

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

October 15 - October 21



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

Monday evening I attended Stand with Israel at the Scranton Jewish Community Center. Clergy and elected officials alike spoke eloquently regarding the horrific attack on the people of Israel.

As you know, last year at this time Mother Rebecca and I made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for the first time. It was a transformative and life changing experience to inhabit for a brief period the same lands where Jesus' ministry occurred, where he lived and died for us.

I am heartbroken for the people of Israel. The atrocities committed by Hamas are unspeakable. I am also greatly saddened by the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza who are trapped in their open-air prison. They have been and continue to be used by Hamas as human shields, civilians who will be collateral damage in the war seeking restoration of safety as well as retribution.

My prayer is for strength and courage for the people of the Holy Land in the dark days to come. May God be with them at this seemingly hopeless hour and may peace be restored to the people of Israel/Palestine.

- Mother Barnes' statement from the Stand with Israel Vigil at the Jewish Community Center (JCC), Scranton, October 9, 2023.

"Thank you for inviting me to be with you this evening. As President of the Scranton Area Multi-faith Ministerium it is an honor to be here to say a few words and to offer a prayer. It is also with a very heavy heart that I stand before you.

If I may be indulged a personal note, a year ago I was in Israel for a study pilgrimage. The evening we arrived was the celebration of Simchat Torah. The calendar being what it is this year, it is a week earlier, but the same holiday on which the now escalating war began. Little could I have imagined when I was there that a year later, a land where I left a piece of my heart would be in such devastating crisis.

Over the past couple days, like many of you, I have made calls and texted friends to check on their wellbeing, and so many, are just one degree of separation from someone who is experiencing trauma, fear, anxiety, or worse.

This evening, we come together, people of different traditions, and we lament. We stand together in condemnation of the terroristic attacks of Hamas, and all forms of violence and acts of inhumanity and injustice.

By whatever name we call God, we call together on a God whose heart like ours -- is broken.
Let us pray,

God of peace, we pray for the people of Israel and Palestine in these perilous and dangerous times. For all who are fearful for the safety of their loved ones and themselves, we pray that the assurance of unfailing love, even in the midst of danger, settles upon them. Shelter them from despair and protect them from harm.

For all who are wounded, we pray they find healing.

For all who have died, we pray they find rest.

For all who grieve, we pray they find comfort.

For leaders on all sides, we pray for a renewed will to embrace a path of reconciliation and peace that preserves the rights and dignity of all of your children.

God of mercy, help us to remember there is no border that can separate us from your great love and protection, no stone that can sound the well of your deep mercy.

God of justice, we pray with hopeful hearts that your beloved children of the Holy Land will be spared a future of sustained violence and unrest and that a recognition of the humanity of all people will prevail.

We ask all this in your most Holy Name. Amen."

(Prayer adapted from "A LITANY FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND – American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.)

View from the Pew:

The Bad with the Good

I actually believe it's true; aging makes us wiser in some ways. Also, as we live through tough times, there is truth in it making us stronger. Over the years, I have worked very hard at not anticipating trouble and it's a tendency I've struggled to overcome since my childhood. At this point in life, I know trouble will find you no matter what you do, but so do good things.

Last week, someone said to me, you don't cry anymore. The conversation was centered around this person's healing from a recent surgery, and she started to cry. Frustration, pain, healing...who wouldn't cry. The comment sort of stopped me in my tracks. Once she said this, I realized it's true. Very rarely do I cry. I used to cry at almost any-thing. Someone having a tough day, me having a tough day, the thought of a tough day...etc. I didn't like it, I tried not to do it, but in the long run, our emotions will do what they do. Another person went on to say, "it's unhealthy not to cry." Also, a wonderful part of aging, not needing to justify yourself to anyone else. So, I listened while she went on to tell me I should seek therapy. Inwardly I smiled and thought, oh sweet-heart, you have no idea why my tears have dried up. Life has given me therapy enough. I am what I am and content with it. With all that said, it's been a day of downs and ups and brings home why we all react to life's changes the way we do.

I started the day with news that Sue Stone, a friend, as well as the long-time administrator of the Montrose Library, and all-around wonderful person is not doing well and is in ICU at Robert Packer. All prayers appreciated. Shortly after I learned this up-setting news, I left for my third PET scan. As with many things in the last few years, it's become a bit routine. Of course, I still ask God to be with me, but I don't play the "what if game". What God has planned is what will be. As the test was being performed, I actually enjoyed the warmth in the tube...I had been freezing up to that point. I almost fell asleep! When it was over, as usual, the lovely man doing the test told me to check the "Portal", and I would probably see my results tonight. I generally don't look at the results, I wait for the professional to let me know what the story is...for some reason I checked the Portal tonight. If I am understanding it correctly, these are the best results I've had from this test to date! A day of downs and ups like many days in our lives. By the grace of God there will be more ups than downs for all of us.

- Vickie Calby

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
15



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Exodus 32:1-14

Psalm: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

The Epistle: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Lynne Graham

Hospitality:

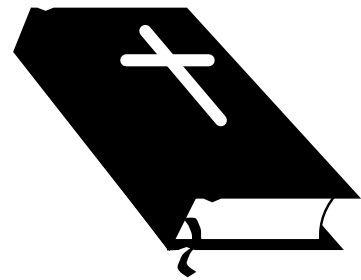
This week's Hymns:

Christ whose glory fills the skies

The King of love my shepherd is

My God, thy table now is spread

This is the feast of the victory of our God

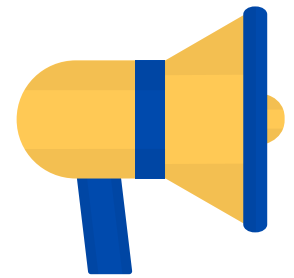


This week's Gospel according to: Matthew

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Happenings and Announcements



Social Night @The Undercofflers

Friday October 13th, is Hobo Night at the Undercofflers. Please bring a chair and a dish to pass while we roast some hot dogs over the fire!

Contact Barb for directions!



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, Sandy Seeger, Chris Moffett

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 Anniversaries:

Dan & Lynne Graham: October 5, 1974
Jerry & Maggie Sock: October 20, 1984



This Months Birthdays:

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

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 - Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost – October 1, 2023

Hail, Thou once despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean king!
Thou didst suffer to release us;
Thou didst free salvation bring.

The live-streamed October 8th, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Announcements were by Lynne Graham and Nancy Dooling 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.

Hail, Thou universal Savior,
bearer of our sin and shame!
By Thy merit we find favor;
life is given through Thy name.





Storm Damage

Our neighbor watching as her car is removed from the parking lot.

Let us give thanks to God that no one was in the car when the tree fell during the recent storm. Thank you to all who contributed funds raised for Karen for a replacement of her vehicle. May her next car serve her well on her continuing journey. Amen.

Pumpkins

As always, this time of year, pumpkins have magically appeared on St. Paul's ramp walk indicating that it's October. Their orange color reminds us Halloween is right around the corner. Speaking of around the corner, look what's on Cherry Street. Booo! Pretty scary!!



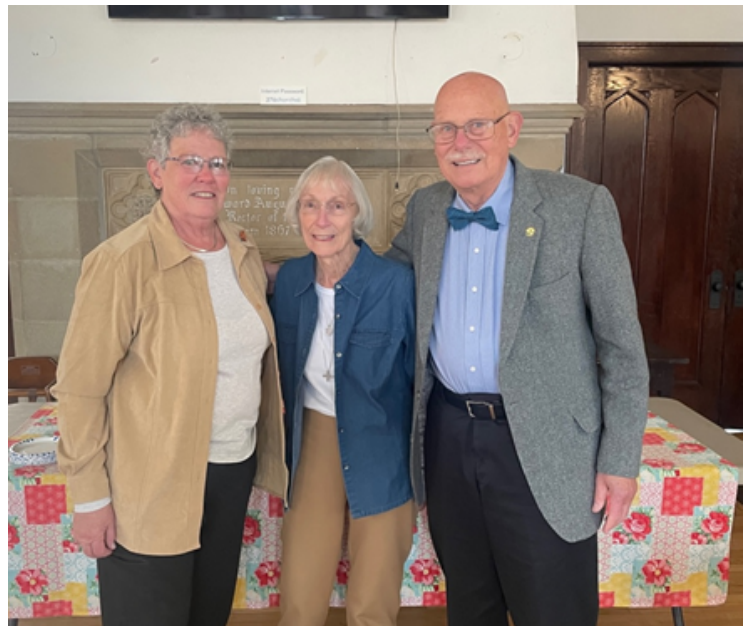
Social Events

The Grahams celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary on October 5th and received a blessing from Mother Liz as did Maggie and Jerry Sock who celebrate 39 years this month. Bob and Vera Dunn visited the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Ky.



Richard Marker

Richard Marker was one of 29 artists who took part in the 27th annual Artists' Open House Weekend. An accomplished artist, he presented his art in our Parish Hall this weekend.



Old Friends Visit

St. Paul's was visited last week by former parishioners Jerry and Maggie Sock.

Coats for Our Community

Coats for Our Community began it's 17th year this week and the coats that we have been collecting and storing in the Celtic Room started their two month journey to six different sites. We will also have coats at the Food Bank this year. The picture is of the American Legion volunteers who help deliver the coats.



Roof Getting Fixed

The roof over the altar and the gutter that were damaged during the storm several weeks ago, was repaired this week.



Wooly Bear Caterpillar

Every year at this time a wooly bear caterpillar is found crossing the parking lot. According to several local luminaries, the wider the rusty brown sections (or the more brown segments there are), the milder the coming winter will be. The more black there is, the more severe the winter. Looks like a mild one!



EARLY OCTOBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it." Fall is in the air here and it got definitely colder this week. The trees are turning but it looks like their colors will be dull this year. The grass has slowed and the gardens closed, Turkeys and deer are in the fields and frogs haven't disappeared yet. Funny looking fungi are still appearing as a result of the rain. Autumn sunrises never stop inspiring. It's fall in Susquehanna County.

