

# 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

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Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 722-6604

[www.stpaulcumberland.org](http://www.stpaulcumberland.org)

Email: [debbie@stpaulcumberland.org](mailto:debbie@stpaulcumberland.org)

March 2019

Dear friends in Christ,

A prayer for the changing of the season: Loving God, you have graced us with the wonder and beauty of wintertime, and we have rejoiced in it for lo these many months. The skiing and sledding and slipping and sliding have been invigorating, but now our ice scrapers and our shovels runneth over. When you would see fit to bless us with the coming of spring, a time of rebirth, know that we are ready, Lord, we are *ready*. Amen.

March is upon us, and so is the Holy season of Lent, a 40-day occasion for reflection, repentance, and renewal. **Our Lenten programs** will include:

- **Ash Wednesday – March 6, 7:00 p.m.** – The liturgy of this day includes Holy Eucharist with appointed psalms and prayers and the Imposition of Ashes
- **Succeeding Wednesdays in Lent – 6:30-7:00 p.m.** – An informal service of music from the Taize tradition, Scripture readings, meditation, and prayer
- **Healing Prayer – Sunday, March 31** – As you return from Communion, some of our best pray-ers will be standing by at the side aisles to listen attentively to your concerns for healing in body, mind, spirit, relationships, the needs of others you know, or for the world, and to pray with you. None need feel obliged, but all are welcome.

Meanwhile, on Friday, March 1, I will be attending the Cumberland Interfaith Council's observance of the annual World Day of Prayer, bringing together adherents of the world's faith traditions, and hosted by our friends in the local Muslim community.

Last but by no means least, we are reaching out with new resolve to "veterans" of St. Paul's, nearby and far away, to say that we honor and cherish you and will do whatever we can to help you network with your church friends. We salute you!

May yours be a good and holy Lent.

*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

It doesn't seem possible that Ash Wednesday and Lent are fast approaching. The Church Council held a planning retreat on 9 Feb 2019. The council decided on officers and committee chairpersons for this coming year. The 2019 congregational officers are: President: Dr. Burton Streicher, Vice President: Kathleen Ball, Secretary: Debbie Szymanski, and Treasurer: Stephanie Wade. The 2019 congregational council committee chairpersons: Education: Debbie Metheny, Evangelism: Jane Roderick, Finance: Suzanne Umstott, Ministry in Daily Life: Nancy Lohr, Property: Edward Ayers, Social Ministry: Cindy Read, Stewardship: Burton Streicher, Worship and Music: Kathleen Ball, and Youth: Gary Miller.

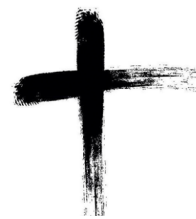
The council completed a 2019 Annual Plan and set the following goals for this year: 1) Submit the Mission Site Profile to the ELCA; 2) Increase attendance at worship by taking intentional steps to welcome and invite others; 3) Begin monthly Living Our Faith Together (LOFT) pot-luck home faith formation meetings; 4) Increase church activities publicity in the community; and 5) Develop a monthly church activity report for the congregation. The council members are excited about pursuing these goals this year and calling a Pastor.

Most of our on-going major building repairs have been completed. We are still waiting for a new transformer to

repair our sanctuary ceiling cove lights on the left side. We will be installing a new black vinyl-coated chain link fence around our front lawn with two gates to create a safe play area for our Vacation Bible School, A Place People Share (APPS), and Montessori School children.

We are currently planning two main events to celebrate our 225<sup>th</sup> congregational anniversary; a time-capsule opening in May and a celebration on Reformation Sunday in October. Please contact Liz Medcalf if you have ideas and would like to help with the planning. In addition if you know of associate members or visitors who are interested in becoming members of the congregation, please contact myself or Debbie Szymanski. As we prepare ourselves for Lent, be in thoughtful prayer about the future of our congregation.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)



Tenor Adam Pomeroy will be our guest soloist at the Ash Wednesday service, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. Adam studied music at Frostburg State University and is establishing a voice studio at the Cumberland Music Academy. He is active in the local theatre scene and sings with the Scholars of St Cecelia, the resident chamber choir of the Mountainside Baroque collective.

## 225 Tidbits – Whose Language Is It Anyway?

Most, if not all, Lutherans in the days of St. Paul's founding were German immigrants. While they were slowly learning English for commerce and other interactions, when they were at Christ's Church (St. Paul's original name), the German language ruled the day. Preaching, scripture readings and record-keeping were all in German at first. It was more than a decade into the life of the congregation before English began to creep in, during the ministry of Rev. John George Boettler – or Butler, the first pastor to preach in English ... just not all the time.

The next pastor, Rev. J.F.C. Heyer, who came in 1818, and especially his wife, Mary, recognized that English was going to be the dominant language in their community, and if they were to serve the community – and keep the congregation's young people – services should be in English. Rev. Heyer, however, did not speak English well, but he struggled along with his wife's encouragement and tutoring.

While English had taken hold within the congregation, another wave of immigration from Europe began in the 1830s, many from Germany. Wanting to hear the Gospel in their native tongue, they asked the pastor at the time, Rev. John Kehler, to preach to them in German. He agreed, forming a German Lutheran congregation that would share the same roof and pastor with the English one. By 1841, the German Lutheran congregation had organized its own vestry, which met jointly with the English vestry. However, as the German congregation grew and wanted more designated time for services, conflicts grew as well.

Things finally came to a head when the English congregation wanted to call a pastor who spoke German poorly, then the Germans suggested a pastor who could not speak English well.

Ultimately, each congregation called its own pastor, and the groups co-existed under the same roof for a little while longer.

Ultimately, however, the English congregation felt the pressure of four other English-speaking Christian churches, and decided that the German congregation could stand on its own, “disinviting” that congregation, giving them about a year to build a church and vacate.

The church they dedicated in 1849 was the Town Clock Church,\* which still stands on Bedford Street. That the congregation continued to grow, building a church on the corner of Bedford and Columbia streets (which later became Beth Jacob Synagogue), and finally ending up in a modern building on Frederick Street. We call it St. Luke's Lutheran Church, one of our sister congregations.

- ♦ Cumberland trivia: When the first St. Luke's was being built, Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church was also under construction. The city of Cumberland offered a clock to the church that was completed first. St. Luke's won. Next time you are in the St. Paul's parking lot, look up at Sts. Peter and Paul's steeple. You'll see a blank space where their clock would have gone.

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



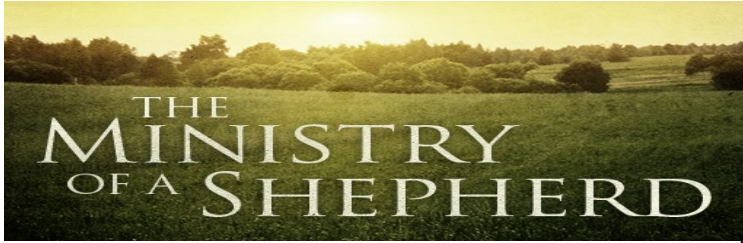
Handbells will be starting practices for the Easter service on Mondays. Our first practice will be Monday, March 11th at 6:00. Any new ringers are welcome.

Email Tamela or David

at [tamelarankin@yahoo.com](mailto:tamelarankin@yahoo.com) or

[drankin47@gmail.com](mailto:drankin47@gmail.com) or catch them

after church if you have any questions.



### **SHEPHERD-"to tend"**

St. Paul's is truly blessed to have a Shepherd's Ministry and they so beautifully exemplify their name. They are in tune to the many needs of our members, be it through the gift of Holy Communion, homemade goodie bags for the holidays, a loving get well card, a thinking of you visit or phone call and reminding us of our calling by God to care for each other, tend to or shepherd. Our deepest thanks to Nancy Lohr, Joy Zembower, Jane Roderick and Ed Ayers-our very own shepherds.



### **The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News**



The team will work with the youth from APPS on Wednesdays through March and April. They will be part of an Easter presentation for APPS families on April 17th.

Once or twice a month the team does a skit or musical presentation of the theme Scripture during LOFT (Living Our Faith Together). Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> the team will travel to visit those who are homebound or in nursing homes for an Easter Vigil. In July the team will participate in the Fellowship of Christian Puppeteers National Conference in Hagerstown, MD. Practice times vary. If you would like to learn more about the team, please call Debbie Streicher (703-303-7255) or email her. ([dstreicher52@gmail.com](mailto:dstreicher52@gmail.com)).



Say Cheese!

At this time of digital everything, we are looking for actual hold-in-your-hand snapshots we can share when we celebrate the 225th anniversary in the Fall, of the founding of St. Paul's, Cumberland. We are particularly interested in candid shots of activities at St. Paul's before the year 2000. Please search through your photos and bring them to the office. All photos will be returned. Please make sure you identify who is in the picture, if you know, and put your name on the back for return.

## Living Our Faith Together LOFT



LOFT includes all ages and meets weekly on Sunday mornings for 45 minutes in Fellowship Hall after Loaves and Fishes (food and fellowship) following worship. During February, we learned about Paul and his writings. Many thanks to our leaders Katie Rankin, Daniel Highland, Erica and Emily Metheny on February 17<sup>th</sup> as they taught us about the Journeys of Paul.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> ends an introduction to the Letters of Paul and March 10<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday in Lent. Our studies during Lent will follow the scripture readings we hear in worship this year. Join this group for one week, every week, or when you are able. We laugh together, get to know one another and share Mountain Highs and Valley Lows every week. There is also a time to read and highlight scripture in our Bibles, pray together, and bless one another. Looking for a Lenten discipline? Join us during March and April!



The Ramblers will have lunch at City Lights Restaurant on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. Please sign up no later than Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and call the church office if you need a ride.

## VBS 2019 Vacation Bible School



Eight congregations from the Cumberland area will come together once again for an action-packed week. Who is My Neighbor? is the theme this year and invites all ages to engage in learning to love like Jesus through Scripture, hands-on activities, daily worship, skits, crafts, and music.

**Dates: June 17-21**

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

**Location: St. Paul's**

The first planning meeting will take place at St. Paul's on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Mark your calendar and save the dates now!

### St. Paul's Website



St. Paul's Lutheran Church has a rich history. The congregation has worshiped in four different buildings. The present church building was built in 1908. The sanctuary windows provide a Biblical story as well as a history of the congregation.



The St. Paul's website is located at:

[www.stpaulcumberland.org](http://www.stpaulcumberland.org)

Visit our website regularly to download the monthly newsletter, check the calendar for events, and read more about the history of St. Paul's as it is updated. New information is added regularly.

# Thank you

The Interfaith Community Pantry, Inc. would like to thank your church and its members for your support. During 2018 your church and/or your church groups and individual members gave the following donations:

Monies: from church     \$185.61  
          from members    \$25.00  
Food:     222 items

Through your donations of food and/or money, the pantry was able to serve the many individuals and families that were referred to us who were in need of emergency food.

During 2018 the pantry received 1,630 referrals, representing 4,364 people. Those served received 30,023 items of food and 8,085 miscellaneous food items. Our clients received vouchers for perishable food that amounted to \$25,185.00.

We also distributed 9,057 commodity food items. The pantry has been in operation since the early 1960s with the help from churches, organizations and individuals. The pantry has no paid employees, yet we are able to operate the pantry five days a week from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with the help of many volunteers. The volunteers from the area churches give of their time to keep the pantry open week after week. Again, thank you and your members for their continued support.

**Sincerely,  
The Executive Board of the Interfaith  
Community Pantry**

Thank you all for the prayers, cards and meals brought to my home. It is very appreciated!

**Dot Rhoads**

A sincere and loving thank you to my St. Paul's family for the many prayers, beautiful cards, delicious food and phone calls during my recovery. Homemade cards and pictures from Bountiful Blessings and APPS-so personal and special. Many thanks to Pastor Steve for his visit to the hospital, it was much appreciated.

Medicine is often necessary, but unselfish love and caring sure speed up the healing.

**Linda Zeller**

**Happy Birthday,  
Sabra Isom**



**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

# March

**Sunday**  
 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:30 AM LOFT-  
 Living Our Faith Together  
 Beginnings Board Meeting

**Monday**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics

**Wednesday**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
 5:30-6:30 Luther League puppet practice  
 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday service

**Sunday**  
 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:30 AM LOFT-  
 Living Our Faith Together  
 Girl Scouts Thinking Day

**Monday**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 6:00 PM Handbell practice

**Tuesday**  
 5:30 PM Council Meeting

**Wednesday**  
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program  
 5:30-6:30 Luther League puppet practice  
 6:30-7:00 Midweek Lenten service  
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

**Thursday**  
 12:00 PM Ramblers lunch at City Lights  
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

**Saturday**  
 10:00-2:00 Mountainside Baroque academy auditions

**Sunday**  
 10:00 AM Worship Service  
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship  
 11:30 AM LOFT-  
 Living Our Faith Together

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 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics  
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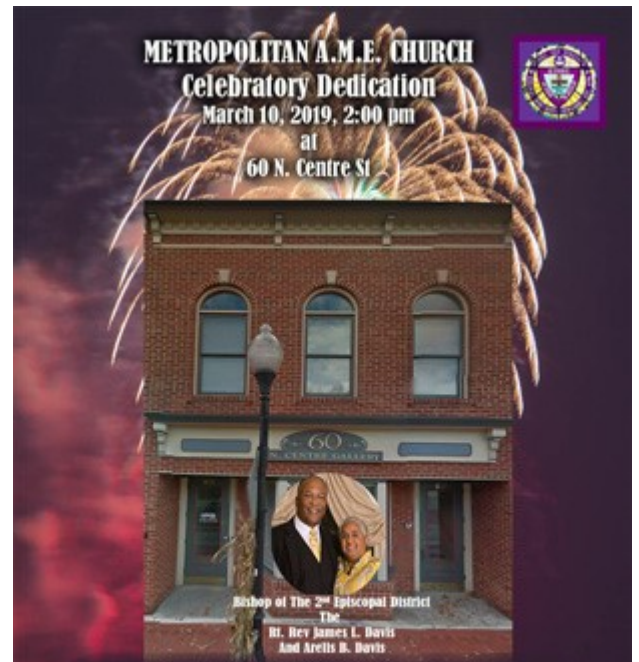
## THE SPANISH MUSICAL DIASPORA: IBERIA Y AMÉRICA

### MOUNTAINSIDE BAROQUE

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 4:00pm  
First Presbyterian Church, Cumberland

The music that flourished in Spain and Portugal in the 15th and 16th centuries was exported to the New World with the priests and friars who brought Christianity to the native populations there, a legacy still being unearthed in the cathedral libraries of Mexico, Bolivia and Peru.

\$20/\$5 (students)



The Officers and members of Metropolitan A.M.E. Church are happy to announce their presence in downtown Cumberland. The Rt. Rev. James L. Davis will dedicate their new building at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10th.

	3/3/19	3/10/19	3/17/19	3/24/19	3/31/19
<b>Lectors</b>	Liz Medcalf	Tamela Rankin	Debbie Streicher	Travis Medcalf	Ray Hunt
<b>Ushers</b>	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
<b>Crucifers</b>	Daniel Highland	Mia Broadwater	Emily Metheny	Andrew Highland	Meadow Wagus
<b>Greeters</b>	Dave and Rena Christopher	Jane Roderick and Nancy Lohr	Roy and Jean Lee	John and Sylvia Hixon	Kathleen Ball and Nancy Lohr
<b>Sound/Screen Technicians</b>	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny and Connor Manthey	Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski
<b>Children's Church</b>	Stephanie Wade	Rena Christopher	Debbie Metheny	Christine Miller	Stephanie Wade
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Jim and Patti Squires	Diane Rhoads and Jane Roderick	Emily and Erica Metheny	Gary Miller and Debbie Streicher	Brenda Marvin
<b>Loaves and Fishes fellowship</b>	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Jay and Kay Cochrane	Kathleen Ball and Debbie Szymanski	Jane Roderick	