# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD



### **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

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL Interim Pastor

> DAVID RANKIN Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA Sexton 15 N. Smallwood Street Cumberland, MD 21502 (301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org January 2020

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 shutins.

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

### 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-ofliving 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)

THESPIRE 2

# 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

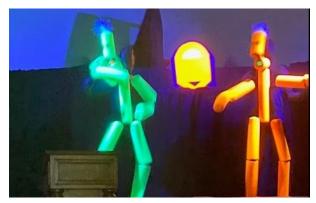


The Annual Congregational Meeting, 25-year time capsule resealing and a potluck luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please give the office any items or documents you'd like placed in the time capsule and sign up for the luncheon on the bulletin board.

# 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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: <a href="mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com">dstreicher52@gmail.com</a> 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.

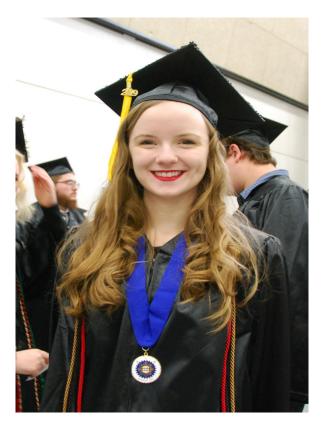
We will meet on **Sunday**, **January 19th at 5:00**pm.



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







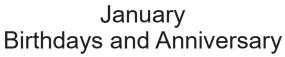


THE**SPIRE** 6



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						
5:00 PM	<b>Beginnings Board Meeting</b>					
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					
v	Beginnings 1/2 Day					
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Sunday	January 19					
10:00 ÅM	Worship service					
	Loaves and Fishes fellowship					
	11:45-12:30 LOFT					
5:00 PM	LOFT potluck					
Monday	January 20					
<b>B</b> egir	nings and church office closed					
Wednesday	C					
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					

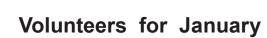




13—Art Isom

21—Pastor Marsha & Cecil (2016)

31—Jay Cochrane



	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				