

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

October 2 - October 8



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801


Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

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>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

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.



Donations You can scan the QR Code. 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

Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

View from the Pulpit: *Mother Liz*

This week I attended two Zoom events. The first one was Sunday afternoon. It was broadcast from the Riverside Church in New York City. The title of the talk was What is at Stake on November 8th: a Dying or Thriving Democracy. The presenter was Andrea Miller, founding board member of Center for Common Ground. Ms. Miller talked to us about what's at stake in the approaching midterm elections and what the plans are that are being executed to increase voter turnout among BIPOC communities in Southern States with a history of voter suppression that continues to this day.

The organization was founded to educate and empower underrepresented voters in voter suppression states to engage in elections and advocate for their right to vote. Their goal is for us to build a democracy that prioritizes the voices of all people. The presentation was lively and informative. She spoke of opportunities for people across the country to participate in encouraging people in states which voter suppression is rampant to vote by participating in phone banks, postcards, and texting campaigns.

The second zoom event was a lecture series presented by Dr Mark Jordan titled The Word of Babel --Writing Theology Here and Now. Dr Jordan is a scholar of Christian Theology, European Philosophy, and Gender Studies. He teaches courses on the Western Traditions of Christian Soul Shaping, the Relations of Religion to Art or Literature, and the Prospects for Sexual Ethics. He has written extensively on sexual ethics, producing books that are widely regarded as opening important new conversations. He has also continued to explore long-standing topics at the boundaries of Philosophy and Christian Theology.

Attending this type of lecture series reminds me of my time in seminary. A time which offered me the opportunity to hear some of the top educators in theological studies. I learned about historical periods in England and about the Civil Rights era in the '60s, and how Theology was shaped in light of social change.

One of the topics Dr. Jordan spoke about was Malcolm Boyd and his book of prayers titled, Are You Running with Me, Jesus? This book is a very personal set of prayers written somewhat autobiographically, addressing the time Father Boyd spent working with civil rights activists and how his prayers were centered on calling out to God to aid him in the work he believes that God was calling him to do.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in both of these webinars. They have given me food for thought in regard to my own path toward doing God's work in the world civically and spiritually. One thing that COVID gave us is the need to find ways of gathering virtually because we could not gather in person. Without COVID I would not have been able to attend either function because of distance.

As tiring Zoom can be, it can be a wonderful tool for gathering people across great distances in order that we be able to share our knowledge with one another in real time. Thank you, God, for raising up among your people those who are innovators so that we may be brought closer as the human family

View from the Pew:

More Than Enough

When Elijah meets the widow of Zarephath, as the story is told to us in First Kings, he asks to be fed from the very last of her stores. She explains to him that she's gathering wood for the fire she'll make to cook the last meal she expects to eat before she and her son die of starvation. Still, he asks her to make him some bread.

Even though Elijah promises that she won't run out of flour and oil, how can she know this is true? The first miracle of the story is that she shares the very last that she has with this entitled man who is asking for food and drink. In my opinion it overshadows the other miracles that follow – the never-empty jugs of oil and flour – because for the first miracle to be effective, the widow must first make the most daring risk.

We see this miracle replayed often in the Church. When faced with diminished resources, we have witnessed congregations get creative, roll up their sleeves, and find ways to engage their mission. In situations where old models were failing to attract new energy, we have seen members volunteer their ideas and their wisdom to help a congregation move beyond its capacity. We have seen vestries take risks in order to extend more services, more ministry in their communities, even when the path to staffing or funding it wasn't immediately clear.

In every one of these circumstances, miracles happened, because in every one of these circumstances, in the end, there was more than enough. More than enough people to do the work, more than enough money to cover the costs, more than enough creativity to carry the project forward. Even when we feel depleted, we find that provided we have faith, there is more than enough.

Maybe the recent pandemic and the resultant economic downturn has made you wonder if our congregation will be able to continue, able to provide ministry and pay the bills. Maybe you have had to make serious adjustments in your household budget or your plans. Our stewardship of our personal and collective resources reminds us of the abundance around us. There will be more than enough because our faith will unlock the generosity of others. Expect miracles.

See you in church! Your fellow steward,
Tom Undercoffler

We would love for you to be included!

Article submissions (photos, community news items, or a personal or faith story) are due every Wednesday. This is YOUR newsletter, and all congregants are invited to share their stories and photos. Please email your items to Kate at stpaulsmontrose@epix.net or John Warriner at atjdwarr@me.com; post an item to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church St. Montrose, PA 18801 on Facebook; or drop a note in the offering plate.

On Enough and Abundance

A little faith can go a long way when it is stewarded with disciplined practice. The disciples ask Jesus, “Increase our faith!” Jesus responds with two analogies that let them know they have more than enough faith if they will only put it into consistent practice. The problem seems to be that the disciples, like many of us in the 21st Century, have enough and abundance confused.

First, Jesus speaks of the ability of faith “the size of a mustard seed” to uproot trees and toss them into the sea, indicating that enough is enough. The disciples would know a tiny mustard seed germinates quickly and spreads aggressively, and left to mature the mustard plant will grow into a bush-like plant producing more seed, and so on. It doesn’t take an abundance; it just takes enough. This also

is true of stewardship, whether it is of one’s time, abilities, financial resources, or the blessings in the world around us. When we practice faithful stewardship of what we have and who we are, it germinates, grows, and multiplies within us, blessing others with the abundance of our lives in Christ.

Continued cultivation of faithful stewardship in our lives, bit by bit grows into stewardship of all that we have and all that we are because we more deeply are able to realize the abundance in our lives is more than enough, generating joyful generosity and gratitude.

Jesus’ story about the dutiful servant reminds his disciples, both of the 1st and 21st Centuries, that humility is at the root of faith and stewardship as a grateful response to blessings in one’s life. My wife and I found this to be true in our journey to tithing. Humility, coupled with disciplined faith that “All things come of thee, O Lord,” as we slowly made our way to giving 10% year by year, we began to understand that God has blessed us with abundance, even when we do what is expected of us (tithing) we found we have more than enough to live even more generously. It just took a little faith and humility to get us started

The Rev. Lance Ousley is rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Houston, TX and is a former board member of TENS and believes faithful stewardship leads to a joyous life. While Lance was Canon for Stewardship and Development in the Diocese of Olympia (Seattle, WA), he authored *Stewards Stirrings*, a 3-year commentary on the lectionary texts focused on preaching and teaching stewardship.

Sundays Service

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2



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Old Testament:

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Psalms: 37:1-10

The Epistle: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger & Karen Blye McAbee

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Karen Blye McAbee

Organist: Joyce Printz

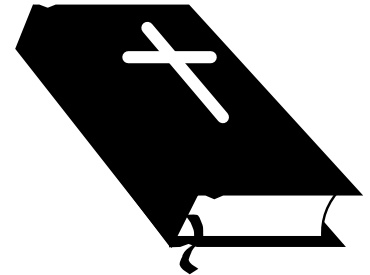
This week's Hymns:

Love divine, all loves excelling

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound

Ye watchers and ye holy ones

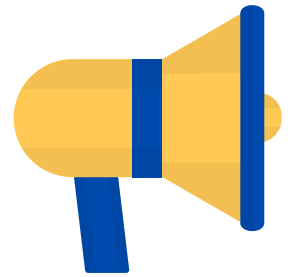


This week's Gospel according to Luke:

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

Happenings and Announcements



Sleeping Bags Ministry

NEEDED: Blankets, Comforters, Quilts, flat sheets, yardage (2 yds. minimum) neck ties, Socks and more socks, wool hats and gloves. Sample size soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and combs. .

Items need not be new but clean and can be left in the box at the ramp doorway. We meet the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 10:00 till noon, in room #1 downstairs. Since adding a sewing machine we are able to produce more sleeping bags per meeting. Please consider joining us on any day available to you or even just for a hour. You need ONLY to tie a knot!!! Your help is so appreciated.

Thank you to all who work for Sleeping Bag Ministry.



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Jeannine Ball, Sandy Nagy, Addie Evans, Carol Marker, Ellen Ely, Rev. Janet Watrous, Vanessa Smith, Rebecca Bechtel.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call Mother Liz 212-222-8109.



This Months Birthdays:

Carol Arnold 10/3, Al Leigh 10/12, Benson Bartron 10/13, Vickie Calby 10/19, Rachel Bartron 10/22, Robert Smith 10/23, Carol Marker 10/31



This Months Anniversaries:

Dan & Lynne Graham 10/5
Jerry & Maggie Sock 10/20

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.

Last Week's Service and Events

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST –
SEPTEMBER 25

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice**

The September 25th live-streamed 10:00 Morning Prayer Service was led by Lynne Graham. Lynne also did the announcements and Tom Undercoffler read as lector. Joyce Printz played the organ. The service included three hymns along with the Prelude and Postlude. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.



The Heat is On

It's October and it's time to close the doors. We have turned the heat on. During the summer, we leave all the interior doors open for circulation and only close the front glass door. But now, it's fall and the doors should be closed to save the heat. "Brrrrr! Please Close the Door! Thank You!"



Sleeping Bags

Thanks to our new sewing machine, four sleeping bags were added to our shelves in anticipation of another delivery to the shelter in Scranton. Come join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10 a.m.



Russell's is Open

Russell's U-Pick Apple orchard right off 267 north is in full swing. In addition to numerous kinds of apples, there are pumpkins, gourds, squash and other fall veggies. A Susquehanna grown apple is the best!



St. Paul's Pumpkins

You know it's fall when pumpkins appear on St. Paul's walkway. Let's hope they don't attract our visiting bear. The orange color highlights the season and gets us ready for Fall.



Coats for Our Community

All those coats that we have been collecting and storing in the basement are about to be distributed. Coats for Our Community begins its 16th year with the kickoff of this season on Oct 12th and 13th at the Montose American Legion Post #154. Coats will also go to Blue Ridge High School, Christ Church in Susquehanna, Christ Church in Forest City, St. Marks in New Milford, the VFW in Great Bend, and then return to St. Paul's for our coat distribution on December 14th and 15th. Check those coat closets out again – we always accept gently used, warm coats.



REMEMBER WHEN

Who are these ladies?

END OF SEPTEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“September Morn. We danced until the night became the dawn.” Heavy dews on the grass and fog – misty mornings. Beautiful sunrises looking out the bedroom window!

A touch of fall in the air. It's early autumn. Maybe the prettiest time of the year. The farmers have started cutting their corn which feeds the livestock during the winter. “All is safely gathered in!” Fun to watch. More rain and more mushrooms. Every kind imaginable. Now that it's cooler, it's time to cut wood for your wood stoves and fire pits. Enjoy these days. It's the end of September in Susquehanna County.

