



A LIFE OF FAITH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
MECHANICSVILLE, MD



Memorial Day: Remembering the Fallen

By Jenny Moonen

When we think of Memorial Day, often the first thing that comes to mind is BBQ's, picnics, an extra day off or long weekend. It is thought of as the unofficial start of summer in the United States.

The real purpose behind this National Holiday is to honor our men and women in the armed forces who have lost their lives while performing their military duties. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling it "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide (Wikipedia.com). The holiday is currently observed the last Monday of May. Many people visit graves and memorials on this day, hence the name Decoration Day. It is now simply called Memorial Day. Let us take a moment this Memorial Day weekend and say a prayer for the men and women who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

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PASTOR POMRENKE'S MESSAGE

JUNE 2021

Beloved, What a wonderful transition that we are making as a church. We are moving towards what we remember as our "normal" life. Last Sunday we had our first potluck in over 18 months. What a privilege it was to honor our Sunday School students as well as break bread once again as the body of Christ. It was an amazing day!

I know there is still a sense of anxiousness as we transition to a fully opened, masks optional worship activities. I want to assure every one of you that we have abided in every order that has come out of Governor Hogan's office to date. We will continue doing this until the state of emergency is lifted. In that vein, I want to caution everyone that is attending St. Paul's: we are a non judgmental church...meaning if you chose to wear a mask, or if you choose not to wear a mask... there is no judgment either way. Our path throughout this pandemic has always centered around the comfort levels of our congregants. I do not believe that we have comprised that throughout this time. But there is still an anxious trepidation present in our communities, and I want to remind you of a few things regarding fear and anxiety.

Matthew 6:25:34 (ESV) is a great section of scripture to meditate on when we become anxious and fearful regarding what is happening around us. It says,

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Scripture always will point us away from our troubles while, at the same time, comfort us in our struggles. We can't meet the needs of our spiritual health based on fear. We, as a church leadership, also can't make choices that will please 100% of our congregation regarding how we will worship in the future.

But I pray we find comfort in the scripture reading that I included in my message today. In our reading of it we find the following things regarding fear and worry:

- Worry is inconsistent - (Vs. 25) If we can trust Jesus with our life, can we not also trust Him with our daily needs?
- Worry is Irrational - (Vs. 26) If our Lord cares for the birds, will He not also care of us?
- Worry is Ineffective - (Vs. 27) Who among us can add one hour to our life by worrying?
- Worry is Illogical - (Vs. 28-30) If God can clothe the grass of the fields with flowers, can He not also clothe us?
- Worry is Irreligious - (Vs. 31-32) When we worry, we act just like those who do not know God.

To avoid worrying, we need a system of priorities: *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."* (Vs. 33)

We also need a strategic program because scripture says...*"Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself."* (Vs. 34)

I believe that the virus is real, and we will be experiencing its effects for a while. What I refuse to do is stop living my life for the Lord. We can be responsible about how we do things and how we approach concerns in our lives, but we CANNOT let the fear over the "what if's" rule our lives. Don't let Satan and the grip of fear that he has placed on our world rule our households. Here's to looking forward to a less-restricted summer where we can engage with the people that we love... where we can engage in the things we love... and where we can worship our God with options that are based on our comfort levels. Amen?

Pastor Pomrenke

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY JOHN BOWLING

So thankful for my brothers and sisters at St. Paul's! No matter what the need, everyone always steps forward to help and give their support. A huge thank you to everyone who came out to help mulch the playground Saturday! A special thank you to Paul Pipho and Brad Clements for organizing the project and getting the mulch, etc. It was great to be able to work together side by side once again. It is definitely true that many hands make light work because we were finished in a very short time. It was so nice to be able to meet our new Administrative Assistant and her husband who came out with big smiles to help us get the job done.

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Sunday School program and picnic as well. It was a great day for everyone. The kids did a great job sharing God's Word and the fellowship and good food at our picnic was wonderful. Hopefully this will be just the beginning of many more fellowship activities that we be able to do together once again. Wish I was a bit younger so I could have ridden on one of those bouncy unicorns across the field with the kids!

In His Service,

John Bowling

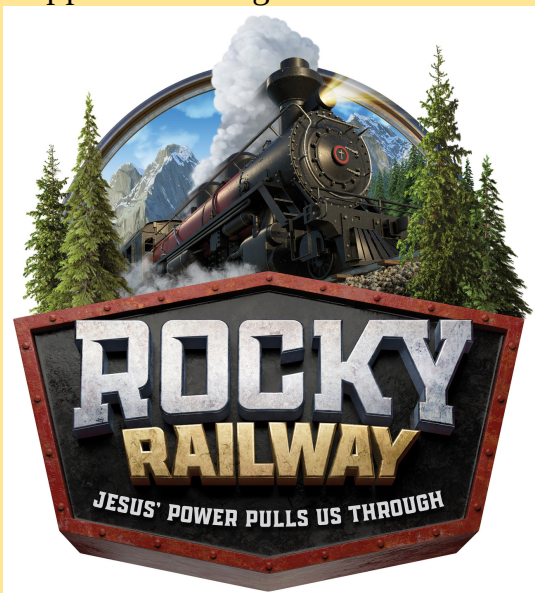


VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BY MEREDITH JOHNSON

We are so excited to have kids back in VBS this year! Our VBS will be from June 28th – July 2nd from 9am -12pm. During Rocky Railway VBS, our students will learn that Jesus's Power Pulls Us Through! Each day we'll hop on the St. Paul's train and go from station to station learning about God's love! We'll start our day at Sing and Play express and move on to Imagination Station, Kid Vid Cinema, Chew Chew Snacks, Loco Motion Games, and Bible Adventures! Once our train pulls back into the station we'll gather together at Rocky Wrap Up to talk about our day!

There will be some changes this year due to our current COVID world. All participants ages three and up will be required to wear a mask during VBS. Sanitation practices of wiping down surfaces and maintaining social distance guidelines will be followed.

Deep cleaning of our entire facility will happen each night.



Here at St. Paul's we take the safety of our staff and students seriously and although things may look a little different, we're committed to teaching that Jesus' power pulls us through!

Registration is open for Rocky Railway VBS. Please go to our website www.stpaulssomd.com and click on the Rocky Railway registration button to register. If you have any questions about VBS, please contact Meredith Johnson: meredity.s.johnson@gmail.com or 301-653-0792.

Did You Know....

- Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" and Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam" are the most replicated paintings of all time.
- The Bible is the best-selling book in history.
- The longest book in the Bible is Jeremiah.
- The oldest person mentioned in the Bible is 969 years old. "Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died." Genesis 5:27
- Jesus and John the Baptist were cousins.
- The Bible has a talking donkey - "Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" Numbers 22:28

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BY BRENDA BOWLING

I want to say thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways to make our Sunday School closing program and picnic such a wonderful day! It was great to have a chance to once again, after more than a year, to be able to come together for a great picnic with lots of yummy food, great fellowship and a chance to sit back and catch up with everyone while enjoying watching the kids having such a great time playing together.

It's been a long and strange year, but God is good and has blessed us with the opportunity to continue hearing and studying His word together safely in His protective arms over the past months. I am so proud of our Sunday School kids and pray that all our Sunday School kids and pray that all of our Sunday School families and staff are blessed and a safe, healthy and wonderful summer!

I hope to see everyone at our Rocky Railroad Vacation Bible School June 28 through July 2nd. If you have any questions or need to register your child, please see our church website, www.stpaulssomd.com or contact Meredith Johnson our VBS director.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6





The following are two views on Brad's life, one is exciting and one is boring, you decide which one you like best. He is agreeable with either one.

Brad Clements was born on Mars, but raised here in Maryland. He is married to Pam who is from Venus originally. For many years Brad was a cyborg in the US Army intelligence unit. He has since retired and taken his human form again.

Brad was also a clown in a traveling circus for 18 years, where he developed an interest in unicorns. Pam and Brad together raise 26 unicorns and 15 sasquatches. When he isn't working on the buildings and grounds at St. Paul's, he likes to travel to the moon, make ice cream, knit scarves for the unicorns, and feed baby goats.

Please note, that the following is boring: Brad Clements was born in La Plata and has lived in Charles County his entire life, mostly in the Indian Head area. He is the third oldest of seven children; five boys and two girls.

His mother worked in retail and his father was a Master carpenter and a fixer of all things mechanical. Since about age 9, Brad would follow his father around watching him and learning to do whatever he was doing. In his early teens, he started working with his father as a carpenter's helper and in his mid-teens he became a paid part-time carpenter. In high school he went to the Vocational Technical Center where he learned drafting and design. He then worked his way through college. When he was 19, he was running construction projects as a Lead Carpenter.

He also started working part-time for the Charles County Board of Education, drawing floor plans of all the schools. When he was 20, he went to work full-time for the Charles County Board of Education, in the design and construction of school projects. He worked for the Charles County Board of Education for 20 years. In 1993 he went to work for the St. Mary's County Public Schools. Over the next 22 years, working St. Mary's County Public Schools, he advanced through the ranks serving as the Supervisor of Design and Construction, Director of School Facilities, and in his last 10 years he served as the Deputy Superintendent of Schools. He retired in 2015 with 42 years service in the school systems.

Now a little bit about what makes Brad who he is. Of course his mother and father taught him skills of life, many through their trials and tribulations. With his 7 brothers and sisters he learned survival skills and unconditional love.

The person who has had the most impact on his life is Pamela Gail (May) Clements, a Methodist Minister's daughter who he met in the 10th grade at Lackey High School.



She became his friend, his Best Friend, his girlfriend, and eventually his wife. They dated for five years, and have been married for 47 years. They have one daughter, Lacey, who lives in San Diego and works as a Marketing Manager for a pharmaceutical company. She has one daughter, Adara Christine, who is two years old and adores her Momma. Brad and Pam travel to California to see them several times a year and FaceTime with Adara and Lacey almost every night.

Pam and Brad are still Best Friends, spending time together, supporting each other in their creative endeavors. Over the years they have taught Sunday School together, led a Girl Scout Troop for 12 years, coached Odyssey of the Mind Teams for 5 years, and Brad served as the President of the La Plata High School Band Boosters for 3 years. At St. Paul's, they have been involved in VBS over the last several years. Brad also serves as the Buildings and Grounds Council Member for St. Paul's for the past three years. His retirement hobbies include traveling in their motorhome and working at home in their yard. He enjoys any activity that brings Pam, Lacey, Adara and himself together. They all love to go to Disney World and Disneyland.

They have been members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church for the past six years.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BY BRAD CLEMENTS

STATUS OF PROJECTS:

Site Sign:

The site message sign was destroyed by someone in mid-March 2021. The replacement sign was installed on May 13, 2021.

Playground Mulch:

The playground mulch was delivered on May 18, 2021. The workday was Saturday May 22 to relocate the mulch from the parking lot to the playground. There was a great turnout and all the mulch was moved and the playground was ready for the Sunday School closing and picnic on Sunday May 23rd.

I would like to thank everyone for the contributing funds for the purchase of the playground mulch. A BIG thank you for everyone who came to the work day and helped moved the mulch. It was greatly appreciated.

Paul Pipho has gone above and beyond in supporting this entire effort including locating the mulch and getting it delivered. Thank you Paul for all you do for the church.

Heating and Air Conditioning:

The heat pump/air conditioner for the sanctuary was not working when we tried to start it up this year. I had a service mechanic come on May 21 and he resolved the problem. The heating system has been turned off for the season and the air conditioning system is now in working order.



Kneelers and pew Cushions:

The kneelers and pew cushions were ordered several weeks ago. The fabric that matches the chairs and altar carpet in the sanctuary has been obtained. Additionally, the foam rubber for the kneelers has also been obtained. At this time, all materials have been secured. The date for delivery of the kneelers and pew cushions is currently scheduled for the end of May.

Special Thanks:

I would also like to recognize the Wiggen's family for their support in maintaining the church grounds; especially cutting the grass. This is huge task.

Future Projects:

- Replace the floor in the main hallway/narthex for the church. Estimated cost \$2,500.
- Replace the floor in the kitchen. Estimated cost \$1,500.
- Replace the exterior and framing from the Pastor's office to the outside. Approximate cost \$1,000.
- Long term project will be to repair and replace the deteriorating asphalt in the parking lot and entrance drives, including repainting the striping for the parking spaces. I have not received a quote for this yet, but it will cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.



MISSIONS AND MINISTRY BY LOIS BEVERAGE



Members of St. Paul's! We can be happy that our congregation continues to shine the light of God's love from our church on the hill! The weekly donations of non-perishable groceries continue to support our neighbors who are going through challenges. Every food distribution day there is a line of those in need, so thank you for your generosity.

Our children's summer clothing drive is currently suspended but has also been very supported by our congregation. These gently used items have been welcomed at the food pantry in St. Mary's County and since we have been able to gather so much, I was able to share with the Charles County site too. Sadly, a neighbor in St. Mary's lost their home and everything in it a few days ago. This is a family with three children and what a God sighting that our contributions of clothing items that will help this family. God truly works through us all!

Thank you so much for you generous hearts and love for each other!

COMPASSION COMMITTEE BY JENNY MOONEN

Coming Soon: Compassion Committee! Watch for details to follow. This will be a ministry within our church to provide meals and other services to individuals or families within our church in their time of need due to illness or other incidents. If this is something you are interested in, please let me know.

VENTURING CREW BY DAVE NELSON

Venturing Crew Back in the Swing of Spring

Kathryn, Piper, & Kathryn at Weverton Cliffs



With public health conditions improving, the Venturing crew returned (again) to meeting in person. While our winter sports campouts fizzled due to a key ingredient, snow, being missing, we have gotten back outdoors for fun!

In March, we conducted a wilderness survival-themed campout at Summerseat Farms. In addition to building shelters and practicing fire building, we got a search and rescue dog demonstration by the Calvert K-9 Search Team. We got to meet three of the dogs and two of their handlers and learn how they would work together to find us if we should ever find ourselves lost or stranded. The dogs were definitely high energy and LOVE to play with their toys, which are also their rewards during training.



Skye pulls the pin to launch her award-winning soda bottle rocket.



*Left: Sunset over the Susquehanna River in PA and Adult cicada that has just molted its nymph shell in PA.
Right: Ryan explains how a hopper car works to Kathryn and Piper.*



We left the local area for our campout in April and headed up to northern Maryland and Pennsylvania for a short hike along the Appalachian Trail to the Weverton Cliffs overlook,



The crew crosses a rope bridge obstacle at Go Ape.

ice cream at South Mountain Creamery, lunch in Frederick (visiting the Market Street Pop Shop with



Kathryn meets newborn calf at South Mountain Creamery

For May, we just returned from camping at Susquehannock State Park, overlooking the Susquehanna River north of the Mason Dixon Line. While there, we spent Saturday in Strasburg doing everything train. We started at the National Toy Train Museum, enjoyed NY-style pizza for lunch and then proceeded to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, where one of our Venturers, Ryan Cord, served as our private tour guide. It was wonderful to see a youth's passion for his hobby come out and I am sure he told us as much, if not more about all the trains, than one of the museum's own docents would have. We concluded the day with a fun ride on the Strasburg Railroad behind a steam locomotive.

Several of our Venturers are graduating from Chopticon High School next week and a few of them will be heading off to college. While we are always looking for new members to join in on the fun and adventure, we definitely want to invite any young adults (ages 14-20) of the congregation (and their friends) to come check us out. We generally meet Monday evenings at the church, 7-8:30PM but often substitute a local activity such as going to watch a movie, bike riding or fishing for a meeting. Please contact David Nelsen, danelson@alum.rpi.edu or 301.997.5065 to learn more.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy June Birthday!

Nick Beall - June 1
Owen Chew - June 7
Judith Wollin - June 9
Julia Wigger - June 16
Joshua Daigle - June 18
J.C. Heber - June 19

Skye Foy - June 21
Amy McNutt - June 22
Courtney Beall - June 24
Averyray Sedlock - June 24
Donovan Vickers - June 28
Hannah Nichols - June 29

KID'S CORNER



Brad & Pamela Clements -
June 15
Melissa & Matthew Chew -
June 25

Crossword No.2

The Book of Genesis
Chapters 3 and 4

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more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>

Down

(2) Adam's second son
(3) Cain's first son (Gen.4:17)
(4) Adam's first son
(6) Adam's third son
(7) What creature tempted Eve
(8) Cain lived in this land
(10) First man
(12) First woman

Across

(1) Cain's occupation (Gen.4:2)
(5) The ____ of Eden
(6) Adam and Eve's first clothes(Gen.3:21)
(9) Because of sin the ground was ____ (Gen.3:17)
(11) Abel's occupation (Gen.4:2)
(13) Cain became a ____ and a vagabond (Gen.4:12)