

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

December 24 - December 30



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: Mother Liz

This week I find myself suffering from Liturgical whiplash. This year we have the fourth Sunday of Advent at 10 am and Christmas Eve later the same day at 5pm. This means that in the morning the angel Gabriel tells Mary she will bear God's son and his name shall be called Emmanuel and by the end of the day she gives birth to Jesus, a bouncing baby boy. I bet all the mom's out there wish that they could have experienced such a speedy pregnancy. I for one am overwhelmed by the fast pace of today's world. We have news 24/7. We can shop 24/7. If we have an issue with one of our credit cards, there's someone from another part of the world on duty to walk us through whatever complication we're experiencing no matter what time of day it is.

To show how used to this I am, I had a problem receiving credit with an online company thanksgiving weekend and I was so frustrated because the specialized department I needed to speak with was closed for the weekend. I have a local bank so they're only available till a certain time of the day and not on weekends. It was a shock to me once when I was traveling, and they couldn't fix my problem with access to my funds until Monday.

Everything now is rush, rush, rush. Those in the workforce today are expected to multitask. It's no longer enough to do your job well, you should also do two or three things at a time well. So, I imagine our instruction in the church to take time during Advent, known secularly as the Christmas season, was met with a mixture of success and failure. I know this year I blinked, and it was over.

They say that we preachers preach the sermon that we need to hear. I know in my heart that God wants to spend more time with me than I have been able to give him. I have not taken the time this Advent to prepare well enough for his arrival. So the gift I am going to give myself this year as Christ comes is time to contemplate His coming more deeply into my heart. I will take time to be with my Lord and comforter and pray for his healing of my infirmities so that I may continue to do his will while I walk this earthly plain.

What gift will you give to yourself as we welcome Jesus to our world?

View from the Pew:

On Christmas Presents and Mothers

Even as a little guy, I always got Christmas presents for my Mom and Dad. Dad's was the easiest. A hammer, hatchet, or some tool to replace the ones my brother or I lost building shacks the prior summer. Mom's however, was always a little more special. It took a lot of thought. About a week before Christmas, when I was in sixth grade, my father asked me on a Saturday if I had gotten my mother a present. I said not yet but was thinking about it. He suggested I go downtown Pittsburgh to one of the 5 and 10s. He gave me \$5.00 and said he could drive me into town at 4:00 pm on his way to work and I could take the bus home. He even had an unused bus transfer I could use so the ride wouldn't cost anything.

Always lit up at night and exciting, during the holiday season, Pittsburgh, like all cities, was magical. Gimbel's, Horne's, and Kauffman's all had their store windows decorated. Christmas lights were hung all over town. Salvation Army volunteers were ringing their bells on a number of corners, and the stores were all playing Christmas carols. It was an exciting time of year and the light snow added to the ambiance. Perfect present-buying conditions!

After my dad parked at the Monongalia Wharf and we walked to where he worked, I was on my own. I went to McCrory's, Murphy's, Woolworth's, and lastly, Grant's. At Grant's, I noticed something going on in the middle of the store. There, on a raised platform, was a man with a Santa Claus hat on who was selling something. There was a group of people around the platform listening to him. I ambled over and figured out that he was selling a vegetable slicer. It sliced and julienned fruits and vegetables. While talking, he was demonstrating how it worked -- slicing tomatoes paper thin, carrots, and celery -- it sliced everything -- and fast -- zip, zip, zip. It was amazing! It was a Slice-O-Matic and they were on sale for today only for the incredibly low price of only \$4.99. AND if you bought it that day, you got a FREE deluxe crinkle cut French fry blade and wait for it....also a FREE Chop-O-Matic, for all your onion chopping needs. I knew Mom needed one -- I had found the perfect present! I raised my hand and was suddenly the center of attention as the salesman pointed me out: "There's a young man who knows a deal when he sees one."

I knew I had made the right decision when the woman who was collecting the money congratulated me on my purchase. BUT, when I went to pay, there was tax and I didn't have any extra. I must have looked so crestfallen that the lady actually reached into her own purse and pulled out some coins to pay for the tax. "Merry Christmas," she said. Carrying it back home on the bus, I smiled all the way. The next night I wrapped it with the free extras and put it under the Christmas tree with the other presents. I couldn't wait until Christmas for her to open it.

Christmas morning we opened our presents after breakfast and I told Mom to open mine first. She opened it and like Mothers since time began, put on a big smile and said she loved it. She said she couldn't wait to use it. Although I was quite pleased with myself at the time, Dad would sit down with me before Christmas next year and give me a life discussion by telling me that men should only give women personal Christmas presents, like jewelry or clothes. It seems I had bought her a broom the year before and he was seeing a pattern!

About forty years later, when we were cleaning out my Dad's house, there in the back of the top shelf in the farthest right cabinet was, yes, you guessed it, the Slice O-Matic, still in its box – obviously unused. I remembered it immediately - she'd kept it all those years! I brought it down, opened it and smiled. There in the bottom was my old present tag in my 6th-grade scrawl -- "To Mom, Merry Christmas, Love Danny."

- 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
24



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm:

The Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy S. & Nancy D.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Nancy Dooling

Hospitality:

This week's Hymns:

People, look east

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

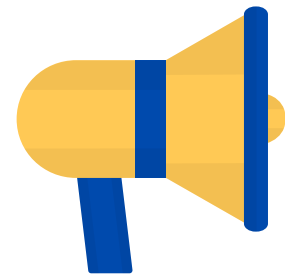
Come, thou long expected Jesus



This week's Gospel according to: Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Happenings and Announcements



Diaper Drive

The church is still accepting diapers for the diaper drive! If you aren't planning on buying diapers or going to the store, you can make a donation to us so that we can buy them for you!

We thank you in advance for your donations.



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, Bob Dunn

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 – Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long!
Let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

The live-streamed December 17, 2023, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did announcements and Tom Undercoffler read as lector. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or anytime on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.





Coats for Our Community

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, St. Paul's distributed coats. It was the last distribution for the 2023 Coats for Our Community's year – our 17th. We gave out over 1,200 coats this year at seven distribution sites including the Interfaith Food Bank. We want to thank everyone that donated a coat or helped. You kept your neighbors a little warmer this year.

Coffee Hour Attire

Harry was decked out in his Christmas finest during coffee hour last week. It appears to be a Grinch hat but he won the award as the most decorated parishioner.



Seasonal Diaper Drive

While we're thinking about the arrival of baby Jesus, what an appropriate time to think of diapers. We have had a good response. Throughout the remainder of Advent and Christmas, we will continue to collect donations of any size diapers that will be distributed to CareNet and Women's Resource Center. Thank you for your generosity!



Sump Pump Troubles

"Yep, looks like it ain't working." When Kate came in on Monday, the red light over the Celtic room door was on. Not a good sign. It meant that the sump pump in the front yard near our sign was not working. John and Patrick took a look and the sump pump had to be replaced.



Advent Class a Success

Given the opportunity, adults love to color, too. Tom, Lynne, Teddy, Wanda, Vickie, Gaby, Sandy, and Barb not shown (John W., Ellen and Liz), enjoyed a light lunch together and continued with our series delving into the meaning of hope, peace and joy in this season of waiting and preparation. The final discussion will be Wednesday at 11:30 in the Guild Room after Morning Prayer at Meadow View.



Christmas Around Town

Montrose was ready for Christmas this week and many of the houses were gussied up with their Christmas preparations. It's fun to drive around and look, especially at night. If you need something sweet or some last minute Christmas Gifts, Kate will be over at Lydia's Bake Shop inside Hometown Furniture on Thursday and Friday this week!



LATE DECEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.” The week started off warm but then 2 days of hard rain and a drop in temperature brought snow and ice on the ponds. But it’s perfect weather for hiking. The sunsets remain worth seeing.

Thursday is the Winter Solstice. Bundle up,

