

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

15 N. Smallwood Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

www.stpaulcumberland.org

Email: debbie@stpaulcumberland.org

June 2019

Dear friends,

Summer is here! The sight and scent of new blossoms in our garden, the rich shades of green that now cover every hill, mountain, and hollow, the warmth of the morning sun, and the freshness of the air after a good rain, all speak the Lord's language of the joy and beauty of this good earth, and we are thankful for it.

Our work in Jesus' name continues. Celebrating the 225th anniversary of the church's founding will be a journey through to Reformation Sunday at the end of October. Along the way we will pause regularly to note the experiences of both seasoned and recently joined members. Planning is at a fever pitch for the June 17-21 Vacation Bible School we host in collaboration with seven other churches. This year's theme: "Who Is My Neighbor?" If you know children in your neighborhood, invite them! Check with Deb (1) or Deb (2) for more information.

Summer's lighter program schedule will allow me to make more visits with parishioners. I will, of course, focus on our homebound members, but if you would like a visit, do call me at (218) 343-4183 or leave a message at the church.

At the six-month mark in my time with you, I'd like to share with all of you some words I recently wrote about you for visitors: "[This] church is in the midst of spiritual resurgence, commensurate with its focus on the ministries of all the baptized, and on its commitment to stand with those whose voices and needs might otherwise be ignored... I see a fellowship attending not to 'success' (by the world's standards) but to *being faithful*. St. Paul's will prosper and grow by the only benchmark, in the end, that matters."

Yours in 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

At our May council meeting we reviewed, edited, and approved St. Paul's Ministry Site Profile document that was generated by our call committee. The council appreciates the hard work and time spent by the call committee to best reflect the nature of our congregation and community. The Ministry Site Profile was submitted to the ELCA on 16 May 2019. After the Delaware-Maryland Synod approves the submission and our congregational reference submits his reference for the congregation, it will be posted on-line as a new call position opportunity for pastors. The next steps over the summer months will be for interested pastors to contact the Rev. Robin Simpson Litton who will schedule interviews for them with our call committee.

We have scheduled supply pastors through 6 Oct 2019 to lead our worship services. We plan to have our visitor welcome and greeting packets available for congregational guests by 2 Jun 2019. The folders are attractive and will very useful for visitors. The council greatly appreciates the effort Jane Roderick put in to producing this packet for our visitors.

Our 12 May 2019 225th anniversary celebration, luncheon, time capsule opening, and Mother's Day observances were a great success and very enjoyable. The council appreciates all the hard work by the 225th committee team that went into the planning, set-up, program development, worship service, time capsule opening, and luncheon.

June will be a busy month for the congregation. Pentecost Sunday will be on 9 Jun 2019, Trinity Sunday and Father's Day on 16 Jun 2019, and our ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be from 17 Jun to 21 June 2019. Hope to see you at our annual church picnic on 30 Jun 2019 at the Lakewood Beach and Pavilion.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

225th Tidbits – The Church Struggles to Finance Itself

The second half of the 19th century for Christ's Lutheran Church was definitely a challenge financially – many of its issues self-inflicted, and some of its solutions a little puzzling.

In 1842, when the second church began construction, the church housed two congregations – one German and one English, and it also supported two rural churches, one at Murley's Branch near Flintstone and Union Church on the Bedford Road. Those four congregations' support maintained the church building, which included new debt for construction, as well as the salary and parsonage for the pastor.

With the departure of the German congregation a few years later, the English congregation was left with the full debt for the new building and the pastor's support. The two "country churches" were left to wither. Debt grew, as the church often borrowed to pay creditors. The members of the congregation were generally not wealthy, nor was there much of a tradition of financially supporting a church among them. Instead, a variety of schemes were attempted:

Subscriptions, in which vestry members, at the beginning of each "pastor's year" (pastors were engaged by the year), called upon members of the congregation to pledge a certain sum of money to be given to the church "at some convenient time during the year." This method was used to handle other expenses that arose, as well. The Vestry frequently had to ask the pastor to mention unpaid subscriptions during the church service. Vestrymen would also have to make the rounds to members to collect the subscriptions, which they became increasingly reluctant to do.

Pewletting, in which pews were rented to members of the congregation. The choicest pews went for \$20. Others were \$15 and \$5, but about half the pews remained free. One member, Gustavus Beall, condemned the practice early on as "un-christian-like and discriminatory," saying, "the best seats in God's sanctuary should not be occupied by those who were best able to pay for them." The practice continued for another decade, but it was abolished by 1871.

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Charging for lectures or selling homemade articles during pre-Christmas “fairs,” one of the more lucrative practices.

Due-bills, which served as a letter of credit, assuming a merchant would be willing to accept it. The church relied greatly on merchant Jonathan Butler, who was the son of the Rev. John George Butler, as well as an elder of the congregation. He generally carried about \$400 in debt for the church in his account each year.

Selling property, carving off pieces of the original one-acre lot, in 10 separate transactions, starting in 1844. By the time the third church was built, the only piece left was that on which the building sat.

And then there’s the church’s foray into the real estate rental business, which will have to wait for another edition of “225th Tidbits.”

Source: *From Generation to Generation: Two Hundred Years in the Life of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church.*

The 225th celebration continues!

Look for tours of the sanctuary windows during Heritage Days, the collection of recipes for a church cookbook, the collection of photos for displays, and the collection of items for Bountiful Blessings, a local school, and the Interfaith Food Pantry. We’ll also be looking for ideas for items to place in the time capsule to await the next milestone. And we’ll celebrate together again on Reformation Sunday.

VBS 2019 Vacation Bible School



Registration deadline is June 10th.

Forms can be downloaded on the website. Under Lifelong Faith Formation click on Vacation Bible School and scroll to the bottom to download. Ages 4 through those completing grade 5 are invited to participate.

Grade 6 through adults are invited to be part of the volunteer team.

Dates: June 17-21

Time: 5:30 to 8:00pm (includes dinner)

Location: St. Paul’s

The next planning meeting will be at St. Paul’s on Monday, June 10th at 7:00pm.

Questions? Contact Debbie Streicher at dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255



Happy 225th Anniversary, St. Paul's!!

May 12, 2019, was a glorious day beginning with the ringing of the original bell from our first building in 1794. Silence prevailed as we listened to it once more announcing the beginning of church that morning. It was emotional to think of the congregation that heard that call 225 years ago and the ups and downs in the life of St. Paul's over all this time.

Many, many thanks to Liz Medcalf and the committee who organized the day. It was full of memories in the form of pictures, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, music, worship, reminiscing and most of all, being together, sharing a meal and carrying on the life of our beloved St. Paul's.

A highlight of the morning was the revealing of the contents of a time capsule that had been prepared and sealed on May 12, 1994 ----- newspapers, pictures, a cookbook, bulletins, Christmas ornaments, The Spire of September 1994, Annual Report 1993 and a couple postage stamps of the year.

Again, thanks to Liz and her committee: Ed Ayers, Kathleen Ball, Joyce Eror, Pastor Steve Haptonstahl, Sabra Isom, Nancy Lohr, David Rankin, Cindy Read, Jane Roderick, Lisa Rowley, Debbie Streicher, Debbie Szymanski and Linda Zeller.

Thank you to Dave and Rena Christopher for giving us lasting memories of the day by photographing the festivities.

The video that was played during the lunch is now available on the church website, www.stpaulcumberland.org if you care to revisit it. Click on the "About" tab and then "History". The link to the video is under the first picture.

There will be more celebrating to come and culminating with the Reformation Service on October 27th. Please share in this and contribute any historical memories or memorabilia.



Wednesday, May 1st, was our final day of APPS After-School Program for this year. We ended the year with a bang, some goo and bouncing. In April the kids made paper mache volcanos and then made them erupt. They always think “lava” is going to burst out of the volcano into the air (which it doesn’t), but they still enjoy the bubbling up and flow of the “lava” down their volcanos. This year, for the first time, we made slime. It wasn’t as messy as it sounds. The 4th and 5th grade group had a reward program for good behavior throughout the year, and as their reward at the end of the year, they chose a pizza party and to make slime. We all had a great day of pizza and slime thanks to their efforts. On the final day, we once again had a picnic and bounce houses. The kids love the bounce houses!

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make this program a success! First let me thank Sue George, Christine Miller, and Jeanne Bowers. These three ladies have been group leaders with the program since the beginning and continue to return every year, thankfully! We’ve had a lot of fun, with a little bit of crazy and heartbreak thrown in. I think they’d agree with me, that it is so rewarding working (and playing) with these children.

And thank you to Rebecca Funk, who comes most weeks to help with Christine’s group, and Freida Spriggs, who handles check-in and check-out and sometimes serves as our “principal”.

I’d also like to thank the middle/high school helpers. They are all APPS graduates who have continued to be part of the program as helpers. They show a real commitment to come as much as their schedules allow (they are all active in school activities). We’ve had the privilege of watching them grow into wonderful young people. They are very good with the younger children and a great help to us. Jordan is in high school now, but keeps coming. She is our oldest and longest helper. She is involved with the band and bowling team at Fort Hill. Marshall, Camee, Mia, and Zoey all attend Braddock Middle School. They participate in sports and drama club (that I know of). This year we were very proud of Mia for being inducted into the Junior National Honor Society.

And finally, thank you to the fantastic kitchen crew led by Debbie Szymanski. The crew, Ed Ayers, Cecil Bell, Rena Christopher, Glenn Kline, Nancy Lohr, Gary Miller, Pastor Steve, Roxanne Peck, Dot Rhoads and Freida Spriggs, makes meals and snacks that are delicious every week! The atmosphere of warmth and great kitchen smells that greet the kids each week is wonderful. It’s no wonder they want to come every day! Thanks to the congregation for your continued support. And remember we are always looking for volunteers. You can help in any capacity, as often or little as your time permits. Please contact me at stephanie@stpaulcumberland.org or 240-522-2645 if you have any questions.

Enjoy the summer, see you in the fall! Stephanie Wade



The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



June 17th to June 21st, the puppet team will lead openings and closings for this year's Vacation Bible School with the theme, "Who is Your Neighbor?". Help will be needed for building props, decorating the stage, and preparing for our presentations. please call Debbie Streicher (703-303-7255) or email her at dstreicher52@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

In July, the team will participate in the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers National Conference in Hagerstown, MD.



The Ramblers will meet for a noon lunch at Oscar's Restaurant on Thursday, June 13th. Please sign up by Sunday, June 9th and call the church office if you need a ride.

Gosh, have we got news for you!!!



Happiness abounds at St. Paul's these days.

We're so excited to share that our newest members, Caitlin Hudgins and David Errigo are expecting an even newer member of St. Paul's this fall.

Congratulations, Caitlin and David! We're anxiously waiting to meet this little one and wish you well over these next months.



Also ~~~~~ Congratulations to long-time members Nancy Bohr and Ed Ayers on their recent engagement. Beautiful!!!!

(I think many of us were secretly hoping this would happen.)

Our love and prayers go out to
each of you,
Caitlin, David, Baby Errigo,
Nancy & Ed.

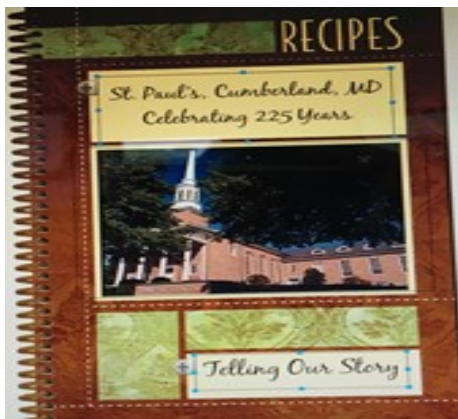
Thank you

To St. Paul's Shepherd's Ministry Team:

I walked into my room to discover a bag of Easter candies had been left.

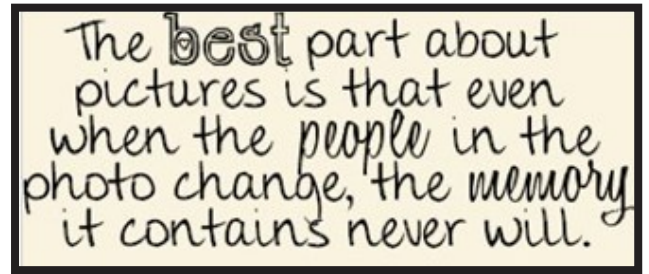
I thank you so much for the love and kindness you show. Your ministry is deeply appreciated. May God continue to bless you.

Always,
Gary Cook



Food and faith are fully linked at St. Paul's. We gather around the table in worship to receive the meal that matters most of all, the Lord's Supper. We gather for a baptism, a confirmation, a reception, or a funeral, and most are coupled with the ever popular Lutheran potluck! We Lutherans love to share a meal! And, often discussed at those meals are memories of past meals shared and recipes enjoyed.

An initial planning meeting will be held Thursday, June 6 at 4:00 in Fellowship Hall to discuss plans for a cookbook to tell our story to future generations about the food and the fellowship shared during on our "watch". Please come and share your thoughts and ideas. All are welcome.



Wanted: Photos, especially older photos, of times shared at St. Paul's. Photos will be displayed on the bulletin board, on a rotating basis, throughout this year of celebration. Please bring photos to the office. They will be returned to you.

St. Paul's Website



St. Paul's website is located at:

www.stpaulcumberland.org

View video of the history of St. Paul's. Go to the About tab and click on History.

Download the Vacation Bible School Registration form under the VBS tab.

Download the monthly newsletter, see schedule for communion assistants and lector, and see the calendar for events under Congregational Life.



The church picnic will be held at Lakewood Beach and Pavillion on Sunday, June 30th following the worship service. The church will provide a main dish and drinks. Please sign up on the bulletin board indicating the number in your family attending and a dish you're able to bring to share.

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE
LUTHERAN WHEN**



**YOU KEEP A CASSEROLE
IN THE FREEZER
IN CASE OF POTLUCK**

Living Our Faith Together LOFT



LOFT met for the last session on May 19th. The lesson was about The Great Commission, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). Mountain Highs and Valley Lows were shared, scripture highlighted, and the closing included a meditation with prayers and a blessing.

A group will meet during the summer to assess and review LOFT and make plans for the fall and faith formation at St. Paul's.



Sunday
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship

Monday
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
5:00 PM Beginnings Board meeting

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

Thursday
4:00 PM Cookbook meeting

Saturday

Sunday
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship

Monday
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
7:00 PM Vacation Bible School meeting

Tuesday
5:30 PM Council meeting

Wednesday
9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
7:00 PM Potomac Concert Band rehearsal

Thursday
12:00 PM Ramblers Lunch at Oscar's Restaurant
4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday
10:00 AM Worship Service
11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship

Monday
9:30 AM
5:30-8:00

Tuesday
5:30-8:00

Wednesday
9:30 AM
5:30-8:00

Thursday
5:30-8:00

Friday
5:30-8:00

Sunday
10:00 AM
11:15 AM

Monday
9:30 AM

Wednesday
9:30 AM

Thursday
4:00-6:00

Friday

Sunday
10:00 AM
12:00 PM

June 2
Worship Service
Loaves and Fishes fellowship

June 3
Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Beginnings Board meeting

June 5
Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

June 6
Cookbook meeting

June 8
Heritage Days
June 9-Day of Pentecost
Worship Service
Loaves and Fishes fellowship

Heritage Days
June 10
Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Vacation Bible School meeting

June 11
Council meeting

June 12
Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Potomac Concert Band rehearsal

June 13
Ramblers Lunch at Oscar's Restaurant
Bountiful Blessings

June 16-Trinity Sunday
Father's Day
Worship Service
Loaves and Fishes fellowship

June 17
Beginnings Summer Programs start
Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Vacation Bible School

June 18
Vacation Bible School

June 19
Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Vacation Bible School

June 20
Vacation Bible School

June 21
Vacation Bible School

June 23
Worship Service
Loaves and Fishes fellowship

June 24
Heavenly Bodies aerobics

June 26
Heavenly Bodies aerobics

June 27
Bountiful Blessings

June 28
Faith and Food Tour Group

June 30
Worship Service
Church Picnic
Lakewood Beach and Pavilion

Birthdays and Anniversary in June



9 – Martha Zollner

10 – Joyce Eror

14 – Jay & Kay Cochrane, married in 2018

18 - Glenn Kline

28 – Travis Medcalf

Congratulations!!!

JUNE WORSHIP LEADERS

	6/2	6/9	6/16	6/23	6/30
Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom
Greeters	Mary Ann Hiester and Joy Zembower	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Roy and Jean Lee	John and Sylvia Hixon	Dave and Rena Christopher
Crucifers	Andrew Highland	Emily Metheny	Mia Broadwater	Meadow Wagus	Daniel Highland
Lectors	Liz Medcalf	Ray Hunt	Lisa Rowley	Caitlin Hudgins	Jay Cochrane
Technicians	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Connor Mantheyi and Rick Metheny	Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski
Counters	Debbie Szymanski and Stephane Wade	Jay Cochrane and Terry Hostetler	Burt Streicher and Debbie Szymanski	Debbie Szymanski and Stephanie Wade	
Communion Assistants	Andrew Highland and Diane Rhoads	Emily Metheny and Jane Roderick	Erica Metheny and Gary Miller	Jim and Patti Squires	Brenda Marvin and Debbie Streicher
Loaves And Fishes Fellowship	David and Tammy Rankin		Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Burt and Debbie Streicher	CHURCH PICNIC