



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

February 2019

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

**St. Paul's Annual Meeting:** Before we can cast our nets and be that beacon of light that reflects our vision and mission we need to review our work together and discern our paths forward. Our annual meeting is important and everyone's attendance and input is needed and welcomed. This year we especially invite you to pray for St. Paul's, as part of your daily devotions, before Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We believe our prayers will help us focus on our faith community, its vitality, challenges and hopes. As Linda Barnes would say, "It takes all of us working together to be successful," as we strive to do the work God has given us to do.

St. Paul's family, let us be like Mary, and seek counsel and then boldly proclaim the wonder and goodness of the creator, in active and imaginative actions. Let us be like Joseph, even though bewildered, maybe a little angry and fearful, turn to trusting and the ability to risk the gift of truth. Let us be like the wise foreigners who sought, journeyed and found the Christ.

**A Prayer for St. Paul's Annual Meeting:**

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with St. Paul's and all who take council for the renewal and mission of Your church. Teach us in all things to seek first Your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP

**Epiphany Blessing:**

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives maybe a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. Amen. BCP

Carrie A. Brown

**Mark Your Calendars**

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.** Service each week.

**Sunday, Feb. 3,** Annual Meeting following service. Vestry Meeting following Annual Meeting.

**Monday, Feb. 4, & 18, 6:30 p.m.** Stephen Ministry Supervision at Calvary

**Saturday, Feb. 16, 9:30a.m.** Special Vestry Mtg. with Diocese.





*John Newnan, Greg Shipley and Jeff enjoying the balmy bay water in January 2018. Refreshing!*

Hello friends, colleagues and family,

Well...I can't believe that it is once again time for me to venture into the waters of the Chesapeake Bay for the **2019 Polar Bear Plunge**. Last year the Plunge was a great success, raising more than 3 million dollars for the amazing athletes of Special Olympics Maryland. I am proud to report that last year's event was one of the largest one-day fund raising efforts in the world in support of the life-changing work of Special Olympics. This year I will be participating in a special Plunge for law enforcement only on Friday afternoon. This will allow more officers to volunteer their time to assist with the main Plunge on Saturday. This year's main event promises to be bigger and crazier than ever – let's hope that the weather warms up a bit!!

**I am writing to ask you to consider supporting my Plunge effort again this year with a contribution to Special Olympics.** Really...no pressure...I know money can be tight. If you wish to contribute, you can either follow the instructions below on-line via credit card (it's easy) or you can send me a check. If you prefer to send a check, please make it out to "SOMD" and get it to me. Either way, I will make sure that all of the funds get to the amazing athletes who gain so much from the participation in Special Olympics.

***Thanks again for your ongoing friendship and support of this life-changing program! Please accept my sincere wishes to you and yours for a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!!***

Jeff Spaulding

#### **Donation Instructions**

1. ***Go to <http://www.plungemd.com> (if you have problems just Google "Maryland Polar Bear Plunge 2019" to get to the site).***
2. ***Click on "Donate", then "Find a Participant or Team".***
3. ***Enter "Jeff" and "Spaulding" in the appropriate boxes and click "Go".***
4. ***Click on "Jeff Spaulding" from the list of registered plungers. This will take you to my personal Plunge page.***
5. ***Make your donation via credit card. Many thanks for your support!***

**A Friendly Reminder:** The "Polar Bear Plunge Can" to hold your donations is still on the parish hall table. Our Jeff (see above) always does the Plunge in the balmy Chesapeake Bay to raise funds for Maryland Special Olympics. Since St. Paul's was closed for two Sundays due to the weather, the "can" will remain through the month of February. So, this is another payment option and way you can make your donation. Let's give Jeff a nice donation for this wonderful worthy cause.

Linda Barnes

## **Episcopal Advocacy Day 2019**

Please join us for the 6th Annual Episcopal Advocacy Day in Annapolis. All are welcome. Register at [www.episcopalmaryland.org](http://www.episcopalmaryland.org)

Episcopal Advocacy Day is quickly approaching. Join us in Annapolis on Wednesday February 6, 2019 to learn about our legislative priorities such as clean energy jobs, the environment, affordable health insurance, criminal justice reform and more! Meet your legislators and network with your peers. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Members of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland advocate for issues of care of creation and care of God's people on the local level that follow the legislation, theology and policies of The Episcopal Church.

Registration starts at 8:30 AM with a Continental Breakfast meeting in the Miller Senate Building – President's Conference Center, West I & II reception room.

The event is free and remember to bring your photo ID to enter buildings. Please let Carrie Brown, 410-707-8772, know if you can attend. Thanks.

## **A Message from Bishop Sutton from the Holy Land**



January 8, 2019

This is not the way we're meant to live. Walls won't get us what we really want. Everyone wants to live in secure communities, free from violence, and free from terror. We want to live in peace, enjoying good and healthy relationships with neighbors who want the same things as we do. This is how we were meant to be in community: living in harmony with each other, with God, and with all creation.

But walls of separation, based in fear and mistrust, do not get us there.

As I write this, I'm looking out over Jerusalem from my window, this divided city on the border between Israel and (a hoped for) future Palestine. I'm leading a pilgrimage from the Diocese of Maryland to the Holy Land, as I have been doing about every two years since becoming bishop. Bringing pilgrims to a foreign land is one of the best ways to get us to gaze into a mirror at ourselves, our own lives in our own land. And when I take a long look into that mirror, what do I increasingly see?

Walls. The pilgrims and I were blessed to be in Bethlehem, the City of David, celebrating Christmas with our Palestinian Arab Christian brothers and sisters on January 6 (which is Christmas in the Eastern liturgical calendar, and the Feast of the Epiphany in our Western church year.)

We celebrated the birth of Christ there, and were thrilled to be able to prayerfully kneel and touch the stone manger in the grotto of the Church of the Nativity where 2,000 years of Christian tradition holds that the Son of God was born into the human family.

But the Prince of Peace was born into a city that is now walled off by ethnicity and religion, preventing its inhabitants from being able to travel freely to other parts of the nation. A wall that was erected in fear to keep some populations from others painfully divides the city of Jesus' birth, who himself was born into a poor family who would quickly become refugees.

Whether or not intended to provide security for Israel's Jewish inhabitants, or a way to justify and protect an illegal land grab by settlers, the effect is the same: economic desperation, deprivation, anger, and daily humiliation for the Arab inhabitants of Bethlehem. This is not the way they should have to live. Nor is it the way that the Jewish citizens of Israel should live. The Wall dehumanizes both them and their Arab neighbors, causing both sides to become less than they were intended to be by God – and how they themselves want to be. Who among us wants to be an oppressor? And who among us wants to live as a perpetual victim?

And yet, as I gaze into that mirror to look at what is happening halfway around the globe, I see the same moral conflict in my own country that I see in the Holy Land. We as Americans imagine ourselves to be a generous, welcoming people for those who want to make a new life here, but we are also afraid that these newcomers will cause us harm. Whether from fear or racism – or both – we don't want them here.

So, let's build a wall. Even if that wall causes hostility, suspicion, violence and hatred between peoples. Even if that wall sacrifices our core values, and causes us to act in ways contrary to a free, egalitarian and democratic society. Every nation needs and deserves secure borders, but building massive, fortified, concrete or steel walls do not get us there. They foster more anger and violence, not security and peace.

And who cares that history shows that walls of separation, fear and mistrust do not work, and eventually are all dismantled or destroyed either violently or by popular demand? (Or they become tourist attractions for later generations.). If they make us feel safe, then isn't that good enough? Well, not to God.

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

This summary of all of Jesus' teachings is based on love, which casts out all fear. But how can we love God and our neighbor if we turn away from God and try to prevent ourselves from knowing or even meeting our neighbors?

Let me be clear. Walls – either psychological or physical – that are intended to keep individuals or nations from encountering and engaging with the poor, the oppressed, the dispossessed, refugees, and other marginalized persons are inherently immoral, unjust and unworthy of people of faith. They make a mockery of the gospel of Jesus Christ and of God's vision for a just, loving and harmonious world. They are deeply offensive to those on the other side of that racial, ethnic and economic divide, serving as a daily reminder that they are seen as threats and not fellow human beings.

If it's not your thing to live according to what God wants, and you believe that the Bible is merely a collection of folk tales that do not have to be taken seriously, then please just take it from those who have to live and work on either side of walled hostile borders: you really don't want to live that way.

+Eugene

**Annual Meeting:** St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 3, following the service. Reports need to be in to the parish office by January 27, to be included in the Annual Meeting Booklet.



### **St. Paul's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:**

Will be Tuesday, March 5, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (All you can Eat) The menu is: Pancakes, (plain, chocolate chip, pecan); sausage, applesauce, dessert, orange juice, milk, coffee and tea. Free Will Offering Sign-up sheets for the needed food items and help will be on the Parish Hall table on February 3. Take a look at the sign-up sheets and see where you can help. Please tell your neighbors, friends and relatives about our supper – bring them with you when you come to eat your pancakes on “Fat Tuesday”. Take out available.

**A Big Thanks To:** Dana Fritzges for hosting a Christmas luncheon on Tuesday, January 8, at her home. Everyone brought a delicious dish. If you went away hungry, it was your own fault! All attending had a great and fun time. **Thanks Dana!** for an enjoyable afternoon and the warm hospitality!

**Soup-er Bowl Sundays:** In the January Newsletter the 4 Sundays of January were designated as Soup-er Bowl Sundays. All were asked to bring a can or more of soup each week for the Mt. Airy Net Food Pantry. Due to weather closures, Soup-er Bowl Sundays will be extended into February. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we can fill the Mt. Airy Net box in the parish hall with all kinds of soup.

### **Stephen Ministers -The After People:**



People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

They are ready to come alongside you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

Our ministry is a one-to- one confidential relationship between the minister (the caregiver) and you (the care receiver).

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... after the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ...after the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ...after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ...after the doctor says, “I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do.”
- ...after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.”
- ...after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ...after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ...after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ...after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ...after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

If you are interested or know of someone who could be comforted and supported from these services, contact Lee Hajek (410-442-1641) or Rev. Susan Keller (410-442-4411) for an application.

**SCRIP, Stewardship and Gifts:** As a part of our Stewardship we can painlessly and effortlessly fundraise (a gift to the church) for St. Paul's. **BUY SCRIP.** Ok, it may take a minute to think ahead about where and when you are going to shop for groceries, shoes, personal necessities, gas, dinner out, birthday gifts etc. Pete McIntosh is willing to help you figure it all out. Best of all you will be giving money to St. Paul's while not paying an extra penny for things you buy on a regular basis. Our collective monies from the purchase of **SCRIP** can contribute significantly to our operational budget.

**Would you like a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Square?** Request forms are available on the front table near the prayer squares. Please fill one out and give to Wendy Gahm or leave on office desk.



**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> |

**St. Paul's Nearly New Thrift Shop:** One stop for all of your apparel/shoes (Infant – Adult) and household needs at bargain prices! **Hours:** Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 11:30 – 3:00 p.m. Come and see all of our affordable items including, toys, books, CDs and DVDs.

The Thrift Shop needs volunteers to man the store at least one day a month on a regular basis and helpers to sort and restock on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Thank you.

Phyllis Weston and Kathy Audia

**The Episcopal Service Corps:** invites all to a free community dinner: Wednesday, January 30, 6:30 -8:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church – All Saints Hall. Please come and learn about the community work these young people engage in to build up the Body of Christ. Your attendance and support would be greatly appreciated.

**UBE:** The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians cordially invites everyone to its **Annual Commemoration of the Rev. Absalom Jones**, the first Episcopal priest of African descent and Founder of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Philadelphia in 1792. The program will feature the Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, Ph. D., Assistant Rector and Founder of “The Center for the Study of Faith in Justice”, Calvary Episcopal Church and the Rev. Vincent P. Harris, Retired Rector, St. George’s Episcopal Church, Washington D.C.



Theme: **Let Justice Roll Down. “We’ve Come This Far By Faith: Where Do We Go From Here?”**

**Saturday, February 9, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore.

Registration and continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m.

in the Peabody Room. The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Presider and Celebrant.

**Recurring Workshops:** Dealing with justice, economic and racial reconciliation will be held throughout the Diocese as a part of our Lenten observance. Please plan to attend one of these sessions and learn how you can actively participate in our Presiding Bishop’s vision of The beloved community: The Way of Love. All sessions are on **Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The dates and locations are:

**March 17, St. John’s, Ellicott City**

**March 24, St. Mark’s, Lappans**

**March 31, St. Phillips, Annapolis**

**April 7, Emmanuel, Cumberland**

**235<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention:** May 10 and 11 the Diocese of Maryland will convene its Annual Meeting of Governance. Please find all details on the Diocesan web-site and Facebook page. This year’s convention will be held at Turf Valley, Ellicott City, beginning Friday at 9:00 a.m. All are invited to attend. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of one of the Diocese’s committees or commissions. If you want to be nominated for a committee position, contact Carrie Brown, 410-707-8772.





**Happy Birthday to:**

Charles Samuel Feb. 01  
Pat Marquis Feb. 04  
Jeni Cassera Feb. 14  
Norma Prentice Feb. 19

**Prayer List**

Dave & Trudi Lawson  
Nancy & Pete McIntosh  
Carolyn Prentice  
Keith Prentice  
John & Helen Tuel  
Gerlinde Pflaumer-Yeater  
Phyllis Heffner  
Pat Marquis  
Doris Sharp  
Bill Winebrunner  
Joannie Lee  
Craig Johnson  
Jeffrey Johnson  
Lora Hollands  
Pam Sherfey  
Debbie Gardner  
Ann Boyles  
Sandra & Stanley Napier  
Lynn Carr  
Allison Poleger  
Patsy Mavity  
Donna Shurney  
Kaye Rineer  
Delphine Koval  
Bill Aaron  
Ryan Merton  
Kathleen Rumble  
Brian Thompson  
James Anthony  
Kayleigh McIntosh  
Bev  
Lloyd Fennell  
Nathan Buckley  
Ben Weston  
WendyNatalia

Tom  
Karin  
Katie  
Luke  
Steve  
Michelle Josephs  
Sadie Settlemyer  
Amy Goodman  
Melvin & Hattie French  
Will Evans  
Donald Nelson  
Susan & Will Kelley  
Jocelyn  
the Blanton family  
the Burns family  
Arlene  
Lee Hajek  
Charles Samuel  
Teri Coates

**Serenity Prayer**

God, grant me the serenity to  
accept the things I cannot  
change, the courage  
to change the things I can, and  
the wisdom to know the  
difference;  
Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a  
time; accepting hardship as a  
pathway to peace;  
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful  
world, as it is, not as I would  
have it; trusting that You will  
make all things right  
if I surrender to Your will. So  
that I may be reasonably  
happy in this life  
and supremely happy with You  
forever in the next.

Amen *adapted from Reinhold  
Niebuhr*



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

**Pastoral Concerns**

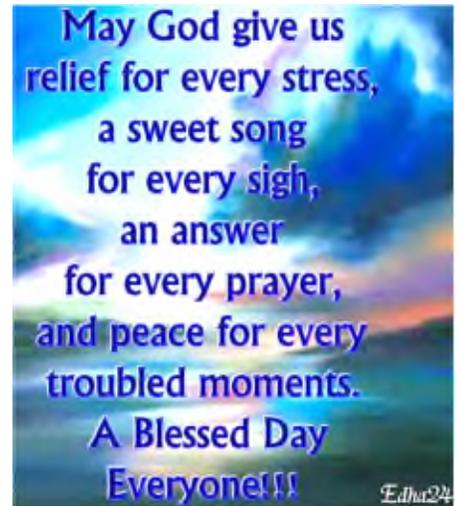
Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the Rev. Susan S. Keller, at 301-785-1687 or [revssk@yahoo.com](mailto:revssk@yahoo.com). Or call the church, 410-489-4411, Monday through Friday, 9:00-12:00. Parish Email: [stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net)

**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.



# February 2019 ~ Church Calendar

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|-----------|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |           |   |   | <b>1</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open  | <b>2</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open    |
| <b>3</b><br><u>9:00 a.m.</u><br>Rite II  | <b>4</b>   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b><br><u>11:00-2:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open  | <b>7</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open  | <b>8</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open  | <b>9</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open    |
| <i>Annual Meeting<br/>Vestry Meeting,<br/>and Brunch<br/>following<br/>service</i> | <i>6:30 p.m.<br/>Stephen Ministry<br/>Supervision at<br/>Calvary</i> |           |   |   |   |   |
| <b>10</b><br><u>9:00 a.m.</u><br>Rite II   | <b>11</b>  | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b><br><u>11:00-2:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>14</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>15</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>16</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open   |
| <i>Hospitality Hour<br/>Following</i>  |  |           |   |   |   | 9:30 a.m.<br>Special Vestry<br>Meeting with<br>Diocese. |
| <b>17</b><br><u>9:00 a.m.</u><br>Rite II   | <b>18</b>  | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b><br><u>11:00-2:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>21</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>22</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>23</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open   |
| <i>Hospitality Hour<br/>Following</i>  | <i>6:30 p.m.<br/>Stephen Ministry<br/>Supervision at<br/>Calvary</i> |           |   |   |   |   |
| <b>24</b><br><u>9:00 a.m.</u><br>Rite II   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br><u>11:00-2:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open | <b>28</b><br><u>11:30-3:00</u><br>Thrift Shop<br>Open |   |   |
| <i>Hospitality Hour<br/>Following</i>  |  |           |   |   |   |   |



# February 2019~ Service Calendar

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

|                              | February 3,<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Epiphany<br>Green | February 10,<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Epiphany<br>Green | February 17,<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Epiphany<br>Green | February 24,<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after<br>Epiphany<br>Green |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
|                              | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>   | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  |
| <b>Greeter/Usher</b>         | Al Yeater,<br>Linda Barnes                                       | Dana Fritzges,<br>Linda Sharp                                     | Dana Fritzges   | Carrie Brown,   |
| <b>Chalicer/Acolyte</b>      | Carrie Brown   | Jeff Spaulding  | Ron Alexander   | Jeff Spaulding  |
| <b>Lector</b>                | Dick Wilcher   | Stephen Jones   | Kathleen Alexander  | Dick Wilcher  |
| <b>Psalm</b>                 | Linda Sharp  | Phyllis Heffner   | Al Yeater   | Lee Hajek   |
| <b>Prayers of the People</b> | Lee Hajek  | Bill Toole  | Pete McIntosh   | Nancy McIntosh  |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Suzanne Bourg<br>Linda Barnes                                    | Joanne Honsberger   | Linda Sharp   | Dana Fritzges,<br>Kathy Audia                                     |
| <b>Coffee Hour</b>           | Phyllis Heffner,<br>Jeni Cassera                                 | Linda Barnes,<br>Wendy Gahm                                       | Ginny Chandler,<br>Helen Tuel                                     | Carrie Brown,<br>Doris Wilcher                                    |
| <b>Counter</b>               | Linda Sharp,<br>Linda Barnes                                     | Lynda Sheckels,<br>Kathy Audia                                    | Lynda Sheckels,<br>Dana Fritzges                                  | Nancy & Pete<br>McIntosh  |

