

# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



# THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

## 2022 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

### **President:**

Suzanne Umstott

### **Vice President:**

Kathleen Ball

### **Secretary:**

Debbie Szymanski

### **Treasurer:**

Stephanie Wade

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

### **Education**

#### **(Faith**

#### **Formation):**

Debbie Streicher

### **Evangelism**

Jane Roderick

### **Finance:**

Suzanne Umstott

### **Ministry in Daily Life:**

Nancy Ayers

### **Property:**

Edward Ayers

### **Social Ministry (Fellowship):**

Cindy Read

### **Stewardship:**

Vacant

### **Worship and Music:**

Kathleen Ball

### **Youth:**

Gary Miller

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January/February 2022

## ***Pastor's Ponderings***

### **Being a Contributor Is a Servant of God.**

*"But it is not this way among you. Instead whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." -Saint Mark 10:43-45*

One of the biggest mistakes children of God make about their faith is that they treat it like something consumable. We are consumers shopping around for what benefits us the most and it must be exactly the way I want it. Our faith shouldn't be as the slogan confirms at Burger King, "Have it your way". Though, we want to seek a faith that nurtures us, feeds us, encourages us, makes us feel good, etc... However, without realizing it, we have turned our faith completely in on ourselves. But this is not what Jesus is about at all.

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THE REVEREND  
RYAN K. VIANDS  
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Administrator

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton

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Contrary to what most Christians think. Jesus invites us to look outside of ourselves and see what God is doing in this world. Jesus invites us to set our needs aside and think of what might be good for our neighbor. Jesus invites us - no - Jesus commands us to be contributors in this world that He has so lovingly created for us and our enjoyment.

Christianity does not call me or any of us to try and get something. It calls us to worship, to service, to gratitude, to reason, to love, to compassion, to fidelity, to hope - it calls us to be a contributor for the sake of God in this world.

Interestingly enough, when our faith becomes about serving rather than being served, we find that we begin to identify more with Christ Jesus Himself. And when this happens, we begin to feel more fully human, more like what we were created to be. May we be willing to find even more ways to serve our Lord Christ, within the walls of our parish family and especially those beyond our walled building. Our God needs us to work His vineyard for the sake of His children in need. Don't miss the opportunity.

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +

## *From the President.....*

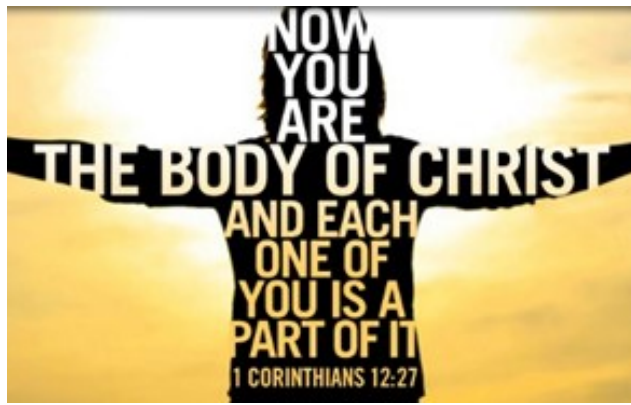
We had a very busy December and Christmas season. The Sanctuary looked amazing for the holidays. Thanks to all those volunteers who assisted in making Christmas a special time/place for our church family, friends and guests.

Every week we are making progress with our attendance. We have been blessed with new attendees in addition to long-term members who are active in the daily mission of our church. We continue to respond to those less fortunate in our community and are making a difference everyday in the lives of others.

We are looking for individuals who would be interested in assisting by being part of one of our church committees. Please contact the church office or a council member for more details on how you might be able to help. My appreciation to the committee members, church staff and volunteers for all of your hard work every day.

The next council meeting will be February 8th at 5:30.

Blessings  
Sue Umstott, Council President



I began to worship at St. Paul on Ash Wednesday in 2006. One Sunday there was a flyer in the church bulletin asking for volunteers for various areas in the life of the church family. Since I had always been a volunteer in churches I attended, I checked the “help with luncheons”. I thought it a good way to get to know my new church family, doing something I knew how to do.

Little did I imagine how well I would get to know people in a short time! During the next few months, I think we had at least one funeral luncheon a week and sometimes more, with other meal requests as well. One of the things I learned was that the people of St. Paul are loving, giving and willing to say “yes” when needed.

My involvement has changed, but the reason has not. In serving others, I am serving Christ.

Please look for a bulletin insert in the coming weeks which will list the opportunities for serving, and prayerfully consider where you can be of service. There are many opportunities at St. Paul for service, some are current needs, others not viable at this time because of Covid, but let us be prepared by volunteering for the time when we can safely work together in person.

Kathleen Ball  
Council Member



Our annual congregational meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, February 20th. We will remain in the nave for the meeting.

Copies of the annual report and budget for 2022 will be available beginning Sunday, February 6th. Please plan to attend as we review the year 2021 and adopt a budget for the new year. Those who are not voting members of St. Paul are also encouraged to attend.

# LOFT

(Living Our Faith Together)



LOFT gatherings began again on January 9 after a two week break during the Christmas season. Our Bible studies include readings for the Epiphany until February 20. February 27, we will read scriptures for the Transfiguration of Our Lord and begin to look towards the First Sunday in Lent on March 6.

Please consider joining us each week during Lent as we focus on prayer. We meet following worship in Fellowship Hall. Bibles are provided but we also encourage you to bring a favorite study Bible if you have one. Masks are required.

## **Faith Formation for Families with Children During Worship, Chapel and Craft Time, and the Home**



Worship bags for our children are full of resources to help them be involved with worship related activities each week. Parents and grandparents are reminded to take the extra children's bulletins and coloring sheets each week found in the trays above the cubby to use during worship. Chapel and Craft Time takes place following worship each Sunday as the children meet with Pastor Ryan in the Chapel. Many thanks to Kaitlin Diehl for her help with crafts and resources. Parents are welcome to be with their children or join the LOFT Bible study taking place in Fellowship Hall while the children are in Chapel.

***Lenten Bags for the home will be designed with children in mind  
and include resources that focus on prayer.***





Valentine's Day occurs every February 14. People around the world celebrate by exchanging greeting cards, candy, flowers, and gifts between loved ones. Christians honor Saint Valentine, who some say was a Roman Priest who performed secret weddings for soldiers forbidden to marry by the Roman Emperor Claudius II. Saint Valentine wore a ring with a Cupid on it—a Roman symbol of love—that helped soldiers to recognize him. He also handed out paper hearts to remind Christians of their love for God. Saint Valentine was executed by the emperor on 14 February 269 for not renouncing Christianity. Pope Gelasius I in 496 first established a Christian feast day to honor Saint Valentine. Today, Valentine's Day has become a time for Christians to show care and love for one another and remember God's love.

Sunday, February 13, a Valentine's Day Milestone Moment discussion outline, a treat, and an activity will be available for you to engage in caring conversations in your home with loved ones for Valentine's Day. Scripture conversations based on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 will be part of the discussion:

*"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.*

*Let all that you do be done in love."*



A huge thank you to *Lisa Rowley!!*

Lisa created the blue bows adorning the chancel and altar rail for Advent and also the white bows for Christmas.

Lisa, we appreciate your time and talent!



### What is Candlemas?

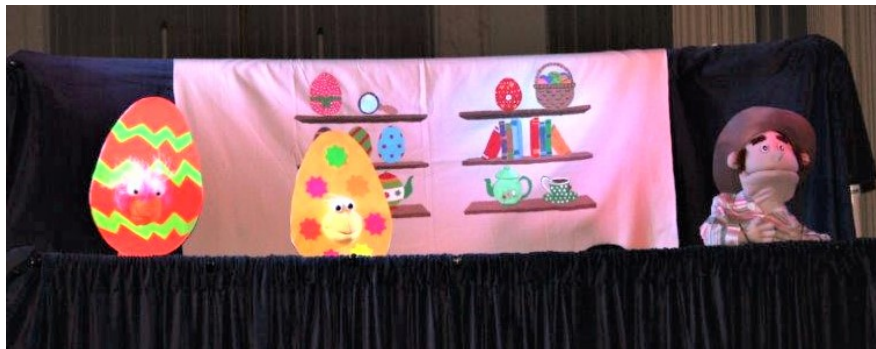
Candlemas is a traditional Christian festival held on February 2 each year. It falls 40 days after Christmas and commemorates the purification of the Virgin Mary (after childbirth, according to Jewish law) and the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It is a time to bless candles that will be used during worship throughout the church year. It is also a tradition to bring candles to the church to be blessed and used in homes. Lighting of the candles throughout the year is a reminder of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

**Sunday, February 6, Candlemas will be observed during worship when candles in the Sanctuary will be blessed. Candles will be provided for each household and blessed as well for use throughout the coming year in homes.**

*Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

John 8:12

### The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team



The team will begin preparing for an Easter presentation titled Edgar's Eggcellent Easter Eggstravaganza soon. If you are interested in helping with puppets, props, or set up, please contact Debbie Streicher ([dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com)).

# *The Baptism of Emily Grace Hudgins-Errigo*

Sunday, November 28, 2021



Thank you to Pastor Ryan for waiting patiently (two years!) for Emily's baptism, to our families for visiting for the big day and to the members of St. Paul for officially welcoming Emily into our church community, wails and all.

-Dave and Caitlin



***Congratulations!***  
***to***  
***Seth Loar and***  
***Stephanie Sindy***

Seth and Stephanie were  
united in marriage by  
Pastor Ryan  
on Saturday,  
December 4, 2021.



**Season's Greetings From Bountiful Blessings**  
**Headquarters**  
**Mechanicsburg, PA**

The Lord provided many blessings to Bountiful Blessings this year.

In January, Heavenly Haulers' Ministry was launched as a scrap metal ministry under Bountiful Blessings. Throughout 2021, the group recycled over 150,000 pounds of metal. High school students in the community and others, including the "core crew," dedicated their time to get the ministry underway. Many were first-time volunteers.

BB (as we know it) added four sites in Pennsylvania in 2021. New to the family are Harrisburg, Duncannon, York, and Irwin. Each site is making inroads into their communities. The York site recently had their first BB recipient family baptized.

Terry Orendi, head of the BB ministry, visited some of the sites and was proud to say not one of the ministries closed, not even for the pandemic. Stories shared by the families during these visits acknowledged that the recipients need Bountiful Blessings more than ever.

BB doubled its warehouse space on August 1. Another site is set to open in February 2022. The ministry has been approached by several more churches to open a chapter in BB.

Those at the headquarters of BB have formed a Strategic Planning Committee which will determine the direction of the charity for the next 2 to 20 years. The committee includes two representatives from each site, a financial representative, and a pastor, among many more.

BB headquarters thanks the supporters who have held them up in prayer and provided financial support. The ministry continues to operate on a 100 percent volunteer staff. As in any ministry, more is needed to continue serving those in need. Checks can be sent to: PO Box 299, Mechanicsburg, PA, 17055, or donations can be sent at [www.bountifulblessings.org](http://www.bountifulblessings.org).

From BB to us: May God Bless you and your family in 2022 and beyond.

## notes

Reminder:

UPMC Hospital can no longer notify us if you are hospitalized.

If you are in need of pastoral care please have your spouse or children call the church office.

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Thank you to Saint Paul's Parish Family for the beautiful flower arrangement in memory of my mother.

Dennis and Cindy Read

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If you would like a copy of your givings statement for the year 2021, please call the church office.



The following letter by the Cumberland Area Interfaith Ministerial Association (CAIMA) was published in The Cumberland Times-News in December.

The Cumberland Area Interfaith Ministerial Association (CAIMA) has had ongoing discussions regarding the many responses to the COVID pandemic. Recently we have come together from many faiths, concerned about the ongoing spread of COVID and the abrupt rise in the number of people being infected with COVID during the holiday season.

We have the opportunity and the responsibility to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. We trust the strong guidance of the medical field as knowledge that God has given us. We join our voices as leaders of religious communities in support of the guidance of our health leaders, urging all in the Cumberland area (except those few cases contraindicated by their personal physicians) to be fully vaccinated, to wear properly-fitted masks fully covering nose and mouth in public gatherings, to maintain healthy distance, and to take measures to care for the gift of our immune systems.

Our religious beliefs teach us to love our neighbor. Our faiths do not grant religious exemptions for vaccinations. By contrast, our faiths require us to take steps to stop the spread of disease and to restore health to God's creation. We lament resistance that is based on claims to personal freedom or rights that put the lives and health of others at risk.

We pray for those in the medical community whose resources are stretched, who give of themselves day after day to care for us. There have been over 10,000 COVID cases in our county of 70,000 people. At present, cases are on the rise instead of stopping. Keep up to date on vaccines. Avoid unnecessary risks. In this sacred season, we pray for our community, for enjoyment of family, for spreading of health and love, for a wonderful celebration of life for all. Be blessed and safe.

Rev. Sally Bartling  
Cantor Richard Bessman  
Rev. Gene Gall  
Thomas F. Hawk  
The Rev Thomas J. Hudson, OPA  
The Islamic Society of Cumberland  
The Rev Martha N Macgill  
Rev. Lydia Martin  
Rev. Mark Molter  
Rev. Dr. Marsha Spain Bell  
Rev. Daniel Swanson  
Fr. Ryan K. Viands  
Bishop Kenneth Watkins, Sr.  
Pastor Shannon Watkins

# February

**Thursday**  
5:30 PM

**February 3**

Worship and Music  
Committee Meeting via Zoom

**Saturday**  
12:00 PM

**February 5**

Joseph Graham funeral

**Sunday**

**February 6**

8:30 AM

Nouwen Book Study

10:00 AM

Worship

11:15 AM

LOFT and Children's Chapel

**Tuesday**

**February 8**

5:30 PM

Council Meeting

**Thursday**

**February 10**

4:00-5:00

Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday**

**February 13**

8:30 AM

Nouwen Book Study

10:00 AM

Worship

11:30 AM

LOFT and Children's Chapel

**Sunday**

**February 20**

8:30 AM

Nouwen book study

10:00 AM

Worship

11:15 AM

Annual Meeting

**Monday**

**February 21**

**Church Office and Beginnings Closed**

**Tuesday**

**February 22**

Beginnings Closed-Parent Conferences

**Thursday**

**February 24**

4:00-5:00

Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday**

**February 27**

8:30 AM

Nouwen Book Study

10:00 AM

Worship

11:15 AM

LOFT and Children's Chapel

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Happy Valentine's Day!**

My commandment is this—  
to love one another  
just as I have loved you

**John 15:**



**Happy Birthday**

**January** – 6 – Harper Broadwater

13 – Art Isom

31 - Jay Cochrane

**February** – 5 – Dennis Read

10 – Christine Miller

23 – Claire Rowley

**Blessings to you all !!**

Please call the church office if  
you'd like to sponsor altar  
flowers on one  
of the following dates:

February 13th

February 20th

February 27th

May 1st

May 8th