

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

December 10 - December 16



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.

Our Vestry Members

The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Lynne Graham, Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Sandy Seeger, Clerk

Tom Undercoffler

John Warriner

Vera Dunn

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:



They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. - Jeremiah 17

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since I arrived at St. Paul's almost two and half years ago, I have witnessed Christ-like compassion at work. We are a welcoming congregation – a diverse group bound by our love for one another. Our congregation stands out for its love and acceptance of all. The theme of our annual pledge campaign this year has been Rooted in Abundance, and we have been reminded that we are a mighty forest comprised of ancient trunks and sprightly saplings, each of us contributing our gifts to a world in need. As you have heard messages and stories of abundance this year, I hope that you have recognized how generosity spreads and widens our root structures of faith and action.

Christian stewardship calls us to return to God what belongs to God – return our time, talent, and treasure to the place where you know God's work is being done, where God's love is returned to God and our neighbor. As we work to be good stewards, St. Paul's Church continues to embody that mission!

Throughout the Fall, we have been considering how our stewardship meets the needs of those most vulnerable in our midst in the here and now. We have read examples of faithful living throughout the church. Your significant efforts and support allow us to continually sustain and grow our ministries and share God's love and compassion with even more people. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my immense gratitude. First, thank you to all who have shared their treasure with Saint Paul's, for without your faithful giving, we could not accomplish what we do throughout the year. Further, I would like to thank the Vestry for your continued guidance and direction, the Altar Guild for your dedication and care for preparation of all things liturgical, all who make sleeping bags for the homeless, run Coats for the Community, Stop the Stigma, Soup Night, Fourth of July Breakfast, and Christmas in Montrose. Thank you to those who assist in liturgy- readers, acolytes, lay worship leaders, lay eucharistic ministers, ushers, to those who attend Morning Prayer monthly at Meadowview, as well as the Daughters of the King who offer intercessory prayer for all who have prayer requests.

Our ministerial service may be likened to a patchwork quilt. It is made of squares of many different materials, patterns, and colors. When it is put together it becomes a thing of incomparable beauty. It is a delightful thing to witness is how deeply committed everyone here at St. Paul's Church is to our ministerial patchwork quilt which could be entitled Gospel living. At the outset of my ordained ministry, it is most definitely a blessing to be ministering with such devoted Christians who embody Jesus' message in the way you live each day into becoming the Kingdom of God.

In gratitude,
-Mother Liz

View from the Pew:

I grew up in Crafton, Pennsylvania, a small borough outside of Pittsburgh. It was a lot like Mont-rose in racial and economic makeup and size. My Dad was the night manager of a high-end restaurant and bar downtown and worked from 4 p.m. to closing time. We attended church in downtown Pittsburgh. On Christmas Eve, we always attended the 11:00 pm service there. My mother, brother, and I would take the 10:00 streetcar and meet my father at his workplace. Dad would close early and we would walk to church getting to see the lighted Christmas store windows at Kauffman's and Gimbels along the way. After the service, he would drive us home. It was our Christmas tradition.

In the fall of 1960, our streetcars were replaced by buses, and that Christmas Eve we took our first bus ride to church. Because of the day and the lateness of our trip, we were the only passengers on it. This was its last run for the night and when done, it went to the car barn. When the bus door opened, we were greeted by loud singing of Christmas carols. We took our seats in the middle of the bus and off we went. The bus driver sang the entire time we were on the bus – mostly off-key and loud but enthusiastically. He didn't seem to know all the words or even the first verses to most of the songs, but that didn't deter him – he knew the tune and made them up. I, in my naiveté, found this very funny, and I joined in, but I picked up vibes that my mother was less than amused.

When we got to Steuben Street Hill, which was the final hill to town (it was about the same steepness, curvedness, and length as Summit Hill when going to New Milford), the real fun began! Going too fast, he weaved all over the road and we were thrown about in our seats with my mother screeching. This is better than a ride at Kennywood Amusement Park, I thought! It was actually a wild ride. Luckily, he didn't hit anything on the way down or overturn, and we made it safely to town. He let us off at our stop and drove away still singing. Obviously, our bus driver had been nipping some Christmas cheer and we were very fortunate no one was hurt.

Drinking aside, I have come to appreciate that like the bus driver, everyone doesn't get time off for a holiday. Our military, medical folks, police, firefighters, EMTs, etc., may have to work Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. They might have to celebrate Christmas as a soldier while sitting on the DMZ in Korea or taking care of patients in a hospital as a nurse. But they are on duty so you don't have to be.

So take a moment this Christmas Eve and give those folks a thought when you're with family or friends and they're working -- and say thanks. I'll be thinking of a singing bus driver long ago who had to give up his to drive a family to a mid-night church service. By the way, although a memorable one, that was my one and only Christmas Eve bus ride. After that, my Dad "volunteered" to take the bus to town for work that day and my brother, who turned 16, was drafted to drive us to church and meet him there.

- 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

Dec
10



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13

The Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy S. & Nancy D.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Vickie Calby

Hospitality:

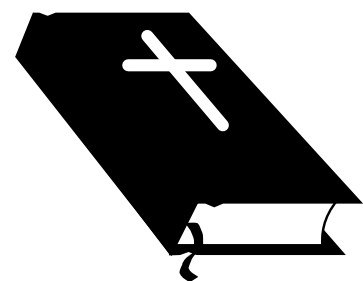
This week's Hymns:

Comfort, comfort ye my people

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

The King shall come



This week's Gospel according to: Mark

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

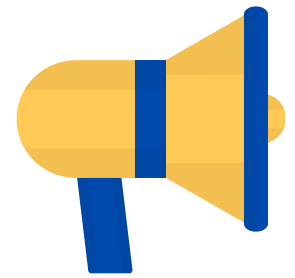
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Happenings and Announcements



Interfaith Gifts for Kids

Thank you so so much to everyone who contributed to the Interfaith Christmas Gifts for this year! We will have so many beautiful smiling children for Christmas this year!

God Bless you all!

-Mary Z.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry recovering from surgery

On Dec. 3, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was admitted to the hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, after experiencing a fall in Syracuse, New York, that resulted in a subdural hematoma. He underwent surgery, which was successful, and he will continue his recovery in the hospital in Raleigh.

Please pray for Bishop Curry, his family, and his medical team. Updates will be provided as they become available.



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, Chris Moffett, Richard Van Auken, Bishop Michael Curry

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:

Dan Graham 12/4, Vera Dunn 12/13, John Warriner 12/31



This Months Anniversaries:

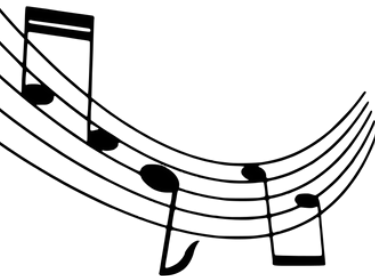
Our thanksgivings:

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 - Twenty Sixth Sunday After Pentecost – November 26, 2023



O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



The live-streamed December 3, 2023, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did announcements and John Warriner read as lector. Mo. Liz blessed the toys that will go to Interfaith. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or anytime on YouTube. Just got to our webpage and hit the red button.



The Country Store Edition

Last Saturday was the yearly Christmas in Montrose event and St. Paul's hosted their annual Country Store. What a crew of helpers. It wouldn't have worked without them. Thanks to Stephanie, Nancy, Anna, Lydia, Lynne, Sandy, Gaby, Wanda, Kristina, John, Martha, Tillie Rose, Mother Liz, David, Sean, Ellen and all the others who helped make it a success.



Birthdays

Another year, another birthday. This Sunday, we celebrated Dan Graham's. Happy Birthday to Dan and John Warriner.



Montrose Decorated

Montrose at night, decorated for Christmas, with the rain reflecting the lights, is a pretty sight. If you haven't, drive through town after dark and take a look.



It's Winter

An orange bucket of salt, a broom and a scraper or snow shovel by each St. Paul's door tells us it's winter time. Be prepared and if the walks need it, throw a little salt.



EARLY DECEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“December is a time to reflect on the blessings of the past year and to embrace the opportunities of the coming one.” The sunrises keep coming; they are worth getting up for. Smoke is seen coming out of a lot of chimneys, a sign of how much wood plays in local heating. There was a skim of ice on the ponds this week. The bare trees and browns of winter are here.

