

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update January 28- February 3



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:

According to Wikipedia, the week of prayer for Christian Unity is an ecumenical Christian observance in the Christian calendar that is celebrated internationally. It is kept annually between Ascension Day and Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between 18 January and 25 January in the Northern Hemisphere. It is an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days. By annually observing the week of prayer for Christian Unity, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)

In response to an invitation from Bishop Bambara, I attended this year's prayer service on Wednesday afternoon at St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton. There were clergy and lay attendees from all over Northeastern Pennsylvania – some from as far away as Waymart. Clergy from the major Christian denominations in the region led the celebration over which Bishop Bambara presided. A boys and girls choir provided the music for the service. Mother Barnes was invited to preach the sermon. The Gospel text chosen for this year's focus for the week was the parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke.

We are all familiar with this parable and have probably heard many sermons preached on the text. Today Mother Barnes reminded us that Jesus does not answer the lawyer's question, "Who is my neighbor?" Rather he instead demonstrates through the parable who acts with mercy towards the man in need thus acting as a neighbor to the man. In having the Samaritan as the protagonist in the story, Jesus transcends the implication of the lawyer's question, which is as a good Jew, who am I obligated to be a good neighbor to? Jesus instead leads him to see that he is to be a good neighbor to everyone he encounters, even those he may think are his enemies. For Jews and Samaritans had no use for one another.

In putting Love of God first, we are given the fortitude to love our neighbor no matter whether or not we agree with them, showing them mercy in times of need. May God continue to give us the strength to do his will as meet one another throughout our days.



View from the Pew:

Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are, I think I know...Robert Frost's famous poem. Most of us know it – we learned it in some English class in school I think. It is about a cold snowy evening, woods, and obligations. We had our first snow here last week. The first snows for the previous three years were earlier in December but this year ours finally came with five inches of big, slow-falling flakes. December was our waiting month. One that gets dark at 4:30 and one in which we wait for snow (and winter). We know snow will be coming, we just aren't sure when. Because of the cold, the recent one may remain but usually, the ground is still too warm to keep it around. But, it clung to trees and provided a winter vista that we here take for granted and we know other bigger storms will follow.

On the surface, Frost's poem is simplicity itself. The speaker is stopping by some woods on a snowy evening. He takes in the lovely scene in near silence and is tempted to stay longer, but acknowledges the pull of obligations and the considerable distance yet to be traveled before he can rest for the night.

To get to our house when we come home on 267 from Vestal where we shop, we use Birchardville Hill Road. That takes us on dirt roads through about a 3-mile stretch of mostly woods. Dirt roads and dark woods are a normal part of driving here for those of us who do not live in town. Most of us outside of town go down some country road or another to get home. The Dunns, Undercofflers, and the Markers all live on wooded roads. Snow on those roads just makes it a little more challenging.

Particularly in one heavily wooded section on our drive at night near Bunnell's, when there is snow on the ground or it's snowing, I like to stop and turn my lights and radio off. Sit-ting in the darkness, I open the windows and feel the cold and listen to the silence of the snow, and watch it fall. It is not a time to have reveries and think about life and love or have great thoughts. It's a time to empty your head and be the only person in the world and realize what an insignificant part of it you are.

I actually think of the poem during those times. Unlike Frost, I have no little horse to shake his head as if to ask why we were stopping and tell me it's time to move on. Like Frost, I also generally want to remain longer but as it is night and it is snowing, I want to finish getting home safely. I too usually have obligations. But for a brief moment, I am able to forget about the material world with all its craziness and problems and simply just watch the woods fill up with snow -- and be mesmerized by it -- and appreciate its indescribable pure beauty. The woods are lovely, dark and deep....

You know the rest.

- 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

Jan
28



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm: 111

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Vickie Calby

Hospitality: Vickie Calby

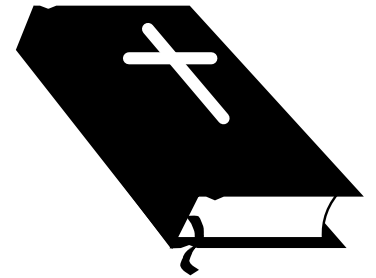
This week's Hymns:

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Amazing grace

Thou, whose almighty word

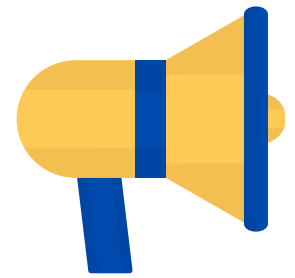
Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim



This week's Gospel according to: Mark

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Happenings and Announcements



Soup Night is coming up again! If you're in the mood for some good company, come on over to the church on Wednesday, February 7th and help us dish out some soup or drop off a pot of your own!

This month is Chicken & Gnocchi and Vegetable Beef!

Also, if you would like to order some to be delivered (if you live in town) or picked up, call Kate in the office and place an order!



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Bishop Michael Curry, The Aukema Family, The Rogers Family

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:

Charles Cesaretti 1/2, Karen McAbee 1/4, Ann Shafer 1/16, Bill Rathbone 1/18, David Calby 1/24, Marsha Jones 1/26



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 After Epiphany, January 21, 2024



The January 21, 2024, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham made the announcements and read as lector. John Warriner served as chalice. Barb Undercoffler provided hospitality. After the service, we had our Annual Meeting. 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.



Last Chance

Last Chance if anyone wants to take home some of the poinsettia that was used to decorated the altar for Christmas. They are in the Parish Hall.



Annual Meeting

On Sunday, St. Paul's held their 114th Annual Meeting. New Vestry members-Dan Graham, Jack Lasher and Wanda Peirce, and delegates to Diocese convention-John Warriner and Lynne Graham, alternate were elected.



To my dear parish family,
I am truly grateful for the generous gift given to me at the Annual Meeting. The past years have been a journey that I would not have missed. The love and steadfastness of this congregation have been a guiding light for me and certainly a beacon for this community. Thank you ever so much for your support. It has been an honor to serve God together and one of the best learning experiences of my life.

Love,
Lynne



January Snow

The St. Paul's campus remains blanketed with snow.

In the Memorial Garden, St Francis has weathered more than 50 winters. Deer tracks abound near him.

Perhaps they sense a peace. His white cap of snow lets you know it's winter time at St. Paul's. Here's an old timey snow photo looking down South Main St.



Old 1906 St. Paul's Postcard

Here's a really neat old St. Paul's 1 cent postcard from E-bay.. It's addressed to: Master Everett G. Ainey, # 230 Chatham St., Williamsport Pa.

Feb 10th 1906 - Dear "Loady" - This is where Auntie Bee and J (?) go to church. Auntie Bee is out sleigh riding with Grandma and Kathline - Jack is driving fine sleighing and lots of snow. Lots of love to all from Auntie Bee & all With love "Daddy Pete"

The photo was taken about 1902 and the ivy on the front was heavy.



LATE JANUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"There's just something beautiful about walking on snow that nobody else has walked on. It makes you believe you're special." A poor cold pheasant was sitting in the snow at Salt Springs. Probably one of the last they released in October. John Warriner sent a photo of Elk Lake at his dock. Looks cold. Country roads in Susquehanna County – beautiful. The woods are lovely, dark and deep. Deer looking for food. It's winter!

