

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

August 20- August 26



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:

The readings for Pentecost are interesting to say the least. 'The great saga of salvation,' begun with the 'Promise to Abraham' continues today with Jacob. In one of the strangest stories of the Old Testament Jacob wrestles with a stranger on the banks of the brook at Jabbok.

It concludes with the revelation that this indeed is God testing Jacob and giving him the new name of Israel. Men/women of faith, have many such struggles. We see it often in the lives of the saints. Teresa of Avila records them in her writings, sometimes referring to them as 'the dark night of the soul.' John Mary Vianney the holy man of Ards, had terrible struggles in the final years of his life.

We all struggle between faith and unbelief, light and darkness. Only the Atheist, and non-believer has no such moments. Ours is a story of revelation, where our God chooses to reveal himself to each of us at moments in our life. As the Celts would say: "It is a way of knowing, what in our hearts deep core, we know already."

This links with Paul in chapter 9 of Romans having a moment of great sadness and revelation. Sad for he sees lying behind him all that he loves of his Jewish heritage and legacy. The Covenant, the Law, the Patriarchs, and tradition. Revelation in the realization that Christ and all who follow him, are the completion of the 'Promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.'

The Gospel from Matthew 14 would have Jesus challenge his disciples to feed the hunger of the crowd of 'Five Thousand'. Jesus may break the loaves and fishes, but it is the disciples who take and distribute it to the people. What is the Gospel trying to say? --That Jesus' mission and ministry is unfinished? That we are somehow the heirs of the Promise? That Eucharist is merely the symbolism that tells us that the whole of the Body needs salvation. "Feed my lambs, feed my sheep," is the mandate of Baptism itself.

Maybe we should know that Baptism begins for us each day as we rise. We rise to do the Lord's work and fulfill his Gospel. No church can exist and expect to live without being faithful to that call to mission. Amen.

Father Bill McGinty

View from the Pew:

An annual event at our house happened this week without fanfare. We woke up and the barn swallows had left. They were here the day before, all sitting on the phone wires chirping – they didn't even say goodbye. We had around 10-nesting pairs in two barns this year. While not as punctual as the famous San Juan Capistrano ones, they arrive here the third week in April from their several thousand-mile journey, have one or two broods of 4 or 5, and leave the third week in August. They build their cupped nests on rafters in the barns with 1,000 beak-loads of mud. They are welcome guests for we wake up to their cheerful twittering every morning while nesting and appreciate their voracious diet that consists of flies and mosquitoes.

Tremendously skilled fliers they flap rather than glide and their aerodynamics are a delight to observe. They enjoy taking dust baths in the driveway or sitting on the phone wires, resting and preening while watching us work below in the garden. They drink water from the pond while flying – skimming the water with an open mouth and are an absolute hoot to watch when training their young in the art of swallow flying. We look forward to their arrival and worry if they are late as their appearance is a sure sign that spring has indeed finally come to Susquehanna County. Their departure, however, means that fall is indeed just around the corner – our first actual sign that summer will eventually end. The barn swallows are a welcome part of our lives. They are a part of this old farm and we hate to see them go.

Like the swallows coming and going, life here with its passage of time has a certain rhythm to it dictated by the seasons and their events. Its cadence ebbs and flows but is always the same. The photos I take each month are interchangeable each year – sometimes the forsythia blooms a little late, sometimes the blueberries are early but fall follows summer, which follows spring, which follows winter, etc. We are comforted by that assurance, as we know that fawns will surely arrive, a garden will be planted, La Rues will have sweet corn, there will be tomatoes to canned, beans to freeze, leaves to rake, and muddy roads to navigate. In winter, there will be the smell of wood smoke, snow that will need to be shoveled, pots of soup to make, and of course, the return of the swallows in the spring. We presume these things will occur. We expect these things.

There is security in knowing that our expectations are met. Like our rhythms, each new season and each recurring event in it provides us comfort that they arrived as anticipated. We expect the swallows to come and go -- and they do – year in and year out. They arrive when they were supposed to and leave when they were supposed to – confirmation that God's still in his heaven and all's right with the world. See you next spring guys – we'll be waiting!

-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

August
20



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Psalm: 133

The Epistle: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Barb U. & Nancy D.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: John Warriner

Organist:

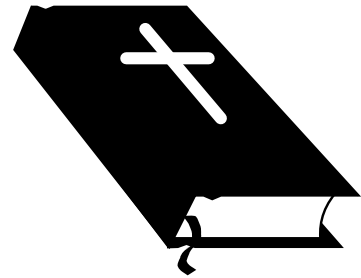
This week's Hymns:

Thou, whose almighty word

How wondrous and great thy works God of praise!

There's a wideness in Gods mercy

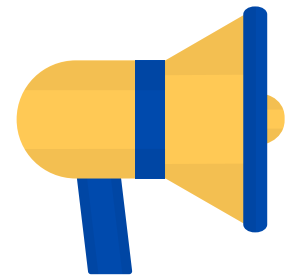
Spread, O spread, thou mighty word



This week's Gospel according to: Matthew

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Happenings and Announcements



Vestry Meeting

This months Vestry Meeting will
be on August 17th.
All are welcome.



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:

James Bailey 8/2, Scott Price 8/13, Barb Undercoffler 8/19, Bob Aiken 8/23,
Margaret Burgh 8/28, Patty Aiken 8/30



This Months Anniversaries:

Jack & Carol Lasher 8/6/1960
Cole & Kate Aukema 8/6/2022

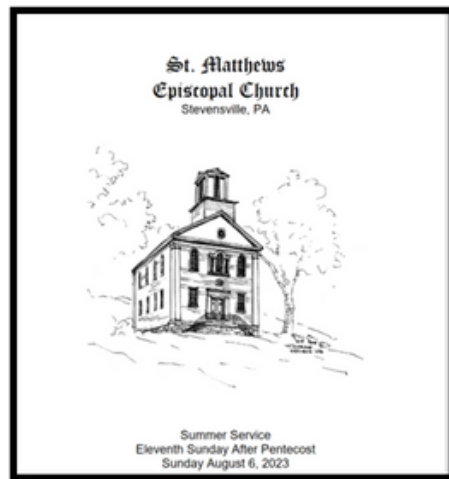
Our thanksgivings:

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 SUNDAY – Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost – August 13, 2023



The August 13th 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Service at historic St. Matthew's Church in Stevensville was led by Mother Liz. Announcements were by Lynne Graham and John Warriner read as lector. Thanks to Bob Kimmel for "hosting" the event. An ice cream social was held after the service. The service was not live-streamed.



Railing Gets a New Look

He did such a good job on the Bell Tower railing, John Finlon's grandson Logan, came back for a second painting session. He repainted the railings on the bell tower stairs and the ones on the Chestnut Street side. Thank you Logan.



Barn Swallows

The Barn Swallow's second brood is ready to fledge. They only have a couple of weeks to get ready for their several thousand mile journey. Their leaving is the first real indication that summer is coming to an end.



Welcome Tilly Rose

Matilda Rose Rogers, Martha Cobb's granddaughter, was born August 7th at 12:05pm. She was 6 pounds 4.9 ounces. Congratulations to Kristina and Josh.



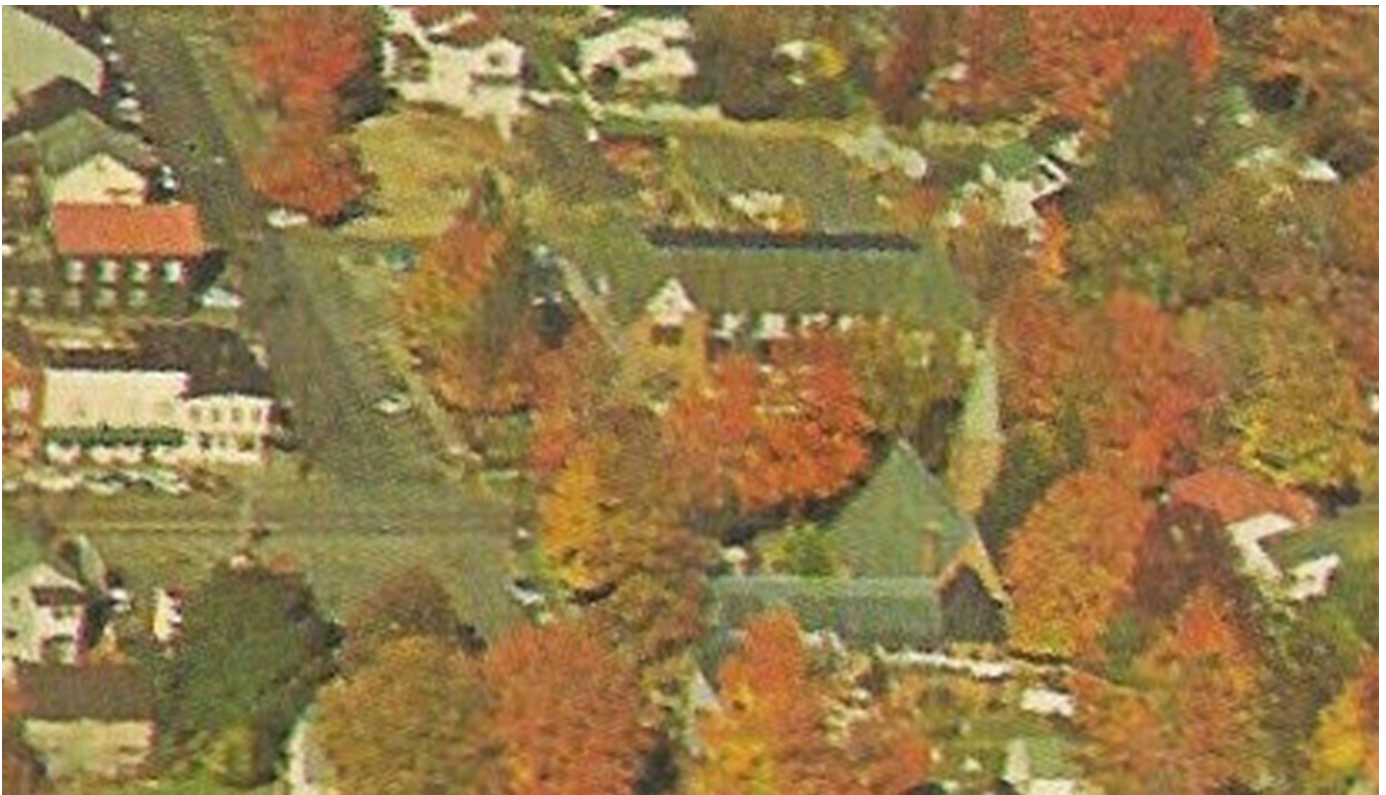
Coats for Our Community

Coats for Our Community is getting ready to start rolling. It's our 16th year and the workers are all getting a little long in the tooth but we're getting ready. If you or your family have any good used, warm coats, please bring them in.



1960ish Photo of St. Paul's

Found this late 1960's photo of Montrose taken from an airplane. Obviously taken in the fall, you can make out St. Paul's steeple above the trees.



MID-AUGUST IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time.” Rain, rain, rain. Dreary, dreary, dreary. It’s impossible to keep up with the grass or the weeds but everything is green. Bright sun one moment, then hard showers an hour later. The corn, which was tentative during the hot, dry June, has taken off and looks like it will be a bumper year. A field of sunflowers are in their glory and their flower explains their name. Shasta Daisies and Black Eyed Susans are blooming now. It’s a Susquehanna County summer.

