**JANUARY**

**Wednesday, 1st HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**FISH**

**Thursday, 2nd**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Resumes

**FISH**

**Friday, 3rd**

**FISH**

**Saturday, 4th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**FISH**

**Sunday, 5th**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service/Communion

Sunday School

11:30am-noon Children’s Choir

6-8pm Senior & Junior Youth Groups

**Wednesday, 8th**

9am-2 pm Scrappers

6:30pm Men of St. Paul’s

**Thursday, 9th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, 11th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 12th**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

Sunday School

11:30am-noon Soup Swap

Children’s Choir

**Monday, 13th**

7:30 pm Consistory

**Thursday, 16th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

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

**Saturday, 18th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 19th**

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

**Thursday, 23rd**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, 25th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 26th**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

Sunday School

11:30 am Children’s Choir

**Thursday, 30th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**February 2nd – Super Bowl Fundraiser**

**February 13th – Youth Group and Adult Choir**

**Delivering Valentine-grams by phone**

**February 26th – Ash Wednesday**

**February 29th - Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser**

**March 8th – Organ concert at St. Paul’s**

It is an honor and privilege to be your pastor at St. Paul’s. My wife Kelly and I are looking forward to getting to know each of you in our new journey here at St. Paul’s! St. Paul’s has a long and faithful history of expressing Jesus’ love into the heart of the community. I come to St. Paul’s standing on the shoulders of great pastors who have led you into Jesus’ love in the past. I come with the great anticipation of Jesus building on what He’s already done here at St. Paul’s.

I don’t think it is a coincidence that we start a new year with a new pastor. The new year is a time to look ahead, hope, and dream about what is to come. I love to set New Year’s goals for my spiritual and physical health. This is where we find ourselves at St. Paul’s. We are in a place to look ahead, hope, and dream. As we go into this next season it is important that we find where God is going and follow Him. It is in the Divine that we find all our hopes, dreams, and joy. Exodus 33:14-15 says, “And he(God)said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ And he(Moses) said to him, ‘If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here.’” At St. Paul’s we want to be where God’s presence is. As we journey into this next season it is my hope that we will collectively seek His presence through prayer.

God has placed 7 prayers for St. Paul’s on my heart for us in 2020 and beyond. I will briefly state and describe each prayer here but flesh each one out in the early weeks of 2020 in my sermons on Sunday mornings. It is my hope that you will join me in praying these prayers for St. Paul’s.

1. It is my prayer that we give our allegiance to Jesus as Lord. I pray that we as a church give our exclusive allegiance to the one God and one Lord, Jesus, over and against other potential gods of this world we might give allegiance to.
2. It is my prayer that we all begin to live in the Resurrection Life around the table Christ has prepared. There is great freedom found in the resurrection life. Jesus reveals that resurrection life many times around a table. I pray we experience the love and freedom shown at the table Christ has prepared in His Kingdom as well as show others that love and freedom in the heart of the community.
3. It is my prayer that we all at St. Paul’s are the aroma of Christ through participating in the cruciform life of Christ. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.” To participate in the cruciform life of Christ is both to benefit us, which is from God’s mission of freedom, love, redemption, and reconciliation, as well as to be a witness to this great mission by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the community which leads to the spread of Christ, through us becoming faithfully obedient to it.
4. It is my prayer that St. Paul’s becomes a faithful family. At St. Paul’s all are welcome to be a part of our family and all, like the story of the Prodigal Son, are welcome home. May we be a people who show not just love, grace, and acceptance in our community, but with each other.
5. It is my prayer that we will share in each other’s pain. May we be a church that grieves with each other. May we not be afraid to lament. Life is difficult and we all have pain. May we not avoid the pain but bring it to the light so that Jesus might heal.
6. It is my prayer that we will slow down to catch up with God. It is my prayer that we will all seek the heart of God. In this busy world we find God not when we speed up but when we slow down. May we be a people that slows down to connect with the Divine, be trained up in His truths, and sent out into our calling.
7. It is my prayer that we will let the little children come unto Jesus. May we all take the role in seeing kids follow Jesus. May we be a church that sacrifices for the next generation. May we be a people that treats children as Jesus did, empowering them to follow, love, and serve Jesus at St. Paul’s.

I’m slowing my heart down to catch up with God in this season as I wait in eager anticipation for what He is going to do. I don’t want to miss what God has planned for us at St. Paul’s. Kelly and I are so grateful we get to serve with you over this next season. May we all take a moment each day in 2020 to pray one of these 7 prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matt

***A Message for the New Year***

“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.” ...Peter1:3-10

**2019 FINANCIALS**

November YTD

Income $17,634.77 $202,223.93

Expense $12,644.64 $251,775.60

Total $ 4,990.13 ($49,551.67)

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 [debbiestpauls@optonline.net](mailto:debbiestpauls@optonline.net) or call the church. The Consistory will consider each request and will vote each month on its selection.

**JANUARY PRAYER**

**Jesus, the hope of all who trust you;  
the power of all who serve you;  
the wisdom of all who follow you;  
the uniter of all who worship you.  
Grant us light at the beginning of this year;  
  
Fill us with strength and boldness according to your promises,  
That we might reach our needy nation, with your love, in this season of Hope.  
We humbly acknowledge our weakness and failure,  
But our eyes are fixed on you.  
Fulfil your purposes and plans that your name may be honored in our land.  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  Amen.  
  
THANK YOU!**

A great big thanks to:

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

Gary Conger – lights & outdoor sign.

To all who visited our shutins with poinsettias and carols.

**2020 CALENDARS**

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



**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**

Happy New Year! If you have not already turned in Retreat forms and money, please do so as soon as possible so that we can confirm our numbers with Harvey Cedars! The trip is February 7-9, 2020 and then we will be hosting worship on February 16 to share what we learn. Also, if you are interested in the mission trip, there are still 1-2 open spots available, contact Jeff ASAP.

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.

## C:\Users\Carol\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\B83SEAFA\children-and-youth[1].png

I am so pleased to announce that Rebecca Rumen has volunteered to be our new Sunday School Supervisor! I also want to thank everyone who has volunteered to teach our children each week. 2020 will be a year of fun and learning for our children!

## 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.

**FISH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM**

Our Education Building will be used by FISH Hospitality the week of December 29th through January 5th.

YOUR help is needed to:

Unload the beds & set-up rooms (Sunday after worship)

Provide a dinner meal (all nights)

Transport residents to the shower (all weeknights)

Sleep over one night (all nights, one male and one female volunteer needed!)

Please reach out to either:

Dawn Ramsen

732-492-9976

r4withjoy@yahoo.com

Jeff Rumen

732-407-4326

[jrumen@msn.com](mailto:jrumen@msn.com)

**BEREAVEMENT**

Our sympathies to the family of Marie Rittman, who died 12/12.



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

**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.

## MUSIC AT ST. PAUL’S

**Christmas Music!**

Much thanks for those who have shared their musical gifts in worship during this season, especially the Praise Band, Sunday School Children, Adult Choir, and soloists! Thanks also to our Dec. 22 carolers for taking the song to our shutins.

**Adult Choir**

The Adult Choir resumes regular rehearsals on Thurs., Jan. 2, 7:30 – 9 pm in the choir room. New singers are welcome!

**Children’s Choir**

Children’s Choir will resume rehearsals on January 5. 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.

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

Contact Emily at [esensenb@hotmail.com](mailto:esensenb@hotmail.com)

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**Thank you, thank you, thank you**

To the many (actually dozens!) of people who have helped lead worship over the past several months. Your prayers, readings, sermons, serving communion, collecting offerings, guiding us through announcements and worship… these have been such a visible reminder that we are together the body of Christ. Our worship has been consistently thoughtful and warm, and it has been amazing to see St. Paul’s share the load together.

To the leaders at St. Paul’s, especially, Sean Sullivan, Dave Hastings, consistory, and the pastoral search committee; thank you for untold hours, open ears and minds, and persistent following up over the past year.

To those invisible helpers who have picked up slack, chores, and garbage around our campus, thank you for noticing what needs to be done and making sure that it has happened.



**SOUPS ON!**

January 12

On Sunday, January 12th 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.

**Consistory Minutes**December 9, 2019

**In Attendance:** Sean Sullivan, Jeff Rumen, Dave Hastings, John Garback, Matt Park, Beckie Rumen, Don Wesen, Tracy Rucinski, Barbara Paley, Debbie Kovacs, Debbie Paley, Dr. Grace Kothari

Meeting called to order at 7:32pm.

November minutes were approved by consistory; motioned by Jeff R./seconded by John G.

**Correspondence**- Amy from Good Day Nursery School contacted us again regarding unlocked doors. A decision was made to ensure that all doors are locked on Sunday. We will keep the 2 front doors locked (facing West Lakewood Ave) and families arriving for Sunday School will enter from the side door. The individuals hosting coffee hour will lock the side and back doors of the education building. The counters will be responsible for locking the sanctuary doors.

**Finances**

- Debbie Paley shared a list of our tithing for the year. We’ve given to 14 causes for a total of $16,575.00.  
- We are open to tithing suggestions for 2020 and will make announcements in church so the congregation can contribute ideas.  
- November’s financials show a gain of $4,990.13.  
- Our YTD loss is $49,551.67.  
- We had offered $200 to Pastor Rich for preaching on 11/17. He respectfully declined the payment.  
- We have a credit from PSE&G for this year in the amount of $1187.29.  
- We have been asked to think of ways to reduce our expenses in the coming year.  
- The TD Bank promotion will begin January 2020 ($10 donations to church for anyone who currently has an account; $50 donations for new accounts).  
- A decision was made to offer an appreciation bonus in the amount of $1200 to Emily; motioned by Sean S./seconded by Jeff R.   
- November finances approved by Consistory; motioned by Jeff R./seconded by Debbie K.

**Pastor Matt Murphy**- On 12/8/19, St. Paul’s congregation installed Matt Murphy as new Pastor. The vote was 63 for and 3 against. The contract was reviewed by Kathy Garvey and sent to Matt Sunday night. He will meet with Sean, Jeff, and Dave on Wednesday night to sign. Pastor Matt’s start date will be 1/1/20.  
- He plans to lead the services on Christmas Eve and has been invited to attend our 12/22 service as well as the Advent Potluck Dinner.  
- His move-in date is tentatively scheduled for mid-January. The three main house projects we are hoping to accomplish prior to his move are updating the upstairs bathroom, removing wallpaper, and cleaning up the floors.

**Consistory**Communion  
- January 5 – Team 2

Communion Offering/Benevolence  
- December’s Communion Offering – Ronald McDonald

**Ministry Teams**  
Church & Family  
- Our annual Advent Potluck Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, December 22. We will continue to promote this event and have invited Pastor Matt and his family to attend.  
- Consistory is encouraged to think of some ideas for outreach and fundraising for the new year.

Spiritual Life  
- We will have heard from 2 people potentially interested in joining Consistory in 2020. Thank you to Barbara Paley who has decided to join us in 2020.  
- A discussion was had about contacting people who haven’t been in church recently.  
- We would like to reach out to our local teachers, PD, FD, and Rescue Squad and thank them for all they do. We will be providing coffee/doughnuts and a note of gratitude. Four consistory members volunteered to cover the cost for this effort.

Education  
- Beckie Rumen offered to be the next Sunday School Supervisor. She will help coordinate with the teachers and begin by creating a schedule to ensure the next 3 months are covered.   
- We are still in need of more volunteers who are willing to take one Sunday/month to relieve our Sunday School teachers. We will continue to make announcements and actively recruit volunteers.  
- Jeff R. and the Senior Youth Group will be handing out free hot chocolate on Saturday, 12/14 as an outreach event for our church.

Property  
- We need to recruit people to help run the slideshow during our worship services. We also need to make improvements to our audio/video in the sanctuary. We will speak with Pastor Matt regarding the issues we are experiencing and how we can improve Facebook Live and our overall system.

Future Dates  
- Consistory – January 13  
  
Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm, Dr. Grace closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Congregational Meeting Minutes**December 8, 2019

Sean Sullivan called the meeting to order at 11:05.

**Sunday School**

Debbie Paley provided a teacher status update. She is requesting additional volunteers for 1 Sunday per month for the next 6 months. We are also in need of a Sunday School supervisor.

**Matt Murphy: Congregational vote for next Pastor**

A biography was distributed to the congregation along with voting slips. The floor was open for questions fielded by Dave Hastings, Sean Sullivan, and Jeff Rumen. A description was given regarding salary/compensation. Voting slips were collected and counted. The final count was 63-3 in favor of Matt Murphy being installed as our new pastor.

**2020 Budget**

The budget was distributed to the congregation and changes from 2019 to 2020 were explained by Debbie Paley. Our tithing % is up to 9% for 2020. Good Day rent increased as per contract. The floor was open for questions fielded by Consistory members. 2020 Budget was approved; motioned by Mike Hastings/seconded by Dave Hastings.

**Consistory Team**

We installed three new members onto Consistory to finish out terms held by previous members.

Don Wesen: Deacon (2019 completed Rob Ramsen’s term)  
Dr. Grace Kothari: Elder (2019 completed Greg Reeves’s term)  
Jeff Rumen: Elder (2019 completed Rebecca Jones’s term)

Motioned by Debbie K./seconded by Nick B.

We have three vacancies for 2020 (3 deacon spots)

**Special Recognition**

Sean Sullivan recognized Emily for her countless contributions over the last 6 months and expressed gratitude on behalf on Consistory and the congregation. Jeff Rumen then recognized Sean Sullivan for his leadership as Consistory President through this time of transition.

**Closing Prayer**

Jeff R. closed the congregation in prayer.

**HEAD USHERS FOR**

**January**

5 Team #2

12 \*\*Lois Jessen

19 Fran Christ

26 Tracy Rucinski



**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](mailto:mj1park@optonline.net) or

Tracy Rucinski 732-545-6982

[traysee7413@yahoo.com](mailto:traysee7413@yahoo.com).

**MEMORIAL FUND**

JEAN & EDDIE

Edwin Otken

MARIE RITTMAN

Marjorie Conger

In memory of my good friend, from Elizabeth Miller

**GENERAL FUND**

In honor of Nancy Duffy

By Ken & Judy Skalla

**SYG MISSION TRIP**

In honor of KEN & JUDY SKALLA

By Nancy Duffy

**ORGAN FUND**

Elizabeth Trundt

***Letters…***

*St. Paul’s,*

*Enclosed please find our rent for Dec. & Jan., for the Thursday night Al-Anon meeting.*

*We also wanted to make a $30 holiday donation to St. Paul’s Church.*

*We appreciate you allowing us the use of the room. So many people are helped by Al-Anon and we always want to be there to help them.*

*Sincerely,*

*Thursday Night Al-Anon*

*Dear St. Paul’s Congregation,*

*On behalf of our entire Joyce Kilmer Post 25, The American Legion membership family (Post, Auxiliary and Squadron) we would like to thank you for this very kind thought and donation.*

*This donation is a great help towards our support to the community and Veteran’s in need. We will use these funds wisely.*

*To continue our support to the community of Milltown, if there is anything Post 25 could assist your church in, please let us know.*

*For God and Country*

*Ronald D. Dixon*

*Commander*

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.

**2019 CONSISTORY**

Elders:

Melanie Dwyer

Karen Gourley

David Hasting

Lois Jessen

Grace Kothari

Matt Park

Jeff Rumen

Nikki Wesen

Deacons:

Nicholas Bamond

John Garback

Debbie Kovacs

Barbara Paley

Tracy Rucinski

Beckie Rumen

Sean Sullivan

Don Wesen

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

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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

**JANUARY 2020**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan. 2 – Adult Choir Resumes

Jan. 5 - Communion

Children’s Choir Resumes

Jan 5 & 19 – Senior Youth Group

Jan. 8 – Men of St. Paul’s

Jan. 8 & 22 - Scrappers

Jan. 12 – Soup Swap!

Jan. 13 – Consistory

**TIDINGS**

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

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

**DATED MATERIAL**

December 23, 2019

