrection of Christ) followed nicely. According to tradition, the herb basil is considered a symbol of this feast day because Saint Helen, mother of Constantine, found the cross of Jesus buried beneath a basil plant. Basil must be "pinched" to keep it from going to seed and becoming bitter. Snapping off small chunks of the central stem encourages new growth rather than killing it. It was through the act of destruction that resurrection occurred. Maybe the cross is not just a symbol of death and torture, but a reminder of the flourishing that can come when pinched by the Holy Spirit.

May we recognize the pinching of the Holy Spirit at St. Paul's and rejoice that new growth will follow when we serve Jesus. Lynne

Vestry Highlights September 9, 2021

Deacon Liz opened the meeting with prayer and we approved the agenda.

We approved the minutes of June 10. The July 8 minutes will be approved at our next meeting.

Deacon Liz read the Bible study scripture Matthew 5:1-10, the Beatitudes. We discussed how the Beatitudes relate to our lives and which of the eight was most meaningful to us.

Deacon Liz reported that she has begun to visit parishioners and has met some community leaders. Her hours will be W-TH-F from 10:00-6:00 and 6 hours on Sunday. She will be in her office for anyone wishing to see her on Wednesday and Thursday from 11:00-2:00.

We will begin a search for our next parish administrator as Betty will be retiring in the Spring.

The Vestry approved a donation of \$5000 to South Montrose Community Church's rebuilding fund.

The Search Committee has completed the Parish Profile which is available on our website and will be mailed to each parishioner. This was a sizeable task and we are very grateful for the time and talent that went into drawing up this document.

The Vestry members received copies of the Resolutions to come up at Diocesan Convention. Vera Dunn is our delegate. Anyone can register for the pre-convention Zoom meeting on September 14 by going on the Diocesan website.

We discussed having a 3 parish service at St. Matthew's during Advent. There are many challenges to overcome—weather, heat, transportation, parking—but we will assess the feasibility and who is willing to make this happen.

We agreed to hold a modified Country Store on December 4 with a bake sale, raffles and food

with seating in the Guild Room. Other spaces may be used by pop-up stores as suggested by the Christmas in Montrose Committee.

Stop the Stigma will hold a Memory Luncheon on December 12 at noon after the church service. We will ask members of the congregation to donate food for the brunch.

We reviewed and accepted the Treasurer's Report.

We will begin Bible Study led by Deacon Liz on the first and third Thursdays of the month beginning October 7 and 21 at 5:00 p.m. following a simple supper together.

Deacon Liz closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Our next Vestry meeting will be October 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study Begins

One of the things that we mention most often that we miss is Bible Study. Now, under the leadership of Deacon Liz, we will hold Bible Study on the first and third Thursdays of the month beginning on October 7. As we have done in the past, we will start with a light supper at 5:00 provided on a rotating basis by one of the members of the group.

Please join us as we begin to unravel some of the mysteries of the Bible and connect the scriptures to our daily lives. There are Bibles in the Guild Room for anyone not bringing their own. Hope to see you there!

Lynne

First Wednesday of the Month on Oct. 6th: Free Soup Dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church from 4:30-6:00 p.m. **Please note** that the Free Dinners are take-out only.

Susquehanna County Coats for the Community 2021 Coat Drive



Coats for the Community has started collecting winter coats for its annual Coats for the Community program, now in its 15th year. The organization is seeking new or clean, gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves, along with blankets, to help keep our neighbors a little bit warmer this winter. Children's coats are particularly in demand. Last year, the group gave away more than 1,200 coats. Donations can be dropped off at St. Paul's Church, 276 Church St., Montrose.

Money donations are also welcome and will be collected through November.

Anyone who needs a warm winter coat is welcome to these free events. Coats are scheduled to be distributed at the following locations:

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose
October 12 and 13 (10:00am to 1:00pm)

*Christ Church, Susquehanna, October 21, 22
and 23 (10:00am to 6:00pm)

*Christ Church, Forest City, October 28, 29
(3:00pm to 6:00pm) and 30 (1:00pm to 4:00pm)

*St. Marks, New Milford, November 4 and 5
(10:00am to 2:00pm)

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose,
December 15 and 16 (9:00am to noon)

Birthdays for September: Esther Welden
9/19 & Sean Eckert 9/28.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Kathy Warriner, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Johanna Masters & Jeannine Ball.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants 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 lives. 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.*



Donations

You can scan the QR Code above.
Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving.
You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact: you can call the parish office during office hours. After hours call Lynne Graham 570-934-1160.

8 Photos this week.

16th Sunday After Pentecost, September 12th

When morning gilds the sky, our hearts awaking cry:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
in all our work and prayer, we ask his loving care:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

THE GOSPEL - Get behind me, Satan!

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (*Mark 8:27-38*)

Deacon Liz's Weekly

Fall brings turning leaves and cooler temperatures. It is normally my favorite time of year. This year something gives me pause about the falling temperatures though. Unfortunately, COVID-19 thrives in the cold and we have seen the rise of the Delta variant even through the heat of summer. The combination of the extremely contagious Delta variant and cooler temperatures is a recipe for increased cases in both the unvaccinated and the vaccinated.

Another contagion we have been dealing with over the course of the COVID epidemic is the one of vast swathes of misinformation. Unfortunately, there has been a politicization of the disease, treatments, masking, and social distancing. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, "Misinformation has caused confusion and led people to decline COVID-19 vaccines, reject public health measures such as masking and physical distancing, and use unproven treatments." This is a recipe for disaster, especially as the temperature lowers, giving COVID-19 an environment in which it thrives.

What are we called to do as Christians in this situation? I am reminded of Mark 12:29–31. The two greatest commandments according to Jesus are, "'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" In essence, these two

commandments are to guide our actions as Christians. In regards to COVID-19, it instructs us to do the next right action to care for ourselves and others. The Pfizer vaccination has been fully approved by the FDA and while it may not keep you from developing COVID, it has been proven to lessen the severity of the infection. Masking has been proven to reduce the incidence of spreading the disease, as has social distancing.

Let us pray on the bible passage above and ask God for His guidance. He will provide all that we need, if we but ask. The miracle of the vaccine developed at warp speed during President Trump's administration is a gift from a loving God. Let us accept the gift with open arms, expressing God's love for ourselves and our neighbors. And let us continue to take precautions in order to keep one another safe, especially those who cannot be vaccinated or who have compromised immune systems.

Excerpt from Fr. Bill's September Pastoral Letter. This applies to St. Paul's too.

Christ Church [Forest City] recently celebrated 130 years since the first stone was laid in its construction on the corner of Dundaff and Delaware Streets. But strangely, it was a very muted celebration. The truth is, there is no guarantee that Christ Church will make it to 150 years, no matter how much we all love it. We need all Christ Church members to return to church and attend as often as they can. That is not always possible with summer schedules, vacations, and sports activities. But the simple truth is that we need everyone to pull together for the survival of our church and everything it means to the community.

These past two years, 2020-2021, have been tough on all of us, and we have lost members who were the very backbone of the church. Shirley, Carol, and Ruth-Ann are not people that you can easily replace. Today, we need others to step up to the plate to help make our church and its ministry a viable and important contributor to all in our Forest City Community. We all know that the church has been here for us and for our families ... from baptism to weddings, through sickness and sad times, and to the caring for our loved ones when they join Our Father in Heaven. Our children and our children's children also deserve to find in Christ Church a refuge for their lives.

Please, do not allow our beautiful and wonderful church to be one of those visited only at Christmas and Easter. We are much more than that. We are a Community of Faith. Let us not wait for something bad to happen in our lives before we turn to Jesus and the faith that is such an important part of who we are.

Episcopalians have no rules about how often we attend church. We attend because we want to be there in the pew. As your Priest, I am available 24/7. Any time someone wants or needs a service, I will be there. Bring a friend to church too. And tell people of the warmth and love that is Christ Church, Forest City. Tell them: "This is my church. This is where I belong."

I hope to see so many of you again soon. Covid has been long and difficult, but now is the time to claim our victory over it and not let it stop the good things in our lives. May God Bless you all.

THIS WEEK

September 12th Service

The September 12st live-streamed 10:00 Deacon's Mass with communion was led by Deacon Liz. Carol Marker was the lector. Cathy Hammons played the organ Prelude,

Organ Meditation and Postlude, along with four hymns. As with all our live-streamed services, you can watch it live or any time on YouTube.



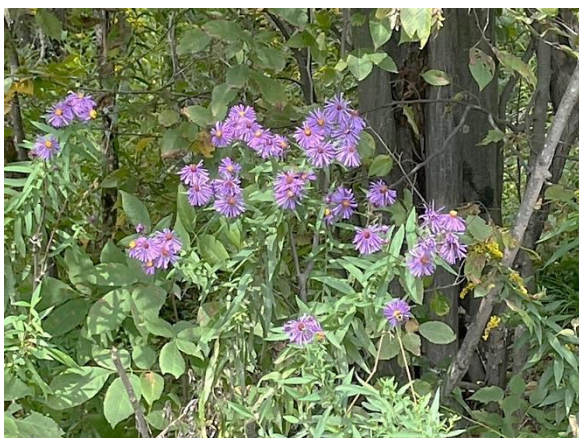
Ellie McKeage Memorial Garden

The hostas that were planted next to Ellie's Memorial Garden stone have bloomed. She would like that. Ellie was instrumental in acquiring the Knoll property for the church in 1965. At that time, it had a rundown house and garage/barn on it. The garden gives space and symmetry to the church and is a peaceful place to sit in town and think great thoughts.



September in Susquehanna County

Ah, September! You are the doorway to the season that awakens my soul! Labor Day is behind us. It's the last week of summer. No one has told the trees yet that Autumn is coming. They are still green. Wild purple asters appear on the side of the road amongst the golden rod. The male holly in the Memorial Garden has again come through like the Little Engine That Could. We have lots of red holly berries on our bushes, which apparently were all females.



September Morn

Foggy September mornings. Fall calves are being born. This one was born the night before. The miracle of birth never ceases to amaze us. Welcome to this world little guys. It's a big world out there.



Old Picture of Church St. Found



Above is an 1886 picture of (then) 58 Church St. slightly west of St. Paul's. The structure was a barber shop for many years. It is now known for its leaning but was straight when the photo was taken. To the left of the building is the old Lewis Sprout property, which at that time was a rooming house. In 1918, he tore that building down and built a garage, gas station and Chevrlot dealership. The garage was eventually run by Jake McLaughlin. It was located where the Ho Mart is now. The alley way down to the livery stable behind the properties was where St. Paul's parishioner Joe Drinker, in 1884, hid when he shot and mortally wounded St. Paul's organist and town Banker, William Cooper. Cooper was coming from organ practice and Drinker thought he was embezzling money from his sister's estate.