

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:

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October 2019

Dear friends in Christ:

October is typically a time of transition. School students and staff are settling into their regimen of study and extracurricular activities. The changing weather is refreshing, by fits and starts, but for lots of us the temps and humidity are playing games with our bones and joints, or with our sinuses. But the peak of fall color is steadily advancing our way, and the time for Autumn's seasonal rituals – such as setting out pumpkins and other imaginative decorations – is upon us.

At St. Paul's we are also working with our sister Lutheran churches in Cumberland and LaVale in preparation for a shared Reformation Sunday service and meal, hosted this year by St. Paul's on October 27. (St. Luke's took that role in 2017, and we all look for this to be a rotating honor and task in the future.)

The change of seasons, and the flurry of planning for Reformation Sunday, lift us beyond our often solitary summertime R & R pursuits. Oh yes, a few hours this month on the front patio, falling leaves distracting us from a book and stirring thoughts or memories from years past, is a blessing indeed, but the activities on our calendar and the fresh hints of change in the weather call us out of ourselves and into communion with our families and friends and neighbors and the whole blessed Creation.

Bless you and your bones and your sinuses and your trees and the falling leaves and the gifts you may share in our life together. Our brother Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community." God love you. God love us all.

STEVE HAPTONSTAHL
Interim Pastor

DAVID RANKIN
Director of Music

DEBBIE SZYMANSKI
Parish Assistant

STEPHANIE WADE
Treasurer

RAMON ROCHE CARDONA
Sexton

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

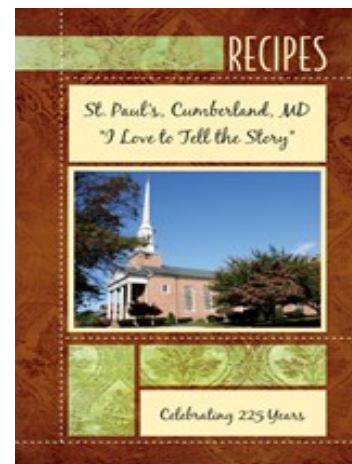
A Word from the President

The council met on September 10 and discussed numerous items. Our call committee has requested the synod to provide additional pastor candidates for us to consider. Although it is taking some time to move through the call process, we are fully confident that God will help and guide us in our call for a pastor.

We are happy to report that our old church bus has found a new home with the Cumberland Church of God and will be helping them greatly with their programs. The downstairs Chapel and adjacent corridor will be having new light fixtures installed shortly. Doris Giornesto has donated her home organ to St. Paul's which was placed in the Chapel last week. It is a perfect addition to our Chapel area. We were able to support the Cumberland community in several ways at the meeting. First, we approved providing two mentoring scholarships to the Braddock Middle School in a new program to get selected students off to a good start in the new school year. The council appreciates Debbie Metheny for making us aware of this program. Then, we approved a donation to become a sponsor of our local *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Team* in their upcoming walk for the American Cancer Society. Finally, we approved our fall donation in support of the Union Rescue Mission.

We will be planting boxwood bushes in October along our new fence line facing Washington Street to finish the playground fencing project. We are also looking forward to participating for the first time as a congregation in the Cumberland CROP (Christians Relating to Other People) Hunger Walk on 13 October. We will have our new anniversary cookbooks and coffee mugs available for purchase soon. Many thanks to Kathleen Ball for shepherding the development of our new cookbook and to Dave and Rena Christopher, Jane Roderick and Linda Zeller for coordinating the design and purchase of our new anniversary coffee mugs. Planning is now underway as we prepare for our joint congregation Reformation service on 27 October. The council will meet next on 8 October 2019. Please enjoy all our new fall activities and events.

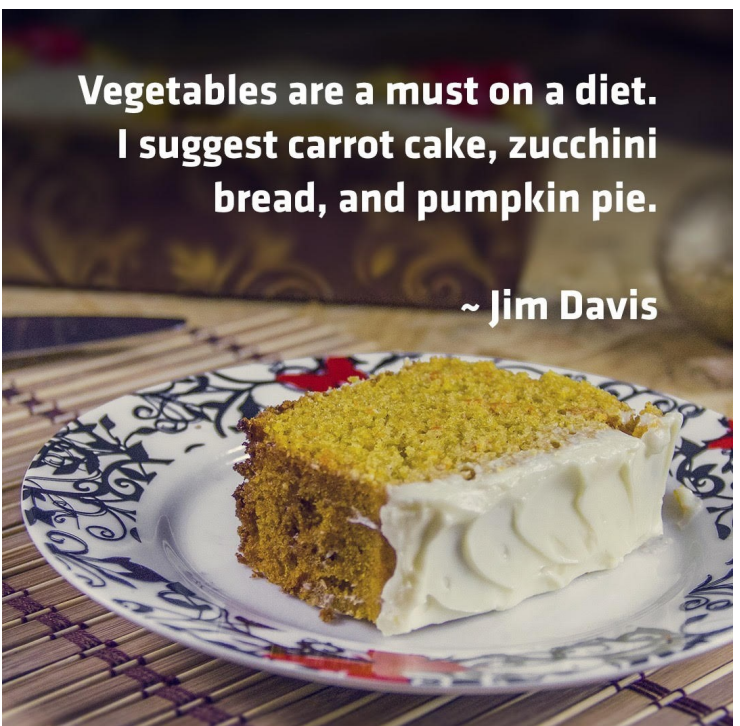
(Burt Streicher, Council President)



Cookbooks have arrived!!

Cookbooks will be available for the purchase price of \$10 each, beginning on Sunday, October 6, before and after the 10:00 service and Sundays following. The cookbooks will not be available through the church office.

Please contact Kathleen Ball at 240-727-1798, by phone or text, or email her at mutmab43@gmail.com, for information or purchase.



The Roman mansion



225 Tidbits – Moving From “The Corner”

After 164 years on the corner of Baltimore and Centre Streets, St. Paul’s moved up the hill to the corner of Washington and Smallwood Streets. Yet neither that decision, nor the move, was at all simple. St. Paul’s was built on one of the original plots of what would become downtown Cumberland when it was first being laid out. The Cumberland that grew up with it transformed from a frontier town to a Civil War crossroads to a booming transportation hub serving the railroad, canal and National Road to an industrial city, Maryland’s second-largest.

With each building transition, there had been talk of changing locations. However, “To some, the corner was almost sacred; nothing but the forest and St. Paul’s had ever stood on that spot.” (*Generation to Generation: St. Paul’s Lutheran Church 1794-1994*)

The congregation had, over the years, sold off the large original property piece by piece, and with the sale of the old St. Stephens, used as a parish hall, in 1947, it was apparent that there was nowhere to grow in the current location.

At a congregational meeting on Oct. 3, 1949, following a long discussion, the congregation agreed to bid to purchase the Roman property on Washington Street, a mansion and extensive grounds built in 1897 by attorney J.P. Roman. That decision solidified the decision to move. The purchase was completed in December. The purchase was funded largely by the sale of the St. Stephen’s property.

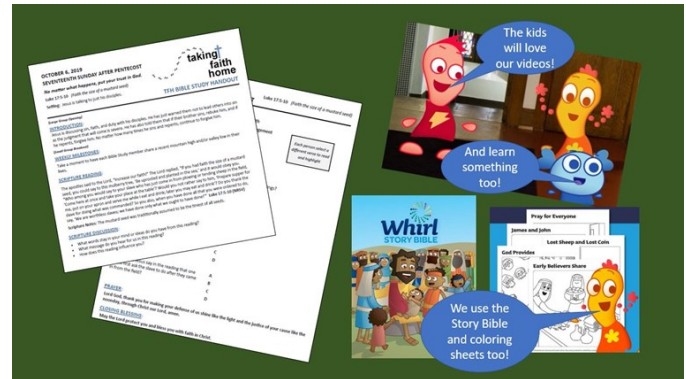
It was at this point that serious planning and fund-raising began for the new building, which would not be built or occupied for nearly 10 years. To raise money, the church took up special collections, but all plans were put on hold during the Korean War, when materials for church buildings were being rationed. After it ended, St. Paul’s contracted with an organization that specialized in raising money for church construction. Dr. Bowersox delivered an impassioned sermon that urged the congregation – including those still clinging to “the corner” – to come together as a united force toward that goal. *continued on page 4*

225 Tidbits *continued from page 3*

That campaign ultimately raised \$214,000 in three-year pledges, more than its \$200,000 goal. After the three-year period, this would be enough to build the first phase of the new church, the education building that would become Fellowship Hall.

Sadly, Dr. Bowersox's declining health convinced him that he would not be the one to lead the congregation to its new home. "He expressed a desire to to be as David of old, who dreamed of the great temple of Jerusalem but was privileged only to make plans and gather materials. The work and glory of building it was left to his successor, Solomon." (*Generation to Generation*) This proved even more true than he imagined.

LOFT Living Our Faith Together Sunday Mornings



LOFT, Living Our Faith Together, begins on **Sunday, October 6th**, following worship and fellowship time in Fellowship Hall. This is Bible study time for all ages and **meets weekly from 11:45am to 12:30pm**. You are welcome to join this group for one Sunday or for every Sunday. The Scripture readings and discussions are based on the Revised Common Lectionary for both adults and children. These are the same readings heard during worship. The youth and adults use an outline designed from the Taking Faith Home bulletin insert we find in worship each week. The children use the lectionary-based series using the Whirl Bible. There is a video, activities, and a coloring sheet. The lesson compliments and is a follow up for Children's Church each week.

LOFT Potlucks Living Our Faith Together Third Sunday of the Month Potluck Dinners



Potluck dinners have been a tradition in the church since the late 19th century. Everyone attending is invited to bring a homemade dish to share. Beginning this month at St. Paul's, you are invited to join us for a potluck dinner in Fellowship Hall on the third Sunday evening of each month. There will be opportunities for faith formation and building relationships in the congregation that extends beyond Sunday mornings. Each time we will recognize a milestone in the life of the congregation and ones happening in our own lives. The design for conversations and Scripture reading will be consistent with the Sunday morning LOFT outline with a different context depending on the milestone recognized.

Sunday, October 20th at 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall- The first milestone recognition will be that of the 225th Anniversary of the congregation at St. Paul's to celebrate the recipes and stories from our new 225th Anniversary cookbook. Please consider bringing a recipe from the cookbook for us to taste. And of course, all other dishes are welcome! What better way to kick-off monthly potluck dinners than with our very own recipes. 225th Anniversary cookbooks and mugs will be available for sale.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us each third Sunday of the month.

Children's Church



Many thanks to our Children's Church volunteer leaders: Debbie Metheny, Rena Christopher, Christine Miller, and Stephanie Wade. During worship following the Taking Faith Home message, children are invited to learn about the Scripture readings of the day using the Whirl Lectionary Bible. There will be special bulletins and activities each week and a review of the time of the church year.

You may have noticed children's bulletins are no longer available in the Narthex before you enter worship. They will be handed out during Children's Church.

The Luther League Puppet Ministry Team News



Planning for a Christmas and Easter presentation for APPS children and their families, visits to local senior residence facilities, and a training to include local and Synod congregations will take place on **Wednesday, October 9th at 5:00pm**. If you are interested or simply want to find out more about this ministry, please come.

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



"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." - Martin Luther

Intercessory prayer is love on its knees and is a special and powerful gift we can all give to one another.

This box is in the side Narthex and you are invited to share your personal concerns with our prayer team, who pray daily for those requests. Requests are kept completely confidential, and are not even shared within the group. Please use this form or the one found with the box.

Please pray for

 You may use your name or not

**Final Collection for our 225th
Anniversary:**

**We are seeking 225 items of
non-perishable foods to support
the Interfaith Food Pantry.
The following items are the most
distributed by the
pantry as suggestions:**

Canned beef stew
Canned chili
Canned tuna
Spam
Canned chicken
Peanut butter
Jelly in squeeze bottles
Cereal
Dry pasta
Pasta sauce
Instant potatoes
Instant rice
Pancake mix
Macaroni & cheese
Canned fruit with pull lids

Please bring the items to church on
Sundays or to the church office
during the week.



***Allegany Conference
Joint Reformation Service
Sunday, October 27, 2019
10:00 A.M.
LUNCHEON TO
FOLLOW IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL***

***Please sign up on the
bulletin board by
Thursday, October 10th.***

Volunteers are needed to assist
with developing the luncheon
program in conjunction with the
other churches. Please contact
Liz Medcalf
at emedcalf@frostburg.edu or
301-697-2440 if
you are interested.

ST. PAUL'S APPS



A PLACE PEOPLE SHARE

The APPS After-School program
is back in session!

On September 18th, we picked up students from West Side School to start a new year of after-school fun. We have 41 students registered and about half of them are returning participants from last year. With so many kids, it's lucky we have 7 program graduates returning to help this year. We have 2 high school and 5 middle school helpers this year, as well as Rebecca Funk and Emily Metheny joining us. And of course the ever-faithful teachers (Christine Miller, Jeanne Bowers, and Sue George) and the kitchen crew have all returned. We've spent the first two weeks getting to know the kids, touring the church, introducing the staff, learning the schedule and reinforcing the rules. We're looking forward to a fun-filled year!

Stephanie Wade

*So many happy and wonder-
filled times ahead for you...
congratulations
Caitlin and Dave!*





Wednesday October 2
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Sunday October 6
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:30-12:30 LOFT
Monday October 7
Beginnings-no school
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 6:30 PM Joint Reformation meeting
Tuesday October 8
 4:00 PM Council Meeting
Wednesday October 9
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 5:00 PM Luther League Puppets
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Thursday October 10
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
Friday October 11
 6:00-9:00 **Beginnings-Parent's night out**
Sunday October 13
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:30-12:30 LOFT
Monday October 14
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday October 16
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday October 17
 9:00 AM Ramblers Covered Bridge trip
Sunday October 20
 10:00 AM Worship Service
 11:15 AM Loaves and Fishes fellowship
 11:30-12:30 LOFT
 5:00 PM Milestone Cookbook Potluck
Monday October 21
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Tuesday October 22
 5:00 PM **Beginnings fundraiser**
Wednesday October 23
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Thursday October 24
 4:00-6:00 Bountiful Blessings
Sunday October 27
Joint Reformation Service
 10:00 AM Worship
 11:15 AM Luncheon
Monday October 28
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
Wednesday October 30
 9:30 AM Heavenly Bodies aerobics
 3:30-6:00 APPS afterschool program
 Halloween Party
 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
Thursday October 31
 10:30 AM **Beginnings Halloween Parade**



October - 29 – Debbie Streicher
30 – Ed Ayers

	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27
Ushers	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis	Terry Hostetler and Art Isom	Mark Seib and Bob Davis
Greeters	Kathleen Ball and Mary Ann Hiester	Deana Emerick and Joy Zembower	Roy and Jean Lee	John and Sylvia Hixon
Crucifers	Emily Metheny	TBA	Mia Broadwater	Joint Reformation Service-TBA
Lectors	Rick Metheny	Caitlin Hudgins	Ray Hunt	Joint Reformation Service-TBA
Technicians	Jim Squires and Debbie Szymanski	Daniel Highland and Debbie Szymanski	Rick Metheny	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	Emily and Erica Metheny	Jim and Patti Squires	Gary Miller and Diane Rhoads	Joint Reformation Service-Brenda Marvin
Loaves And Fishes Fellowship	Hunts	Isoms	Deana Emerick	Joint Reformation Luncheon