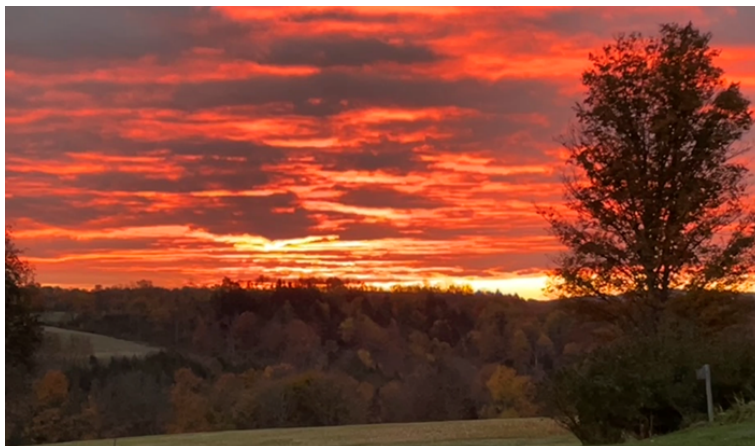


ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

October 23 - October 29



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

I am currently attending a program that is a trip of a lifetime - a visit the Holy Land. When I was in seminary, I called Rebecca to tell her that I that was considering applying for a grant to attend St. George's College, Jerusalem. St. George's College is the Anglican study pilgrimage center in Jerusalem and is part of a complex that includes the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr, St George's School, a Pilgrim Guest House, and the offices of the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem.

When I told her, I was hesitant as a minimum GPA was required. I was right on the edge of the requirement and feared that I might not be awarded a grant. She said, "Go for it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. What do you have to lose? If you're not awarded a grant, you're no worse off than you are now, and if you get it, what an amazing opportunity!" I was thrilled when I received the news that I had been awarded the grant.

We could not travel for a couple of years due to Covid travel restrictions. The seminary graciously extended the deadline by which the funds had to be used till the end of 2022. The silver lining to the delay is that we were able to save money for Rebecca to travel with me. I told her that rather than her buying me an ordination gift, I wanted her to go to Jerusalem with me.

So, as you read this, we are undertaking the Palestine of Jesus pilgrimage, one of several programs offered at St. George's. The program is a 14-day study pilgrimage focusing on the Scriptures, sites, and landscapes associated with Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

St. George's describes the program, as "emphasizing the lived experience of pilgrimage as Christian formation, the course encounters the land of Jesus' ministry, engaging the biblical narratives in their physical, historical, and archaeological contexts. The course roughly follows a chronological arc of Jesus' life. Some attention is given to the Old Testament and Intertestamental periods as background context for Jesus' life and ministry, as well as to the commemorations of Acts and the early development of the Church. Palestine of Jesus has an appreciation for pilgrim traditions over the centuries. The course also engages the Living Stones of Israel and Palestine." The course includes a 3-day, 2-night excursion to Galilee and typically has two free afternoons in Jerusalem. Alongside teachings and reflections in the field, mini lectures prepare us for site visits.

The aims of Palestine of Jesus

- To study the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, including the historical contexts and cultures of the land of Jesus' ministry;
- To explore the Holy Land as Christian pilgrims by integrating biblical and contextual studies with spiritual reflection;
- To encounter the roots and traditions of the Christian faith as they were formed in the Holy Land;
 - To engage local Christian communities, Jewish and Muslim perspectives, and contemporary issues in Israel and Palestine, including its problems, struggles, hopes, and promises, and to share these experiences with people back home;

- To return home renewed in faith.

Content of the Course

Palestine of Jesus draws upon the following places, narratives, and landscapes:

- The Holy Sepulchre, the site of Jesus' death (the rock of Calvary) and resurrection (the tomb of Christ);
 - Nazareth, Jesus' childhood home and the site of the annunciation;
 - Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth;
- The Jordan River, the site of Jesus' baptism, including an opportunity to reaffirm one's baptismal vows;
 - The Judean Wilderness, where Jesus was tempted after his baptism;
- A day in Nablus (ancient Shechem), where Jesus encountered the Samaritan women at Jacob's Well;
 - The Sea of Galilee, visiting multiple sites commemorating Jesus' Galilean ministry, such as Capernaum, Bethsaida, the Mount of Beatitudes, and the Multiplication of the Fish and Loaves as well as a boat ride on the lake;
 - Caesarea Philippi (Banias), where Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do you say that I am?";
 - The Mount of Olives, including the commemorations of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, the teachings of Jesus, and the place of Jesus' ascension.
 - The Garden of Gethsemane, the place of Jesus' prayer, betrayal, and arrest;
 - Mount Sion (the Western Hill) containing the commemorations of the Last Supper, the trail of Jesus, and Pentecost.
- The remains of the Temple Mount from Jesus' day, including excavations south and west of the retaining walls of the complex.
 - The Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (historical and contemporary perspectives);
 - The Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa);
 - An Emmaus location, commemorating Jesus' resurrection;
 - The Israel Museum;
 - An opportunity to float in the Dead Sea;
 - A site related to the reign of King Herod the Great.

Contemporary Context

- Worship with a local Anglican congregation;
- Visit an institutional ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, such as Princess Basma Centre (for children with disabilities);
 - The Haram esh-Sharif (Al-Aqsa Mosque);
 - The Western Wall;
 - Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Center;
 - A Palestinian refugee camp;
 - Speakers representing local initiatives for peace and reconciliation.

As a priest, I find the aims of the course quite compelling. What really strikes me though is the last aim, "To return home renewed in faith." That is my hope and prayer and that so renewed, I may share with you the riches of my study through my preaching, teaching, and reflection.

I look forward to seeing you upon our return! Shalom! Shlama! Peace!

The First Day of Fall

Poem by Mae Stein on 9/22/2016

Submitted by Sandy Seeger

From the trees small and tall
my memoirs still recall
the splendor of it all
these brilliant leaves of fall

The Lord gives love in sight
of colors formed so bright
they gleam in the sun light
as they fall and take flight

How wonderful it is
to see the trees like this
how beauty is such bliss
with blessings that God gives

It's the first day of fall
as colors catch the light
winds send the leaves to loll
God's gift of love shows bright

It's beauty that we see
give God thanks; as we nod
for just where would we be
if we didn't know God

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 jdwarri@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.

Weekly Reflection:



About Humility

“All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.” – Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee in today’s Gospel parable stands up in the temple to pray. He reminds God that he is not like other people who fall short of God’s expectations. He recounts to God his best behaviors - fasting and tithing.

When I envision this scene, I can’t help but imagine the Pharisee’s voice sounding like songwriter Mac Davis singing his hit, “Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble, When you’re perfect in every way; I can’t wait to look in the mirror, Cause I get better looking each day...”

Why is Jesus concerned about our level of humility even when our faithful actions are good? Certainly we should strive to be good, to give generously, and to avoid sin. Yet it is the sinful person in this story who Jesus sets as our example.

In the parable, the first person is giving a speech to God. The second person is opening up his heart, admitting his weakness, and asking for God’s merciful acceptance. He is humble enough to acknowledge that God is in control.

Such humility is a path toward a deeper, trusting relationship with God. Trusting God requires admitting that we need God. It means accepting that we are not so self-reliant that we can figure out all the answers, successfully battle every demon, and control our own destiny. Those are false narratives anyway. Humility keeps us honest.

Jesus’ time on earth exemplifies one of the most beautiful realities of our faith: Our Creator craves a close relationship with each of us. We don’t have to be perfect in every way. We just need to love and trust that what God provides will be more than enough.

Linda Buskirk is active in stewardship ministry for her faith community in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and works with congregations through Core Capital Campaigns.



THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP

Vestry Highlights

October 12, 2022

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

We approved the minutes of the September 14, 2022 meeting.

Mother Liz read the Bible study scripture Luke 18:1-8 in which a judge grants a persistent woman's request so she will stop bothering him. This is a reminder for us to be persistent in our relationship with God as God knows our needs and will act with justice.

Mother Liz reported on the organist rotation now that Cathy has moved; the Stewardship program with the Annual Ingathering of Pledges on October 16; the Sewanee Alumni lectures that she attended on Zoom; and Bishop Kevin's Diocesan Convention address. She discussed the resolutions that passed—a study to evaluate a merger with the Diocese of Central PA; and the COLA increase for clergy of 8.5%.

Mother Liz is awaiting a return call from Steve Baker of the Diocesan Staff regarding help with strategic planning.

The Vestry approved a \$500. donation to the Thanksgiving Feed-a-Friend program at Trehab and \$500. to each of two hurricane relief organizations in Florida.

We agreed to join Christ Church and St. Mark's for an Advent Lessons and Carols service on Saturday, December 17 at St. Mark's.

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday, so we will hold a Christmas Eve service AND a service on Christmas Day (Sunday).

The Treasurer's report was postponed until next month.

Looking ahead:

Stewardship campaign—in gathering on October 16
Morning Prayer at Meadow View Wednesday, October 19 at 10:00
Soup Night November 2 @ 3:30
Bible Study November 2 @5:00
Susquehanna Symphony Society Concert Friday, November 11 @ 7:00

Barbara Crafton, who preached at Mother Liz's ordination, will present her book, The Courage to Grow Old on Saturday, November 12 @ 10:00 at St. Paul's with lunch to follow. This presentation is for the entire parish and we welcome the community to join us.

The meeting was adjourned.

Our next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. This is a change from our usual third Thursday to allow Mo. Liz to attend DOK training.

Sundays Service

OCT
23



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Old Testament:

Jeremiah 14:7-10,19-22

Psalms: 84:1-6

The Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: Vickie Calby

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger & Karen Blye
McAbee

Announcements: Vickie Calby

Lector: John Warriner

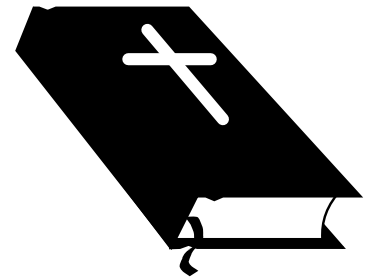
Organist: Rudy Sumpter

This week's Hymns:

O God, our help in ages past

Come, thou fount of every blessing

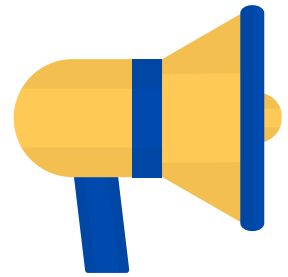
Take my hand, precious Lord



This week's Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Happenings and Announcements



Morning Prayer at Meadow View

This week, Oct. 19, join us at Meadow View at 10am as we offer Morning Prayer and Hymn sing.

Mother Liz is away

Mother Liz will be out from 10/16-11/8. If you have any pastoral emergencies, please call Lynne Graham at (570)934-1106



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.

Susquehanna County



We are collecting coats in
October & November

Distribution Dates

Christ Church: Forest City: Oct. 27, 28, 29

St. Marks Church: Nov. 3-4

VFW Great Bend: Nov. 14-15

St. Paul's Montrose: Dec. 14-15

Last Week's Service and Events

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - OCTOBER 16

I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me,
his life laid down for me.

The October 16th live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz, who also did the announcements. Nancy Dooling read as lector and Joyce Printz played the organ. The service included four 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.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And his righteousness,
And all these things
Shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia.



Meadow View Visit

On Wednesday morning, October 19th, St. Paul's volunteers read Morning Prayer at Meadow View.

The residents are so appreciative of the service. With the help of Joyce Printz at the piano, we sang numerous hymns and made a joyful noise unto the Lord. Everyone is welcome to join in on the third Wednesday of the month. The next visit there will be November 16.



Coats for Our Community

The coats that St. Paul's has collected and stored in blue tubs in the Celtic Room all year are on their distribution tour. Delivered by American Legionnaires from Post 154, they have already been to the Montrose American Legion and Blue Ridge School. They are now at Christ Church, Susquehanna to be distributed this weekend. High School kids usually help carry them in and set them up. We buy children's coats at the Salvation Army starting in January and have several coat drives. Interfaith gives us all the coats they get. We are always looking for gently used, warm winter coats and received them during the year. Check your closets out for any warm coats you may no longer need.



First Look at the Bride

Oh my! Isn't she beautiful? Carol and Rich Marker get a first glimpse of their granddaughter bride. Both of them look pretty spiffy too! As Carol put it, "We clean up pretty well-haha!" Yes, you do.

EARLY OCTOBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Yes, God is painting the mountains!” It’s hands down the prettiest fall we have seen in several years. But, the leaves are falling early so get out and see them. Fall sunrises greet us in the morning now – oranges rather than reds and yellows. Red winter berries and barberries appear on bushes, waiting for the birds to find them in winter or boys to use them as ammunition. A trip down one of our dirt roads this time of year is breathtaking – a Norman Rockwell painting.

Get out and see the beauty God has created – its autumn in Susquehanna County.



Ash Borer First Arrival

On October 2016, I took a picture of the first sign that there was something called ash borer damage on the property. Called blonding, that tree, plus all of the other ash on the property, have long since died and have been cut down for firewood. In the ensuing six years, the borer has devastated the ash population in Susquehanna County and dead ash trees still line the roads.



Remember When – October 2016 – St Paul’s New Sign

St. Paul’s new sign arrived by a big truck early in October, 2016. It replaced the old static board that was to the right of the bell tower door. It was installed that week. We had to get permission from the Borough to have an electronic sign.

