

# PROCLAIMING A TIMELESS CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

SINCE 1794



# THE SPIRE

SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH † CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

## PARISH STAFF

THE REVEREND  
FATHER RYAN K. VIANDS  
Pastor

DAVID RANKIN  
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI  
Parish Administrator

STEPHANIE WADE  
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA  
Sexton

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June 2022

## *Pastor's Ponderings*

### Flaming Fire and Breath of Wind, Come Holy Spirit

We can imagine the scene in the upper room: a diverse group of one hundred twenty followers of our Lord, Jesus from the beginning. Others are more recent believers.

We can also imagine a wide range of feelings and emotions: from steadfast confidence in the promises of Jesus to uncertainty over the happenings of the last fifty days. But when the Holy Spirit blew its mighty breath of wind into the room on Pentecost like tongues of flaming fire, the gathering was transformed, galvanized into a new community with an urgent message—and with new language to share that message.

The portrayal of the coming of the Holy Spirit the parakeet in the flaming fire and breath of wind makes a fearful image before those followers/disciples and even us today. A fire fanned by wind is uncontrollable, sometimes uncontainable. When Jesus likens the Spirit to the breath of wind he does so to remind us of this freelance power of our God: “the wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going” (St. John 3:8). And while the flaming fire flames borne by wind create destruction, this fire-like presence of God Brings radical transformation—from the first believers fathered in the upper room to present-day-believers.

*continued on page 2*

## 2022 CONGREGATION OFFICERS

### **President:**

Suzanne Umstott

### **Vice President:**

Kathleen Ball

### **Secretary:**

Debbie Szymanski

### **Treasurer:**

Stephanie Wade

## 2022 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

*continued from page 1*

At Pentecost there is no going back to what once was. There is a saying that once you show people a picture of the earth taken from the moon, there are then certain land-bounded myths (for example, "the world is flat") that simply cannot be sustained. So it is with Pentecost. We are no longer captive to the old myths that tell of a divide humanity of insiders and outsiders, or that speak of God's distance or indifference. We cannot and must not go back for there is no going back now. And why can't we go back? Because Almighty God has changed us from within, and has changed our world from the inside out. That is why we can't. A new dawn has broken into our spiritual reality and we must be ready to except it and clam it as our own.

*"When the Holy Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." (St. John 15: 13).*

A Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven, did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish your work in the souls of the Apostles and Disciples, design to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that you may perfect in my soul the work of your grace and your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal; the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of your divine truth; the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the sure way of pleasing God and gaining through Christ merit, heaven; the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with you and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation the spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the knowledge and likeness of the Spirit of your Saints; the Spirit of Piety that I may find the servanthood of God sweet and amiable; the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with loving reverence towards God and my dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me with the sign of your true disciples and animate me in all things your Spirit. Amen.

In His Service, Fr. Ryan +

*From the president.....*

Congratulations to Father Ryan on his second year anniversary with St. Paul's. Father Ryan started his journey with us May 1, 2020 and has been a true blessing to our church.

As we grow and expand our mission as Christians here at St. Paul's, we continue to focus on the needs of our community. Our Bountiful Blessings program has provided much needed assistance to our local neighbors and friends. I am truly amazed every day at the lives that are touched by the acts of kindness of all of those who donate and volunteer.

Many thanks to the committee members and church staff.

The council will not meet again until August 9th but will still be in communication via email.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer.

Blessings  
Sue Umstott, Council President

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## Vacation Bible School 2022



**Dates:** Monday, June 13 – Thursday, June 16

**Time:** 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Ages:** Age 5 – those completing the 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Five congregations will join together for our first in-person VBS since 2018. Teams from St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Luke's Lutheran, Souls Won Outreach Cathedral, Metropolitan AME, and First Presbyterian have been meeting for the last several months and are excited about the theme this year.

Our theme scripture is the parable of the Sower.  
It's all about "planting seeds" in our homes, congregations, and community.  
Come and see!

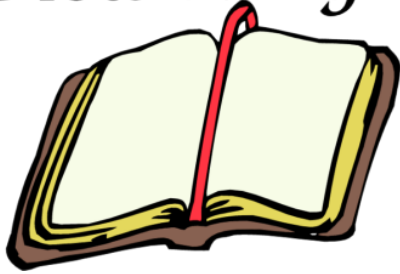
**The limit is 40 children and the registration ends very soon!**  
**Forms are available in the church office.**



Plans are being made for a Choir and Handbell retreat in September. This will be an opportunity for you to explore singing and ringing together informally, and to fellowship with others while doing so (and while having a nice lunch!).  
More details in the next Spire.

**LOFT**  
(Living Our Faith Together)

**Bible Study**



We will take a summer break during the months of June, July, and August. We will begin again in September.

**The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team**



The puppet ministry team will be leading songs during VBS openings and closings from June 13 - 16. We are excited about having youth from Souls Won Outreach Cathedral and Metropolitan AME be part of the team this year.



*Seen on the Downtown Mall*  
Proud of our Hometown Hero  
Major Paul B. Gipe  
65+ year member of St. Paul  
& former Treasurer  
(Father of Linda Zeller)





## Special birthdays & anniversaries in June

2 – **Pastor** Ryan --  
Happy Birthday !!!

6 – **Pastor** Ryan's ordination  
anniversary, 2009

14 – Jay & Kay Cochrane,  
married in 2018

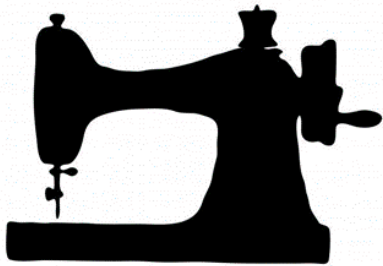
17 – Joyce Eror

19 – Rick Metheny

18 - Glenn Kline

20 – Nancy & Ed Ayers,  
married in 2020

28 – Travis Medcalf



Deana Emerick is available for  
alterations/small sewing jobs.

She can be reached at  
240-609-1493 or 301-784-6541.

## Youth Bowling and Skating Fun!





**Wednesday June 1**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**registration deadline**

**Friday June 3**  
**Beginnings last day of school**

**Sunday June 5**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

8:30 AM Book Study  
 10:00 AM Worship

**Thursday June 9**  
 4:00-5:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Friday June 10**  
 4:00 PM VBS Set-up

**Sunday June 12**  
 11:00 AM Worship at Lakewood  
 followed by church picnic

**Monday June 13**  
 5:30-7:30 Vacation Bible School

**Tuesday June 14**  
 5:30-7:30 Vacation Bible School

**Wednesday June 15**  
 5:30-7:30 Vacation Bible School

**Thursday June 16**  
 5:30-7:30 Vacation Bible School

**Sunday June 19**  
 10:00 AM Worship

**Thursday June 23**  
 4:00-5:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Sunday June 26**  
 10:00 AM Worship



Next Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>  
**11:00 a.m.**

Worship will be held at the  
 Lakewood Beach and Pavilion  
 followed by our church picnic.  
**Please sign up for the picnic on  
 the bulletin board outside  
 fellowship hall.**

The church van will be available  
 if you'd like a ride to Lakewood.  
 Please meet in the parking lot of  
 St. Paul at 10:15 a.m.

**NOTE: Worship will not be  
 held at the church on Sunday,  
 June 12<sup>th</sup>.**