**FEBRUARY**

**Saturday, 1st**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 2nd**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service/Communion

 Sunday School

11:30am-noon Children’s Choir

 Super Bowl Fundraiser

6-8pm Senior & Junior Youth Groups

**Wednesday, 5th**

9am-2 pm Scrappers

1:00 pm Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, 6th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, 7th**

SYG Retreat

**Saturday, 8th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

 SYG Retreat

**Sunday, 9th**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

 Sunday School

11:30am-noon Children’s Choir

 SYG Retreat

**Monday, 10th**

7:30 pm Consistory

**Wednesday, 12th**

1:00 pm Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, 13th**

7:30 pm Valentine-grams

**Saturday, 15th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 16th**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

 Sunday School

11:30 am Children’s Choir

6-8pm Senior & Junior Youth Groups

**Wednesday, 22nd**

9am-2 pm Scrappers

1:00 pm Adult Bible Study

**Thursday, 20th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

\*\*\*TIDINGS DEADLINE\*\*\*

**Saturday, 22nd**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 23rd**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

 Sunday School

 Honoring past and present

 Sunday School Teachers

11:30 am Children’s Choir

 Soup Swap

**Wednesday, 26th ASH WEDNESDAY**

1:00 pm Adult Bible Study

7:30 pm Worship Service

**Thursday, 27th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, 29th**

8-10 am Applebee’s Fundraiser

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**March 1st – Congregational Meeting**

**March 8th – Pastor Matt’s Installation**

**March 15th – Organ concert at St. Paul’s**

**Lenten Dinners March 4, 11, 18 & 25**

**and April 1**

St. Paul’s, it has been a whirlwind of a month for us as we transition to our new role. We are so grateful for everyone that has helped to make our transition smoother whether it was through making me great Indian food for lunches, cake for my birthday, painting the parsonage, remodeling our bathroom, or praying for us we are so thankful. We can’t wait to be in our new home on the grounds of St. Paul’s. Please continue to pray for us as we go through the process of selling our home in PA.

We have been discussing in our sermons 7 prayers that I have for St. Paul’s and it is my hope that you would pray them with me; Allegiance, Table, Cruciform, Family, Lament, Slowing Down, and Kids. After we finish working through the 7 prayers we will be into our Lenten season. I’m looking forward to all that God has for us through the Lenten season.

**The Lenten season is historically a 40 day fast leading up to Easter is to lead us remember salvation, confess our sin, the good news of Jesus, and prepare to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Lent started with a 40 day food fast from meat or anything that comes from flesh such as dairy products or eggs. Over time because people had to work and lacked energy to complete the work they began allowing meat products such as eggs, dairy, and fish. They also allowed certain days fast free. Ultimately they settled on Friday’s being the day during lent where you practiced the food fast. Because Jesus ate fish, fish is allowed on Friday’s as well as dairy products. The dairy products allowance is very important because without it there would be no pizza Friday’s during Lent! Since the 40 day food fast was done away with tradition became that you give up something else during the 40 day period as a fast.**

**Although Lent is a tradition not mandated through scripture the practice of fasting is a spiritual discipline Jesus asks us to participate in. As you develop into a disciple of Jesus why not use the Easter season to practice the spiritual discipline of fasting. You could participate in the modern Lent tradition of fasting meat on Friday’s and giving up something during Lent. You could also create your own personal 40 day fast. The purpose of the Lenten fast is to focus on the life Jesus, the confession of our sin, the salvation He brings from the consequence of our sin, and the hope of the resurrection. I would encourage you to participate in Lent and as you do don’t make it a religious ritual but a time of receive our savior’s love and grace.**

**Mark on your calendar all that we have here at St. Paul’s for the Lenten season found in the Tidings and join us!**

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matt Murphy

**2019 FINANCIALS**

December Year-end

Income $35,148.44 $237,372.37

Expense $14,037.89 $265,813.49

TOTAL $21,110.55 $(28,441.12)

HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR OUR MONTHLY TITHING/OFFERING?

If you have a group/organization/cause you feel is in need of our monthly tithing, please contact Debbie at

debbiespauls@optonline.net or call the church. The Consistory will consider each request and will vote each month on its selection.

January’s Offering was given to Women Aware.

February’s Offering will be given to Milltown Rescue Squad.

**2020 CALENDARS**

Are still available in the narthex, church office and social hall. Take an extra one or two and give them to your neighbors, family or friends.

**THANK YOU!**

A great big thanks to:

Bob Burnett, Rob Ramsen and Steve Kircher - Parsonage & building improvements/repairs.

Ed Lucid – wallpaper removal and lots of painting.

Quinto Bacchetti – for doing the bathroom tile.

Gary Conger – lights & outdoor sign.

All who helped with FISH.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The WINE AND BEER FUNDRAISER makes a lot of money for the church and is a lot of fun for us and the community. To make this happen, we need volunteers! We need a Chairperson or a team that will spearhead the event. We have a “how to” booklet for the event. It seems early, but we have to book the Legion if we are having the event now. Please step up and lend a hand. Email Debbie at debbiestpauls@optonline.net if you can help.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We are having our annual GOLF OUTING in the spring. Dave Hastings has volunteered with Jeff Rumen’s help to run the event. They need help, they need golfers and they need sponsors for the holes. Please contact Dave if you can help at hastingsd1967@yahoo.com



Photo Book of St. Paul’s Church Windows is available through Shutterfly. <https://link.shutterfly.com/e/wZt0WgHqTX>

This is not a fundraiser but something you may want to purchase as gifts or for yourself to enjoy

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**SUPER BOWL POOL**

We are running our annual 50/50 Super bowl pools. Like last year, you will get to pick boxes. This year, the proceeds will be split between the Church’s general fund and our Youth Group. We will have one pool that is $10 per box and one pool that is $20 per box. The links to purchase a box are as follows:

**$20 pool:** [**https://www.footballsquares.net/rsuwmh**](https://www.footballsquares.net/rsuwmh)

**$10 pool:** [**https://www.footballsquares.net/nrmqmh**](https://www.footballsquares.net/nrmqmh)

Payments can be submitted to the church office or after worship in the Social Hall. The big game is on 2/2/20, happy picking and good luck!

**SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**

All youth 12-18 are welcome to come to our meetings on the 1st & 3rd Sunday’s of the month from 6-8 PM! Text @d3k7fd to 81010 to join the St. Paul’s Senior Youth Group.

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Any questions, please call Sean Sullivan at 732-565-3669

**APPLEBEE’S BREAKFAST**

Come support St. Paul’s and the Senior Youth Group at our annual Applebee’s Flapjack fundraiser on 2/29 from 8-10 AM at the Applebee’s on Ryder’s Lane. Tickets are $12 each, $10 for senior citizens, and a special deal this year of $40 for a family of 4! Tickets can be purchased at the church office or after worship in the Social Hall. As always, you can also purchase tickets at the door at Applebee’s the morning of the breakfast.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL begins with worship at 10am in the sanctuary. The children are dismissed to their classes after the junior sermon.

## Registration forms need to be completed and returned to Church Office or Sunday School Teacher.

## Please join us on Sunday, February 23rd as we honor past and present Sunday School Teachers and Staff.

**BEREAVEMENT**

Our sympathies to the family of Betty Miller, who died 1/3 and the family of Ruth Pulda, who died 1/20.

## MUSIC AT ST. PAUL’S

**Children’s Choir**

Each Sunday after Sunday School, 1st through 6th graders are invited to join us from 11:30 to noon in the chapel of the church school building. We are off to a great start for 2020 and will sing in worship this month!

**Adult Choir**

The Adult Choir rehearses Thursdays, 7:30 – 9 pm in the choir room. New singers are welcome!

On Feb. 13, instead of rehearsing, we will join with the Youth Group to “deliver” Valentine-grams. Come sing with us, or buy a song for a loved one!

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, we will invite singers from the Methodist Church to join us for our evening service. You are welcome to join the choir for the day!

**Praise band**

The band rehearses Saturdays 9-10:30 am and Sundays 8-9 am. We are always looking for new musicians so that we can have a rotation.

**Coming up**

On Feb. 29 (Leap Day!), Emily will be joining other local musicians in a 2:29 pm concert at Trinity Presbyterian Church (East Brunswick). Admission is free!

On March 15, we will celebrate the repairs to our Moller pipe organ.

**Have a question or comment about our music ministry?** Want to get involved?

Contact Emily at esensenb@hotmail.com

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**SOUPS ON!**

February 23

On Sunday, February 23rd you will have a chance to exchange $5 for a quart of home made soup. If you are willing to make some soup there is a sign up in the narthex or contact Pam Sarch @732-501-5837.

**SCRAP BOOKING**

Do you have photos you don’t know what to do with? Join our Scrapbooking/Crafting Club. We meet two Wednesdays a month in the social hall from 10am – 2 pm, $5.00, bring your lunch. Call Donna Lucid to RSVP or with any questions at 908-331-1758.

**Consistory Minutes**January 13, 2020

**In Attendance:** Pastor Matt, Jeff Rumen, Beckie Rumen, Dave Hastings, Debbie Kovacs, Dr. Grace Kothari, Don Wesen, Nikki Wesen, Tracy Rucinski, Nick Bamond, Barbara Paley, Debbie Paley, Matt Park

Meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Pastor Matt, who opened the meeting with a devotional. Pastor Matt discussed the “Kairos Circle”, which is central to discipleship. Kairos moments are divine moments that cause us to make decisions that shape our destiny. The ability to see and respond to our Kairos moments in life (what God is saying and how he wants us to respond) is one of the paths to maturity.

December meeting minutes were approved by consistory; motioned by Jeff R. and seconded by Dave H.

**Finances**

* Debbie P. reviewed the 2019 YTD financial report. December financials showed a gain of $21,110.55 due to generous giving by parishioners.
* December’s benevolence money of $2,657 will be split between the Ronald McDonald House and the Milltown Fire Department; motioned by Jeff R. and seconded by Nick B.
* Giving for January/February: January’s communion offering will go to Women Aware (abused women in New Brunswick); motioned by Dr. Grace and seconded by Jeff R.; February’s offering will go to the Milltown Rescue Squad; motioned by Don W. and seconded by Dave H. Debbie P. will handle requests for future benevolence donations.
* Fundraisers for 2020: Potential fundraising activities for this year were discussed, including Wine & Beer Tasting, Golf Outing, Craft Show (December), Pallet Painting and Poker Night. Debbie P. will make an announcement at church this Sunday asking if anyone would like to take the lead on the Wine & Beer and Golf Outing fundraisers. Other fundraising ideas can be sent to Debbie P.

**Correspondence**

* We received a thank you letter from the DAISY Foundation thanking us for our donation.

**New Business**

* Election of Officers: Jeff R. was elected president and Dave H. was elected vice president of consistory for 2020; Matt P. will be the secretary.
* Honoring Retired Sunday School Teachers: Past and current Sunday school teachers will be honored at the Feb. 23 service. Debbie P. will reach out to past Sunday school teachers; Becky R. will reach out to current Sunday school teachers. Debbie asked that years of service be requested for each person invited, so it could be added to the bulletin.
* Annual Report / Congregational Meeting March 1: Carol requested information for the Annual Report; information is needed by January 20th. Vote to elect Barbara P. as a consistory member will take place at the meeting. There are still two vacant positions on consistory; Dave H. will reach out to potential members to gauge their interest in joining consistory.
* Technology Updates: Pastor Matt has started updating the St. Paul’s website. Pastor Matt purchased a camera to improve our audio/video streaming capabilities (MEVO app). Consistory also discussed purchasing a new computer to run the slides during service; there are 4 desktop computers available that could be used in place of the old laptop. Other technologies being explored are: use of google software to organize volunteer base for tasks and reminders (pastoral prayer, scripture readings, and audio/visual) and bulletin software (Canva). Other technology items discussed included replacing the projectors in the sanctuary with flat-screen TVs, streaming Sunday service into the nursery, Wi-Fi capability for the social hall, and a Gmail suite with 10 new email accounts.

**Consistory**

Communion

* February 2 – Team 3

Communion Offering/ Benevolence

* January’s Communion Offering – Women Aware
* February’s Communion Offering – Milltown Rescue Squad

**Ministry Teams**

Spiritual Life

* Prayer Nights: Pastor Matt would like to initiate prayer nights in the chapel.
* Lent: intention is to have a couple of prayer nights leading up to Ash Wednesday and continuing the tradition of Lenten dinners

Church & Family

* Installation Sunday: Installation of Pastor Matt as our new pastor will take place on March 8; someone from the UCC will be in attendance. Pastor Rich to be invited as well.
* Kids Ministry: not discussed

Mission

* Process for Benevolence (9%): Pastor Matt would like to have processes in place to assist people in need without always giving them monetary assistance (such as gift cards or interview training)
* Family Movie Night Sunday of Installation: snacks and beverages will be served; Debbie K. will look into getting a popcorn machine.

Education

* Quarterly Trainings: invite church members to participate. Pastor Matt discussed the Discipleship Square which involves training up church members to be leaders of the church. Training courses on Parenting and Marriage are good outreach opportunities.

Leadership Development (added)

* Consistory retreat: Pastor Matt would like to have a retreat in the spring / summer the Abbey of the Genesee (Piffard, NY).
* Launch: free (holistic) training being offered on February 29th from 9:00am – 3:00pm in Mahwah, NJ; Pastor Matt thought it would be nice if a few consistory members could attend.

Property

* Prayer Labyrinth / Garden: Pastor Matt would like to have a ‘prayer maze’ you can walk through in the area between the church and social hall near the benches.
* Barbara P. received a quote from All-American Paving for $3,944 to seal and top coat the parking lot; additional handicap parking spots would be added.
* There are other repairs needed (A/C unit in sanctuary, hole in boiler room floor and social hall toilet & sink).

Old Business

* None

Future Dates

* Consistory Meeting – February 10
* Ash Wednesday – February 26 at St. Paul’s

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm; Jeff R. closed the meeting with a prayer; motion to adjourn by Don W. and seconded by Tracy R.

**HEAD USHERS FOR**

**February**

2 Team #3

9 \*\*Karen Gourley

16 Jeff Rumen/SYG Youth Sunday

23 Melanie Dwyer



**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

HOSTS NEEDED:

You are responsible for providing treats, juice for the children and milk for coffee.

Coffee, cups, plates, napkins, plastic utensils and sweeteners are provided.

SIGN UP TO HOST

@ coffee hour or contact:

Julie Park 732-545-4266

mj1park@optonline.net or

Tracy Rucinski 732-545-6982

traysee7413@yahoo.com.

**MEMORIAL FUND**

MARIE RITTMAN

 Doris Weber

 Milltown Seniors

BETTY MILLER

 Jane Smith

***Letters…***

*Dear Pastor Weyer,*

*On behalf of the Daisy Association, I would like to thank the St. Paul’s Church for their generous donation of $744.00 to the Daisy Association. Your donation will help us fund exciting programs and special events for the summer 2020 day camp for children and adults with special needs.*

*Our success relies on the generosity of our community and it is only with the help of organizations like yours that we can continue to provide recreation programs for disabled people and financial scholarships for families in need.*

*We are so grateful to you – thank you!*

*Wishing you and your congregation a very happy holiday season,*

*Sincerely,*

*Mindy Listwa, President*

ST. PAUL’S CHURCH

Founded in 1872

So. Main St. & W. Lakewood Ave.

Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Murphy

Rev. Richard H. Weyer, Pastor Emeritus

Emily Sensenbach-Gopal,

Director of Music

Church Office 732 828-0020

FAX # 732 828-0027

stpaulschurch@optonline.net

www.stpaulsmilltownnj.org

Please leave a message if no one is available.

Church Secretary Mrs. Carol Lagowski

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Financial Secretary Mrs. Debbie Paley

 (address inquiries to church office)

Please address all financial inquiries to the Church Office.

 **2020 CONSISTORY**

Elders:

Melanie Dwyer

Karen Gourley

David Hasting

Lois Jessen

Grace Kothari

Matt Park

Jeff Rumen

Nikki Wesen

Deacons:

Nicholas Bamond

Debbie Kovacs

Barbara Paley

Tracy Rucinski

Beckie Rumen

Don Wesen

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Save time and prevent mistakes by writing your parishioner number on your checks and envelopes. Example: 002W

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Please notify the church office if any of the following changes occur in your household: address change, phone number change, email change, marriage, separation/divorce, death, birth, adoption, adult child(ren) moving out, or a family member being moved to a rehab. or nursing home.

We would like to keep our membership list up-to-date, but we need YOUR cooperation to do so!

ST. PAUL’S CHURCH

62 South Main Street

Milltown, NJ 08850

(732) 828-0020

**FEBRUARY 2020**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Feb. 2 - Communion

Feb. 2 & 16 – Senior Youth Group

Feb. 5 – Men of St. Paul’s

Feb. 7-9 – SYG Retreat

Feb. 10 – Consistory

Feb. 23 – Honor SS Teachers & Staff

Feb. 23 – Soup Swap!

Feb. 26 – Ash Wednesday

Feb. 29 – Applebee’s Fundraiser

**TIDINGS**

**Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School 10:00 a.m.**

**DATED MATERIAL**

January 23, 2020

