

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

January 12- January 18



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.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

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

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

The Story of the Wise Men, celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, is perhaps one of the strangest stories in scripture. It is paralleled in the Book of Genesis, by the strangers who visit Abraham and Sarah. The New Testament Story appears in Matthew's Gospel, a story of Wise Men from the East, traveling following a Star.

Heavenly, or astrological events, have long been used in literature to mark and predict earthly events. The liturgical calendar uses the word 'Epiphany' to speak of a revelation, a discovery, or a manifestation. We ourselves know that this 'Epiphany' is the revelation of who and what this child is, and what his destiny will be.

You cannot read and reflect on the Story of the Wise men without at times putting yourself in their place. I think it is a part of the growth in our religious consciousness, that each of us must ask ourselves ultimate questions. 'What is this life about? Where am I going? What is my destiny? What is important to me in my life? Why do I feel the need to quest about something more? Where can I find my God? Why does this child born in a manger hold me to a higher standard?

Epiphany is about us, each one of us asking: "Who is Jesus Christ for me in my life!" Some of the greatest men and women who ever lived, answered that question with a single word: 'EVERYTHING!'---Paul the Apostle; Patrick Missionary to Ireland; Columba of Iona; Thomas Aquinas, scholar and theologian; Martin Luther, Reformer; Thomas More, Martyr; Francis De Sales, saint and spiritual writer; Teresa of Avila, Reformer and Mystic; Billy Graham, Evangelist; Jimmy Carter, President.

I too can say: 'Jesus Christ is my everything!'---The Epiphany begins, when for one moment you imagine your life and there is no Christ in it. What we would be faced with is a wasteland; a landscape where no water, rivers or lakes exist. From an early age, we who have been privileged to grow up in a Christian environment, have been watered by 'religious experience'. Stories, scripture, tradition, symbols, signs, practices, have laced our lives, coloring our perception, leading us to the 'step' "What step?" you ask. The 'step' is the moment you decide to take all that you have learned, all that you know, all that you have been gifted, and you try it out. You take that belief, that faith, that teaching, and you make it a part of your active life. We have a word for this moment. We call it a PRAXIS! -A word that means we take the theory of what we have learned, been taught, or perceived, and we actively put it into practice. Try it. Try putting Jesus Christ into practice, in your life and for real. Mother Teresa did it. Gladys Aylward did it. Jimmy Carter did it! -What was our conclusion about any of them? Surely, it was that they became extraordinary people!

How did that happen for them? Simple. They had an Epiphany. They worked out who Jesus Christ was. He was the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. From that moment He became their EVERYTHING!-----Amen.

Sundays Service

Jan 12



First Sunday after the Epiphany

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm: 29

The Epistle: Acts 8:14-17

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Susan Treanor

Altar Guild: Barb U.

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Lynne Graham

Hospitality:

This week's Hymns:

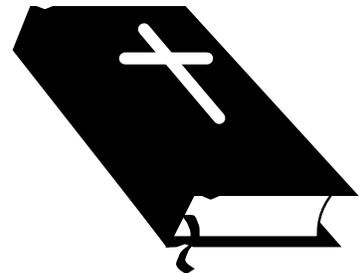
Sing praise to our Creator

Hail to the Lords Anointed

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more

In the Garden

Shall we gather at the river



This week's Gospel according to: Luke

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased. "

Happenings and Announcements

Don't Forget Us Please

Advent has ended and we are getting ready to donate the diapers we collected. This is the last call. If you haven't yet, please bring in donations of any size diapers and put them on the chairs in the choir section. Also, please don't forget to bring in food for St. Paul's pantry, especially protein foods in pop-top cans and peanut butter. There are collection boxes in the church and parish hall.



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Harry Peirce, Linda Landis, Todd Davies, Rudy Mattes



This Months Birthdays:

Charles Cesaretti 1/2, Karen McAbee 1/4, Anne 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

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 5, 2025

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

The January 5, 2025, live-streamed 10:00 Morning Prayer service was officiated by Vickie Calby. John Warriner served as lector and read the announcements. Penny Jaggers played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude on the piano. 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.



Wise Men Arrive

After an arduous trip up the various windowsills, the three wise men reached the manger this Sunday and appeared on the stage, close but not quite there yet.





It's Winter

It's winter in Montrose and it snows. If you are at church and the sidewalks are icy and unsafe, we have brooms, snow shovels and salt at each door. Please feel free to use them.

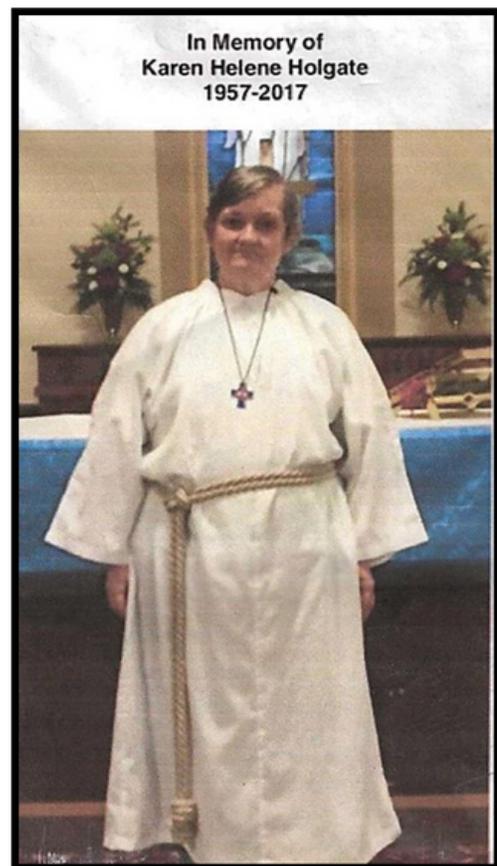
Soup Night

This Wednesday, the 8th, was our soup night. We started doing soup around Christmas in 2021. This then, is our fifth year. Here are some pictures of our original kitchen crew and the outside crew. A lotta soup has given out since then. Thanks to everyone that has helped.



Karen Holgate

We were cleaning up the basement and found an old poster from Karen Holgate's Memorial Service in 2017 with a bunch of pictures on it. Here's one in her acolyte robe.



EARLY JANUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"January, the first month of the year. A perfect time to start all over again, changing energies and deserting old moods, new beginnings, new attitudes." The ponds frozen, the back road snow covered and icy, the dogs love it. It's Winter!

