

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

January 5- January 11



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

“Friendship”

As we come towards the end of another year, the next few days become a time for reflection. It is tempting to think of life, as one great game of ‘musical chairs’, and wonder at the mystery of why I am still playing, and still in the game. It is no achievement, but a sadness, that so many great and wonderful friends are no longer here.

At our ‘Going Down Ball’, a Farewell Dance for Seniors at University, what in the US we call the Senior Prom, there were four of us. John Beirne, Paul Biccareggi, Seamus Daley and myself. Dressed in black ‘tux’a’ for the evening, we decided to take one last photo, after three years together. Daley and Biccareggi are now both gone, Seamus passing in October. He was the second great friend to pass in the year, together with Peter Lally, my music teacher, colleague, and dear friend. Last week Lida Pastore died in Manchester. She was a Doctor of Medicine to lepers in the Philippines and a great friend. At this rate, I am rapidly running out of friends, and am in danger of having none left. A little like “Logan’s Run”, watching old friends on the ‘Carousel’.

I have heard, and seen so much spoken, and written about friendship in the last few years. My own take, and realization, is that ‘great friendships’ are few and far between. It is difficult to include family and siblings, as they by their nature, are relationships you are stuck with. Maybe, I have had three friendships, that I have cherished, and have run the test of time. Maybe another seven that were ‘promising’ but died on the vine, for whatever reason. Distance; separate paths; geography; betrayal and even death, played some kind of hand, leaving nothing left but the ‘burnt out ends of smoky days.’

Carol King sang: “no one stays in one place anymore...” in her Tapestry Album. That ‘crooked road’ that some of us have traveled, and for the longest time, is hard and wearing on friendship. Real friendship loves ‘staying home’ and sinking roots. There is a place that I go in my mind, that if I had to live life over, I would stay and live out all my days, and never leave. It has no towns, no shops, no crowds of people: just land and sea and country folk with blisters on their hands.

Friendship is built on promises, no matter how small. People who know how to keep promises have long memories. People who never keep a promise have no memory, and no lasting friendships. Finding a true friend is one of the real treasures of life. In good times and bad they are there for you, and you for them. A true friend delights in your successes and lifts you up when failure and the weight of the world drags you down. It is an old song; an old favorite picture; a poem on an obscure page of an old book; an old friendship is the best of things, in the worst of times.

As for the rest? They are like leaves that blow away in the autumn wind. Just remember not to chase the leaves! Amen.

Sundays Service

Jan 5



Second Sunday After Christmas

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: 84

The Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: Vickie Calby

Altar Guild: Barb U.

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: John Warriner

Hospitality:

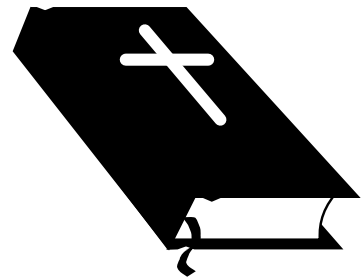
This week's Hymns:

Once in royal David's city

The first Nowell the angel did say

God rest ye merry gentlemen

Away in a manger



This week's Gospel according to: Matthew

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Happenings and Announcements

Harry Peirce Update

A rough week of ups n downs but yesterday Harry seems to be getting back on track. He's on the vent at night and off during the day and got his appetite back . Watching football all day yesterday (and probably today), had a few visitors, kisses from Brindi and enjoyed 2 non-alcoholic beers (was planning on a 3rd during Penn State game). We're waiting on info on a move to the acute rehab. We both want to wish all our family and friends a very Happy and Healthy New Year. *One moment at a time-prayers work.*

Soup Night

Because of the holidays, Soup Night was moved to next week, Wednesday January 8. We still always need extra helping hands or soup makers so let the office know if you would like to help out or just show up!



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

First Sunday after Christmas, December 29, 2024

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 December 29th, 2024, live-streamed 10:00 Morning Prayer service was officiated by Lynne Graham. Ellen Ely served as lector. John Warriner read the announcements. Penny Jagers 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.



Could He Really Be That Old

Yes, we understand from a good authority that John Warriner had a birthday last week, a big one. He's 60. Who could believe it? But Happy Birthday John!



Christmas

The December 24th, live-streamed 5:00 Holy Eucharist Service Christmas Eve service was led by the Rev. Susan Treanor. John Warriner served as lector and also read the announcements. Penny Jagers played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude on the piano. We all sang Merry Christmas to Harry who was watching. 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.

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**



**The Dunns send a
Merry Christmas**
Bob and Vera sent a Merry Christmas message from sunny Florida to all the St. Paul's folks.

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.



**Remember This
The Covid Days!**



LATE DECEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

Well, its winter here. The snow all melted but it's getting cold again. The water is high from all the rain and melting. The river south of Tunkhannock had ice coming down it. Salt Springs is always pretty. A lone eagle sitting in a hemlock tree. Stay warm.

