

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝ CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

2020 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

Stephanie Wade

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org

Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Education (Faith Formation):

Debbie Metheny

Evangelism:

Cecil Bell

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

February 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

We're a month into the new year; I hope we are all dating our correspondence and checks 2020 by now! We just held our annual parish meeting, with the usual agenda items, but we also resealed our 25-year time capsule with the items from 1994 but now with new items to inform and tease our future selves and folks to come in 2044. Thanks to Daniel and Andrew Highland for balancing on a ladder to pack items in the capsule! Question: In 25 years will anyone still know how to play the CD that contains the past year's worth of church newsletters?

The Council will soon meet to set goals for this year. I will be suggesting one: that we engage in a process of gifts discernment, involving most all of us, I hope, that we might perceive more fully in ourselves and in our faith community the gifts, talents, skills, interests, and passions we have among us to contribute to the ministry and mission of Saint Paul's. Such a process, engaged over a week or three, would offer the chance for us to acknowledge and affirm one another's gifts, especially those we might not have known about. And as we amass this greater awareness of each other's talents, we might see some new, as yet untried directions in mission, locally and looking toward the wider world. We just don't know, until we take such an inventory, more of the things we might be able to support, to do, to serve Christ here and beyond.

Our liturgical observances will take a turn near the end of February. The last Sunday of the month will offer a "mountaintop experience" in the readings. On February 25 we will observe Shrove Tuesday with a pancake and sausage supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. (Mardi Gras hats and beads are optional.) The next day will be Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent, and we will have a 7:00 p.m. service offering the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist. Until then, celebrate the Epiphany light and the glory of Christ manifested in the world!

Yours in the Spirit of Christ,
Pastor Steve

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL
Interim Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

A Word from the President

The church council met on January 14. The call committee has unanimously agreed to move to the next step with one of the pastoral candidates. The council is looking forward to completing our pastoral call process as soon as possible.

The council approved installing a 3 foot black chain-link fence with two gates on the west side of the church to make it easier to maintain the lawn and protect it from neighborhood dogs. We also agreed to seek an estimate for the surface repair of the Washington Street front steps for both safety and appearance reasons. We also approved moving the LOFT February pot-luck dinner to Tuesday, 25 February in order to celebrate Shrove Tuesday with a pancake supper. I would like to thank our staff and council members for all the work they put into producing our 2019 annual report to the congregation. The annual congregational meeting on Sunday, 26 January was fun, interesting, and successful. We owe appreciation and thanks to all those who helped, from set up, to food, to cleanup, in making our annual congregational meeting a great experience. The dessert table was particularly enticing. The completion of our 225th anniversary activities by blessing the 25 year time capsule was a fitting completion of our year-long celebration.

The annual council retreat will be held on Sunday, 9 February at 3:00pm at our home where we will select officers for 2020, review the planned events during the year, and determine our council goals for 2020. I hope everyone will continue to enjoy the Epiphany season with family and friends as we prepare for the coming Lenten season. Our church council will meet next on 11 February 2020.

Blessings in the New Year,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The puppet ministry team will begin meeting this month on Mondays at 5:00pm on the stage. They are beginning to make plans and practice for the Easter presentation for the APPS children and families. All ages are invited to join them during Holy Week as they travel to local senior residence and nursing homes to tell the story and sing hymns. Dates and times to be announced.

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Debbie Streicher: dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255.





News bulletin!!! St Paul's has a treasure in Cecil Bell. He sits quietly in church most Sundays, but few realize how many hours he devotes outside of worship to our main outreach programs, APPS and Bountiful Blessings.

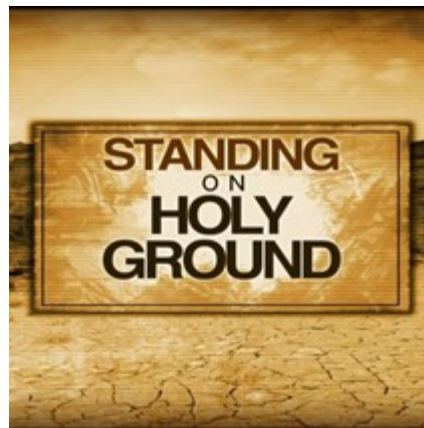
Each Monday he visits the local Food Bank to shop and bring back items we've been deemed eligible for to offer our APPS students and Bountiful Blessings recipients ----- wonderful savings for us and gifts to our programs.

On Wednesdays he's one of the first to arrive and help with the preparations and cooking of the meal that's prepared for the kids and helpers. It might be making salads, scrambling eggs, washing pots and pans, whatever is needed to put together a home-cooked and healthy meal. Fondly known to most of us as "Mister Pastor", he never lacks for a smile and hardy laugh.

Every other week he's at the church early (often a matter of days) to arrange, set up, guide the volunteers and prepare for the folks who visit Bountiful Blessings. Word has it, he's loved by all!!

Need to get his attention? Just mention "fishing" and he's all ears. Maybe some of you know favorite fishing holes you could recommend to him to visit in all his spare time!

We thank you, Cecil, for all you do to put the name and love of St. Paul's out to the community.



*When I walk through the doors I
sensed God's presence
When I knew this was a place where love abounds
For this is a temple Jehovah God abides here
And we are standing in His presence on holy ground
We are standing on holy ground*

Those words are the first verse of a favorite praise hymn of mine. "We are Standing on Holy Ground."

The thought that comes to my mind most often when hearing the phrase "we are standing on holy ground", is the story of Moses in Exodus when he confronts the burning bush and hears the voice of God saying: "Do not come any closer," "Take off your sandals for the place you are standing is holy ground." The presence of God at that place at that time made the ground holy.

It is the presence of God's Holy Spirit, when His people are gathered, not the building or location, that makes the ground holy. The Spirit is present when people gather for prayer; the Spirit is present when the living Word is proclaimed and when the Holy Eucharist is shared.

The place set apart for divine worship, the sanctuary, is holy ground. For there we meet to worship God, remember His Son's presence in the breaking of bread, and welcome the Holy Spirit to move among us.

*"When I walked through the doors I sensed God's
presence."*

Kathleen Ball
Worship and Music Committee
Chairperson

LOFT Living Our Faith Together Sundays at 11:45am



LOFT begins at 11:45 am on Sundays following worship and fellowship. It finishes at 12:30 with a prayer and a blessing. Lent begins on March 1st. If you haven't experienced LOFT, consider joining us on Sunday mornings during Lent as we join in caring and faith-filled conversations based on the scripture readings of the day. This is an opportunity for all ages to meet with friends, learn, and grow in the Christian faith together.



The Ramblers will meet for a noon lunch at Oscar's Restaurant on Thursday, February 13th. Please sign up by Sunday, February 9th.

LOFT Potlucks Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00pm



Shrove Tuesday signals the end of Epiphany on the church calendar. It comes the day before Ash Wednesday. This day is also called Fat Tuesday and Pancake Day.

The word shrove is the past tense of the word shrive, meaning to confess and seek forgiveness. Many Christians observe Shrove Tuesday and often host pancake suppers as a way to recognize the day. Eating pancakes on this day is believed to have come about as a way to use up butter, eggs, milk, and fat in preparation for fasting during Lent. We will gather to eat pancakes and all things fattening on Shrove Tuesday.

*Please bring a pancake topping.
(example: candy, whipped cream, fruit,
sprinkles)*

*There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board
in the hallway.*

The 25-year time capsule has been resealed with instructions to open it on the First Sunday of Advent in the year 2044.



Some of our Time Capsule Contents

Ed Ayers' Sunday School pin for perfect attendance-1950s

225th Anniversary Mug and Cookbook

Visitor's Welcome Packet

225th Anniversary luncheon group photo

Cumberland Times-News article-
Allegany Conference Joint Reformation Service

Cumberland Times-News article-
St. Paul's Brass Lessons and Carols Service

Program from Allegany High School's
presentation of Hairspray

Ordination of Stephen Paul Zeller photo

The Cumberland Area Lutheran Churches booklet

225th Anniversary program booklet

225th Anniversary facts sheet

Spire "Tidbits" January-December 2019

Google Map of community

Sabra Isom's Sunday School papers from 1940s

The Word in Season and Christ in Our Home
devotionals

Envelope from Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr

Cumberland Times-News articles
(WMHS opening, 1996 flood, Luke Mill closure,
Great Allegheny Passing opening,
Cumberland historic population)

Time Magazine Person of the Year 2019-
Copy of cover and article

Photo of Mia and Harper Broadwater

List of building improvements 2017-2020

Verizon phone book

2019 Annual Report

CD with January-December Spire newsletters

*Thank
you*

Diane and I want to thank the carolers that came to
our house plus the puppets too.

It was a nice surprise!

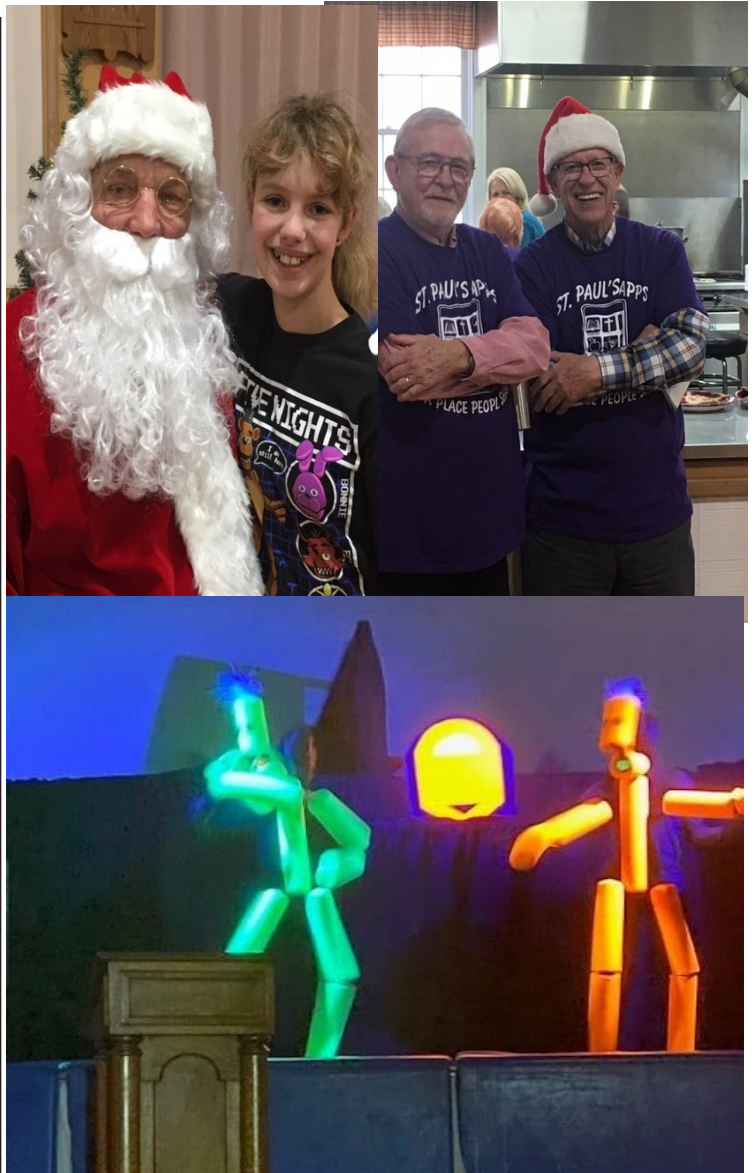
I like that Debbie Streicher is using my choir robe.
Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Dot Rhoads

The APPS After-School
Family Christmas Party
was once again a big success...
THANK YOU!

On December 18th, we had a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship with the APPS children and their families. We shared a delicious meal provided by the best kitchen crew. They seem to have cooking for 50-100 people down to a science. The Puppet Team once again entertained everyone with a fun and meaningful puppet show. The black light addition to their show was a huge hit! And the grand finale of the evening was a visit from Santa. Everyone, young and old, enjoyed sitting on Santa's lap. Thank you to our generous congregation for providing the gifts and goodies. The children loved them! I'd like to pass along the many thanks we receive from the children and their families at the end of the evening, and add my own big thank you. We could not minister to these children and their families without your donations of time, talents, and, of course, the goodies and gifts. Thank you all!

Stephanie Wade





Sunday February 2
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
 5:00 PM **Beginnings Board Meeting**
Monday February 3
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday February 5
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Friday February 7
 6:00 PM Beginnings Valentine Dance
Sunday February 9
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
 3:00 PM Church Council retreat
Monday February 10
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Tuesday February 11
 4:00 PM Church Council meeting
Wednesday February 12
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Thursday February 13
 12:00 PM Ramblers lunch at Oscar's
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday February 16
 10:00 AM Worship service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
Monday February 17
Beginnings and church office closed
Wednesday February 19
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Sunday February 23
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:30 AM LOFT
 12:15 PM Worship and Music committee meeting
Monday February 24
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Tuesday February 25
 6:00 PM LOFT potluck-Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner
Wednesday February 26
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service
Thursday February 27
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
Saturday February 29
 11:00 AM **Beginnings Open House**

Ash Wednesday Service

February 26th at 7:00 p.m.



February Worship Assistants

	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis
Greeters	Dennis and Cindy Read	Dave and Rena Christopher	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Roy and Jean Lee
Crucifers	Harper Broadwater	Andrew Highland	Erica Metheny	Mia Broadwater
Lectors	Rick Metheny	Liz Medcalf	Tamela Rankin	Ray Hunt
Technicians	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny	Andrew and Daniel Highland, Debbie Szymanski
Counters	Bob Davis and Terry Hostetler	Cecil Bell and Burt Streicher	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski
Communion Assistants	Jim and Patti Squires	Gary Miller and Debbie Streicher	Emily and Erica Metheny	Brenda Marvin and Diane Rhoads
Loaves And Fishes Fellowship			Deana Emerick	Dennis and Cindy Read