

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

February 25- March 2



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

John Warriner, Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Jack Lasher

Dan Graham

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

“Out of Wilderness.”

The First Sunday of Lent: begins with an Act of Repentance, as we rise as a congregation to publicly confess all our sins and the collective sin of the world. Lent remembers war, violence, hatred, racism, and all abuse that undermines the basic humanity of all who dwell under the umbrella of God’s creation.

Our first reading finds Noah, his family, and the Ark at rest, after the Great Flood. Here God makes a Covenant with Noah, that never again will he flood the world. God gives a sign of his love and mercy in the sign of the Rainbow. Lent too, reminds us of our covenant with God through Baptism.

In Peter’s First Letter, he reminds us Jesus died for us, to bring us closer to God. Yes, Jesus died in the flesh, but he is very much alive in the spirit. “Do you not know,” Peter tells us, “That we are saved through Baptism?”—We journey through the 40 days of Lent, not just that we spiritually die to sin, but that we rise with Christ at Easter and his spirit fills us with hope for the future.

In Lent we are asked to empty ourselves of everything that separates us from the love of God. It is our way of cleaning house, of putting things right, of letting go of our neglect, and restoring that link with God that through Baptism forever ties us to our salvation.

Mark’s Gospel gives a rather brief account of Jesus’ baptism, in the River Jordan by John. Then Jesus goes into the Wilderness to pray. He stays there for 40 days and nights and is tempted by the devil. We could compare and say that Lent is our Wilderness, in which we seek to be cleansed and renewed. However, most of us know a different kind of Wilderness. Often, we have carried it like a heavy weight down the years. At times it has weighed us down and crippled us.

Divorce and its aftermath, the loss of a child, serious illness, unemployment, homelessness, separation, and at times desperate loneliness, has sapped at our very spirit, torn our hearts, and wrecks our bodies beyond repair. In Lent we pray for healing from the terrible ‘wilderness that have often afflicted us and wreaked havoc on our lives. In Lent we need that Rainbow that tells us that we belong to a loving merciful God, who will bring us home, through Wilderness, to his Promised Land.

Hurt, suffering, pain, time often heals, but the memory, guilt from mistakes past, lingers too often in our lives. If there is a gift of the Holy Spirit, that we truly need, it is the gift of Peace. Peace of mind, peace in heart, a peace that will give us true rest. In Lent Christ invites to bury our guilt, hurt, and pain in a deep tomb and to rise, a new person in body and spirit. It is the kingdom of which he speaks in today’s Gospel.

Let us in this Lenten Season, truly repent and believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Bill.

View from the Pew:

Colleen, a Love Story

We were living in TN and we had not had a dog for a while. The house did not seem like a home without one. One day while Dave was at work I decided to go to the local shelter and see if anyone wanted to come home to live with us.

Sadly, there were far too many beautiful faces wanting to be picked and taken to a loving home. The good thing was many of these dogs were getting noticed by other visitors who were trying to make a very important decision.

As I took my time and tried to give every dog my full attention, I came upon one dog cowering in the far corner of her cage. She was shaking all over and would not look at me. I stopped. I tried to get her to come forward and visit but she just could not do it.

I went and found a helper and asked for a leash. I took her out into the courtyard and began walking around. It was like night and day. The minute she got away from all the barking and noise she looked at me her ears perked up and she began trotting around the courtyard with me in tow.

The minute Dave got home from work I told him about the dog and said we had to go visit her so he could give his okay. Off we went. There she was cowering in the back of her cage but now she had a roommate. They both had food, but she did not touch hers, soon her roommate was eating her food too. We got a leash and went out into the courtyard to walk her around.

Dave's words to me were, "she has no personality". WHAT! I exclaimed look at the difference in her once we came outside." Well, no matter what I said he was not on board.

The next day I went back to the shelter by myself and took her outside for a walk. She loved me up and jumped around and I swear if she could have talked, she would have been begging me, "saying, please take me out of this hell hole.

Back at home I told Dave about the time I spent with her. Now, if you know Dave, he will say his peace and then tell me to, "do what you think best".

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.

Day three, there I am again, this time sitting outside the door to where the dogs were, fighting with myself because more than once Dave has been right and I would end up wishing I had listened to him...yes, I put that in writing.

Along came a helper, she asked if I would like to look at the dogs. I told her I had one in mind, I just had not made a decision. She asked me which dog. I told her. She broke into a huge smile and said, "I am so glad! No one will look at her because she won't interact. This is a "kill shelter", and she is scheduled to be put down".

Ok, that did it! No way was I leaving her there.

From the day Colleen trotted through our front door, Mr. No Personality has been in love. As much as it pains me, I think she came to love him more than me, in the beginning she knew who saved her bacon!

Colleen has told us every day of her life how grateful she is to have a place of honor in our home. She has brought us so much laughter. Even when we brought a cat home to live with her, she went along for the ride with a good attitude. When the cat decided she was his best friend she took it in stride...most of the time.

Watching her run was pure joy, ears flapping, long legs flying. Riding in the car had to be her favorite treat. Going to visit Grandma with Dad a wonderful almost daily adventure.

Today she had to leave us. Another decision that had to be made; this one will not bring us joy.

- Vickie Calby



Sundays Service

Feb
25



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm: 22:22-30

The Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector:

Hospitality:

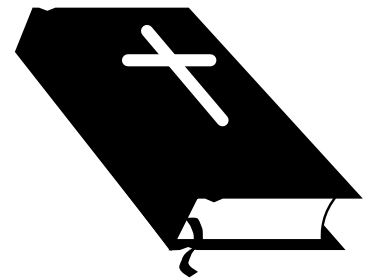
This week's Hymns:

Take my life and let it be

The God of Abraham praise

And now, O Father, mindful of the love,

675 Take up your cross, the Savior said,

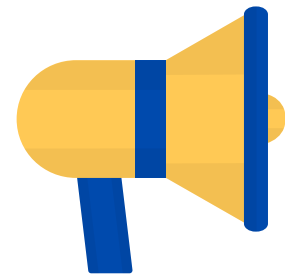


This week's Gospel according to: Mark

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Happenings and Announcements



This year, for Black history month, Bishop Curry has invited all Episcopalians to honor the life and work of Blessed Absalom Jones by making a gift to the 2024 Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Please consider making your gift today:

Online – Absalom Jones Fund

Call -- (212) 716-6002

Text -- 'GIVEAFJ' to 41444

Mail to -- DFMS Protestant Episcopal Church US

P.O. Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

(Please indicate Absalom Jones Fund in your memo line.)



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, 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:

Carol Lasher 2/27, Nancy Finlon 2/28, John Finlon 3/6, Elizabeth Smith 3/15, Edgar Warriner 3/20, Elaine Petrzala 3/22, Ann Kiefer 3/22, Tom Undercoffler 3/30



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.

MONTH BLACK HISTORY MONTH
BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK

ROOTED IN JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND EQUALITY

Absalom Jones and Black History Month Celebration

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024
10:00AM**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND PREACHER:
REV. RYAN HAWTHORNE,
Associate Rector at Palmer Memorial Episcopal
Church, Houston, TX.**

Hosted by the Diocesan Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force



St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes Barre
35 S Franklin St,
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Last Week's Service and Events

LAST SUNDAY – First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024

The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise,
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.

It was a busy week. The February 18, 2024, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. John Warriner made the announcements, Lynne Graham served as chaliceist, and Richard Marker read as lector. Sandy Seeger provided hospitality. 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.



Bible Study

Well it's Lent and on Sunday after church at 11:30 we began our Lenten book study of *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine in the Guild Room. Absent from the picture were Teddy, Tom and Dan. Wanda was hiding behind Lynne, so we had a great group of participants and a lively discussion of bystanders at the crucifixion. Good questions, thoughtful answers.



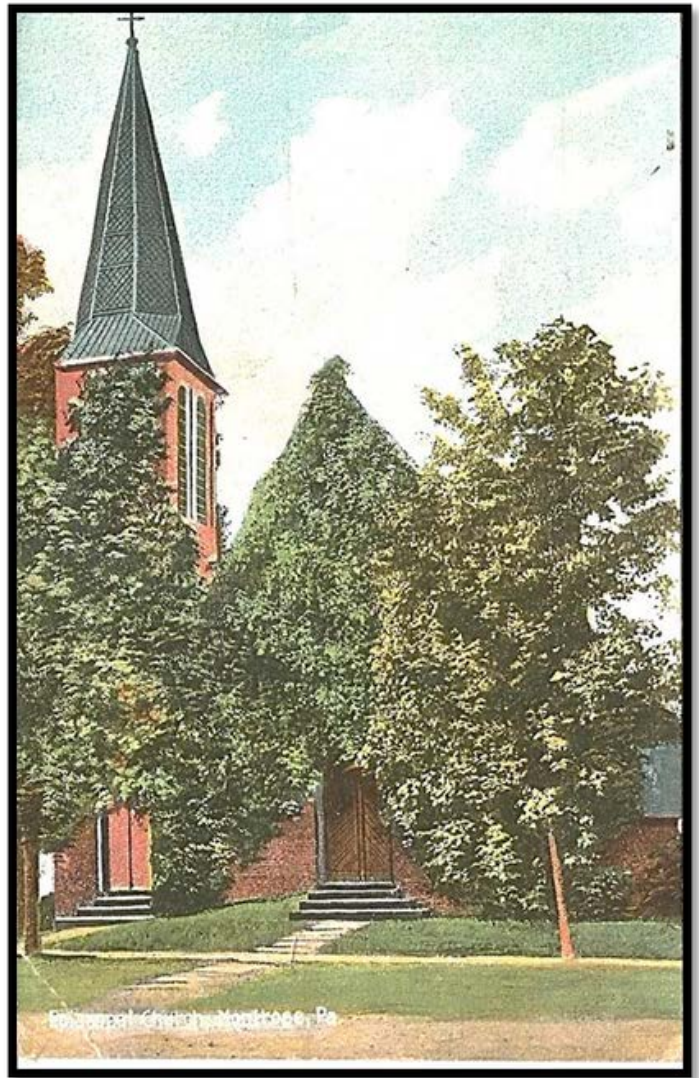
Winter Photo

Not only is our computer guru, Kurt Sussman is a talented individual, he's a great photographer. He shared another wintry picture of his of two deer in the snow.



Class on St. Paul's History

On May 9th, at 6:00 in the Parish Hall, Dan Graham will be doing a class on the history of St Paul's Church and on how the Episcopal Church came to NEPA. Founded in 1831, for over 180 years, St. Paul's and its communicants have been fully integrated into the ebb and flow of the Montrose community. Learn about how the Episcopal Church was established in NEPA and how St. Paul's fit into it. Learn where our first church was built, when the current church and parish hall were built, and hear various stories about the church over its long history. Put the date on your calendar and we hope to see you there. It should be a lot of fun.



Snow on Sunday

We missed the big snow, but got three inches on Saturday night they didn't seem to know about. That left a lot around on Sunday and it was cold.



MID FEBRUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Although February sun shines cold, there comes a day when in the air, the wings of winter slowly unfold and show the coming spring there.” It’s the best time of year to hike in the woods, no leaves or undergrowth and you can see a long ways and no ticks. Saw this flock of turkeys that have survived the winter so far. Two snow pictures taken on Saturday. It’s still winter in NEPA.

