

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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November 2019

Dear friends in Christ:

If you have any doubts about the impact that our APPS program is having on the West Side Elementary School children who come to St. Paul's each Wednesday afternoon, I have a tale for you. (Council members, you've already heard this.)

This fall Tommi has joined me in helping prepare a meal for the kids, teen helpers, and adult leaders. At supper each of us sits at a different table with half a dozen children, and a couple of weeks ago the noise level seemed even higher than the usual "barely controlled chaos" that Christine Miller and I once agreed with bemusement is an apt description of the cheery buzz when the kids are in the church hall.

Boys and girls were clamoring to share some of their *extremely important news* from the school day, or to ask us adults one rapid-fire question after another. I was able to focus on one young fellow for a couple of moments. Before another youngster across the table poured out his heart about his latest tribulation, the young fellow next to me wrapped up his thrilling story and said, "I love Saint Paul's Day! I wish every day was Saint Paul's Day!"

...We must be doing something right, don't you think?

Last week we gave thanks for the lively life of Joy Douglas, and on All Saints' Sunday we remembered our many dear ones who have joined the communion of saints. Later this month we will have the opportunity to offer our thanks for all of the blessings that God's providence has bestowed upon us.

It is a good spiritual habit always to begin our prayers with a simple "Thank you." I thank God for all of you: for your faithfulness, your affection for one another, and your reaching out to extend God's love and care to others. Bless you!

Pastor Steve

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL
Interim Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

225th Anniversary

A Word from the President

The council met on October 8, 2019 and discussed numerous items. Our call committee is currently considering and actively interviewing several candidates for pastor at this time. It does seem like it is taking us a long time in the call process to find a pastor for our congregation, however we are confident that God will help and guide us in our call to the right pastor for us.

We are excited that we finally are able to complete the repair and painting of the rest of the church as well as the steeple and base as approved at our 16 Oct 2016 congregational meeting. The work was phased and this will complete all the necessary major facility work for our church building. You will see the large crane in the front disappear, however the smaller crane will be around for a while as our contractor finishes the work. We used the designated endowment funds to pay for this much needed repair work.

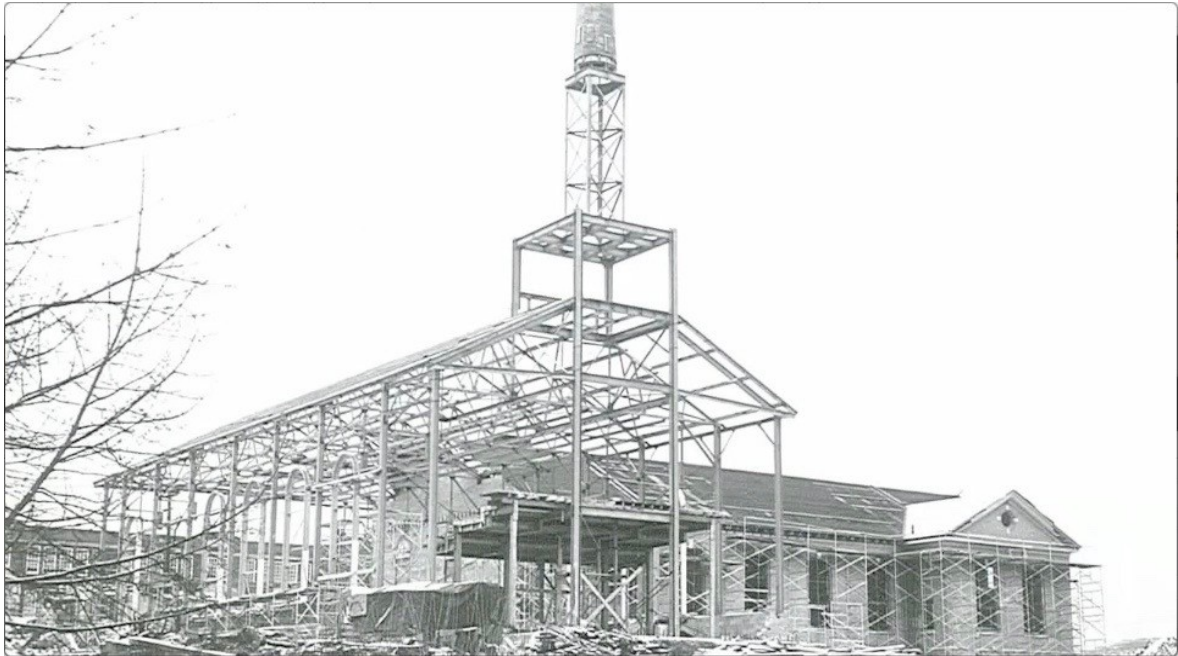
Our fall activities of APPS after-school dinners, Bountiful Blessings community support, LOFT Sunday Bible Studies and Potluck milestone recognition dinners are in full swing. We hosted 161 worshipers at our joint Reformation Service with a wonderful luncheon afterwards catered by The Hummingbird Café. Many thanks to Dennis and Cindy Read for coordinating the luncheon and to Debbie Streicher for creating the luncheon power point presentation. Please join us on the First Sunday of Advent, 1 Dec 2019, which is the beginning of the new church year when we will be celebrating the final event in our 225th anniversary year by sealing the time capsule for another 25 years. We will be enjoying an Advent potluck luncheon and cookie exchange. Our church council will meet next on 12 November 2019.

(Burt Streicher, Council President)

Thank you!!

St Paul's just completed a wonderful and memorable commemoration of our founding 225 years ago. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Liz Medcalf for spearheading the committees and coordinating the activities involved, and there were many over the past year. At the risk of forgetting someone, we simply say "A huge thank you, Liz" and all your helpers. We have fond and special memories, a cookbook and a mug, but most of all those wonderful memories ----- our time capsule opening, "Tidbits of History" in The Spire, collections of 225 items for the community, memorabilia decorations and culminating with the powerful and emotional Reformation Service and luncheon, sharing our faith with our neighboring Lutheran churches. God be with us all and help us carry on, stay strong and to maintain our faith and the traditions of our forefathers 225 years ago.

We achieved our goal of collecting 225 items for the Interfaith Food Pantry for our final community collection to commemorate the anniversary milestone. Thank you to all for your generous donations to Bountiful Blessings, West Side School and the Food Pantry.



225th Tidbits – Building the “New” Church

(Excerpts of “Reminiscences on the Construction of St. Paul’s,” presented by Bruce Douglas, a member of the building committee, on the occasion of the mortgage retirement nine years after the Washington Street church was completed)

“... The plaster ornamentation around the ceiling of the sanctuary is typical of the classical roots of this (Georgian Colonial) architecture. One of the toughest problems in building this church was finding the craftsmen to do this highly skilled and specialized type of work. The plastering subcontractor could easily find men skilled in the flat work, but when it came to the intricate ornaments and moldings, he had to do them himself. Each one of the hundreds of dentils, so-called because of their resemblance to teeth, had to be cast by hand in hand-made molds. These were made on the job site. ... All of the starburst ornaments, and others, were similarly hand-molded and cemented into place by one man and a helper. The numerous plaster moldings that you see were also hand-cast and reinforced in the old style with horsehair.

“I also remember the ticklish job of erecting the seven and a half-ton pillars at the main entrance. Special slings were needed for the job, since steel cable would cut and mar the stone, which had been carefully turned and polished on enormous lathes. A collective sigh of relief punctuated the completion of this delicate but ponderous task.

“Many of us will remember the erection of the steel frame for the steeple, and postponement, because of the risk created by high winds. Because of the height involved and the weight of the steel, it was one of the more spectacular rigging jobs the Cumberland has seen, and a large crowd was on hand for the show. Unhappily remembered also, was the severe injury suffered by one of our congregation, Randel Rowley, who was foreman of masonry construction. He was blown from a high scaffold by the gusty winds, and hospitalized for 80 days, legs in cast for 1 ½ years.

“The problems in building this church started with the foundations. It was found that most of our footings were on good, solid limestone, except the northeast corner of the Fellowship Hall, which was on soft clay. It became necessary to drive steel piling to provide the needed bearing, and in some areas, 50-foot pilings were required. ...

“A need to economize on construction became evident when bids on the structure exceeded both the architect’s estimate and the church building budget. One of the first economy moves was to raise the elevation of all floors ... by four feet, thereby saving a large volume of excavation and reducing the height of the retaining wall behind Fellowship Hall. A secondary benefit of this change was the elimination of steps down to the rear entrance, thus providing better access from the parking lot. ...”

From Generation to Generation – St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 1794-1994

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



The puppet ministry team is busy practicing on Monday evenings for doing a Christmas presentation for APPS children, youth, and families on December 18th. They are also making plans to join with the Shepherd Team for visits to local senior residences to do caroling and tell the story of Jesus birth. If you are interested in learning more about the team, please contact Debbie Streicher: dstreicher52@gmail.com or 703-303-7255.



Beginning in November, there will be "Quiet Bags" available for young children filled with activities for them to engage in during worship. There are times when little ones need to keep busy while they listen and learn from those around them. At St. Paul's we encourage all ages to worship together.

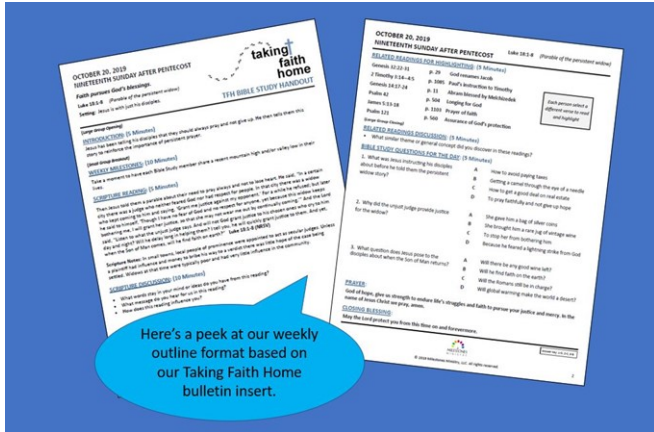
LOFT Potlucks Third Sunday of the Month Potluck Dinners



Loss of a Loved One

Every third Sunday of the month, St. Paul's invites you to join us for a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall. There will be opportunities for faith formation and building relationships in the congregation that extends beyond Sunday mornings. Each month we recognize a different milestone in the life of the congregation and ones happening in our own lives. Each household attending is invited to bring one food to share. There is a sign-up list on the bulletin board in the hallway. This month on **Sunday, November 17th at 5:00 pm**, we will recognize those milestone moments in our lives when we have lost loved ones. There will be a scripture reading, conversations, and prayers said as we tell stories and talk about those saints whose memories we hold dear and near to our hearts.

LOFT Living Our Faith Together



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES!! November

- 4 – Mia Jean Broadwater
- 5 - Beth & Joey Szymanski - twin's birthday
- 16- Travis & Liz Medcalf – anniversary
- 21 - Harriet & Robin Douglas – anniversary



The Ramblers will meet for a noon lunch at the Cumberland Country Club on Thursday, November 14th. Please sign up no later than Sunday, November 10th.

All ages meet on Sunday mornings following worship and the Loaves and Fishes fellowship time. LOFT is an opportunity to learn and grow in the Christian faith together. We begin with an introduction to the scripture readings followed by sharing Mountain Highs and Valley Lows. The adults delve into more Bible readings based on that Sunday's scripture readings as they focus on the them that runs through all the readings. Children gather to learn more about the lessons through age appropriate activities. All are welcome to join us for one or all Sundays each month. Please note that there will be **no LOFT on Sunday, December 1st** as we will enjoy a potluck together, sealing of the time capsule, and a cookie exchange during that time.

Thank you

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the Schaidt and Bowersox scholarship awards. The scholarship money is a great help to me and my family as I continue my education at the University of Maryland, College Park. I am on track to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics in the Spring of 2021, after which I hope to start a career as a financial planner. This past summer I worked as an intern at McCaskill Financial in Frederick and really enjoyed the experience. Thank you again for your continued financial support.

**Warmest Regards,
Sean Wade**

To the Schaidt and Bowersox Scholarship Committees,

I am honored to have been selected as a recipient of a \$2,500 Schaidt scholarship and a \$700 Bowersox scholarship. I want to thank you for this generous donation towards my education.

I am currently attending West Virginia University as an undergraduate student with a dual major in biology and Spanish. The educational programs that are offered will place a solid foundation towards my goals of working in wildlife conservation as well as philanthropy in developing countries around the world.

During my time at WVU, I plan on taking financial responsibility for my higher education. The cost of an education continues to place a burden on many students and their families. I place my academics and service as some of my top priorities. These scholarships will allow me to dedicate more time to my studies which would otherwise be spent working to complete my college payments. Thank you again for this opportunity, with your assistance I am one step closer to accomplishing my dreams.

Sincerely, Anastasia Simpson

Dear St. Paul's,

The family of Joy Douglas wishes to thank the members and staff of St. Paul's for their loving care. Joy was very appreciative of the visits and cards from the Shepherd's ministry over the years, and Pastor Steve's daily visits while she was in the hospital gave her much enjoyment and comfort.

We are also extremely grateful to Pastor Steve, Debbie Szymanski, Ramon Roche Cardona, David Rankin, Cindy and Dennis Read, Roy and Jean Lee and all the volunteers who made her visitation, funeral, and funeral luncheon so lovely and comforting. We definitely felt the church's warm embrace.

Liz Medcalf and family

To the dear people of St. Paul's,

On behalf of the students, staff and parents at West Side Elementary, I'd like to thank you for the generous donations of school supplies. Our students are always in need of these things throughout the year and they are appreciative.

**Thank you again,
Shannon Imes
Assistant Principal**



Friday November 1
Beginnings Closed-
 parent conferences

Saturday November 2
 9:00 AM Sanctuary Windows tour group

Sunday November 3
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
 5:00 PM **Beginnings Board Meeting**

Monday November 4
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 5:00 PM Luther League Puppet practice
 6:30 PM Joint Reformation
 follow-up meeting

Wednesday November 6
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday November 7
 Mountainside Baroque
 rehearsals

Friday November 8
 Mountainside Baroque
 rehearsals

Saturday November 9
 Mountainside Baroque
 rehearsals

Sunday November 10
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT
 4:00 PM Mountainside Baroque
Voices and Viols

Monday November 11
 OFFICE CLOSED
 5:00 PM Luther League Puppet practice

Wednesday November 13
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday November 14
 12:00 PM Ramblers Lunch at
 Cumberland Country Club
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings

Sunday November 17
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:30-12:30 LOFT
 5:00 PM LOFT Potluck-
Loss of a Loved One

Monday November 18
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 5:00 PM Luther League Puppet practice

Wednesday November 20
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program-
Thanksgiving Dinner
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Sunday November 24
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:45-12:30 LOFT

Monday November 25
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 5:00 PM Luther League Puppet practice

Wednesday November 27
 11:00 AM **Beginnings-Friendship Soup**

**Thursday/
 Friday November 28 and 29**
 OFFICE CLOSED



Mountainside Baroque will present *Voices and Viols* at St. Paul's on Sunday, November 10th at 4:00 p.m. Soprano [Julie Bosworth](#) and mezzo soprano [Janna Critz](#) will be joined by a full complement of violas da gamba, and lute, to explore English music from the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras.

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24	
Head Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	
Crucifer	Andrew Highland	Mia Broadwater	Erica Metheny	Linda Zeller	
Communion Assistants	Jim and Patti Squires	Gary Miller and Debbie Streicher	Emily and Erica Metheny	Brenda Marvin and Diane Rhoads	
Greeters	Kathleen Ball and Deana Emerick	Ed Ayers and Nancy Lohr	Dave and Rena Christopher	Dennis and Cindy Read	
Children's Church Teacher	Christine Miller	Rena Christopher	Debbie Metheny	Stephanie Wade	
Lector	Debbie Streicher	Lisa Rowley	Travis Medcalf	Kathleen Ball	
Technicians	Ed Ayers and Debbie Szymanski	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny	Andrew and Daniel Highland/Debbie Szymanski	