

# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



# THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

## 2019 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

**President:**  
Dr. Burton Streicher  
**Vice President:**  
Kathleen Ball  
**Secretary:**  
Debbie Szymanski  
**Treasurer:**  
Stephanie Wade

## 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Education (Faith Formation):**  
Debbie Metheny  
**Evangelism:**  
Jane Roderick  
**Finance:**  
Suzanne Umstott  
**Ministry in Daily Life:**  
Nancy Lohr  
**Property:**  
Edward Ayers  
**Social Ministry (Fellowship):**  
Cindy Read  
**Stewardship:**  
Burton Streicher  
**Worship and Music:**  
Kathleen Ball  
**Youth:**  
Gary Miller

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August 2019

## July from the Interim Pastor's Diary:

*Refrain: Mow lawn, recharge batteries.*

- ♦ To Kalamazoo, MI. Scrabble marathon with daughter. Won 1 game, lost next 4. (Was she just being kind?) To Galesburg, IL. 4th of July with family. To Mpls, MN. Visit many friends & 1 son. 2-day drive back to MD. *Refrain*
- ♦ To Ellicott City for training conference. To Binghamton, NY to visit 1 son. Day trip to 1000 Islands. (Still beautiful after 40 yrs!) *Refrain*
- ♦ Hot weekend! Bountiful Blessings (indeed!) Visit members. Herndon, VA for grandson's 12<sup>th</sup>. *Refrain*. Batteries (mower & self) now fully charged!

And you? Warmly, *Steve*

## A Word from the President

At our July council meeting we reviewed the results of our independent accountants, Turnbull, Hoover, and Kahl, P.A., who had reviewed our 2018 financial records. Based on their review, they were not aware of any material modification that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the modified cash bases of accounting. This was good news, as it means in normal words that they didn't find anything incorrect or misstated in our financial records. The council also approved the executive committee's immediate action to replace the very old downstairs drinking fountain with a new one due to a recent discovery of unacceptable levels of lead contained within the water. The new fountain has been installed.

Pastor Robin Simpson Litton has advised us that she has two candidates interested in being called to be our pastor. Robin will be meeting with our call committee on 31 July 2019 to provide their applications to the call committee for review. This is an important step forward during our transition period as our call committee begins to review and interview candidates.

It certainly appears that the expected hot days of summer have arrived. The council has decided to take a meeting break and not have an August session since it is a popular vacation month before school starts again. The council will meet next on 10 September 2019. Please enjoy and relax during these ending days of summer as we look forward to the beginning of the school year and fall activities in September.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL  
Interim Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton



THE PARISH HOUSE—ST. STEPHEN'S

## 225 Tidbits: The St. Stephen's Chapter

Following the building of the third church and at the beginning of the new century, differences arose for reasons that are not entirely clear, but whose impact was shocking and dramatic. Parishioners were refusing to donate to help the congregation pay off the construction debt, and families were leaving for other churches in the city. The issue came to a head at a Vestry meeting in early 1902.

The meeting began routinely. Then a resolution was read and unanimously adopted that indicated that "a large portion of the members" of St. Paul's were not in accord with the Rev. T.J. Yost. The resolution requested that Pastor Yost resign. The Vestry had hoped to end the matter quietly, but Yost refused, determined to "fight it out."

A petition signed by 221 parishioners called for a congregational meeting, held several weeks later. Yost, his friends and some confused members who thought the meeting was over walked out. When order was restored (and some of the wandering parishioners returned), the gathered congregants unanimously ratified the request for Yost's resignation. He agreed to resign the following week.

Trying to smooth things over, the Vestry paid him a severance of two month's wages. The discord had apparently made it into the local newspapers, since they felt the need to refute charges of "locking the doors against the pastor." Yost also said he regretted the trouble and closed the meeting with a prayer. The Vestry thought the problems were solved. They were wrong.

Two weeks later, Rev. Yost and 86 members met in a church just a block down Centre Street, on

the corner of Union Street, opposite the B'er Chayim Temple.

They declared themselves "The First English Lutheran Church of Cumberland, Md.," soon after renaming the congregation St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.

The Maryland Synod objected, and their application to join the synod where they were located was denied. Instead, St. Stephen's applied to join the Allegany Synod of Pennsylvania, and were accepted.

Pastor Yost was never listed as a pastor of St. Stephen's, that position instead going to the Rev. Dr. M.L. Young, who led the congregation in purchasing the church building in which they had first met.

For the next 25 years, St. Paul's and St. Stephen's congregations operated just a block away from one another. The Rev. Hixon T. Bowersox became pastor of St. Paul's in 1927. He quickly became aware that St. Stephen's congregation was struggling when its members began to ask if they could join St. Paul's. Rather than allowing St. Stephen's to dwindle further, he invited the Council of St. Stephens to talk about a merger. He found them agreeable, and the churches soon reunited. The Vestry contained members of both groups, and the properties (and debts) were merged. The St. Stephen's church building became the Parish Hall for St. Paul's (serving in that capacity until 1946, when it was sold in the first step of moving the congregation to Washington Street.)

"Today it can be said without fear of contradiction that so complete is the unity that no one realizes that they were ever members of any other congregation than St. Paul's," Dr. Bowersox wrote in 1944.

## The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



Tamela Rankin and Debbie Streicher attended the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers National Conference held in Hagerstown, MD from July 17-20. They connected with puppeteers from across the country, learned some new ways to present, made puppets and props for our team to use, and have a renewed excitement about ways we can reach out to the community in Cumberland through our puppet ministry.

Our goal of collecting 225 items in July to benefit our Bountiful Blessings Ministry was met!  
Thank you for your support!

**Next Collection for 225th Anniversary:** **We are seeking 225 items of school supplies collected in August in support of our APPS school and students.**  
**The following are items suggested by the teachers.**

Pencil boxes	Boxes of tissues	Notebooks
Colored pencils	Notebook paper	Glue sticks
Crayons	Hand soap	Hand sanitizer
Highlighters	Washable markers	Rulers
Binder clips	Paper clips	Index cards
Folders	Composition books	Disinfecting wipes

Please bring the items to church on Sundays or to the church office during the week.



# CHURCH PICNIC 2019

## Lakewood Beach and Pavilion





# August



## St. Paul's 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook

Thank you to so many who have shared favorite recipes to be used in our anniversary cookbook. I would like to have 150 recipes and with a little over 100 recipes so far, we are closed to that goal. Cookie and candy recipes are especially needed.

Our stories and recipes connect the past and present to the future, and honor and respect our ancestors and us. Please share your stories, connecting our generation to those who have gone before and for those who are still to come.

The stories may be connected with a recipe, a personal family life memory or something that is a fond memory of life at St. Paul's.

Recipes and stories can be submitted to the office or emailed to [mutmab43@gmail.com](mailto:mutmab43@gmail.com).

Kathleen Ball, Cookbook Committee

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 4</b>
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 5</b>
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
5:00 PM	Beginnings Board meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 7</b>
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
7:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 8</b>
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 11</b>
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
4:00 PM	Council Appreciation Dinner
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 12</b>
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 14</b>
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
10:00-2:00	Allegany County Education Association new staff luncheon
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 15</b>
12:00 PM	Ramblers to Mountain Playhouse
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 18</b>
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 21</b>
7:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>August 22</b>
4:00-6:00	Bountiful Blessings
<b>Friday</b>	<b>August 23</b>
5:30 PM	Beginnings School Orientation
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>August 25</b>
10:00 AM	Worship Service
11:15 AM	Loaves and Fishes fellowship
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August 26</b>
	<b>Beginnings First Day-1/2 day</b>
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>August 28</b>
9:30 AM	Heavenly Bodies aerobics
7:00 PM	Potomac Concert Band rehearsal



## Vacation Bible School 2019



August - 5 – Terry Hostetler  
 8 – Joy Zembower  
 11 – John Beegle  
 30 – Harriet Douglas

A follow up meeting will be scheduled before the fall schedule begins for school to assess and review Vacation Bible School this summer. Stay tuned for a date and time.

	8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
<b>Ushers</b>	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis
<b>Greeters</b>	John and Sylvia Hixon	Dave and Rena Christopher	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Roy and Jean Lee
<b>Crucifers</b>	Andrew Highland	Mia Broadwater	Emily Metheny	Meadow Wagus
<b>Lectors</b>	Rick Metheny	Lisa Rowley	Caitlin Hudgins	Liz Medcalf
<b>Technicians</b>	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny and Connor Manthey	Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski
<b>Counters</b>	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski	Jay Cochrane and Terry Hostetler	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Jim and Patti Squires	Andrew and Daniel Highland	Emily and Erica Metheny	Brenda Marvin and Gary Miller
<b>Loaves And Fishes Fellowship</b>	Jim and Patti Squires	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Debbie Szymanski and Kathleen Ball	Deana Emerick