

The Bishop was here!

Montrose, December 2 – It was a cold, snowy Sunday morning and the roads were slick, but the Bishop was on his way.

The walks were cleared by 7:00 a.m., the nave warm, and all was set in place for Bishop Paul to preside at a baptism, confirmation, and reception of candidates at St. Paul's Church in Montrose.

The first to arrive were the Bishop and Diana Marshall, followed within minutes by Deacon George, who proudly announced that he had made the 106-mile trip in good time.

Slowly the faithful began to arrive – the choir, the children's choir, those preparing the coffee hour, the greeters, ushers, and the candidates. The weather had thinned out the number of worshippers, but it was obvious at the first notes of the processional hymn that this was a spirit-filled gathering.

Before preaching his sermon, Bishop Paul gathered all the church school scholars around him for a conversation about the role of a bishop, using his miter and staff to elicit responses. Then, he addressed the congregation about the characteristics of the preparatory season of Advent. Following the sermon, the Bishop was presented with the candidate for baptism, and then those for confirmation.

During the offertory, the children's choir sang an specially prepared anthem, *When The Kingdome Comes*.

At the completion of the worship, the Bishop and congregation assembled in the parish house for refreshments and conversation. During the reception, Bishop Paul was presented with a check for \$1,400.00 for the *New Hope* campaign, the proceeds from the annual parish bazaar. By 11:00 a.m., Deacon George had cleared his vehicle of snow, packed it with the episcopal hardware, and was off with the twinkling of an eye, guided by his GPS.

The congregation bade farewell to the Bishop and Mrs. Marshall, and all departed with joyful and thankful hearts. Neither sleet nor snow....



Bishop Paul with candidates from St. Paul's, Montrose: (L-R) Ron Chandler, Eric Fitzpatrick, Bp. Paul, and April Taylor.

