



ST. PAUL'S BEACON

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
16457 Old Frederick Road,
Mt. Airy, MD 21771
410-489-4411

January 2018

Casting Our Nets ~Sharing, Love, Service and Compassion

[Lambeth Palace] ~ Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby's Christmas sermon preached at Canterbury Cathedral on the morning of December 25. Luke 2:1-7

We are drawn to stories of freedom and purpose. In Star Wars an abandoned orphan on a desert planet turns into a knight leading the struggle for freedom. Platform 9 and three quarters takes Harry Potter into a world of magic and purpose.

Not so in the gospel stories, even those of Christmas. Yes, the shepherds see angels. Yes, Mary and Joseph have dreams and are chosen as special people.

Yet after the moments of miracles life goes on almost as before – the shepherds return to their sheep, Joseph settles back as a carpenter, Mary raises children. They flee as refugees, like over 60 million people today. Yet their story is the beginning of ours, it is an invitation to lives of freedom, found through God's freely offered love.

Delivering freedom is usually seen as the role and the promise of political leaders. The French philosopher Rousseau famously started his book on the social contract by writing, "*Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains*". But he goes on and sets out the problem that besets all offerings of freedom: "*One man thinks himself the master of others, but remains more of a slave than they are.*"

In the manger is something completely different from all human strivings for freedom. The baby in the manger is a paradox from the first breath he draws in his mother's arms to the last cry he utters on the cross. He is power seen in humility, and He offers freedom expressed in loving service.

It is this Christly paradox of freedom springing from the overflowing of love that leads to salvation, to the common good and human flourishing. There is no power in

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday Schedule

9:00 a.m. service each week.

Sunday, Jan. 7, 10:15 a.m. Worship Team Meeting.

Monday, Jan. 8, 7:00 p.m. Helping Hands Meeting.

Monday, Jan. 8 & 22 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision at Calvary.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:00 p.m. PVRC at Trinity Elkridge.

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting.

Sunday, Jan. 28, 9:00 a.m. Guest Preacher ~ the Rev. Jane O'Leary.

the universe stronger than God's love and it is directed towards the liberation of human beings.

This liberation begins with the risky, counter-intuitive birth of God in the form of a baby of a teenage single mother, in a poor family in a war-torn country ruled by an infant slaughtering, family murdering psychopath. Jesus' life continues mostly in obscurity and appears to end in betrayal, abandonment and humiliating execution.

Even Jesus' brief periods of fame, of celebration and decisive action look like God's apparent mistakes. An host of angels appears to a bunch of shepherds. Shepherds were the low life in those days – the butt of many jokes. They were armed, used to fighting, lived rough and were often untrustworthy. Bethlehem is less than ten miles from Jerusalem, the angels could have announced the Messiah to the important and influential just down the road. Instead a bunch of shepherds confuse the sheep by leaving them, frighten the town police by entering Bethlehem, surprise a mother who was probably, having just given birth, not entirely in the mood for entertaining, and then return. One could be forgiven for thinking that this was a good plan badly executed.

Yet this is no mistake, but the greatest plan there ever could be, because this baby is the way God calls us to relationship with Him, to lives of purpose and to being witnesses that God is with us.

The manger offers a compelling invitation to life. Each year at Christmas we have a guest Carol service at Lambeth Palace. We hear from those who have recently begun to find the life Jesus offers. They come from all sorts of places, from people who have been trafficked into slavery to people who have known only power. Their stories of responding to the invitation of the manger born baby are the best part of my year.

Not only is the manger an invitation to life, but of life abundant, full and free. Mary is the second of God's beautiful apparent mistakes. Surely, God should have chosen someone accustomed to the demands of a political life? Yet in Mary we see the kind of life that is ours when we accept the invitation of God. It is abundant, suffering, dramatic, but above all a life of fulfilling freedom. This divine-human leader Jesus does not subdue, or diminish His followers, but enables them to be all that a human being could be, to be truly liberated.

This self-emptying, helpless, stable born baby who is God has brought and continues to bring more freedom than all earth's most powerful leaders. The nature of those who have power is to seek to hold onto it. In 2017 we have seen around the world tyrannical leaders that enslave their peoples, populist leaders that deceive them, corrupt leaders that rob them, even simply democratic, well intentioned leaders of many parties and countries who are normal, fallible human beings. We have experienced across our country terrorism that kills the innocent, claiming that it is the path to freedom in God.

The nature of God who has all power, and from whom all power comes, is to lay it aside for love's sake and thus without fear, force or manipulation to offer true freedom for every human being. God is showing all truth in its completest form, all love in its

purest aspect, the true light of freedom all wrapped up in the baby in Bethlehem.

The light needed witnesses at the beginning and needs them to this day. It is the calling of every Christian to be a witness to the light, in word and deed, in all circumstances.

In Coventry Cathedral is one of my favorite pictures, the Stalingrad Madonna. It was drawn on paper in charcoal on Christmas Day 1942, 75 years ago, by a German medical officer under siege from the advancing Russian armies near Stalingrad. It shows Mary huddled against the terrible cold, holding Jesus, sheltered, to her cheek. Round her are the words “*Licht, leben, Liebe*” (Light, Life, love). Christ offers life of true freedom in love, in the darkest places his light shines. Every human being is invited to share that life and freedom. Christians are its witnesses. *Archbishop Justin Welby*



Thank You Very Much for Your Angel Tree Donations!!

St. Paul’s supplied Christmas gifts to four local families sponsored by the Salvation Army. We are so excited that 12 year old twin brothers received their wishes of 20” Mongoose bikes (see picture). A 15

month old not only received the necessity of diapers, but a fun riding toy. A nine year old received his wish of Minecraft Legos. Plenty of gift cards were given to the recipients so they could shop for what they want or need. A big thank you to Celeste Humphreys and Lee Hajek for delivering the gifts to the Westminster office of the Salvation Army.



Polar Bear Plunge –For the past few years, Jeff Spaulding has participated in the January Polar Bear Plunge to raise funds for the Special Olympics. He is again plunging at Sandy Point State Park in the chilly waters of the Chesapeake Bay in late January. There is a donation can with a polar bear picture on the coffee hour table. Let’s support Jeff with a donation from St. Paul’s to help the Special Olympians.



SOUP-ER-BOWL Sundays in January – Please bring a can or more of soup for the Mt. Airy Net Food Pantry, on the 4 Sundays of January. Let’s fill the box in the parish hall with all kinds of soup, so we can fill up the food pantry shelves. We can do a soup-er job and you will feel soup-er helping people in need. The people who benefit from the food pantry will be grateful.



The first 2018 St. Paul’s Event will be the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13th, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. More details will be in the February newsletter and the Sunday bulletins.



The Bazaar of the Churches ~ The bazaar was held on Saturday, November 18 at the Lisbon Fire Hall. Many thanks to all who gave of their time, talent, help, commitment and dedication to this successful event. St. Paul's final total intake was \$3,200. Bless you all.

St. Paul's Cookie Exchange was held on Friday, December 8, in the parish hall. The pot luck appetizers were delicious, the cookies scrumptious and the fellowship wonderful with much fun and many laughs. St. Paul's is blessed to have great bakers. We filled 12 tins to give to the home-bound and various parishioners. We always look forward to this annual event.

Congratulations go to Paul & Suzanne Bourg on the birth of a grandson, Reed Nathan. He was born on October 24, weighing 8 lbs. and 11 oz. His parents are Peter and Mary Bourg and he has two brothers, Luke and Ryan to help him over the childhood humps. Reed is the twelfth grandchild for Paul and Suzanne.

Need Help with a Small Task? A Short Errand?



St. Paul's Church started the Helping Hands Program to meet the needs of those in our community who simply need a hand with tasks they can't manage on their own.

We provide this service at no cost to you.

Call St. Paul's Church 410-489-4411 to learn more

New volunteers always welcome!



<i>IDEAS / SUGGESTIONS</i>				
<i>Light Cleaning</i>	<i>Give a ride</i>	<i>Move something</i>	<i>Take the trash out</i>	<i>Raking</i>
<i>Delivery</i>	<i>Grass Cutting</i>	<i>Pick up something (Rx, grocery)</i>	<i>Car Washing</i>	<i>Buddy Call</i>
<i>Feed - walk dog / cat</i>	<i>Hang something</i>	<i>Shovel the snow</i>	<i>Weeding / Planting</i>	<i>NO CHILD CARE</i>

Legend says, the Carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in code. It had a hidden message, and for a good reason. The song was created in England during a time of religious persecution when Catholicism was outlawed in the 16th to 18th centuries. The words, were written as a kind of secret catechism that could be sung in public without fear of arrest – a learning or memory aid to Christians in fact. Each verse refers to a teaching of church doctrine, with the partridge being Christ who died on a tree and the "True Love" being God the Father, who gave us all gifts. The twelve days of Christmas are Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, the birth of Jesus, through the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6th, the day Christians celebrate the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) and the revelation of Christ as the light of the world.



1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus.
2. The two turtledoves are the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stand for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds are the four Gospels.
5. The five gold rings recall the Hebrew Torah (Law), or the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stand for the six days of creation.
7. The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. The eight maids a-milking are the eight Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. The ten lords a-leaping are the Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful Apostles.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles Creed.

The Feast of the Epiphany ~ Saturday, January 6, the Church will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, which marks the end of the twelve days of Christmas each year on January 6. Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “manifestation” or “appearing.” At the Feast of the Epiphany we celebrate Jesus being made manifest or appearing as Christ. Traditionally, there are three manifestations celebrated on this feast day. The most widely celebrated manifestation of Christ on this feast day is Jesus revealed as Christ to the wise men. The second manifestation celebrated is the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. The third manifestation of Jesus as Christ that is traditionally celebrated on this day is the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding at Cana in Galilee, Christ’s first recorded miracle.



Reminder – In each box of 2018 offering envelopes, there is an initial offering envelope. The donation from this envelope helps underwrite the cost of the envelopes. Each box costs the church \$4.00. Please include that amount (or a little more if you like) in that envelope.



shed on Wednesday mornings, as you are available; and volunteers to sell in the shop at least one day per month on a regular basis.

Shop is open
 Wednesday, 11:00 – 2:00,
 Thursday, Friday and
 Saturday, 11:30 -3:00.

Happy Birthday To

Irene Hillen	Jan. 01
Carly Cassera	Jan. 04
Rev. Susan	Jan. 10
Herb Grabau	Jan. 10
Jackson Young	Jan. 12
Lee Hajek	Jan. 16
Kojo Brown	Jan. 17
Polly Moore	Jan. 18
Carolyn Prentice	Jan. 24

St. Paul’s Thrift Shop

Lots of Bargains!

Helpers are still needed to sort and restock on Monday and Wednesday mornings; help carry Mission bags out to the

Phyllis Weston & Kathy Audia

**St. Paul’s Nearly
 New
 Thrift Shop
 !! Bargains Galore !!**



Happy Anniversary to:

Charles & Michele Samuel
 Jan. 29

Prayer List

Paul Bourg
Dave & Trudi Lawson
Keith Prentice
Phyllis Heffner
Doris Sharp
Bill Winebrunner
Joannie Lee
Kurt VonHurst
Allene VonHurst
Al Parker
Craig Johnson
Joanne Johnson
Jeffrey Johnson
Lora Hollands
Pam Sherfey
Debbie Gardner
Ann Boyles
Sandra & Stanley Napier
Irene Hordubay
Beth Husted
Lynn Carr
Allison Poleger
Sam & John Lucas
Mary Wales-North
Patsy Mavity
Donna Shurney
Kaye Rineer
Belinda Blizzard
Janice Esler
Matt Willingham
Susie Gibson
Herb Grabau
John Tuel
Delphine Koval
John Belous
Bill Aaron
Albert Hutchison
Ryan Merton
Kathleen Rumpl
Nancy McIntosh
Brian Thompson
James Anthony
Thomas Stevens
Suzanne Bourg
Carolyn Prentice



Teresa
Regina Hutchison
Mary Ellen Hutchison
Kayleigh McIntosh
Harless & Peggy H.
Dottie Williams
Pat Marquis
Holly
Bev
Lloyd Fennell
Becky
Nathan Buckley
Ben Weston
Wendy
Susan
Natalie
Tom
Kamin
Katie
Luke
Howard
Barbara
Steve
Cheryl
Michelle Josephs
Gerlinde Pflaumer-Yeater
Sadie Settlemyer
Harts & Renae Brown
Amy Goodman

Prayer for Healing

*Almighty and merciful
Father, by the power of
your command, drive
away from me all forms
of sickness, disease and
distress.*

*Restore strength to my
body and joy to my spirit,
so that in my renewed
health, I may bless and
serve you, now and
forevermore. Amen*

Pastoral Concern

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the Rev. Susan S. Keller, at 301-785-1687 or revssk@yahoo.com. You may also call the church, 410-489-4411, Monday through Friday, 9:00-12:00.

Parish Email:
stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net
www.stpaulsmtairy.org



**St. Paul's "A
shining light in
the community"**

VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision is: A community of faith ministering to those in need of justice, reconciliation, hospitality, sanctuary, and growth in their spiritual journey.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is: To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word and deed and to help all people experience God's presence in their daily lives.

January 2018 ~ Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	4 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	5 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	6 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
7 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	8 <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Helping Hands	9 <u>7:00 p.m.</u> PVRC Trinity, Elkridge	10 <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	11 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	12 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	13 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<i>Hospitality Hour Following</i>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Stephen Ministry Supervision at Calvary			<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Vestry Meeting		
14 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	15	16	17 <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	18 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	19 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	20 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<i>Hospitality Hour Following</i>						
21 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	22	23	24 <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	25 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	26 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	27 <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<i>Hospitality Hour Following</i>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Stephen Ministry Supervision at Calvary					
28 <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	29	30	31 <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open			
Guest Preacher Rev. Jane O'Leary <i>Hospitality Hour Following</i>						

January 2018 ~ SERVICE CALENDAR

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WORK, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT

	January 7, 1 st Sunday after Epiphany White	January 14, 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany Green	January 21, 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany Green	January 28, 4 th Sunday after Epiphany Green
	9:00 A.M.	9:00 A. M.	9:00 A. M.	9:00 A.M.
Greeter/usher	Carrie Brown, Dana Fritzges	Dana Fritzges, Linda Sharp	Michele Samuel, Al Yeater	Linda Barnes, Linda Sharp
Chalicer/Acolyte	Ron Alexander	Jeff Spaulding	Carrie Brown	Pete McIntosh
Lector	Dick Wilcher	Dorothy Kitt	Charles Samuel	Helen Tuel
Psalm	Kathleen Alexander	Phyllis Heffner	Dick Wilcher	John Tuel
Prayers of the People	Lee Hajek	Bill Toole	Linda Sharp	Carrie Brown
Altar Guild	Linda Barnes, Suzanne Bourg	Dana Fritzges, Kathy Audia	Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp	Joanne Honsberger
Coffee Hour	Nancy McIntosh, Norma Prentice	Joanne Honsberger, Celeste Humphreys	Phyllis Heffner, Jeni Cassera	Linda Barnes, Wendy Gahm
Counter	Lynda Sheckels, Dana Fritzges	Nancy & Pete McIntosh	Linda Sharp, Linda Barnes	Celeste Humphreys, John Tuel