



# ST. PAUL'S BEACON

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

December 2017

## Casting Our Nets ~Sharing, Love, Service and Compassion

### Endings and Beginnings

In the marvelous mysteries of Creation, cycles begin and end. From season to season. From birth to death. From death to new life.

One of the things I love about the Episcopal Church is how we mark seasons and the majestic flow of ebb and tide. We are now transitioning from cycle A and the Gospel designated as Matthew to cycle B and the Gospel designated as Mark. We celebrate an end of the season after Pentecost and the beginning of the season of Advent. I have been wondering about the person, Matthew, who is named Apostle and Evangelist. Scholars have identified him as a publican and a disciple of Jesus. In the Greco-Roman world of that era, the institution of taxation throughout the empire was described, at best, harsh. Tax collectors (as the synoptic Gospels say, was Matthew/Levi's occupation) were viewed as collaborators and extortionist who took advantage of and cheated people out of money or land. Jean-Pierre Isbouts says, "These were not only tax collectors but also the officials to whom farmers turned to for personal loans when they were unable to pay their taxes. The same tax collectors usually then foreclosed on a farmer's land when, inevitably, he could not repay the loan. This is one reason why those officials were so heartily despised in the Gospels." So Jesus picks this person of ill repute to "follow me." In a recent sermon streamed from Trinity, Wall Street, the priest spoke of the first evangelical act of Matthew. Matthew invited his family and friends to join him when Jesus came to dinner.

Who was Matthew before and after his encounter with Jesus? As we enter Advent – the season of past, present and future – how are we called to be disciples as we encounter Christ and engage the world as the Episcopal branch of the "Jesus Movement"?

Carrie A. Brown

### Mark Your Calendars

#### **Sunday Schedule**

**9:00 a.m.** service each week.

**Sunday, Dec. 3, 3:00 p.m.** Interfaith Dialogue at Calvary Lutheran.

**Monday, Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m.** Helping Hands meeting.

**Friday, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m.** Cookie Exchange with snacks.

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 4:00 p.m.** Evensong.

**Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.** Vestry Meeting.

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 4:00 p.m.** Longest Night at Calvary UM Church.

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 9:00 a.m.** Advent Service  
**6:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Service.

## **Interfaith Dialogue**

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, at **Calvary Lutheran Church** at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to “Just Ask: Listening to our Jewish and Muslim neighbors” – an interfaith conversation. Join us to listen, learn and share our stories, at Calvary Lutheran Church 16151 Old Frederick Road.

**Cookie Exchange** and pot luck appetizers will be Friday, Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please bring 6 dozen of the same cookie. The appetizer food sign-up sheet is in the parish hall. We will fix tins with cookies for the sick, shut-ins and others.

## **An Invitation to Evensong**

At St. Paul's, Sunday, December 10, at 4:00 p.m. Please come and join in Evensong, a distinctly Anglican service that is sung throughout the world. Its origins lie in the pattern of monastic worship, which dates to the earliest form of Christian worship. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) merged the two monastic services of Vespers and Compline to create the form of the service we are using today. It has been largely unchanged since the introduction of the English Prayer Book of 1549. In this worship the choir and rector serve as the worship leaders. Evensong is different from other forms of worship. It requires worshiping by listening, while the choir and rector offer music and liturgy on behalf of the congregation through the music and lessons. There is no Eucharist. This service is offered to enrich our worship program and does not replace our Sunday morning service.

## **The Longest Night Service Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 ~ 4:00 p.m.** at Calvary United Methodist Church

This service is for those having difficulty dealing with the holiday season.

Here we do not have to pretend to be anything we're not. Come with whatever mix of emotions you might feel – sorrow, joy, hope, despair, love, fear, anxiety, expectations. All of it.

For some, grief is raw. For others, it is that dull ache that resurges this time of year. Some search for a word of hope in the midst of the Longest Night. Some seek affirmation that it is indeed okay to grieve, even in the midst of other's joy.

Whatever you bring, whatever you seek, God meets you right where you are. During this time of worship, we seek the hope that Christ brings into the messiness of human life with all its contradictions.

During this time you are welcome to visit the various prayer stations around the sanctuary.

### **Prayer Stations**

- + **Light a Candle:** Come and light a candle in memory of a loved one who has died, in honor of someone in your life, or in prayer for a concern that weighs on your soul.
  
- + **Decorate a Christmas Ornament:** On the table by the Christmas tree you will find an ornament ready for you to write a name on it. You can hang it on the tree as you lift your prayer to God. After the service, take your ornament home with you as a reminder of God's presence with us, even on this Longest Night.
  
- + **Fire Prayer:** Write a prayer or a prayer request on a piece of paper provided – something,

someone, or some situation that you are ready to turn over to God. Later in the service we will go outside and these request will be placed in the fire. As these prayers burn and their smoke rises, we release our prayers to the One who shines Light in the midst of the darkness.

+ Prayer at the Altar: You are welcome to come and pray at the altar rail. Stephen Ministers will be available to pray with you if you would like.

+ Pray in your Seat: You can also remain in your seat in prayer.

The Longest Night Service, **December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017** ~ 4:00 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist Church, 403 South Main St., Mt. Airy, MD.

The service will be conducted by The Rev. Susan S. Keller and The Rev. Deborah Scott. In partnership between St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Calvary United Methodist Church Stephen Ministry.

A reception with light refreshments follow the service.

## **It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas!!**

### **Christmas/Angel Tree Gift Program**

We are all set with our partnership this year with the Carroll County Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. We have requested the names of 15 Angels for us to provide gifts for this year. The gift tags are on the Parish Hall table. All gifts need to be new and unwrapped and returned to the Church by **December 3** with the tag attached.



If you or your family would like to do more for those in our area around the holidays, the Salvation Army also has a Thanksgiving Food Basket program, Stuff a Stocking program and an Adopt-a-Family Program. Please contact the Westminster location of the Salvation Army for more information at 410-876-9358.

There are also programs through Mount Airy Net to provide food and gifts to local residents from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Please contact them for more information via email [themountairynet@gmail.com](mailto:themountairynet@gmail.com) or call 301-829-0472.

Thank you so much for keeping the joy of Christmas alive for those less fortunate!!!

### **A very big thank you is extended to:**

- Polly Moore & William Toole. The Vestry, Thrift Shop and congregation greatly appreciate your financial donations for the purchase of a new shed. It will make life much easier for the volunteers to organize and sort items to be displayed in the Thrift Shop for sale.

- Wendy Gahm for crocheting the exquisite hand-made afghan. The blue and white snowflake design was beautiful. Wendy you have a talent and you put it to good work. Your handiwork is greatly appreciated.
- Our parish family and friends who helped in any way to make the Bazaar of the Churches a success. The final total will be in the January newsletter.
- Who helped in some way to make our Lasagna Dinner a success. The total raised was \$647.00. The fellowship was great and the food was delicious. Everyone enjoyed their dinner and many favorable comments were made.



**Scrip Gift Cards** Gift cards for the Holidays: Fundraising and Stewardship together. Easy and effortless. Plan ahead - you have until December 10, to make decisions. For example: for Uncle Bob, who has everything. A movie night date? Need a break from cooking – what restaurant might you choose? Gas for the car? And, oh, just for me (or perhaps a best friend/spouse) a spa day. All this and so much more. The pharmacist. Books. Home repair. Groceries. You won't be charged an extra dime. St. Paul's however, will receive an extra dime. It is a win – win situation for Christmas, birthday or everyday Special holiday deals are as low as \$5. Look for the order forms in the Parish Hall or contact Pete McIntosh 410-984-3363.



**A gentle reminder:** The Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics will be the end of January 2018. Let's support our favorite law enforcement officer, Jeff Spaulding in his outstanding efforts on behalf of individuals with special needs. Look for Jeff's letter requesting our support for this worthwhile charity in the next newsletter.



**Congratulations** to Eric McIntosh on his promotion with the Howard County Fire Department to the position of Heavy Vehicle Operator. We and the community appreciates the hard work of Eric and all fire fighters who work for the benefit of the community everyday.

## House Blessing

On Sunday, November 12, members of St. Paul's and friends gathered at the home of Dorothy & Ben Kitt to participate in the blessing of their new home. The service of "A House Blessing" was led by Rev. Susan. All enjoyed a bountiful home cooked meal prepared by Dorothy. We wish this household God's everlasting peace and protection.

## Christmas Decorations

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 11<sup>th</sup>. All names will appear in all the Christmas bulletins.



**In Loving memory of:**

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**In Thanksgiving for:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**In Thanksgiving by:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**For Altar Linens:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Given By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship Reminders

- All 2017 contributions must be received by Sunday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, or earlier for them to appear on our end of the year tax statement.
- In each box of 2018 church 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. Please include that amount or a little more if you like in that envelope.
- The St. Paul's Christmas Card Mailboxes will be in the Parish Hall Sunday, Dec. 3rd through Sunday, Dec. 17th. These boxes are for Christmas cards you want to give to your parish family, without going through the US mail. Please have your cards at church by Friday, Dec. 15th, so that the elf can put them in alphabetical order and ready for pick up on Sunday Dec. 17th. Thank you.
- Bazaar of the Churches raffle winners were: 50-50 - Stephen Jones; Basket of Cheer – Paul & Suzanne Bourg; Afghan – Dick & Doris Wilcher; Brick Ridge gift card – Celeste Humphreys.

Congratulations to the lucky winners.

## 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>

### Remember the sick

Let's remember our sick and shut-ins this time of year with cards, notes, calls and visits. A list with names and addresses can be found below and on the table in the parish hall. Please add other you know. Remember to let the Pastoral Care Team know of needs and concerns of our congregation and their families

Pat Marquis  
George's Assisted Living  
12933 Summit Ridge Terr.  
Germantown, MD 20892

Anne Caldwell  
1211 Long Corner Rd.  
Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Trudi Lawson  
3004 N. Ridge Rd. #413  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Herb Grabau  
The Meadows  
4113 Ridge Rd. #5  
Westminister, MD 21157

Ms. Elizabeth Tuel  
North Hampton Rehab  
200 E. 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(Ginny Chandler's sister)

Dave Lawson  
12105 Rt. 99  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Paul Bourg  
1209 Roundgate Ct  
Woodbine, MD 21797





## Reminder:

The four Sundays in January are Souper Sundays. So let's make a special effort to fill our Mt. Airy Net box.

## St. Paul's Thrift Shop

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

## **Lots of Christmas shopping bargains!**

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

Phyllis Weston & Kathy Audia

## Happy Birthday To

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:

Ginny & George Chandler  
Dec. 09

## 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  
Joan Selden  
Gil Seibel  
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

## 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](mailto:revssk@yahoo.com).

You may also call the church, 410-489-4411, Monday through Friday, 9:00-12:00.

Parish Email: [stpaulschurchmtairy@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulschurchmtairy@verizon.net)  
[www.stpaulsmtairy.org](http://www.stpaulsmtairy.org)



*A CHRISTMAS  
BLESSING  
God grant you the  
light of Christmas,  
which is faith;  
the warmth of  
Christmas,  
which is purity;  
the righteousness of  
Christmas,  
which is justice;  
the belief in  
Christmas,  
which is truth;  
the all of Christmas,  
which is Christ.*

Wilda English

## VISION STATEMENT

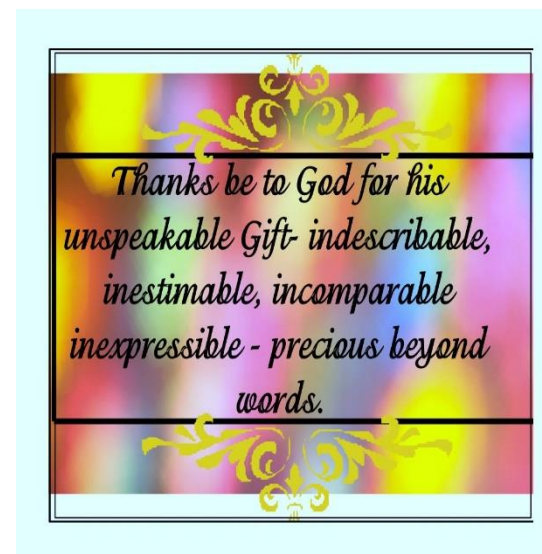
**Our Vision is:** A community of faith ministering to those in need of justice, reconciliation, hospitality, sanctuary, and growth in their spiritual journey.

## 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.



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





## December 2017~ Service Calendar

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WORK, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT**

	<b>December 3, 1st Advent Blue</b>	<b>December 10, 2nd Advent Blue</b>	<b>December 17, 3rd Advent Blue</b>	<b>December 24, 4th Advent Blue</b>	<b>December 31, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas White</b>
	<b><u>9:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>9:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>9:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>9:00 a.m.</u></b>	<b><u>9:00 a.m.</u></b>
<b>Greeter/Usher</b>	Al Yeater, Linda Barnes	Michele Samuel, Al Yeater	Linda Barnes	Carrie Brown	Dana Fritzges, Linda Sharp
<b>Chalicer/Acolyte</b>	Ron Alexander	Jeff Spaulding	Carrie Brown	Ron Alexander	Pete McIntosh
<b>Lector</b>	Dick Wilcher	Charles Samuel	Dorothy Kitt	Pete McIntosh	Helen Tuel
<b>Psalm</b>	Kathleen Alexander	Phyllis Heffner	Lee Hajek	Kathleen Alexander	John Tuel
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Lee Hajek	Bill Toole	Nancy McIntosh	Linda Sharp	Carrie Brown
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp	Joanne Honsberger	Linda Barnes, Suzanne Bourg	Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp	Dana Fritzges, Kathy Audia
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Ginny Chandler, Helen Tuel	Michele Samuel, Doris Wilcher	Dana Fritzges	Carrie Brown, Dorothy Kitt	Phyllis Weston, Lee Hajek
<b>Counter</b>	Lynda Sheckels, Dana Fritzges	Nancy & Pete McIntosh	Linda Sharp, Linda Barnes	Celeste Humphreys, John Tuel	Lynda Sheckels, Etta Lee Spaulding

## December 2017 ~ Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>2</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<b>3</b> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	<b>4</b> <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Helping Hands	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>7</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>8</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>9</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<i>3pm Interfaith Dialogue at Calvary Lutheran</i>	<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Stephen Ministry Supervision at Calvary					
<b>10</b> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>14</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>15</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>16</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<u>4:00p.m.</u> Evensong				<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Vestry Meeting		
<b>17</b> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>21</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>22</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>23</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<u>4:00 p.m.</u> Longest Night at Calvary UM Church	<u>6:30 p.m.</u> Stephen Ministry Supervision at Calvary					<b>9:30 a.m.</b> Altar Guild prepare for Christmas
<b>24</b> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Rite II Advent <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Rite II Christmas Eve	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <u>11:00-2:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>28</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>29</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open	<b>30</b> <u>11:30-3:00</u> Thrift Shop Open
<b>31</b> <u>9:00 a.m.</u> Lessons & Carols						