



St. Paul's Beacon

**ST. PAUL'S BEACON**  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
16457 Old Frederick Rd.  
Mt. Airy, Maryland 21771  
410-489-4411

**September 2021**

**Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation**

From the Center for  
Action and  
Contemplation

Week Thirty-Four:  
Unveiling the  
Universal Christ



**Mark Your Calendars**

**Sundays**, in Sept.

Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. 9:00 a.m.  
Beginning Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.  
services at St. Paul's  
will be at 11:15 a.m.  
each week.

Service via Zoom and  
Facebook from St.  
Paul's.

**Mirroring the Mind of Christ**

*For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, everything visible and everything invisible . . . —Colossians 1:16*

The true and essential work of all religion is to help us recognize the divine image in *everyone and every thing*. It is to mirror things correctly, deeply, and fully until all things know who they are. A mirror by its nature reflects impartially, equally, effortlessly, spontaneously, and endlessly. It does not produce the image, nor does it filter the image according to its perceptions or preferences. *Authentic mirroring can only call forth what is already there.*

We can enlarge this idea of mirroring to give us another way of understanding the Universal Christ. For example, there is a divine mirror that might be called the very "Mind of Christ." The Christ mirror fully knows and loves us from all eternity and reflects that image back to us. I cannot logically prove this to you, but I do know that people who live inside this resonance are both happy and healthy. Here's how the Franciscan mystic Bonaventure (c. 1217–1274) described this mirroring: "We can contemplate God not only outside us and within us but also above us: outside through his vestiges [creations], within through his image and above through the light which shines upon our minds, which is the light of Eternal Truth." [1]

Can we then also see the lovely significance of John's statement, "It is not because you do not know the truth that I write to you, but because you know it already" (1 John 2:21)? He is talking about *an implanted knowing* in each of us—an inner mirror, if you will. Today, many would just call it "consciousness," and poets and musicians might call it the "soul." The prophet Jeremiah would call it "the Law written in your heart" (31:33), while Christians would call it the "Indwelling Holy Spirit." For me, these terms are largely interchangeable, approaching the same theme from different backgrounds and expectations. In that same letter, John puts it quite directly: "My dear people, we are *already* the children of God" and in the future "all we will know is that we are like God, for we shall finally see God as God really is!" (1 John 3:2).

The "image of God" is absolute and unchanging; it is pure and total gift, given equally to all. There is nothing we humans can do to increase or decrease it. It is not ours to decide who has it or does not have it, which has been most of our problem up to now—deciding who is in and who is out, who is up and who is down, who is "going to heaven" and who is not. Only the tiny mind would want such a strange and horrible "comfort." The great mind hands such questions back where they belong, to the only mind where everything belongs, which is of course the Mind of Christ.

### Prayer For Our Community

*Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Please add your own intentions . . . Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.*

Richard Rohr

Our sincere thanks to the Rev. Father Mark Winward for his inspiring service as our Supply Priest this summer. We specially appreciate his warm demeanor, well composed homilies and musical accompaniments. Godspeed and blessings to Fr.

Mark on his continued journey and faithfulness to do the work he is called to do for the Glory of God. We enjoyed getting to know Fr. Mark and his family this summer.

**Presiding Bishop Michael Curry** encourages Americans to get vaccinated:

“Do this one for the children,” he says, because this is what Jesus meant when Jesus said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Our children, the most vulnerable of our population, cannot receive the Covid-19 vaccination yet. However, we adults, for ourselves and for our children can be vaccinated and therefore, help save lives and make life livable for all.

As Jesus taught, let us pray for ourselves, our neighbors, our nation and the world:

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples  
of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

*Taken from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

## **Regathering Information**

Given the recent increases in the positivity rates around the State and the many unknowns regarding the Delta variant, the Diocese has once again recommended mask wear in church buildings (except for fully-vaccinated speakers and singers while speaking/singing). They are also mandating mask wear for all who are not fully vaccinated while in the buildings.

Out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our members, St. Paul's will once again be requiring mask wear in the church building (to include the parish hall and Thrift Shop) until positivity rates decrease and the guidance from the Diocese changes. Coffee hour has been discontinued till further notice.

Thanks for your continued patience and support! Jeff Spaulding, Sr. Warden

## **St. Paul's Fall Service Schedule**

**Sept 5<sup>th</sup>. 9 a.m. at St. Paul's Fr. Mark Officiating.**

**Beginning September 12<sup>th</sup>, Worship at St. Paul's 11:15 a.m. each Sunday.**

Rev. Dina van Klaveren or Deacon Jennifer Grimelli or Deacon Amy Shimonkevitz will officiate.

(The tentative schedule is 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays - Holy Eucharist (Rev. Dina); 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays -Morning Prayer (Deacon Jennifer or Amy)

You may worship with St. Andrew's at 8 a.m. Union Chapel or 9:00 a.m. Parish Hall.

## **Scrip: Gift Cards**

Good News! We are stocked up on gift cards. Therefore we (hopefully) have any cards you need.

Do your part to help St. Paul's thrive. You can. It is so easy. Buy Scrip – Yes Gift Cards.

We all shop. Groceries, gas, summer gear, clothes, shoes, eating out, and the drug of choice – Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts, etc. You know your passion.

Plan ahead. Make it a habit to purchase gift cards for all of your shopping needs. There is no extra cost to you, yet a benefit to St. Paul's. A wonderful, painless contribution to the ongoing ministry of St. Paul's.

Peter McIntosh



## **Stewardship**

During this time of transition, it is important to pray for our ongoing vitality and continued presence in this community.

God has blessed St. Paul's with many talented members (and their families and friends). Repairs are done by our handy men and women. Hospitality abounds here. All of these help our bottom line however, there are bills to be paid, outreach commitments, diocesan assessment, and other ongoing expenses. Your financial support is St. Paul's most important and necessary asset. Please keep your pledge up to date. Remember those special events you may want to recognize by way of a donation, in loving memory or thanksgiving. Together we can do the work God is calling us to do.

## **St. Paul's Thrift Shop**

Our Thrift Shop is open, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Fall and winter apparel is now available. Donations are being accepted. The donation shed is open all the time for donations. Come shop and support the ministries of St. Paul's.

## **Remembering our Parishioners**

Each month St. Paul's would like to honor a parishioner with notes and or calls. For September Etta Lee Spaulding has been selected. Please let her know that we miss her, are praying for her and thinking about her.

Ms. Etta Lee Spaulding                      Home # 410-549-8489 Cell # 410-409-7653  
7200 Third Ave. #0-402  
Sykesville, MD 21784

## **Pastoral Concerns**

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. Please contact the church office, (410) 489-4411, email: [stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net)

## **Prayer List**

Nancy McIntosh; Sandra & Stanley Napier; Gerlinde Phlaumer-Yeater; Natalie Gahm; Dave Lawson; Bryan Landry; Susan; Pam; Trish; Ruth; Joe; Sandra; Bill; Phyllis Heffner, Susan Kelley; Jaxon & Nathan Buckley; Chris Tuel; the Gallagher family; the Harrington family; John Michael; Al Yeater; John Tuel; Joe & Eileen; Clair &



Kevin Murray; Inez, Bertyl Girod, Ayana Fenton, Eduardo Acevedo, Andrea, Josie, the Alexander family, Matthew, Amy and persons, who have died from Covid-19 and their families.

**Prayer for Healing and Comfort**

*God, you know me so well. You created me. You know the number of hairs on my head, and you even know the thoughts conceived in my heart before I ever vocalize them. You've told us to come to you and ask for every need of life. You are the God who heals, and you have the final word on my destiny, the number of years I'll live and serve you on earth. Amen*



**Congratulations to:** Pete and Nancy McIntosh on the birth of their grandson Sean Everett McIntosh arrived July 3rd. 2021, weighing 8 lbs., 9 oz, 21 inches long. His parents are Eric and Jody McIntosh. Sean has grown and is now a big boy of 12+ lbs.

Sean and Mom are doing well.

**Diocesan Convention** Our convention will be held November 12-13 at Turf Valley, Ellicott City. It will be a hybrid meeting. William Toole is our delegate to Convention. Details are on the Diocesan web-site. The keynote presentations and worship service will be live-streamed.

**Happy Birthday to:**

Carrie Brown     Sept. 02  
Linda Sharp     Sept. 10  
John Tuel        Sept. 14  
Suzanne Bourg   Sept. 14  
Zowie Barnes    Sept. 16  
Yejide Everage   Sept. 19

**Vestry Officers & Members**

Jeff Spaulding: Senior Warden  
Pete McIntosh: Junior Warden  
Treasurer: Linda Sharp  
Registrar: Nancy McIntosh  
Kathleen Alexander   Stephen Jones  
Suzanne Bourg        Phyllis Weston  
Ron Alexander        Wendy Gahm



**St. Paul's  
"A Shining Light"**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission is:  
To carry the good news  
of Jesus Christ into the community  
by word deed and to help all people  
experience God's presence  
in their daily lives.



## September 2021~ SERVICE CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE CHANE IN TIME OF SERICES AS OF September 12

	September 5 <sup>th.</sup> , Pentecost Green	September 12 <sup>th.</sup> , Pentecost Green	September 19 <sup>th.</sup> , Pentecost Green	September 26 <sup>th.</sup> , Pentecost Green
	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer	Holy Eucharist	Morning Prayer
	Fr. Mark	Deacon Jennifer	Rev. Dina	Deacon Jennifer
	<b>9:00 A.M.</b>	<b>11:15 A.M.</b>	<b>11:15 A.M.</b>	<b>11:15 A.M.</b>
Greeter	Dana Fritzges	Linda Barnes		
Chalicer/Acolyte	Ron Alexander	Pete McIntosh	Jeff Spaulding	Pete McIntosh
Lector	Stephen Jones	Bill Toole	Ron Alexander	Dick Wilcher
Psalm	Lee Hajek	Helen Tuel	Stephen Jones	Lee Hajek
Prayers of the People	Kathleen Alexander	Wendy Gahm	Kathleen Alexander	Bill Toole
Altar Guild	Dana	Linda B	Dana	Linda B

