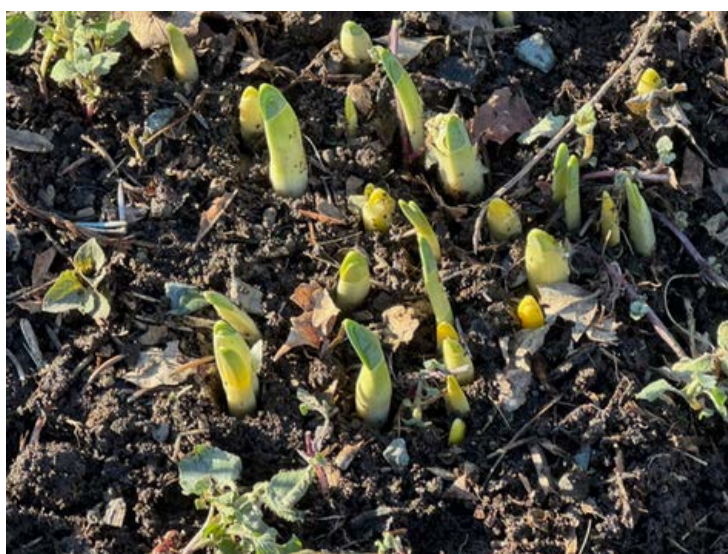


ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

March 16- March 22



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

Lynne Graham, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Vera Dunn

Dan Graham

Sandy Seeger



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 List"

So, Lent has begun, the 'alleluias' have gone. We have begun the great penitential season of repentance. Lent challenges us to give up on 'sin'. Now in an age when so many do not even acknowledge sin, or being a sinner, this season means absolutely 'nothing'. Consequently, I attempted a little experiment today.

There is a post that comes up, from time to time, on Facebook, that asks you to check a long list of some 25 things you could or should have done in your life. Such as: parachute from an aircraft; climb a mountain; swim in the ocean; been arrested; been divorced; drove a motorcycle; etc. The idea being that you receive one point from all 25 and it dictates your psychological character. I think the last time I filled out the survey I received a mere 3 points. Well similarly, I thought to conduct a survey on as many sins as I could possibly think of with the idea you check each to determine if it is true you are never a sinner and have no need of the penitential season of Lent nor redemption.

Here is my list: 1) Pride; 2) Greed; 3) Anger; 4) Envy; 5) Jealousy; 6) Drunkenness; 7) Sloth; 8) Neglect; 9) Indifference; 10) Selfishness; 11) Theft; 12) Grand larceny; 13) Blasphemy; 14) Perjury; 15) Deceitfulness; 16) Lying; 17) Deception; 18) Cheating; 19) gluttony; 20) Lust; 21) Sacrilege; 22) Despair; 23) Hate; 24) Prejudice; 25) Racism; 26) Gossiping; 27) Rash judgments; 28) Uncharitable words or deeds; 29) Revenge; 30) Adultery; 31) Unfaithfulness; 32) Disloyalty; 33) Mental abuse; 34) Spousal Abuse; 35) Bullying; 36) Gas Lighting; 37) Child Neglect; 38) Murder; 39) Feuding; 40) Cursing; 41) Vanity; 42) Scamming; 43) False Witness; 44) Coveting; 45) Insincerity.

So how did you do? If you can only check 3, then you are a Saint. If you can check all 45, you are in serious need of Christ's redemption, and the FBI have you on their Most Wanted List! —If however, you are not too bad, but also not too good, then like the rest of us, Lent and repentance comes around once a year, for us. It is time to: scrub the pot; remove the rust; replace the oil; drop bad habits and repent. ---Christianity and following Christ is about transition. We start out as one person, and we attempt to become another-- a better person with the help of Jesus as our model and guide. Sometimes that attempt lifts us to new heights. At other times we need help. Lent helps us to grow in grace and to lighten the load and weight of sin from our shoulders. Jesus came for you and me. He came carrying the gift of 'forgiveness'. It is symbolized by his Cross. Wear that Cross with pride, in this holy season of Lent. Amen.

View from the Pew:

The Loudest Cheer

Do you believe in Providence? Do you ever think about chance – what could have been, or what might not have been, how your life might be different if something changed or didn't happen. Just a small thing with large consequences. For example, what if Lynne had decided not to come with her roommate that night to the party I met her at? Those what-ifs are mind boggling.

I graduated from college in the summer of 1970, and that Fall I received my draft notice. Basically, if you graduated high school between 1965 and 1970 and you were a male with two arms and legs, you had a good shot at getting drafted and going to Vietnam. As a draftee, you were pretty sure of ending up in the infantry or artillery. Inducted in January, I had 8 weeks of basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. (I don't recommend basic training in New Jersey in the wintertime for anyone including Navy Seals.) Upon completion, I was assigned to the artillery and sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for 14 weeks of training in my MOS (military occupation specialty) - 13 Ecco 20 – Fire Direction Control.

FDC, as it was known, is the group that directs artillery and mortar fire. They are the “brains” of the cannons. You were taught to calculate target coordinates, determine ammunition type and bags of powder needed. Using trigonometry, they convert firing data from the forward observer to directions to the guns on deflection and range. The entire class was made up of other college graduates, all of whom were draftees. We found out they thought only college graduates could understand the trigonometry tables needed to “triangulate” the next trajectory.

On our last day before graduation, we received our orders. Everybody in our class but one guy who was going to Germany got Vietnam. (Rumor was he knew somebody!) We were given leave and had orders to report to Dover Airbase in Delaware in 10 days. When my leave was up, carrying my olive green army duffle bag, which contained everything I owned, I reported to Dover AFB. From there I flew to Ft. Lewis, Washington. Our plane was apparently the first one there, as we had to clean the temporary barracks where everyone was staying. Upon completion and after picking bunks, we were told to report to the parade field the next morning at 8:00 for further instructions. Before releasing us, we were given a stern reminder that deserters are shot!!! We found out we were waiting for the remaining men to arrive who would be coming in all that night and the next day.

Five of us found the base bus station and we got on the first bus that came, which was going to Tacoma. In uniform, we wandered around Tacoma as tourists that evening. I will admit, we couldn't buy a beer there. The dock workers, mostly WWII guys, said our money was no good. It was a good feeling. The next morning, on the parade grounds, our ranks had grown considerably as more planes had arrived. We were told we were waiting for the transport planes and to report back to the parade grounds at 8:00 the next morning. I noticed we didn't get the deserter lecture this time.

Again, going to the base bus station, several of us got on a bus that said Seattle, and we repeated what we had done the night before. But, again, at 8:00 am the next morning, the planes still had not arrived and we were told to be back at 2:00 that afternoon. Heading again for the bus station, three of us were grabbed by a sergeant and told to follow him. He took us to the mess hall and said that we were on KP (kitchen police) and we had to wash the pots and pans. Apparently, over 600 additional men waiting to fly out were putting a strain on their ability to feed us and they needed extra hands.

While we were on KP, the transports arrived. Four big Air Force Military Airlift Command (MAC) Boeing 707s – troop carriers. At noon, the planes started loading alphabetically. When the 3 KP'ers were finally allowed to leave, two planes had already loaded and left including the one with the "G's". We had to run and get our bags and get on the 4th plane with the W's and the Z's. These things were huge, seating nine across in a 3-3-3 setup and I figure they held over 200 men. Since the three of us were literally the last ones on, we got the worst seats, the ones in the middle. I remember thinking the stewardesses were really old.

But after killing ourselves to get on, the two planes sat and sat. They didn't leave. It was hot and stuffy and everyone was getting antsy. Something was up. After about 2 hours, a black sergeant came in and stood in the middle and said "Attention." Everybody shut up. They say there are some memories you take with you to the nursing home, and this is one that will come with me when I go. I honestly can hear him as I write this as if it were yesterday. He said, "Your orders have changed, you men are going to KOR – REAH." Total silence. Nothing. Everyone had to process what he just said. We were going to KOR-REAH. We weren't going to Vietnam! Then wham, it registered. Almost as one voice, we cheered. They must have heard it in Seattle. The plane rocked, it was pandemonium. Guys were laughing and crying, hugging, throwing hats, and kissing the old stewardesses. It went on, and on and on until we were exhausted.

I spent 14 months in relative safety on the DMZ in Korea. I missed Vietnam with all its uncertainty. So, what if that Sergeant had grabbed three other guys for KP and I was on the second plane to Vietnam where I should have been. Would I have come back? Many didn't. And what if Lynne had decided not to go with her roommate that night, would we ever have met? Or would I have met someone else? Was it destiny, fate, chance, just plain luck or was it Providence – I'll never know. The what-ifs are hard to get your head around. Can you think of a few?

Sundays Service

March 16



Second Sunday of Lent

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Psalm: 27

The Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: Susan Treanor

Altar Guild: Gaby Warriner

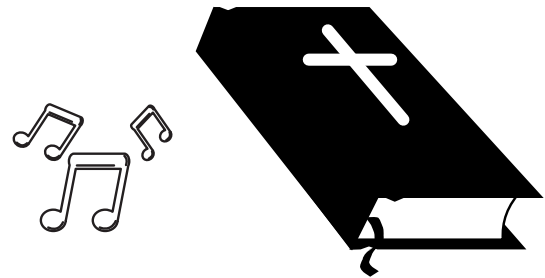
Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Ellen Ely

Hospitality:

This week's Hymns:

O love of God, how strong and true
And now, O Father, mindful of the love
Kind Maker of the world, O hear
O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns be rising
I trust in God wherever I may be



This week's Gospel according to: Luke

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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.

Happenings and Announcements



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Harry Peirce, Linda Landis, Rich Nagy, John Pease, Rudy Mattes, Vickie Calby



This Months Birthdays:

John Finlon 3/6, Elizabeth Smith 3/15, Edgar Warriner 3/20, Elaine Petrzala 3/22, Ann Kiefer 3/22, Robert Kuhn 3/24, Tom Undercoffler 3/30



This Months Anniversaries:

No Anniversaries this month!

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 in Lent, March 9, 2025

"Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood."

The March 9th, 2025 live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by the Rev. Susan Treanor. John Warriner read announcements and Tom Undercoffler served as lector. 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.



Ash Wednesday

On April 5th, St. Paul's had their annual Ash Wednesday Service. The service was lay-led and ashes were imposed for those who wished them.



March 14th 2023

On March 14th, two years ago, we had a winter storm that put a lot of heavy snow down. March in Susquehanna County lets you know that winter isn't over yet. Don't put away that winter coat yet.



St. Paul's Altar Cross

When closing up and turning off the lights in the church after the Ash Wednesday service, an interesting scene unfolded. When all the lights are out, the cross on the altar reflects the light from the Rose window creating a dramatic image. It's one worth taking a peak at if you ever get a chance.



2025 Coats For Our Community

During the winter, we collect, sort, and bag coats for our Fall Coats for Our Community distribution. It's a year-round ministry. If you have any warm, gently used coats that you can donate, please drop them off at church anytime.

Sleeping Bags

Don't forget, we have sleeping bags on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10:00. Warm fellowship to make warm sleeping bags. You don't need an invitation to join us, just show up!!!



Soup

It was soup Wednesday this week. The choices were Italian Wedding and Corn Chowder. If you haven't gotten involved with this important St. Paul's ministry, you may want to think about joining us. Making soup or helping to distribute it on a Wednesday is both rewarding and fun.



EARLY MARCH IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

"In March in Susquehanna County, winter is holding back and Spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside of us too." It started off cold, but the week turned warm making all of us think spring had come (just a tease). The sunrises here never fail to impress. And since the time changed, you have more of a chance to see them. Kate and Averly chilling out with the girls. All the ponds and the lakes still are ice covered but it won't be long until they melt. John Warriner sent a photo of the geese that landed on Elk Lake in an open area on their way north. We had a snow squall on Saturday morning. Come on spring!



