

**ST. PAUL'S**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

# Weekly Update

August 25 - August 31



**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](mailto: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

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: Father Bill

## “Wisdom”

Sunday Pentecost 13, has three readings that are thematic in content. Solomon inherits the throne of his father David, and immediately wants to covenant with God. In his dream, God grants him one request, and he chooses ‘Wisdom’.

There are many examples of the ‘Wisdom of Solomon’, each aligned to his close bond with the Covenant of Moses. ‘Wisdom’ in the Hebrew Bible, is much prized, even more than the feats of warriors. Besides the various books of wisdom, this virtue is illustrated in the stories of Ruth, Hannah and later Esther.

Paul, writing to the Ephesians, begs them to be ‘wise’ and not ‘foolish’. An easy thing to say in the Autumn of your years, for Wisdom tends to belong to the old and aged. Including such things as ‘the use of your time,’ rings that bell of wisdom in many minds. ‘Ephesians’ is full of great advice, on ‘how to live, and live a good life. In some ways Paul looks back reflectively, on his own life, and handing on the lessons that he has learned, from his many mistakes.

We all have that tendency to do this, in our own advanced years. We do not want the young to make the same mistakes, and we would want them to benefit from what we ourselves have learned, and experienced. Sadly, most of this is lost on the young, and it is a truism to say that everyone needs to ‘learn by their own mistakes. Winston Churchill, who should know, because he made so many, once stated: “Youth is wasted on the young!” Is it an ‘oxymoron’ or a mere contradiction, or perhaps even a paradox?

Wisdom for most of us comes late. Yet the Gospel is an invitation today, that despite all our wrong turns, mistakes, and mishaps, even our sinful ways, there is an escape, a ‘hail Mary’, a pathway. Jesus tells the Jews: “I am the bread of life. He who eats this bread will live forever.” --- Reflect on this. There is nothing that we do, say, that deserves forgiveness, and eternal life. Nothing! Wisdom tells us that salvation, is a free gift of God, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We live in a Pagan world. We live in a world of atheists. They win all the arguments. We Christians gamble on this great Roulette Wheel of life. We place all our faith, beliefs, hopes, and dreams, on one spin of the wheel, and we place them all on Jesus Christ. “Let it spin!” we say, “Our money is on Jesus.” ---Why? Because Jesus is all, as a human being, that we would hope to be. In the end, it is loving that counts, and Jesus personifies love in all its dimensions. There really is no alternative for us. Jesus is our salvation, our ultimate wisdom. Amen.

# View from the Pew: Demolition Derby

I was talking to my eldest grandson the other week, who was visiting from Florida, and the conversation turned to things that were very common when I was his age, but are gone now. I'm sure that you could think of a bunch of them, as I did, but one he was particularly interested in was a demolition derby my friends and I went to. On Saturday afternoons, the summer between my junior and senior year, you would find us sitting on the wooden seats in the grandstands watching the races.

Heidelberg Race Track was located in Scott Township, not too far of a driving distance from where I lived. We had our driving licenses by then and were getting interested in things farther afield from home. My Dad said that he heard they ran horses there but if so, it was before my time. The track during those years was a 1/2-mile dirt track that had a 1/4-mile track cut across its infield. The derby was run on the smaller track. I was told the longer track was paved after we graduated.

There was stock car racing there a couple nights a week, including Saturday, but that summer, on most Saturday afternoons, the track hosted demolition derbies. For those who don't know, a demolition derby was like an enhanced version of bumper cars. A number of old cars would line up and attempt to disable the other cars as they went around the track. The last car running would win. The excitement was the wrecks of course, but also the last car running had to do a complete lap around the track to win. It would often die on its journey.

For some reason that I can't now remember, my three friends and I decided to enter Billy Carson's dad's 1954 Ford in the race. On its last legs, it was a black, 2-door Crestline that had holes in the floor, rusted through side panels, blew a literal oil smoke screen like a crop duster and continually stalled. We each chipped in \$25, which let us give his Dad \$50 for the car and cover the \$50 entrance fee. The winner of the race got all the entrance fees. His dad signed the title and gave it to Billy and we went down to the track. The manager was also the owner of the junkyard next door and he got all the cars when the race was over. You were in effect, selling him the car and in most instances, it only got one race. Billy gave him the signed title (it was a little looser then) and as the designated driver, had to sign a paper saying he was some age he wasn't and he waived his rights to sue or something.

## **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](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net) or John Warriner at [jdwarri@me.com](mailto: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.

We were excited the day of the race. Our much-discussed strategy was for Billy to stay away from the other cars and let them wreck each other. The car had to be there by eleven, but on the way we almost immediately ran into problems. Billy drove the car and we followed with a full contingent. But when we got to Carnegie near the track, it died and we had to push it to try and get it started. Eventually, it did and off we went again and did make it on time. There were six cars, including ours, running that day, and you lined up in the order you got there. This was before seat belts. One of the drivers had a football helmet on but that was it. Looking back on it with today's eye, it was a little crazy.

With the entire crowd on its feet cheering, the starter pistol went off. I wish I could report better results, but the old girl didn't have it in her. Blowing blue smoke, the Ford sputtered off the line and then stalled a couple hundred yards down the track -- smack in front of the grandstands. Since all the pushers were watching, the old Ford's budding racing days were over. I can still see it sitting there by itself in the middle of the track -- lonely but proud. Nobody hit it on consecutive laps as it was already out of the race. Billy, whose budding racing career was also over, was able to get out of the car safely and run over to the stands.

Although we would have at least liked a better showing (and maybe a little demolition), I realize now we were disappointed but not embarrassed. We were able to laugh at our failed racing careers. We had entered the race and that was pretty exciting in itself and everyone said that we would do it again next summer. But we didn't. I don't think the race track did the derby the following summer and when I got back from the army it was closed and the land was used for a shopping center.

Through the years, when we got together, the story of Billy's 100-yard racing experience grew to otherworldly proportions but was always discussed with a lot of good-natured laughing -- aimed at all of us.

- Dan Graham

# Sundays Service

Aug  
25



## Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a,14-18

Psalm: 34:15-22

The Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel: John 6:56-69

### This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Melinda Artman

Altar Guild: Barb Undercoffler

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Ellen Ely

Hospitality: Undercofflers

### This week's Hymns:

I come with joy to meet my lord

Alleluia, sing to Jesus

Bread of the world in mercy broken

O wheat, whose crushing was for bread

Blessed Jesus, at thy word



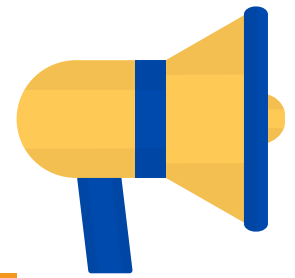
### This week's Gospel according to: John

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

# Happenings and Announcements



**INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

**AUGUST 23 2024**

**5 p.m. TO 7 p.m.**

**BLUE RIDGE PARK**  
116 Church Street  
New Milford, PA 18834

**Free Food • Speakers  
Educational Resources  
Candlelight Vigil**

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY RECOVERY ALLIANCE**  
Knowledge. Hope. Healing.

**STOP THE STIGMA**

The poster features a central illustration of a lit candle with a flame, set against a circular background with a halftone dot pattern. The overall color scheme is orange and yellow.

## For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

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

## Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call John Warriner at 570-278-2317.



## This Months Birthdays:

James Bailey 8/2, Matilda Rogers 8/7, Scott Price 8/13, Barb Undercoffler 8/19, Bob Aiken 8/23, Margaret Burgh 8/28, Patty Aiken 8/30



## This Months Anniversaries:

Jack & Carol Lasher: 8/6/1960  
Cole & Kate Aukema: 8/6/2022

## 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

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost, August 18, 2024

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

The August 18th, 2024, 10:00 Morning Prayer service was led by Vickie Calby. John Warriner gave announcements and served as lector. Penny Jaggars played a prelude, 4 hymns and a postlude on the keyboard. This service was not live-streamed.



## New Bell Ringer

Ask not, for whom the bell tolls, or in this case, who tolled the bell. Harry and Wanda's neighbor, Olivia Andrews rang our bell this week. And she did a great job!



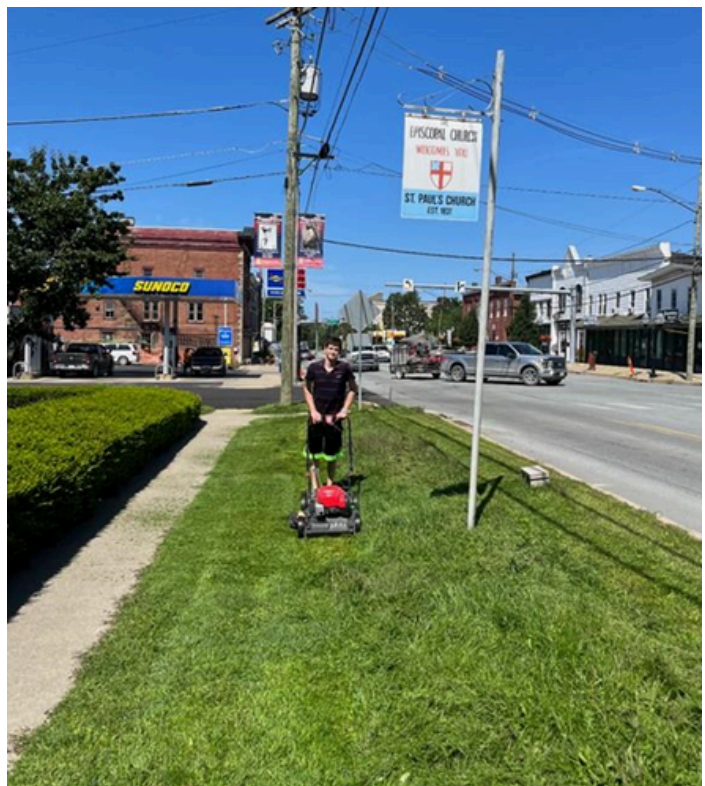
## Tomato Canning and Bean Freezing

Mid-August is “putting up” time here in Susquehanna County. Tomatoes and beans are being canned and frozen. It’s been a crazy year weather wise, but was a good year for the garden in general. The tomatoes did exceptionally well this year and the beans just keep on coming.



## The Grass is Growing

All the rain we have had makes the grass grow and it’s hard to keep up with and everyone is moaning. Here’s Patrick knocking St. Paul’s down.





## MIDDLE AUGUST IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“As the summer begins to wind down, I can't help but reflect on the month of August. To me, August has always been a bittersweet month - the end of summer and the start of a new school year or season.” Rain, Rain, Rain but the heat broke. The grass keeps growing but it's too wet to cut. Wild loosestrife has appeared on the highways – its purple flowers are distinctive and beautiful, but unfortunately it is not native and is invasive. La Rue's beef cattle are enjoying their summer pastures. Gertie the piebald deer didn't have a fawn again this spring. The apple crop is a record breaking one this year. The deer are getting fat. The sunflower field at Brace's Orchards in Dallas follows the sun throughout the day. It's late summer here in Susquehanna County.

