

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

October 1 - October 7



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:

Sunday afternoon at 2pm we will have a Blessing of the Animals service in honor of St. Francis.

I feel a great affinity for St. Francis. Not because I relate to the lavish circumstances of his upbringing but because of his love for all of God's creatures. He was born in 1182 in Assisi and was the son of a prosperous merchant. As he grew into adulthood he attempted to fit in with the expectations of a well-born young man. His conscience was awakened after having had multiple encounters with beggars and lepers, and he decided to embrace a life of poverty. Despite his father's protestations, Francis renounced his material fortunes and devoted his life to serving the poor.

The rumored story of Francis is that one day he renounced wealth and material goods to his father by literally stripping completely nude in the middle of the street and leaving it all behind. He became a monk, and in 1210, he started the order of the friars minor named such to emphasize his desire to be considered among the least of these. The order grew over time and eventually Francis lost control of it because his ideal of strict and absolute poverty was too difficult for the other monks to maintain.

He experienced much suffering of body and spirit at the end of his life, but his invincible joy endured to the end. In his later years he was ordained as a deacon, but he resisted the persistent call to become a priest. Not long before his death, during a retreat, Francis received the marks of the Lord's wounds, the stigmata, in his hands and feet and side. Pope Gregory IX, canonized Francis in 1228 and began the erection of the great basilica in Assisi where Francis is buried.

Of all the saints, Francis is perhaps the most popular and admired but probably the least imitated; few have attained to his total identification with the poverty and suffering of Christ.

Of Francis' few writings, his spirit of joyous faith comes through most truly in the "Canticle of the Sun."

The version in The Hymnal begins (#406; #407): Most High, omnipotent, good Lord, To thee be ceaseless praise outpoured, — And blessing without measure. Let creatures all give thanks to thee And serve in great humility. The Canticle of the Sun in its praise of God thanks Him for such creations as "Brother Fire" and "Sister Water." It is an affirmation of Francis' personal theology as he often referred to animals as brothers and sisters to Mankind.



St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of animals, merchants, ecology, and Italy. He is also the patron saint of many other causes, such as families, peace, needleworkers, and those who are dying alone or facing fire. He loved all creatures and allegedly preached to even the birds.

View from the Pew: Susquehanna Sunrises

There are disadvantages and benefits to living on top of the hill. The disadvantages are more obvious in the winter. One wonders how, before four-wheel drive, anyone living on a hill went anywhere when it snowed.

It's as hard to go down sometimes as to get up. The benefits are the views. We live in an old farmhouse on top of a hill at almost 1,500 feet above sea level. We get more snow and ice than the folks 500 feet below on Rt. 706 and we also look down on the morning fog arising from the Wyalusing Creek valley. On a clear day, a little further up the hill, you can see the Noxen wind turbines.



I always wanted to be one of those people who got up before the sun and, with a steaming cup of coffee in their hand and while having profound thoughts, gets to see the sunrise. But for forty years our busy life of work and raising a family left no time for sunrises or in retrospect, any profound morning thoughts. Sleeping to the last possible moment took priority. That changed after we retired.

Our large bedroom window faces directly east across fields and each morning, we see the sunrises. We wake to them – we can't hide from them -- they find us. The house I lived in while growing up and the ones we lived in for over thirty years had too many trees and houses around them to see sunrises and while I must have seen some, I can't recollect any. In 1972 on Easter morning, I attended a sunrise service on a treeless hill, on the DMZ in Korea near a cemetery that I still remember. But in retrospect, my adult life has been mostly sunrise-free.

In science class in high school, I learned that dawn is not an isolated event. Always, somewhere on the earth, there is a sunrise and it is morning. That bright streak of light extending from the Arctic to the Antarctic, that glittering boundary between day and night on our spinning sphere is always there -- somewhere. Just because sunrises are not ours exclusively does not make them any less special.

We are no longer working, and our children are long out of the house. Sometime during our years here in Susquehanna County, I found time for sunrises or they found time for me. Maybe it started six years ago with our new east-facing bedroom addition or when we got Sophie. She gets up with the sun every morning to be taken out before returning to bed. Annie, our new dog, is now on that schedule. Often it is during that exact instant when the sun peeks over Reynolds' fields that we are out. Always awe-inspiring, for that one, brief, moment, while you are standing there mesmerized, the world stands still.

Cherish the times you get to watch the sunrise, we only are given so many in a lifetime.

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

October
1



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Psalm: 78:1-4, 12-16

The Epistle: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Gaby W. & Barb U.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Richard Marker

Hospitality:

This week's Hymns:

Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Come, thou fount of every blessing

Lord dismiss us with thy blessing

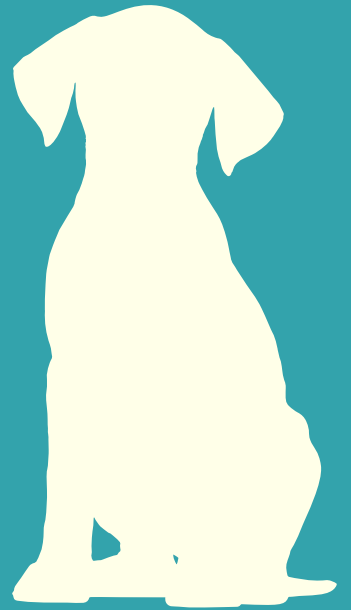


This week's Gospel according to: Matthew

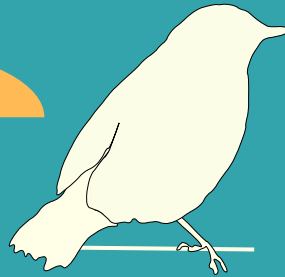
When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Blessing of the Animals Service



Sunday
October 1



2 PM

Bring your dogs, cats, fish,
birds, cows, horses, or pictures
of them for a blessing.

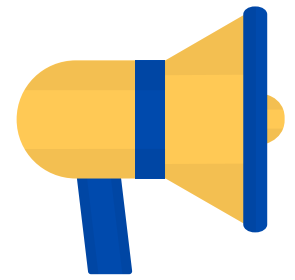
St Pauls Episcopal Church

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Happenings and Announcements



Guess what time it is?!

SOUP NIGHT WEDNESDAY!

October 1st is almost here! We are always accepting help from anyone that wants to join us for the afternoon. We have a great time each month and we would love to see new faces! Hope to see you there!



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, The Maginley Family, Caitlin

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:

Vickie Calby 10/19, Robert Smith 10/23, Carol Marker 10/31



This Months Anniversaries:

Dan & Lynne Graham: October 5, 1974

Jerry & Maggie Sock: October 20, 1984

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.

Vestry Highlights

September 21, 2023

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

The August 17, 2023 minutes were approved.

Mother Liz led the Bible study of Matthew 20:1-16 in which Jesus tells the parable of the vineyard owner who sends workers into the fields at different times of the day and pays them all the same, no matter how long they worked. The workers who worked all day resented those who worked an hour receiving the same pay, but the vineyard owner pointed out that he is allowed to be generous with his money. Each received what was promised. God is loving and God's generosity does not depend on our works.

Priest in Charge Report:

Mother Liz attended two VELI meetings for new clergy and clergy new to the Diocese. Her commitment to the discernment committee for an aspirant to the priesthood has finished. Liz will lead a discussion of Transforming Questions every other Sunday after coffee hour. She informed us that Rita L. has moved with her son to Delaware Water Gap. Liz purchased several gas cards for those seeking assistance. She is participating in the training Sacred Ground twice a month.

Old Business:

Dan gave a property report detailing the projects underway, many of which are a result of the heavy rains and storm damage. The tree which fell in the parking lot was cut up and removed by JJ Carpenter. He also trimmed branches off the big ash tree at the end of the sidewalk. Gutter and shingles will be replaced due to damage from the tree. Two furnace compressors have been replaced. A French drain has been cut along the east side of the basement wall which leaks water when we have heavy rain. The drain will empty into the sump pump. We will consider taking down the big maple and ash trees at the end of the Memorial Garden Walk.

New Business:

The neighbor's car was totaled when the tree in the parking lot fell on it. Church Insurance Company, who has no liability for the damage, has graciously offered \$1000 toward replacing her car. With other funds from the budget, Mother Liz's discretionary fund, and parishioner donations, we are able to offer her \$4700.

Stewardship Committee:

John Warriner and Vera Dunn have agreed to co-chair this committee. Our theme for this year is Rooted in Abundance. A stewardship letter from Mo. Liz has gone out to the parish to be followed by letters at intervals until our Pledge Sunday.

Treasurer's Report:

Tabled as John Finlon was not present.

Looking Ahead:

Blessing of the Animals, October 1 @ 2 p.m.
Soup Night Wednesday October 4 with blessing of the animals for the community,
Morning Prayer at Meadow View Wednesday, October 18 @ 10

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer.

Our next Vestry meeting will be Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome.