



Life Together

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

410-489-4411

January 2015



GRATEFUL HEARTS

Let us begin this calendar year with grateful hearts. Gratitude is a rich and fertile ingredient to flavor our lives and deepen our relationship to God. Instead of a resolutions list, why not make a gratitude list!

We are blessed with grace for our ministry together at St. Paul's. We are blessed with opportunities to serve and possibilities for growth. We are blessed with active and committed disciples.

Here is the start of my list:

I am grateful for leisurely breakfast with my husband and the newspaper.
I am grateful for my daughter's love of writing and going book hunting with her in thrift stores.
I am grateful for my son, his finance and their son, our grandchild. They have such a zest for life.
I am grateful for the companionship of our cat (I must admit, not for her loud meowing first thing in the morning!).
I am grateful for evergreen trees, rain gardens and chamomile tea.
I am grateful for creativity and flexibility of St. Paul's.
I am grateful for the welcoming spirit of our faith community.
I am grateful for prophets of justice and peace who inspire us.
I am grateful for moments of quite and peaceful reflection.
I am grateful for the Volunteer literacy program - I have grown in my learning, even as I teach others to read.
I am grateful for the creative Spirit in my crochet and knit designs, when a new idea takes hold and I can't wait to start the project.
I am grateful we are the vine on Jesus' branch.
I am grateful that in Christ we plant the seeds and God gives the growth.
I am grateful for God's transforming work in our lives.

May you have the blessings of a Grateful Heart in 2015.

Grace and Peace to You

Susan S Keller+

Presiding Bishop's Christmas message 2014

May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide!

The altar hanging at an English Advent service was made of midnight blue, with these words across its top: "We thank you that darkness reminds us of light." Facing all who gathered there to give thanks were images of night creatures – a large moth, an owl, a badger, and a bat – cryptic and somewhat mysterious creatures that can only be encountered in the darkness.

As light ebbs from the days and the skies of fall, many in the Northern Hemisphere associate dark with the spooks and skeletons of secular Hallowe'en celebrations. That English church has reclaimed the connection between creator, creation, and the potential holiness of all that is. It is a fitting reorientation toward the coming of One who has altered those relationships toward new possibilities for healing and redemption.

Advent leads us into darkness and decreasing light. Our bodies slow imperceptibly with shorter days and longer nights, and the merriness and frantic activity around us are often merely signs of eager hunger for light and healing and wholeness.

The Incarnation, the coming of God among us in human flesh, happened in such a quiet and out of the way place that few noticed at first. Yet the impact on human existence has been like a bolt of lightning that continues to grow and generate new life and fire in all who share that hunger.

Jesus is among us like a flitting moth – will we notice his presence in the street-sleeper? He pierces the dark like a silent, streaking owl seeking food for hungry and defenseless nestlings. He will overturn this world's unjust foundations like badgers undermining a crooked wall. Like the bat's sonar, his call comes to each one uniquely – have we heard his urgent "come and follow"?

God is among us, and within us, and around us, encountering, nudging, loving, transforming the world and its creatures toward the glorious dream the shepherds announced so many years ago, toward the beloved community of prophetic dreams, and the night watch that proclaims "all is well, fear not, the Lord is here."

May Christ be born anew in you this Christmastide. May his light burn in you, and may you labor to spread it in the darkness. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and it is the harbinger of peace for all creation.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Come & See

We just completed our first set of three "Come & See Sundays". A lot of planning and preliminary work was part of this effort. We learned a great deal along the way, including that we always need to be looking outward and not assume what we are used to is good enough. We learned about the importance of being cognizant that there are many people in need of our invitation to hear that there is HOPE in a God who loves and forgives all of us. I think most of us discovered that we have a lot more work to do to become comfortable with sharing our faith stories face to face.

Although we only had a few visitors who actually came and saw on these designated Sundays, I feel this was a successful undertaking. The C & S committee will review this experience and hopefully plan for the future.

In the meantime, please consider every Sunday a "Come & See" event. This is not just a responsibility of Committee members. Everyone who attends St. Paul's needs to invite anyone and everyone to join you in worship.

Pete McIntosh

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Christmas Angel Tree Program



6 families; 21 people; 80 gifts; Thank you so much to all of you for making local families Christmas a little brighter! I also want to thank my Elves, Dorothy Kitt and Lee Hajek who helped make up the “ornaments” for the tree and a HUGHE thank you to Jim Harry and Lee Hajek who helped deliver the gifts to the families. Each family we visited was very thankful and appreciative to get some help from St. Paul’s this Christmas, so thank you again.

Many thanks to all who made food and help in some way when Bishop Cook made her visitation on Sunday, December 21st. All the food was delicious. Again Thanks.

Holiday Bazaar Proceeds ~ We are pleased to announce that the total from our Holiday Bazaar (November 1) and the Bazaar of the Churches (November 22) is \$6,530.00. That is a wonderful amount. Again, many thanks to all who gave of their time, talent, help, commitment and dedication to these two events. Bless all of you! Linda Barnes, Dana Fritzges, Linda Sharp

Cookie Exchange: Many thanks to Suzanne and Paul Bourg for hosting St. Paul’s annual cookie exchange on Friday, December 12th. The pot luck dinner was delicious, the cookies scrumptious and the fellowship wonderful, with much fun and many laughs. We really do have great cookie bakers. We filled 15 tins with our homemade cookies to give to the sick, the homebound and the staff. We all look forward to this annual tradition.

Polar Bear Plunge ~ for the past few years, Jeff Spaulding, has participated in the January Polar Bear Plunge, raising funds for Special Olympics. The plunge will take place at Sandy Point State Park in the chilly waters of the Chesapeake Bay on Saturday January 24th. Donations for this worthy cause are greatly appreciated. Let’s give Jeff a donation from St. Paul’s. On the coffee table there is a can with a polar bear, where you can leave your donation. Let’s see if we can top last year’s amount of \$175.00





Stewardship: Stephen Minsitry

Stephen Ministry – a caring and nurturing lay ministry providing healing and growth through the power of God.

Since August, when Rev. Susan and I attended the leadership training for Stephen Ministry, we've been enthusiastic about getting this ministry started at St. Paul's. We've educated, recruited, interviewed, selected, and planned every step. This month marks the beginning of 50 hours of training for 3 people who have committed themselves to learning the skills of caring ministry. Their first week's training concerns "The Person of the Caregiver," and trainees will consider five foundational characteristics of a caregiver. These people are a blessing to St. Paul's and we wish God's blessing upon them. We ask for your continued prayers for them and for God's blessings upon their ministries.

Remember: **God is Good,
All the Time
All the Time, God is Good**

Rev Susan and Lee Hajek

Reminder – in each box of 2015 offering envelopes, there is an initial offering envelope. The donation from this envelope helps to underwrite the cost of the envelopes. Each box cost the church \$4.00. Please include that amount (or a little more if you like) in that envelope.

Church Offering Envelopes If you would like a box of offering envelopes for 2015 and did not have them this year, please let our treasurer, Linda Sharp, know.

January ~Soup-er Sundays



Everyone is asked to bring a can or more of soup for the Mt. Airy Net Food Pantry on the four Sundays of January. Let's fill the box in the parish hall with all kinds of soup, so we can fill up the shelves with soup at the Food Pantry. I know we can do a soup-er job and you will feel soup-er in helping people who need food. The people who benefit from the food pantry will be grateful.

To St. Paul's family from Linda Barnes: Many thanks for the lovely Christmas cards with the warm messages I received. My dear brother-in-law is seriously ill. I have been giving support to my sister and family, so have not had the energy or heart to write cards this year. Please keep Ken and his family in your individual prayers. Thanks you for your understanding. Linda



Newsletter deadline for February 2015 newsletter is January 18, 2015.



All you can eat – Sunday Breakfast

Jan 11, Lisbon Fire Hall
7:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
Adults-\$7.00; Children 6-11 \$4.00; 5 and under free.

Jan 18, Mt Airy Fire Hall
8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Adults \$8.00

Jan 25, St. Michaels Church
8:30 – Noon ~ Adults \$8.00
Children \$4.00

Happy Birthday To:

Irene Hillen	Jan 01
Carly Cassera	Jan 04
Rev. Susan Keller	Jan 10
Herb Grabau	Jan 10
Lee Hajek	Jan 16
Kathleen Van Osterom	Jan 16
Kojo Brown	Jan 17
Polly Moore	Jan 18
Carolyn Prentice	Jan 24



Happy Anniversary To:

Charles & Michele Samuel
Jan 29

Prayer List



Paul Bourg
Trudi
Lawson
Dave Lawson
Dallas Reeve
Michael Toole
Keith Prentice
Phyllis Heffner
Doris Sharp
Bill Wineabaunner
Joannie Lee
Kurt VonHurst
Allene VonHurst
Al Parker
Craig Johnson
Joanne Johnson
Jeffrey Johnson
Lora Hollands
Pam Sherfey
Debbie Gardner
Ann Boyles
Sandra Napier
Irene Hordubay
Bill Hordubay
Cheryl Kibler
Beth Husted
Lynn Carr
Allison Poleger
Sam Lucas
John Lucas
Mary Wales-North
The Horryngan family
Teresa
Carey, Kathleen McIntosh
Patsy Mavity
Donna Shurney
Kaye Rineer
Belinda Blizzard
Janice Esler
Matt Willingham
Amanda Meissner
Luke Bourg
Kenneth Ritter
Susie Gibson
Mildred Stinebaugh
Eric McIntosh
Andrew Oberle
Pastor Huang and family

David Barnes
Joey
Herb Grabau
John Tuel
Dalphine Koval
Maija Kropp
Eric Batlefeld
Travis Smith

Dear Lord of Mercy and Father of Comfort, You are the One I turn to for help in moments of weakness and times of need. So then, please send your healing Word to your servant. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

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.

PASTORAL

CONCERNS

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. You may contact the Parish by phone #410-489-4411, Monday through Friday 9-12 noon.

Or contact Rev. Susan S. Keller at 301-785-1687, or revssk@yahoo.com
Email
stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net

Address:
www.stpaulsmtairy.org

Traditional Scottish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do.

May your purse always hold a coin or two.

May the sun always shine upon your window pane.

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near to you and

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

January 2015 ~ Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12-3 Thrift Shop <i>The Most Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	2 12-3 Thrift Shop	3 12-3 Thrift Shop
4 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Coffee hour following</i>	5	6 <i>The Epiphany</i>	7	8 12-3 Thrift Shop	9 12-3 Thrift Shop <i>Julia Chester</i>	10 12-3 Thrift Shop <i>William Laud</i>
11 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Coffee hour following</i>	12 <i>Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx</i>	13	14	15 12-3 Thrift Shop 6:30 P.M. Vestry Meeting	16 12-3 Thrift Shop	17 12-3 Thrift Shop <i>Antony, Abbot in Egypt</i>
18 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Coffee hour following</i>	19 <i>The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle</i>	20	21	22 12-3 Thrift Shop	23 12-3 Thrift Shop	24 12-3 Thrift Shop
25 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Coffee hour following</i>	26 <i>The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle</i>	27 <i>John Chrysostom</i>	28 <i>Thomas Aquinas</i>	29 12-3 Thrift Shop	30 12-3 Thrift Shop	31 12-3 Thrift Shop

January 2015 ~ Service Calendar

	January 4, Epiphany White		January 11, 1st Sunday after Epiphany White		January 18, 2 nd Sunday after Epiphany Green		January 25, 3 rd Sunday after Epiphany Green	
	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>9:00 A.M.</u>	
Greeter/ Usher/ Oblationer	Greg and Norma Prentice	Dana Fritzges, Linda Sharp	Michelle Samuel, Al Yeater	Joanne Honsberger, Linda Sharp	Pat & Al Marquis	Dana Fritzges,	Kathleen Alexander	
Chalicer	Ron Alexander	Carrie Brown	Leo Campion	Pete McIntosh	Jeff Spaulding	Carrie Brown	Leo Campion	
Acolyte(s)	Ron Alexander	Carrie Brown	Leo Campion	Pete McIntosh	Jeff Spaulding	Carrie Brown	Leo Campion	
Lector	Kathleen Alexander	Dorothy Kitt	Charles Samuel	Phyllis Heffner	Al Yeater	Denise Groboski	Dorothy Kitt	
Psalm	Ron Alexander	Denise Groboski	Barb Campion	Bill Toole	Jim Harry	Dorothy Kitt	Denise Groboski	
Prayers of the People	Carolyn Prentice	Carrie Brown	Barb Campion	Bill Toole	Jim Harry	Carrie Brown	Helen Tuel	
Altar Guild	Suzanne Bourg, Linda Barnes		Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp, Pat Marquis		Dottie Streaker, Dana Fritzges, Kathy Audia		Joanne Honsberger, Barbara Campion	
Coffee Hour	Phyllis Heffner, Jeni Cassera		Linda Barnes, Pat Marquis, Wendy Gahm		Ginny chandler, Helen Tuel		Suzanne Bourg, Michele Samuel	
Counter	Lynda Sheckels, Etta Lee Spaulding		Irene & Jim Hillen		Lynda Sheckels, Dana Fritzges		Nancy & Pete McIntosh	

If you are unable to work PLEASE find a replacement