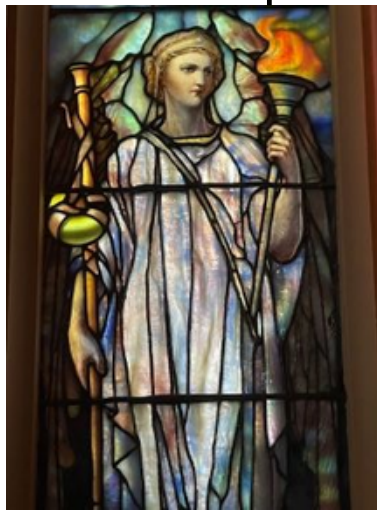


ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

September 8- September 14



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

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

“Prophet.”

John the Baptist was foremost a ‘Prophetic Preacher!’ He belonged to a longer tradition of prophets, from Israel’s past. People constantly get the role of the prophet wrong. The Prophet did not foretell the future. A Prophet ‘made sense of the present, in the light of the past.’ Forget about all the Prophets of Israel, prior to the time Israel settled in the land of Canaan. Abraham, Moses, Jacob, were a different kind of Prophet. No, the Prophets we want to concentrate on are the Prophets who came after the Kingdom of Israel, split North and South, around the year 921bc.

You see, Prophets were men on a mission. Their mission was twofold. First, they worked to convince Israel to return to the worship of Yahweh, and to keep his Covenant and Laws. Secondly, they believed that a return to the Covenant and the Law of Moses had been made so much more difficult since the breakup of the kingdom of David and Solomon.

The Kingdom had broken into two, North and South. As the kingdoms of Israel in the North, and Judah in the South, the 12 tribes could never be united again around the Ark of the Covenant. The split would forever condemn the nation to be slaves, to every conquering force and neighbor. ---The Prophets wanted to see a United Kingdom, but knew this was only possible, if Israel repented, rejected sin, and the ways of their neighbors, and returned to keeping commandments and laws, as in the days of old.

There arose among the Seven and Six century Prophets, a hope. We call it a ‘Messianic hope’, that one would come, sent by God, who would lead Israel back to Yahweh, and back to a new kingdom. This one they named ‘the Messiah.’---This was the beginning of ‘Prophetic Preaching.’ Let me give you an example.

The word of God came to Amos, a farmer in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Yahweh speaks to him, and commissions him, to go to Bethel, the Northern shrine of the Canaanites. He is to convince Israelites to reject a life of wealth, and prosperity, and return to the Covenant. For Bethel was the Temple of the fertility God, Baal, a place of sin, sacred prostitution, and the nightlife, that seduced the youth of Israel. His message began with – ‘Repent!’

Prophetic Preaching calls for ‘repentance and a return to God, faith, and God’s law.’ –Today, in a world of greed, wealth, power, corruption, repentance, is not high on the list of priorities for any politician, political leader, dictator, general, admiral, or billionaire. Sad to say, it is not on any list of the godless, gambler, alcoholic, spouse abuser, child abuser, thief, murderer or criminal neither. ‘Repentance does not make its way on to the Silver Screen, Movies, Television, or social media. You will not find it on ‘Facebook’ or the front Page of the Local Paper.

Repent-means to ‘go back’; change your ways; reform; become better; turn things around; embrace goodness; virtue; become a better person; reach out to others; -- repentance is the very essence of ‘being a Christian!’—When did you last hear that, being preached in your church?---Repent. Begin today. Drop a habit. Correct a mistake. Heal a wound. Reconcile with an enemy. Forgive another. Go out and love, in all you say and do. —‘Prophetic Preaching’-----can never be undervalued.-----Amen.

Sundays Service

Sept
8



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm: 146

The Epistle: James 2:1-17

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: Vickie Calby

Altar Guild: Vera Dunn

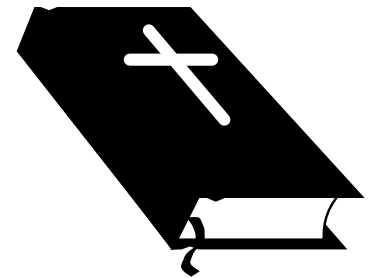
Announcements: Vickie Calby

Lector: Shelly Green

Hospitality: Shelly Green

This week's Hymns:

On this day the first of days
Thou, whose almighty word
O for a thousand tongues to sing
Christ who's glory fills the skies

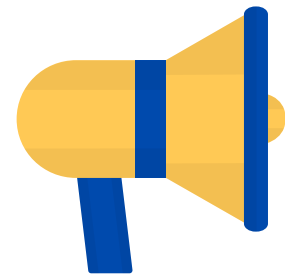


This week's Gospel according to: Mark

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Happenings and Announcements



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.



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:

Sandy Nagy 9/6, Nancy Dooling 9/11, Sandy Seeger 9/15, Esther Welden 9/19, Sean Eckert 9/28



This Months Anniversaries:

Harry & Wanda Peirce: Sept. 4 1981

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

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 1, 2024

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.

The September 1st, 2024, 10:00 Morning Prayer service was led by Lynne Graham who read the announcements. Vickie Calby served as lector. Penny Jaggars played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude on the keyboard. 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.



Cistern Alarm

As mentioned, the hard storm several weeks ago blew out our sump pump in the cistern near our sign. When the cistern is overwhelmed, or the electric is off, the red light comes on over the Celtic room door. An alarm also goes off alerting us that there is a problem. If you see or hear either in the future, let John or Dan know.



Memorial Garden Fungi

The rain has caused a plethora of fungi in the Memorial Garden. Here are several kinda neat ones but there are a lot. Take a walk in the garden and see what there are.



John Warriner Family sends Shout Out

Doesn't that guy ever stay home? John, Gaby, and Anna give a shout out from Martha's Vineyard where they are spending a week with family. A beautiful place to spend the week.

Social Event at the Peirce's

On Sunday, September 1, Harry and Wanda Peirce hosted their annual Labor Day get together and St. Paul's folks were invited. Great food, beautiful weather, great lake view and good company. It doesn't get any better than that.



Early Photograph of St. Paul's Found

The Historical Society just made a large copy of this 1868 Montrose photograph for the courthouse. The included part of the photograph shows three churches: the Presbyterian Church with the tall steeple on the left; the white Baptist Church in the middle (this was their first church which was replaced in 1898 by the current red one next to the square); And if you look real close, you can see St. Paul's steeple peeking over the left side of the Baptist Church.



EARLY SEPTEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“September morn, We danced until the night became a brand new day, playing scenes from some romantic play. September morning, still can make me feel that way.” Foggy mornings, dew on the grass, sunny cool days. The kids are back at school. The grapes are ready for picking and the onion crop is in the basement. Goldenrod has taken over our fields. Is it a weed or a wild flower – don’t know but it makes a lot of folks sneeze. September sunset walking the dog. Great days.

