

PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✝ CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President:

Dr. Burton Streicher

Vice President:

Kathleen Ball

Secretary:

Debbie Szymanski

Treasurer:

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January 2020

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

Dear friends in Christ:

As we arrive at a new year and a new *decade*, let us take stock of the ten years just passed. Some names we could not have foreseen are now front page news: *Time* magazine's Person of the Year: a teenager named Greta; a President named Donald; an Interim Pastor named Steve; a new arrival at St. Paul's named Emily Grace.

The church is now busy hosting choral concerts, a Montessori school, puppets popping up regularly, elementary school kids filling the halls with lively learning and fun, afternoons spent restocking households with non-Food-Stamp supplies, parish visitors packing bags of treats and caring cards and drawings for our shut-ins.

And beyond our walls, there is much to be happy about and thankful for:

In the 2010's, worldwide...

- Infants' and children's mortality rates are down
- The number of youngsters 5-24 who are illiterate is down 20%
- Fewer people are living in poverty

In the U.S....

- Honeybees are making a comeback
- The hunger rate is down from 15% of households to 11%
- There are fewer homeless people – down by 15% since 2010
- The violent crime rate is down by nearly 10%

In the decade in sports...

- The Fort Hill Sentinels have been state football champs 5 times in 10 years
- The Caps won the Stanley Cup a couple of years back
- Our US women repeated as soccer's World Cup winners, and...
- The Nats are the 2019 Major League Baseball champions!

To you and your dear ones, be you sports fans and/or honey lovers, may you find happiness, contentment and a bounty of blessings in this new year - *and* new decade.

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 December 10. Our call committee is moving forward with anticipation and hopes to soon introduce a potential pastor candidate to the council. Based on a personnel committee recommendation, the council approved extending Pastor Steve Haptonstahl's interim part-time contract for one additional year month-by-month until a full-time pastor begins. The personnel committee also recommended to council that a 3.0% cost-of-living increase be provided to the church staff in 2020. In addition, it recommended that the church administrator be provided healthcare, if needed, via the ELCA/Synod plan beginning in 2020. These recommendations were approved by the council.

The repair and painting of the church exterior as well as the steeple and base is complete. This portion of the restoration and repair work now completes all the needed exterior maintenance for the church. We are thankful that our endowments allow us to complete these restorations when needed. St. Paul's puppet ministry was able to add a black light ministry capability through the purchase of a new black cloth puppet stage with side wings, black face hoods (4), and two additional black light fixtures. Two new hubie-tubie body sized puppets were also obtained. The first production was introduced at the APPS Christmas party on 18 December in a combination regular puppet and black light presentation of the Christmas story. The hubie-tubies performance to "Manger Zone" was enthusiastically received by the attending children, parents, and grandparents.

The council also approved the overall 2020 budget to be presented at our annual congregational meeting on 26 January 2020. Anticipating the selection of a full-time pastor in 2020, the budget was increased back to the 2018 level. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting. As we look forward to the new calendar year, new resolutions, and ending our pastoral transition period, I hope everyone will be able to enjoy the Epiphany season with family and friends. Our church council will meet next on 14 January 2020.

Blessings in the New Year,

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

What is Worship?

"To honor with extravagant love and extreme submission," is a definition for worship found in many dictionaries.

The songs the choir sings, the amount placed in the offering plate, the volunteering in children's church, etc., are acts of worship. They do not define true worship

To define true worship we have to ask ourselves these questions:

Who is God in my life? Where is God on my list of daily priorities?

The promise is that when we worship God with extravagant love and extreme submission, he will come and commune with us, and respond to our worship by making our hearts more like his.

We worship God because He is God.

Kathleen Ball
Chairwoman
Worship and Music Committee



The Annual Congregational Meeting, 25-year time capsule resealing and a potluck luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 26th. Please give the office any items or documents you'd like placed in the time capsule and sign up for the luncheon on the bulletin board.

2019 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like a copy of your yearly giving statement, please call the church office and one will be provided to you.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The puppet ministry team introduced black light puppetry during the Christmas presentation for APPS children, youth, and families on December 18th. Feedback was very positive. The team looks forward to learning more and including black light puppets in the future as well. The Christmas story was told through participation from all ages and Christmas hymns were sung. The team also went caroling and spread Christmas joy through visits to home bound church members.

Plans for an Easter presentation will soon begin. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Debbie Streicher: dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255.



LOFT
Living Our Faith Together



On Sunday mornings all ages are invited to join in caring and faith-filled conversations based on the scripture readings during worship. LOFT begins at 11:45 am following worship and fellowship. It finishes at 12:30. This is an opportunity to meet with friends, learn, and grow in the Christian faith together. Come and see!

LOFT Potlucks
Third Sunday of the Month
Potluck Dinners



New Year Milestone

Many of us look to the New Year as a time to begin again. We may want to lose weight, stop smoking, commit to gathering with family more often, or envision other changes we feel would improve our lives. Whether we accomplish our goals or not, we have traditions we do to welcome in the New Year. We will share ways we welcome in the New Year, talk about the past year, and share hopes and expectations for the coming year. There will be a reflection on a scripture reading, prayers, and a closing blessing.

*Please bring one dish to share.
There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board in the hallway.*

All ages are invited to join us for this time of fellowship.
We will meet on **Sunday, January 19th at 5:00 pm.**

ST. PAUL'S APPS



A PLACE PEOPLE SHARE

APPS Family Christmas Dinner, Puppet Presentation and visit from Santa December 18, 2019



Congratulations
Frostburg State University
December 2019 graduates and
St. Paul's members
Tiffany Gulick and Claire Rowley





Thursday January 2
Beginnings return from Christmas break

Saturday January 4
 11:00-6:00 Broadwater birthday party in Fellowship hall

Sunday January 5
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
 5:00 PM **Beginnings Board Meeting**

Monday January 6
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

Wednesday January 8
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday January 9
 12:00 PM Ramblers lunch at Henny's
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday January 12
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT

Monday January 13
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

Tuesday January 14
 4:00 PM Church Council meeting

Wednesday January 15
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Friday January 17
Beginnings 1/2 Day

Sunday January 19
 10:00 AM Worship service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
 5:00 PM LOFT potluck

Monday January 20
Beginnings and church office closed

Wednesday January 22
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday January 23
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday January 26
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Annual meeting/time capsule resealing and potluck luncheon

Monday January 27
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

Wednesday January 29
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal



January
Birthdays and Anniversary
6—Harper Broadwater
13—Art Isom
21—Pastor Marsha & Cecil
(2016)
31—Jay Cochrane

Volunteers for January

	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Lectors	Kathleen Ball	Debbie Streicher	Lisa Rowley	Travis Medcalf
Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis
Crucifers	Andrew Highland		Emily Metheny	Mia Broadwater
Greeters	Deana Emerick and Nancy Lohr	Kathleen Ball and Mary Ann Hiester	Roy and Jean Lee	John and Sylvia Hixon
Technicians	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Andrew and Daniel Highland Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski
Communion Assistants	Jim and Patti Squires	Gary Miller and Diane Rhoads	Emily and Erica Metheny	Brenda Marvin and Debbie Streicher
Counters	Cecil Bell and Burt Streicher	Bob Davis and Terry Hostetler	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski
Loaves and Fishes Fellowship	Rankins			