

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

June 18- June 24



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:

St. Barnabas... a companion of Paul on his first missionary journey. They seem to have originally met in Damascus shortly after Paul's conversion. Journeying to Jerusalem they participated in what is now regarded as the First Council of the Church. The big question of the day was whether Gentiles were to be allowed to join the church and be Baptized. That settled by St Peter's famous speech in Acts, Paul and Barnabas are sent as ambassadors to the Gentiles in Asia Minor.

There they are joined by a young relative of Barnabas, John Mark. The latter is identified as the writer of the first Gospel around 64AD. Somewhere around Ephesus, Mark leaves the group and returns to Palestine. This seems to cause friction between Paul and Barnabas. Paul no longer journeys with Barnabas but instead chooses Silas and then Luke.

Barnabas is martyred in Salamis, Cyprus around this date. Later Barnabas is given a place of honor in the Orthodox Greek Church and is revered to this day.

Many Protestant churches have problems with the place given to saints by Catholic Christians. After the Reformation they insist on the centrality of Christ and reject pictures, stained glass windows and statues of saints as somehow blasphemy. Consequently, stained glass begins to disappear, statues are smashed, and empty spaces appear where once they stood.

Episcopalians have never included themselves with this hard right conservative Protestant movement. Rather they preferred to choose a 'middle way'. Many Episcopal churches are named after saints and Mary, while not enjoying the position she holds in the Roman church, still holds a place of honor.

So, what do you think? Do you have a favorite saint? Are you even baptized and named after a particular saint? My preference is St. Joseph often referred to as "the forgotten saint". He has come through for me in the past on several occasions.


Yes, Jesus Christ is the source and bedrock of our salvation, but as humans we sometimes seek counsel and favors from people who are fragile and imperfect like us. Paul for example was not everybody's cup of tea! Bad tempered, anti-women and full of faults and failings, he does not rise high in many people's idea of a holy man. Teresa of Avila did not take well to 'fools'! And there are other examples too many to mention.

In comparison to Paul, Barnabas would seem to have been a caring missionary and well worth his place of honor. Amen.

Fr. Bill.

I have a vision of the Holy Spirit leaning against a tree, or perhaps sinking into her favorite chair, and feeling both exhausted and exhilarated after the day of Pentecost. Rushing wind, fire, tongues, and the many gifts of the Spirit that blast into the world on that day must take a lot of energy, even for God. Much as God the Creator rested on the Seventh Day, I imagine the Holy Spirit must need a bit of a breather after her big day.

This is an appropriate feeling as we look onto the Summer. Half of the year is over, and schools, families, and rectors might be considering or looking forward to Summer plans for rest. We need this – time off to recharge and time to pursue our hobbies and personal interests. A couple of days to sleep in, the chance to look at a different landscape, a trip out of our comfort zone give us the opportunity for new perspectives, new ideas, new approaches.

Rest is so important, that we should require it or at the least remind ourselves to take advantage of it when we can. We are called to offer our gifts to our churches, communities, and families and the gifts we offer will be strengthened if we have had a chance to get new perspective and energy and ideas. Find the ways this Pentecost season to rest up for the challenges that the fall will bring. | 



Questions for Reflection:

What are the ways that you find to rest and recharge?

What about ministry gives you energy or joy?



Cn. J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS. He lives in San Francisco, California where he works on diocesan staff for DioCal and worships at Holy Innocents in Noe Valley.



View from the Pew:

Memorial Day 2023

I'm a veteran. I know this because the clerks at Lowe's give me a half-hearted "thank you for your service" when I use my card to get a 10% veteran's discount. Fifty-two years ago this week, I landed in Korea and arrived on the DMZ there. It seems hard to believe. Where do the years go?

Memorial Day, originally Decoration Day, was established after the Civil War to remember the soldiers who had died. It is celebrated today with parades and the decoration of graves. When I was young, our town had a parade on Memorial Day every year. Not as big as Montrose's July 4th one, it was well attended by most of the people in our town. If you weren't in it, you were watching it. The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Little League teams, church groups, all marched behind the town's two fire trucks. In front of the fire trucks, walking four abreast, were the young vets, WWII guys who were followed in convertibles by the old WWI guys, and even a couple of Spanish American War vets. Leading everyone, was the high school band. Following everybody were bystanders and all the siblings and parents who had kids marching. We marched from the high school through town to the cemetery to the Civil War section where there were prayers from the ministers and speeches from the vets about sacrifices and about their comrades who didn't come home. The young marchers had to sit and listen, but we were really checking out the hot dogs and sodas we got for marching when the speeches were over. Afterward, I would go with my Dad to pull weeds and put flowers on his mother's grave. Good memories.

My parade marching days are, of course, long past and I am now a watcher. As I grew older, I gained an understanding of what those speakers were trying to say and after serving myself, I understood the significance of those young soldiers' sacrifices. America remains free, politically and religiously, because of those sacrifices. While it's a cliché and over used, freedom isn't really free. We should remember those who served and honor those who gave their lives to give it to us. Next Memorial Day, thank a veteran for our freedom. They will appreciate it!

"Did they beat the drum slowly, did they play the Fife lowly, did your comrades walk the death march as they lowered you down?"

-Dan Graham

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.

Sundays Service

June
18



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15,
(21:1-7)

Psalms: 116:1, 10-17

The Epistle: Romans 5:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Nancy Dooling

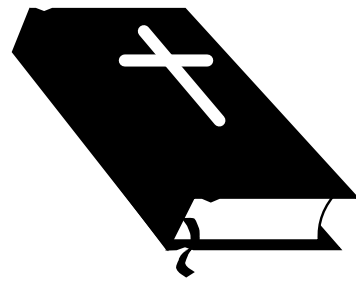
Organist:

This week's Hymns:

The God of Abraham praise

O Love of God, how strong and true

Hail, thou once despised Jesus, 528 Lord, you
give the great commission



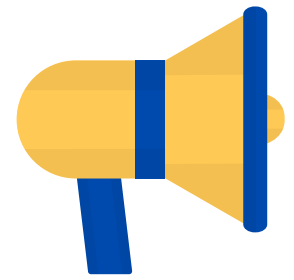
This week's Gospel according to: Matthew

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment."

Happenings and Announcements



Barbara Crafton!

June 24, we will be having a speaker at the church, Barbara Crafton. We will provide coffee hour starting at 9:30 with the speaker beginning shortly after and a potluck luncheon in between. Please let us know if you will be able to provide a dish to share if you are attending!



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Ellen Ely, Rev. Janet Watrous, Edward, Victor, Ralph Bunnell.

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:

Rita Leigh 6/10, Cathy Hammons 6/10, Ben Zalewski 6/17, Lynne Graham 6/18, Jack Lasher 6/20, Mary Zalewski 6/21



This Months Anniversaries:

Vickie & Dave Calby: June 9, 1973
Barb & Tom Undercoffler: June 22, 1962
Carol & Richard Marker: June 22, 1973

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

**LAST TWO SUNDAYS – First and Second Sundays After Pentecost
June 4th, and June 11th 2023**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

The live-streamed June 4th 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Announcements were by Lynne Graham. Vickie Calby read as lector. Our organist was Jeanette Davis. June 11th was led by Mother Liz, Announcements were by Lynne Graham who also read as lector. The service included four hymns. 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.

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.**



Healing Prayers for
Ellen pre-surgery

St .Paul's Original Stained Glass Windows

St. Paul's Church was built in 1856/57. It had stained glass windows from the beginning but they were nowhere near as fancy as the ones we have now. Beginning about 1900, our windows were replaced by various memorial windows including the three Tiffany windows in the altar area. The windows they took out were boxed in 1943 and sent to the Diocese of Wyoming, a mystery to be sure. One of the original stained glass window panes remains and is in the basement. A bit of history.



Canadian Wild Fire Smoke

Last Tuesday afternoon, Montrose was enveloped with a smelly, hazy smoke that hung around. It was almost like there was a field on fire outside of town. It turned out to be a large air mass from Canada where massive wild fires are burning. The smoke blocked out the sun and created a red-tinged hew. It was a little eerie.



Baby Shower for Kristina Rogers

St. Paul's Parish Hall was all decked out in purple last week for a baby shower for Martha Cobb's daughter, Kristina. A fun time was had by all.



Remember when the Tree Fell

Someone was looking out for us last July and we dodged a bullet. The tree on the street fell right on the sidewalk without hurting the hedges or the Rose window in front of the church. It left a large hole and the stump had to be dug out, but a couple days before, the area was packed for the July 4th parade.



Sidewalk Sections Replaced

Temporary inconvenience, permanent improvement. Three different sections of St. Paul's sidewalks were replaced last week by contractor Justin Peake. Justin does our plowing and shoveling in the winter. We are trying to get ready for our July 4th parade watchers.

July 4th Breakfast Still Needs Volunteers

What a crew we had last year. It's a lot of work but a lot of fun. Don't forget to sign up. Talk to Lynne if you are interested.



EARLY JUNE IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.” No rain for almost two months until this Monday. That said, it has cooled off a little. Snapping turtles are laying eggs in soft areas. Watch out, they bite! That invasive fake phlox, Dame’s Rocket, has appeared on our roads and adds a little color to them. The grapes are coming on, but need water. Peeking in a blue bird box, a tree swallow’s eggs just hatched. I count five! We’ll keep tabs on them. Clematis is blooming. The Canadian smoke seems to be gone. Official summer is coming pretty quickly.

