**
 St. Paul’s Beacon ST. PAUL’S BEACON**

 **St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
 16457 Old Frederick Road,
 Mt. Airy, MD 21771
 410-489-4411
 March 2020**

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| **Mark Your Calendars****Sunday,** 9:00 a.m. Service each week.**Tuesday**, Feb. 25, 4:30-7:00p.m. Pancake Supper**Wednesday,** Feb. 26, Noon, Ash Wed. Service**Saturday**, Feb. 29, 10-2 Voter Information & Reg.**Tuesday**, March 17,6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting.**Wednesdays,** Lenten Soup & Study 6:00 p.m.  |

Our journey from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday is a profound one. 40 days of awareness, beginning with our own fragility as humans when we acknowledge that “…unto dust we shall return,” and ending with the joyful “Alleluia” of Easter Sunday. Here, in a nutshell, is a brief look forward to the next six weeks.
 As we proceed on this journey together in faith, let’s take a minute to focus on the most profoundly important week of our liturgical year: Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday and encompassing the three final days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, also known as the Triduum. Our liturgies call forth from us the depth of our spirituality, both as individuals and as faith-community. Our faith history is recounted, beginning with the Passion on Palm Sunday. It focuses on our roots as community, grounding us in the life of Jesus as he bids goodbye to his own followers, the very human disciples.
 First, Holy Thursday: Jesus’ farewell dinner with those he loved and prepared to send out to proclaim the message he had shared. This is a day of story and ritual, encompassing their faith history from the beginning and enshrining it in the ritual of a final supper together. For us today, it is also a day of teaching and celebration, in the midst of our harried lives. Jesus’ humility as he washed their feet is a wordless example of what they, and we, are called to do for others. Our Eucharist echoes that supper, and commands us to “do likewise,” however that may appear in our own lives.
 Good Friday: the result of Jesus’ journey among us, in which he was condemned for his message of love and his supreme loyalty to his Father. The religious leaders, in turning Him over to the Romans for execution, performed a betrayal beyond words, though they themselves “did not know what they were doing.” Today’s application can include our own categorizing others as “good” or “bad,” and it is up to us to travel from “the abyss to the Alleluia” by deep, honest reflection on our own “execution” of Jesus by our thoughts, words, and actions.
 Holy Saturday: the day of “absence,” yet the one on which we celebrate the Great Vigil. The silence, for the disciples, was deafening. Their leader had been killed. They felt lost and abandoned. Today, we might focus on profound reflection, Spirit-led, on living in this silence as we await the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. How are we affected by the sense of “loss” so frequently experienced as we at times lose track of Jesus and His message? “Do not be afraid” to explore this question, step by step, in your own lives…
 Easter Sunday: The day of “Alleluia!” With whatever resources you discover, think how this day will be lived out in your own individual, and, community lives of faith! Patricia Thompson, Ph.D.

**Lent in Tradition, Scripture, and Reason**

Paraphrasing the glossary on the website of the Episcopal Church USA, Lent is the season of penitence and fasting observed by Christians in preparation for Easter.

Where did the tradition of Lent come from? The word is from the Anglo-Saxon word lenctentid, meaning “springtide” or “March” according to CatholicEducation.org.[[1]](#endnote-1) From the Book of Common Prayer, pages 264 and 265: “Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.”[[2]](#endnote-2)

The modern tradition of Lent has emerged only gradually. St. Irenaeus, who lived from about 130 AD to about 203 AD, wrote to Saint Pope Victor 1st (Saint Victor) noting great variation in the tradition of preparation for Easter with fasting. Saint Athanasius, Saint Cyril of Alexandria, and Pope Saint Leo all advocated some form of forty-day fast in preparation for Holy Week and Easter by the fourth and fifth centuries AD. As then, the actual decision as to how to prepare for Easter, and whether to fast and what form a fast might take varies from denomination to denomination, Church to Church, and often person to person. The most extreme fasting in modern times involves taking nothing but water during the forty days of Lent. The earliest Lenten fasts were reportedly one or two days, according to the Episcopal Glossary.

The one common theme is that Lent is a period of repentance and forgiveness.

What does scripture say about Lent? Worship.Calvin.edu has a concise list:

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| Mortality | Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:18–20 |
| Penitential Psalms | Psalm 32, 38, 51, 130 |
| Repentance | Psalm 50; Isaiah 55:11; Joel 2:12–17; Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21; Acts 26:17–18 |
| Dying and Rising with Christ | Romans 6:2, 4, 5–6, 11; Galatians 2:19–20; Ephesians 2:4–6; Colossians 2:12, 20; Colossians 3:1, 3, 5, 9–10 |

The first two, from Genesis and Ecclesiastes, reference dying and returning to the dust from which you are created. The Penitential Psalms relate to confessing sins and forgiveness, similar to the Repentance Scripture. Paul’s letters are assurances that in repentance, we will have everlasting life after death.

Reason: why do we do this? A fast and habit of prayerful reflection on the season help focus our attention. The meaning of the season can be drowned under the noise and pressure of busy everyday life; child care, work, traffic, entertainment, and the like. A fast produces physical changes that demand conscious attention. A Lenten routine likewise helps the mind focus on the goal of entering Holy Week and Easter prepared to accept that we are sinners, that we need to repent, and in doing so can focus on the death, resurrection, and promise of eternal life through Jesus. William R. Toole

i <https://www.catholiceeducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/history-of-lent.html>

ii The Book of Common Prayer, The Church Hymnal Corporation and The Seabury Press, 1977

**BRIEF LENTEN RESOURCES**

As we seek to prepare ourselves for our journey through Lent, it may be helpful to do it with others within Christ’s mystical body. Lots of resources are available to us in the digital universe, but the following have proven themselves to be among the best:

GO TO:

1. <https://episcopalchurch.org/lentenresources>
2. <http:///www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/lent-2020-church-resources>
3. <http://www.episcopalcafe.com>
4. <http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/lent/>

Each of these offers multiple choices for your Lenten journey, and you should be able to find the “one” thing that can help you through this sacred time in a way especially suited to you.

Together in Christ,

Father Bill

**I wonder?** Love God and one another and self. Be kind, work for justice for all - including the very difficult to love - daily and yet that is what is expected of each one of us. I wonder what the world would be like if we concentrated on these things vs whatever it is we are doing now: we spend so much energy and time hating, debating, accusing, fighting, agitation, finding ways to oppress. We speak loudly and obnoxiously more than we listen. As Lent begins this week, what might change if we begin to listen, play, work, pray, rejoice, be grateful with and for one another? I wonder what new life might spring up? What new life is wanting to sprout and grow in us individually and corporately? I wonder? The Rev. Lauren M. Welch

**YOU ARE THE VITALITY OF ST. PAUL’S** The members of your Long-Term Planning Committee for St. Paul’s have come to understand that God is resurrecting the church community into new life. We see this as part of the life-cycle of this living organization. The committee members have discovered this through prayer, reflection, personal stories and discussion. On December 8th, during coffee hour, Fr. Bill facilitated the discussion as to where St. Paul’s is, right now, on the Life Cycle Chart. At the Annual Meeting a written report of this committee was presented. Please re-read it. Then, with fresh eyes, answer the following questions again.

Where/how are you finding joy at St. Paul’s? Where/how are you finding purpose here? Where/how are you finding your connection to God at St. Paul’s? Are your answers the same as they were before when you were asked these questions; or are they different?

Peter McIntosh, Chairperson

**A Reminder:**  **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** is February 25th, from 4:30pm–7:00pm. Please come and bring your family and friends.

**The Lenten Soup and Study:** How blessed is St. Paul’s to again join with Shepherd of the Glen Lutheran Church for our Lenten Study. This year’s theme is, ***“Mosaic: Broken Pieces Brought Together by God for Service and His Glory.”*** Our joint fellowship with soup and worship, will be from **6:00pm – 7:30pm**, on the **five Wednesdays evenings** following Ash Wednesday. Pastor Paula Canby and her congregation will host the first three sessions,**March 4th, 11th, and 18th,** at **Shepherd of the Glen 14551 Burntwoods Rd., Glenwood, MD 21738.** The **March 25th and April 1st** sessions are here at **St. Paul’s**. Mrs. Suzanne Bourg will coordinate St. Paul’s soup suppers.

The Lenten Study is a wonderful discipline and practice, opened to all who might just want to breathe and be reminded of who we are and whose we are and why. A blessed way to walk to the Cross and beyond. Your attendance and support of this devotional time of biblical study and community gathering is most important and welcomed.

**Stewardship and Scrip** As a parish that is in the process of discerning paths forward, we know finances – in part – determine parameters and program possibilities. What can we do to “help our financial” good (meaning not in the red) shape? Yes, we can make sure our pledges are met. We can fill those “extra offering envelopes”. We can make loving donations. We can invite others to “Come and See.” … We are all busy. Perhaps we have done and continue to do all of the above. What else is there? SCRIP! Last October, 2019, we offered you a challenge? That each of us pledge to buy at least $100 worth of gift cards each month. Our sincere thanks to you who have stepped up to the challenge. Now that you have developed a habit of buying Scrip, let’s keep up the great work. If all of us participate, Scrip **CAN** produce more profit than in past years. The good news! The challenge is still on!!! Mix and match to reach your goal. $10 Dunkin Donuts; $25 Boscov’s; $50 Outback; $100 Lowes, etc. Well you get the idea. Holidays and birthdays are year round. When in doubt books, restaurants, movies, and amazon.com cards are great choices. In addition to our regular Scrip, special orders are always welcome.

 A little planning is involved. However, the investment of your time is worth the effort. Best of all, it is so easy and does not cost you extra money. You receive what you pay for – the face value of the gift card - and St. Paul’s benefits from your purchase. And you and your recipient will be happy. Think of your feeling of joy in knowing that your on-going contributions via “Scrip,” helps St. Paul’s bottom line.
St. Paul’s is asking ALL to participate in this fundraising effort by taking on “the challenge” and to order more Scrip this year. Here is thanking you in advance for your support. If you have any questions I would be glad to answer them. Peter McIntosh, Chair

**Change Clocks** – Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8. Before going to bed on Saturday night, set your clocks ahead one hour, if you want to be on time for the 9:00 a.m. service

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| **VOTER REGISTRATION & INFORMATION DAY****REGISTRO DE ELECTORES Y DÍA DE INFORMACIÓN****Saturday, February 29, 2020 St. Paul’s Episcopal ChurchSábado, 29 de febrero, 2020 Iglesia Episcopal de S. Pablo** **11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. 16457 Old Frederick Road410-489-4411 Mt. Airy, MD 21771** |

![C:\Users\Kathleen\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\IEO9KZJ1\usa_flag[1].gif]()

**If you want to register to vote/si se desea registrarse para votar:**

* **Bring your Maryland Driver’s License or MVA ID Card number or . . . .**

**Traiga su Maryland licencia de conducir o MVA número de tarjeta, o …**

* **Provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number**

**Proveer los últimos cuatro dígitos de seguro social

 VOTING MACHINE DEMONSTRATIONS**

**MANIFESTACIONES DE LA MÁQUINA DE VOTACIÓN**

**SAMPLE BALLOTS/PAPELETAS DE MUESTRA**

**NEW REGISTRATIONS/NUEVOS REGISTROS**

**ADDRESS CHANGES/CAMBIOS EN LA DIRECCIÓN**

**POLITICAL PARTY CHANGES/CAMBIOS EN LOS PARTIDOS POLÍTICOS**

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS/PREGUNTAS Y RESPUESTAS**

**Palm Sunday**, is April 5. We will have the traditional distribution of palm at our worship service and palm branches instead of flowers. The price for all the palm is about $80.00. If you would like to help defray all or part of the cost, please call Lynda at 410-489-4411, in the parish office by March 29. The palm can be given as a memorial, thanksgiving or as a donation.

 **Easter Flowers** ~ the church will be decorated with lovely majestic Easter lilies with their
 trumpet like blooms heralding the Easter Season – The “Queen of Feast”. Please use the Easter
 Flower Memorial sheet that will be in your Sunday bulletins. Place the form and your donation in
 the alms basin or return to the church office by Sunday April 5.

**Our Easter Brunch, Sunday,** April 12, will follow the 10:00 a.m. service. A sign-up sheet for needed food items will be on the parish hall table Sunday, March 15 till Sunday, April 5. Any questions see or call Linda Barnes 443-604-3402.

**Easter Goodie Bags for Children** St. Paul’s Easter Bunny would like to give any children attending the ten o’clock Easter Service, an Easter goodie bag. The bunny will need the names and age. See or call Linda Barnes, 443-604-3402, by Sunday, April 5, with the needed information, so she can pass it on to the Easter Bunny.

**Weather Related Cancellation**

Given the season, we want to remind you of the process that will be used if there is a need for a weather-related cancellation of church services.

- Fr. Bill, Pete or I will speak on Saturday if there is a threat of snow or ice on Sunday morning.  Depending on the circumstance, we may have to wait until early Sunday morning to make the call.  Not only do we need to ensure that the roads are safe, but we also need to ensure that the parking lot, walkways and steps at the church are clear of ice and snow.  If we decide to cancel service, the following will occur:

- An email will be sent to the entire congregation announcing the cancellation.

- A message referencing the cancellation will be on the church’s phone voicemail.

- Vestry members will call those members that we know do not have email access.

- A sign will be placed on the front and back doors of the church referencing the cancellation.

Also the Church and the Thrift Shop will be **Closed** when Howard County Schools are cancelled due to the weather. Jeff Spaulding, Senior Warden

**Upcoming Events**Tuesday, Feb. 25 4:30-7:00 pm Pancake Supper
Wednesday, Feb. 26 Noon Ash Wednesday
Saturday, Feb. 29 10-2 Voter Info & Reg. Tuesday, March 17~ Vestry Meeting, 6:30 pm

**Need Help with a Small Task in your home or yard?**St. Paul’s Church *started the* ***Helping Hands Program*** *to meet short term needs of those in our community who* simply need a hand with tasks they can’t manage on their own.

**We provide this service at no cost to you.**  Call St. Paul’s Church at (410) 489-4411 to learn more. New volunteers always welcome!

**![WhatIsSMy_logo[1]]()Stephen Ministers -The After People:**

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the ***After People****. P*rovide comfort and support for as “long after” any kind of loss, as needed. Our ministry is a one-to- one confidential relationship between the minister (the caregiver) and you (the care receiver). They are ready to come alongside you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives.

For more information contact Lee Hajek (410) 442-1641.

**Would You Like a Prayer Shawl or Prayer Square**? Request form are available on the front table near the prayer squares. Please fill one out and give to Wendy Gahm.

**St. Paul’s Nearly New Thrift Shop:** One stop for all of your apparel/shoes (Infant – Adult) and household needs at bargain prices!
**Hours**: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays, 11:30 – 3:00 p.m. Come and see all of our affordable items including, toys, books, CDs and DVDs.

The Thrift Shop needs volunteers to man the store at least one day a month on a regular basis and helpers to sort and restock on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Last month, thanks to all of our customers, the shop earned more than $2796. Thanks!
 Phyllis Weston & Kathy Audia

**Happy Birthday to:**Stephen Jones March 08
Doris Wilcher March 15
Anne Caldwell March 16

**St. Paul’s is a house of prayer**.
Prayers for healing are an integral part of our worship. We remember and pray daily for all the sick, the shut-ins and each other. Soon, St. Paul’s will be blessed with 2 Holy Water Fonts, an enrichment to our worship, praise and thanksgiving.

The prayer list will be refreshed every January.
Please help us keep the prayer list updated by filling out the attached prayer request form below (on bottom of page 7) or the insert in the Sunday bulletin.

* Place form in alms basin or pink prayer box on the Stephen Ministry table in the parish hall.
* For emergencies or unexpected situations Call the church office. (if leaving a message be sure to include your name and phone #)
* Names can be deleted or added at any time using the prayer request form.
* Make additions/deletions to the prayer list posted on our bulletin board.
* Thanks to all that have submitted their request. Those names are listed below.

**Prayer List**Nancy McIntosh; Sandra & Stanley Napier;Gerlinde Phlaumer-Yeater; Natalie Gahm;Trudi & Dave Lawson; Pat Marquis; Landon Reeve; Bryan Landry; Terri Coates; Susan; Pam; Trish; Ruth; Joe; Sandra; Bill; Phyllis Heffner, Susan Kelley, Jaxon & Nathin Buckley, the Fentons; Erin, Shawn, Peyton, Maddy, Doris Sharp

**Prayer for Healing**

*Lord, look upon us with eyes of mercy, may your healing hand rest upon us, may your life giving powers flow into every cell of our body and into the depths of my soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring us to wholeness and strength for service in your Kingdom. Amen.*

**Pastoral Concerns**Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the church office,
 (410) 489-4411, Monday through Friday, 9:00-12:00. Parish Email: stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net

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| **VISION STATEMENT** |
| **Our Vision is: A community** **of faith ministering to those in need of justice, reconciliation, hospitality, sanctuary, and growth in their spiritual journey.** |
| **MISSION STATEMENT** |
| **Our Mission is:** To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word and deed and to help all people experience God’s presence in their daily lives. |

 **Vestry Officers & Members**Jeff Spaulding: Senior Warden
Pete McIntosh: Junior Warden
Treasurer: Linda Sharp
Registrar: Nancy McIntosh
Wendy Gahm William Toole
Kathleen Alexander Stephen Jones
Suzanne Bourg Phyllis Weston

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**St. Paul’s “A Shining
Light in the Community**

**Prayer List Request Form**Please help us to refresh our prayer list! Take a minute to list those people that you want included on the 2020 list and leave it in the offering plate or in the pink prayer box on Stephen Ministry table.

For 3 months\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For one year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prayers requested for:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **March 2020 ~ Service Calendar**

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WORK, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT**

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|  | **March 1,1st LentPurple** | **March 8,2nd LentPurple** | **March 15,3rd LentPurple** | **March 22,4th LentPurple** | **March 29,5th LentPurple** |
|  | **9:00 a.m.** | **9:00 a.m.** | **9:00 a.m.** | **9:00 a.m.** | **9:00 a.m.** |
| **Greeter/Usher** | Linda Barnes | Dana Fritzges,Kathy Audia | Linda Barnes | Dana Fritzges,Kathy Audia | Linda Barnes |
| **Chalicist/Acolyte** | Ron Alexander | Jeff Spaulding | Pete McIntosh | Ron Alexander | Jeff Spaulding |
| **Lector** | Kathleen Alexander | Dick Wilcher | Lee Hajek | Bill Toole | Stephen Jones |
| **Psalm** |  John Tuel | Phyllis Heffner | Helen Tuel | Nancy McIntosh | Lee Hajek |
| **Prayers of the People** | Lee Hajek | Bill Toole | Linda Sharp  | Kathleen Alexander | Carrie Brown |
| **Altar Guild** | Joanne Honsberger | Suzanne Bourg,Linda Barnes | Kathy Audia, Dana Fritzges | Linda Sharp | Joanne Honsberger |
| **Coffee Hour** | Joanne Honsberger, Suzanne Bourg | Phyllis Heffner,Carrie Brown | Linda Barnes,Wendy Gahm | Ginny Chandler,Helen Tuel | Doris Wilcher,Carrie Brown |
| **Counter** | Linda Sharp,Linda Barnes | Lynda Sheckels,Kathy Audia | Lynda Sheckels,Dana Fritzges | Nancy & PeteMcIntosh | Linda Sharp,Linda Barnes |



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| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
| 1 | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **7** | **7**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open |
|  |  |  | 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Study |  |  |  |
| **89:00 a.m.** Rite II | **9** | **10** | **11**11:00-2:00Thrift Shop Open | **12** 11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **13** 11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **14**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open |
| *Hospitality Hour Following* |  |  | 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Study |  |  |  |
| **159:00 a.m.** Rite II | **16** | **17** | **18** 11:00-2:00 Thrift Shop  Open | **19**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **20** 11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **21**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open |
| *Hospitality Hour Following* |  | 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting | 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Study |  |  |  |
| **229:00 a.m.** Rite II | **23** | **24** | **25**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **26**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **27**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open | **28**11:30-3:00Thrift Shop Open |
| *Hospitality Hour Following* |  |  | 6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup & Study |  |  |  |
| **299:00 a.m.** Morning Prayer | **30** | **31** |  |  |  |  |
| *Hospitality Hour Following* |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 **March 2020 ~ Church Calendar**

1. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)