



*St. Paul's Quarterly Newsletter*  
*St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worcester Parish*  
*3 Church Street, Berlin, Maryland 21811*

*Advent/Christmas 2019 Edition*

Dear Parish Family:

I find Advent to be a gift from the Church to us. Not a Christmas gift, but a gift of invitation. An invitation to take some time away from the hustle and bustle of the busyness of this time of year and to truly prepare for the real meaning of Christmas – Jesus!

The lessons read at the Eucharist and the Daily Prayer Offices during the Season of Advent are ones of expectation. The hymns we sing echo this theme – “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh”. We are all invited to join with the Blessed Virgin Mary as she waits for the coming of her Lord. In some sense, we are called into the expectancy of a woman who is “with child”. We, too, are called to carry Jesus. But, we are also called to see Him in the people and world that surrounds us.

During the season of Advent be counter-cultural. If we take the time to be quiet (perhaps at the Cluster Quiet Day!), to pray, to read Scripture, to meditate -- perhaps you could consider coming to the midweek Eucharist during Advent. If we truly take the time to prepare, I believe that Christmas will be all the more joyful because we are preparing for the real meaning of Christmas – Jesus!

Blessed Advent, Holy Christmas, and Joyous Epiphany,

(The Very Rev'd) Michael D. Moyer OGS



## Dear Parish Family:

At a recent Vestry Meeting, I presented my plan to consider using only Rite I for our worship. This will only affect the two Sundays a month that we have been using Rite II at the 10:30 service – all of the other services are already Rite I. I polled the 10:30 congregation two Sundays in November and a majority were in agreement with this plan.

I think that this may be a way for us to “stand out” in the Community. We can advertise ourselves with “Traditional Worship for Contemporary People”. Two years ago, we decided to make a concerted effort to focus on attracting retirees and people of a “mature age”. This may help.

I also think that it is a way for us to focus on worship as a means of formation in our lives as Christians. Many years ago, when the current Prayer Book first came out, the All Saints’ Convent decided to try Rite II and after awhile felt that it did not lend itself to the spiritual life of that place. With this in mind, I share my reflection on our Church’s architecture and excerpts from an article in the “Living Church” magazine on the theology of Rite I. Please see those below.

I hope that this change will be a positive one. We can evaluate it at next November when we have had the Church Year to try it.

In Christ,  
Fr. Michael OGS

## Traditional Architecture

Our church building is designed to represent our life’s journey with Christ. As we enter the church, there is a holy water stoop. Some people choose to bless themselves with this water, making the sign of the cross. This water represents the water’s of our baptism where life in Christ begins.

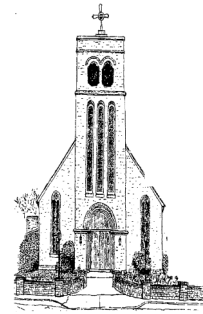
The Nave – the place where the congregation sits for worship is a bit like an upside-down ship. If you look up at the ceiling, it looks very much like the hull of a ship.

The word Nave comes from the same root as the word Navy. This represents our journey together – the church is not simply one individual, but all those who live in Christ.

The Quire – where the Choir sits, represents the angels in heaven as they sing the praises of God.

The Sanctuary – where the altar is, represents God’s presence. This is particularly represented in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, which is reserved in the tabernacle on the altar so that the priest can take the Sacrament to the sick and shut-in.

As we journey with Christ, we walk from the waters of our baptism into our lives together. At the end of this earthly life, we continue our journey with those who have gone before us as well as the angels to finally come before the very presence of God.



## Excerpts from “The gospel according to Rite I”

Brandt Montgomery

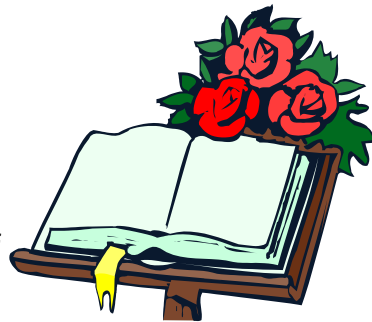
“The Living Church” October 17, 2017

...A serious reading of the Rite I liturgy reveals God’s people “with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord ... being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:18).

Consider, for instance, these words:

“And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls, and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and

heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Here is the acknowledgment of “our manifold sins” and our need for a Redeemer. In the presentation of “our selves, our souls and bodies to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice” to God, we experience the transcendence spoken of by St. Paul in 2 Corinthians 3:18. It is in this transcendent experience that we are brought to the Good News, realizing, as John Wesley once wrote, the change that God works in the heart through faith in Christ, our hearts



“strangely warmed.” It strengthens our trust in Christ alone for salvation, assuring us that he has taken away our sins and saved us from the law of sin and death.

...That is the transcendence Rite I may provide for the worshiper. If one is fully open to the experience, within the old language is a power that can lift and encourage the weary soul. “Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you” (Matt. 11:28). In the difference, beauty, and “highness” of Rite I’s language is God, “who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think” (Eph. 3:20). Rite I becomes a means of God’s grace by lifting worshipers to him.

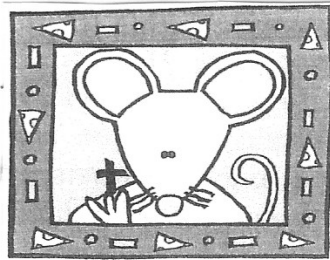
The language of Rite I puts before me a vision of God as my Almighty Father who loves me and invites me into his presence: For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood,

much more shall we be saved from the wrath of God. (Rom. 5:6, 8-9)

Grace — that is what Rite I communicates. Its Comfortable Words confirm it. “Ye who do truly earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith.” The very invitation to draw near to God is Good News. “Almighty God ... hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and truth faith turn unto him.” “Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him” (Prov. 30.5).

## CHURCH MOUSE

We look forward to the busy Christmas Season. The Official Lighting of the Town Christmas Tree on the day after Thanksgiving is



exciting. If you have never attended it is worthwhile to do so. Town is so festive and it really sets the mood for the season. The town Christmas tree has ornaments with the name of the sponsors. Stop by and look for St. Paul's/Church Mouse Christmas Ball.

We welcome our parish family to visit the shop and witness for yourself how our ministry thrives first hand. You will be glad you did. Our dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to make our mission possible. They sort, price, and place items in the proper location. We give thanks for the dedicated volunteers, Mary Hall, Lydia Lank, Emma & Wayne Hopkins, Jan Bucciere, Susan Bayshore, Phyllis Ashley, Peg Hagy, Mary Lou Insley, Millie Johnson, Pat Murray, Ellen Bunting, Sara Thompson and Mike & Helen Wiley

We are grateful for all the donations from our parish family as well and friends of the Church Mouse. God has surely blessed us. Folks from the Western Shore, Pennsylvania, Virginia and New Jersey and beyond donate because of our mission. We are a destination shop when they visit Berlin. Folks want to share their concerns and joys with us. And we listen!

When donating a large amount of items contact Helen first 443 995 3122. We cannot accept large amounts in the store. As the Christmas shopping season gets busy, parking is at a premium. You most likely wouldn't want to carry your

donations several blocks to the store. Her house is a few blocks from the Church Mouse and easy to find. We are accepting Christmas Themed donations. As you most likely are aware our shop is small, so please now large artificial trees. Ornaments are always big sellers. Please if donating lights, make sure that half of them are not burnt out, and they are not tangled up. **We can only accept these Christmas items until Saturday December 14th. Please do not bring them in after that.**

Winter hours starting in January will be Tuesday - Saturday **11:00-3:00**.

Have a blessed Christmas!

## OUTREACH

This past September and October our outreach included donations to The Cricket Center, Diocese of Easton for the Bahama Relief Fund, GOLD (Emergency Food Assistance), emergency rental assistance for a local resident and Operation We Care.



November and December's

Outreach include Bless Our Children, Camp Agape, (Toys for Christmas party) Toys for Tots, Spirit Kitchen/ Stevenson United Methodist Church, Berlin First Baptist Food Pantry, Diakonia and The Samaritan Shelter. We pass along coats and other clothing items as we see a need for in our local community. In addition we partner with the staff at the Berlin nursing home to give clothing to the residents. We also continue to work with WYFC on their clothing voucher program.

# Christmas Memorials

Memorials for Poinsettias\* and Greens...Remember your loved ones with a donation to St. Paul's Flower Guild. All donations will be used to buy the decorations for our Church for Christmas.

Make checks payable to St. Paul's Church – Flower Guild – and either place in the offering plate or send to P.O. Box 429, Berlin MD 21811. The deadline for contributions is

Wednesday, 11 December. Please indicate how you want your donation listed.  
Thank you.



\* The Poinsettias which are purchased range in price from \$5.00 -\$10.00

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## Christmas Memorials

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

or, In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

*Advent Events 2019*

Advent I

Sunday, 1 December

Great Litany in Procession at both Services

Advent II

Wednesday, 11 December

*Ocean Cluster Advent Quiet Day:*

*10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.\**

*This Quiet Day is being held at Church of the Holy Spirit*

*Eucharist, Meditations, and Time for Reflection.*

Advent III

Saturday, 14 December

Advent Tea\*

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Advent IV

Sunday, 22 December

8:30 — Advent Lessons and Canticles

10:30 — Advent Lessons and Carols

*Christmastide*

Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols at Historic St. Martin's

5:00 p.m. Family Eucharist

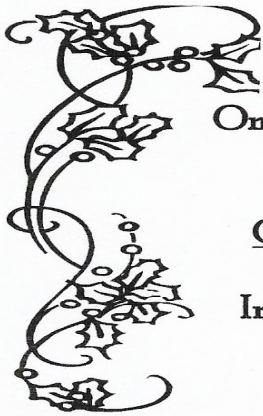
11:00 p.m. Solemn Eucharist (Incense)

Christmas Day

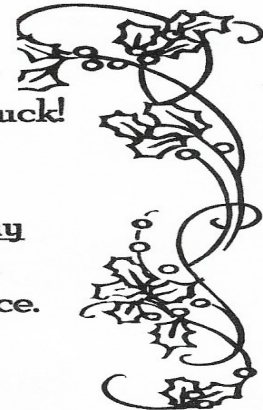
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(Said Eucharist, No Music)

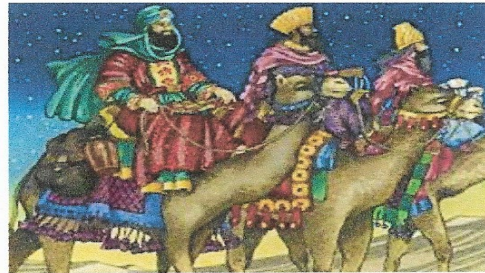
\*Details on other pages of this newsletter!



**Sunday, 29 December**  
**Fifth Sunday of the Month:**  
**One Service at 9:30, followed by a Potluck!**



**Sunday, 5 January**  
**Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany**  
**Holy Eucharist at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**  
**Incense will be used at the 10:30 service.**



### Stewardship Thought

During this time of the year, we shop for presents for those who are dear to us. Think of how dear to God we must all be, because all that we have in this world is a gift from God! It is certainly wonderful to receive gifts, but even more to give. Consider giving a donation to a charity in honor of someone and letting them know in a Christmas card. Few of us need "things", but there are those who are in need who can be helped by our stewardship.

### Christmas List For Hope4Recovery House

The Ocean Cluster is collecting items for the Hope4 Recovery House for Christmas as a part of our continuing relationship with them. We will be collecting: 1. money for bus passes 2. paper products 3. laundry detergent. Please consider helping us provide these essentials for those who are living at the house for the Christmas Season. You can drop off these items at church on Sunday. Checks can be made out to Hope4Recovery (Memo -- Bus Passes). Thank you for your help!

Please remember that we are also continuing to provide a meal one Sunday a month. All three churches participate. You can look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex to help provide food for this monthly meal.

### Bishop's Visit/Confirmation Class

The Bishop will be making his annual visitation on Sunday, 23 February -- the Last Sunday in Epiphany. Fr. Moyer will be holding a Confirmation/Inquirer's class during the months of January and February for anyone who would like to be confirmed/received/renew their commitment to Christ. Please see him if you are interested.

Ocean Cluster Advent Quiet Day  
Wednesday, 11 December 2019  
Held at Church of the Holy Spirit

10:00 – 10:15 GATHERING

10:15 EUCHARIST  
(WITH 1<sup>ST</sup> MEDITATION)

11:00 – 12:00 TIME FOR QUIET  
REFLECTION:  
READING/REFLECTION TIME  
IN THE CHURCH

12:00 NOONDAY PRAYER &  
2<sup>ND</sup> MEDITATION

FOLLOWED BY BAG LUNCH  
(BEVERAGE PROVIDED)

QUIET TIME FOLLOWING LUNCH

2:00 CLOSING PRAYERS





### *December Birthdays*

- 2 *Lauren Fsham*
- 6 *Dick Brown*  
*Cindy Bratten*
- 8 *Bunky Schul*
- 11 *Wade Wellman*
- 17 *Cathy O'Neill*
- 18 *Sabra McIntosh*
- 20 *Gail Whaley*  
*James Angstadt*
- 22 *Harrison Beckstead*
- 25 *James Hall*

### *January Birthdays*

- 7 *Claire Fsham*
- 8 *Sasha Moyer*
- 9 *Parker McIntosh*
- 11 *Nicholas Lehman*
- 14 *Garrett Cook*
- 20 *Robert Keys*
- 21 *Sara Reid*
- 22 *Betsy Abel*
- 23 *Susan Hutchinson*
- 24 *Susan Wimbrow*
- 29 *Lorraine Westrope*

### *February Birthdays*

- 5 *Bill Mariner*
- 6 *John Westrope*  
*Skip Smith*
- 8 *Austin Main*
- 11 *Douglass Cook*

- 18 *Nancy Cummins*
- 20 *Bonnie Wooten*
- 22 *Gloria Fsham*
- 24 *Bob Abel*
- 25 *Paula Lynch*
- 26 *Roger Pacella*



### *December Anniversaries*

- 1 *Bob & Dianne St. Clair*
- 17 *Col. & Mrs. James Short*  
*John & Lorraine Westrope*
- 20 *Douglass & Lisa Cook*
- 22 *Fr. Michael Moyer, Priest*
- 27 *Franklin & Paula Lynch*
- 28 *Ray & Leslie Coates, Jr.*
- 31 *Billy & Gloria Fsham*

### *January Anniversaries*

- 6 *John & Gail Whaley*
- 18 *Robert & Janice Keys*

### *February Anniversaries*

- 10 *George & Susan DeGroot*

### *Baptisms*

*none*

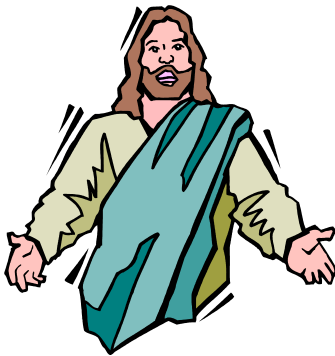
### *Deaths*

*John Laughlin*  
*Rosemary Pearson*

# St. Paul's Quarterly Newsletter

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
3 Church Street  
P.O. Box 429  
Berlin, Maryland 21811  
Office: 410-641-4066  
Fax: 410-641-1960

Address Label Here



## *Mission Statement*

*Our Mission is to offer and nourish a relationship with God in Jesus Christ, our Lord, through worship, outreach, fellowship, and study.*

### Vestry and Officers

Senior Warden: Ray Coates, Jr., Junior Warden: Jerry Freeman  
Treasurer: Susan Wellman,

Vestry Members:	Bob Abel	Phyllis Ashley	Ray Coates, Jr.
Jerry Freeman	Sarah Hooper	Sandy Pacella	Deb Ritz