



The St. Paul's Beacon

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

December 2015

Rector's Reflections

The Gospel of Luke

"My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord" -

This advent we begin a new liturgical year. The Gospel of Luke will be read throughout this year. The quote above is Mary's Song, "The Magnificat", from Luke 1: 46-55. She proclaims this when the Angel visits her. This Gospel gives us many of the readings we hear at Christmas time - the shepherds in the fields, the angels, Mary and Joseph finding no room in the inn.

These are more than just stories. Luke gives us a telling of Christ with a fresh voice. Here we can discover many vibrant accounts and parables, some only told in Luke. Some of these jewels are:

- * The infancy narrative in Chapters 1 - 2.
- * The many women who followed Jesus, and their important role.
- * The parables of the Good Samaritan,
- * The lost coin and the lost sheep.
- * The teaching of the "sermon on the plain" (Luke 6:20-49) that includes the social, political, economic and spiritual dimensions of our lives.

The Gospel of Luke is addressed to someone named Theopolis. The Book of Acts is addressed to the same person. The author is sharing the life changing, Holy Spirit inspired events that have occurred.

Give yourself a gift this Christmas and read both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts! You also may be inspired and "proclaim the greatness of the Lord."

The Song of Mary "The Magnificat" Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

Mark Your Calendars

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m.
PVRC meeting @ St. Paul's

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.
Pastoral Care Meeting

Friday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Cookie Exchange at home of
Polly Moore

Thursday, Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

No Service on the 25th

Thursday, ~ Dec. 5 & 16
5 p.m. Stephen Ministry
Meeting

Fridays 7:00-7:45 p.m.
Prayers in Evening.
All Welcome!

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our ancestors, *
to Abraham, Sara and their children for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Grace & Peace to you.

Susan S. Keller+

**From the Bishops' Office ~ November 18,
2015
Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
addresses Syrian refugee crisis: "Be not
afraid!"**

"Be not afraid!"

Often in the gospels, fear grips the people of God, and time and again, either the angels, or Our Lord himself, respond with the same words of comfort: "Be not afraid."

In times like this fear is real. And I share that fear with you. Our instinct tells us to be afraid. The fight-or-flight mentality takes hold. At the present moment, many across our Church and our world are grasped by fear in response to the terrorist attacks that unfolded in Paris last Friday. These fears are not unfounded. We can and should support law enforcement officials who are working hard and at great risk to protect us from crime and keep us safe. And yet, especially when we feel legitimate fear, our faith reminds us "Be not afraid." The larger truth is that our ultimate security comes from God in Christ.

In the Book of Leviticus, God says to the people of Israel that, "the foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt." Accordingly, we welcome the stranger. We love our neighbor. The Episcopal Church has long been committed to resettling refugees in our own communities fleeing

violence and persecution.

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, through its Episcopal Migration Ministries service, works with dioceses and congregations, and the United States government, to settle refugees in communities across this great country. The Episcopal Church has been engaged in this ministry for more than 75 years. We will not let the nightmare this world often is keep us from carrying out the words of Jesus who told us to be a neighbor to those in need.

Refugees from places like Syria seek to escape the precise same ideological and religious extremism that gave birth to the attacks in Paris. They seek entry into our communities because their lives are imprisoned by daily fear for their existence. Just as Jesus bids us not to be afraid, we must, in turn, pass those words of comfort to those who turn to us for help.

But Jesus calls us to go even further: not just to love our neighbors and our kin, but to love our enemies. This is particularly difficult when we are afraid. But even in the midst of our fear we stand on the solid ground of our faith and proclaim the faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead. In practical terms, this may mean finding strength in prayer, or in our neighbors, or in our churches, or in acts of solidarity with others who live in fear. This is the hope that casts out fear.

The fear is real. So we pray. We go to church. We remember who we are in Jesus. Our resurrection hope is larger than fear. Let nothing keep us from that hope, that

faith, that security in Gods dream for all of humanity.

“Be not afraid!”

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry; Presiding Bishop and Primate; The Episcopal Church

Resource

On the web:

[Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry addresses Syrian refugee crisis: “Be not afraid!”](#)

5 Things To Know About the Season of Advent

November 29, marks the start of Advent, the four-week period of prayer and reflection that precedes Christmas. How much do you know about Advent?

Meaning of Advent

Advent comes from the Latin word for “arrival” or “coming.” It is a time for preparing for the commemoration of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem. It also

anticipates his Second Coming

1. No Christmas Carols
Christmas carols, reserved for the Christmas season, are not sung during Advent. One of the most ancient chants of the church, “O Come, O come Emmanuel” is often sung during Advent.
2. Candles on the Advent wreath are lit each Sunday of Advent, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world.
3. Symbolic colors
The liturgical color of the season is violet, a sign of penance. The third Sunday of Advent is know as “Gaudete Sunday,” taken from the Latin for the first words of the opening antiphon for the day’s Mass, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Priest wore rose vestments that day as a sign of rejoicing.
4. New Beginning
The Beginning of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year.

Source ~ Catholic Review December 2015

The Society of St. John the Evangelist - SSJE (an Episcopal religious order) is offering the following for Advent.

Advent Resources

SSJE is preparing an “AdventWord” project this year to reach far beyond the scope of the past few years. This year the daily words to pray for Advent will be available in nine languages.

adventword.org

[instagram.com/adventword](https://www.instagram.com/adventword)

twitter.com/adventword

[facebook.com/adventwordorg](https://www.facebook.com/adventwordorg)



Life Together

Congratulations Helen! Way to go!!!



TRRC's Dr. Helen S. Tuel Honored by Vanderbilt University with Alumni Public Service Award Nashville, Tennessee - Dr. Helen S. Tuel, Founding Director of the Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center (TRRC) in Glenwood, MD, was honored by Vanderbilt University on October 23, 2015 with the Alumni Association Board of Director's Alumni Public Service Award.

We are so proud of Helen & John Tuel and all the extraordinary work they do with persons having developmental delays, physical trauma and other disabilities at TRRC. St. Paul's is proud to be a sponsor of TRRC.

You may call Helen if you would like to visit, tour, or rent the facility.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to assist with the many jobs at TRRC.

Mission and Outreach Update

As we look over 2015, we can't thank you enough for all the support and giving from the folks of St. Paul's throughout the year. Right now we are wrapping up the Angel Tree program for Christmas. We will have pictures and a full report in January's newsletter. We will sum up all of our success and look into 2016 as part of the Annual Meeting as well. We want to thank you and wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and all the blessings of the New Year!

From the Mission & Outreach Committee



Upcoming Events

Tuesday ~ Dec. 1, 7:00 p.m. PVRC meeting @ St. Paul's.

Wednesday ~ Dec. 9, 10 a.m. Pastoral Care Meeting

Friday ~ Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. Cookie Exchange Pot Luck Dinner at Polly Moore's home.

Thursday ~ Dec. 24, 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, ~ Dec. 2 & 16 5 p.m. Stephen Ministry Meetings

Sunday ~ Dec. 29 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols

Cookie Exchange and Pot Luck Dinner

will be Friday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Polly Moore, 1960 Old Annapolis Rd. Please bring 6 dozen of the SAME cookie. Suzanne Bourg will have a food sign-up sheet on the parish hall table. We have a great time having dinner and fixing tins filled with cookies for the sick, shut-ins and others.

St. Paul's Holiday Bazaar

Our Holiday Bazaar was a wonderful and glorious event in the life of St. Paul's family. **A BIG THANK YOU!** to the table chairs and everyone who helped to make our Bazaar a success. Many people gave long hours and a great deal of time in putting our Bazaar together. You know what you contributed with your time, talent and commitment to the Bazaar and St. Paul's.

We are richly blessed to have so much talent and many crafty hands. The Bazaar could not happen without your involvement, caring and dedication. It is most gratifying to see our parish family coming together and working for the benefit of the church while enjoying fellowship and fun. Again, **MANY THANKS** to each and

everyone for your help, support and willingness – all very important and greatly appreciated. You are a blessing to St. Paul's parish family.

Our tentative total earnings is about \$5,800. We would like to finalize totals ASAP. **If everyone with IOU's could please settle accounts**, it would be appreciated. The Bazaar Committee

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- + St. Paul's dedicated servants, for organizing and coordinating our bazaars
- + All who donated money to help buy the breads for the bazaar.
- + All who donated towards the various tables at the bazaar
- + All men who donated towards the basket of cheer.
- + All who helped in some way with our success at the Holiday Bazaar and the Bazaar of the Churches at the Lisbon Fire Hall on Saturday, Nov 21st.

. *Well done thou good and faithful servants.*

God Bless You!

Holiday Bazaar Raffle winners. The drawing for the 3 raffles was held on Sunday, Nov 22nd during the 10:30 hospitality hour.

The lucky winners are:

50-50 ~ Wendy Gahm
Basket of Cheer ~ Joanne Honsberger
Christmas/Winter Table Topper ~ Missy Walker

Congratulations to the lucky winners.

The grand total from the Holiday Bazaar and the Bazaar of the Churches will be announced in the January Beacon.

St. Paul's Christmas Card Mail Boxes

will be in the parish hall until Sunday, December 13th. These boxes will hold the Christmas Cards you want to give to your parish family, without going through the U.S. mail. The cards will be in

alphabetical order in the parish hall on Sunday, December 20, and Christmas Eve. Please be sure to pick up your cards.

Church Offering Envelopes If you would like a box of offering envelopes for 2016 and did not have them this year, please let our treasurer, Linda Sharp know.

Stewardship Reminders

1. All 2015 contributions must be received by Sunday, December 27th, or earlier for them to appear on our end-of-the-year tax statement.
2. In each box of 2016 church offering envelopes, there is an initial offering envelope. The donation from this envelope helps to 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.

Soup-er Sundays in January. Please bring a can or more of soup for the Mt. Airy Net Food Pantry, on the 5 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. 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.

Save cards for craft projects – Don't know what to do with Christmas, birthday cards and others cards you receive during the year? Please save them for Linda Barnes. She has several craft projects that use the cards. Whatever cards you have, put a rubber band around them – marked with my name and leave on the parish hall table. Leave the card intact sometimes there are small pictures on the back that can be used. If you want, cut off the name(s) that sent the card. Many thanks for your help.

Please be considerate.

Wash and put away your cups/ dishes after Coffee Hour.



Sunday Breakfast

All you can eat

Dec. 13, Lisbon Fire Hall
7:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
Adults-\$7.00; Children 6-11
\$4.00; 5 and under free.

Dec. 20, Mt. Airy Fire Hall
8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Adults \$8.00

NO December Breakfast at
St.Michaels Church

Happy Birthday To:

Paul Hajek Dec. 06
Dick Wilcher Dec. 06
Phyllis Weston Dec. 08
Michele Samuel Dec. 15
Jeff Spaulding Dec. 17
Robin McCourt Dec. 19
Paul Keller Dec. 22
Bill Toole Dec. 31



Happy Anniversary To:

Paul & Lee Hajek Dec. 02
Landon & Dallas Reeve Dec. 02
Ginny & George Chandler
 Dec. 09
Susan & Will Kelley Dec. 14

Prayer List

Paul Bourg
Trudi Lawson
Dave Lawson
Dallas Reeve
Michael Toole
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
Cheryl Kibler
Beth Husted
Lynn Carr
Allison Poleger
Sam Lucas
John Lucas
Mary Wales-North
The Horrigan Family
Teresa
Carey, Kathleen McIntosh
Patsy Mavity
Donna Shurney
Kaye Rineer
Belinda Blizzard
Janice Esler
Matt Willingham
Susie Gibson
Mildred Stinebaugh
Eric McIntosh
Andrew Oberle
Joey
Herb & Mary Jo Grabau
John Tuel
Delphine Koval



John Belous
Bill Aaron
Albert Hutchison
Richard Heffner
Katherine Gilbeertz
Ryan Merton
Betty & John Fritzges
Le Anne Stallings
Kathleen Rumpel
Nancy McIntosh
Ginny Triplett
Josh Barnes
Marie Cagle
Helen Fenton
Jim Harry
Dottie Streaker
Brian Thompson

Please help us keep our
prayer list current.

*Lord of Heaven,
I rest underneath your
mighty wings of love.
I dwell within your
gentle heart.
I know there is healing in
your touch.
Through the sufferings of
Christ I can ask for
restoration
And trust in your
goodness.
You are my Lord,
my Saviour,
My healer and my
friend.
I dwell within your
gentle embrace. Amen.*

PASTORAL CONCERNS

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

Web Address:
www.stpaulsmtairy.org

Newsletter deadline for the January 2015 newsletter is **December 20, 2015.**

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



Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth . . . may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.

THANK YOU, LORD,

for the gift of Your love. May I be a shining example of that love to others. Amen.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The church will be decorated with an array of color. Please help make the season colorful. Place your donation and this form in the collection plate or return to the church office by Sunday, December 13th. All names to be will appear in all the Christmas bulletins.

In Loving memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Thanksgiving by: _____

For Altar Linens: _____

Given by: _____

Amount: _____



December 2015 ~ Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm PVRC	2	3 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open	4 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open 7:00 Evening Prayer	5 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open
		<i>Nicholas Ferrar</i>	<i>Channing Moore Williams</i>	5:00 pm Stephen Ministers Meeting	<i>John of Damascus</i>	<i>Clement of Alexandria</i>
6 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:30 Spiritual Form. 10:30 a.m. Rite II	7	8	9 10:00am Pastoral Care	10 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open	11 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open	12 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open
<i>Hospitality Hour following</i>	<i>Ambrose of Milan</i>	<i>Immaculate Conception</i>			7:00 Evening Prayer	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>
13 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:30 Spiritual Form. 10:30 a.m. Rite II	14	15	16	17 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open	18 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open	19 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open
<i>Hospitality Hour following</i>				<u>5:00 pm</u> Stephen Minister Mt. <u>6:30 pm</u> Vestry Mt.		
20 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:30 Spiritual Form 10:30 a.m. Rite II	21	22	23	24 Thrift Shop CLOSED	25 Thrift Shop CLOSED	26 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open
<i>Hospitality Hour following</i>	<i>St. Thomas</i>			Christmas Eve 6:00 p.m. Service	Christmas Day No Service	<i>St. Stephen</i>
27 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols	28	29	30	31 11:30-3:00 Thrift Shop Open		
<i>Hospitality Hour following</i>	<i>St. John</i>	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>	<i>Frances Joseph Gaudet</i>	<i>New Year's Eve</i>		

December 2015 ~ Service Calendar ~ If you are not able to work, please find your replacement

	December 6, 2 nd Sunday of Advent Blue		December 13, 3 rd Sunday of Advent Blue		December 20, 4 th Sunday of Advent Blue		<u>December 24,</u> <u>Christmas Eve</u> Blue	December 27, 1 st Sunday after Christmas White		
	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30AM</u>	<u>6:00 PM</u>		<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Greeter/ Usher	Greg & Norma Prentice	Dana Fritzges,	Al Yeater,	Linda Barnes, Linda Sharp	Greg & Norma Prentice	Dana Fritzges	Carrie Brown		Al Yeater, Michele Samuel	Linda Sharp, Dana Fritzges
Chalicer	Leo Campion	Carrie Brown	Jeff Spaulding	Pete McIntosh	Ron Alexander	Linda Barnes	Leo Campion		Jeff Spaulding	Pete McIntosh
Acolyte(s)	Leo Campion	Carrie Brown	Jeff Spaulding	Pete McIntosh	Ron Alexander	Linda Barnes	Leo Campion		Jeff Spaulding	Pete McIntosh
Lector	Al Yeater	Phyllis Heffner	Irene Hillen	Dorothy Kitt	Kathleen Alexander	Phyllis Heffner	Dorothy Kitt		Charles Samuel	Helen Tuel
Psalm	Barb Campion	Bill Toole	Irene Hillen	Carrie Brown	Kathleen Alexander	Bill Toole	Barb Campion		Charles Samuel	John Tuel
Prayers of the People	Carolyn Prentice	Bill Toole	Irene Hillen	Nancy McIntosh	Kathleen Alexander	Bill Toole	Barb Campion		Charles Samuel	John Tuel
Altar Guild	Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp		Dana Fritzges, Kathy Audia		Joanne Honsberger, Barb Campion		Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp		Suzanne Bourg, Linda Barnes	
Coffee Hour	Phyllis Weston, Lee Hajek		Nancy McIntosh, Norma Prentice		Joanne Honsberger, Celeste Humphreys		NO Coffee Hour		Phyllis Heffner	
Counters	Lynda Sheckels, Etta Lee Spaulding		Irene & Jim Hillen		Lynda Sheckels, Dana Fritzges				Nancy & Pete McIntosh	

Attention Altar Guild: Saturday December 19 ~ Preparation for Christmas ~ ALL ATTEND