



Peace and Reconciliation

(Annual Address of the Priest-in-Charge) "Our Vestry will constitute a Peace and Reconciliation Commission. On dates to be announced, the Vestry will gather to listen and only to listen to those who wish to speak about their feelings regarding their involvement in our parish community. I must tread carefully in anything I say as I do not wish to create, but my challenge is to give voice to grievances, allow time to cry, and spread the welcome relief of sweet balm of Christian love, grace and understanding – something we call peace.

The first step is recognition, we know that people in this parish are beset with relationship indigestion – an unusual way of saying anger not resolved, failures not spoken, decisions less than optimum. This is a way of honoring the scripture... it is within our Peace and Reconciliation Commission that a person can give the gift of their deeply held feeling and through this act make peace with their brothers and their sisters.

I have committed and challenged the vestry to only listen, not debate or question; this is not an opportunity for church fencing but a call that we as a parish can change the generational systems of the past and begin a new chapter with a conviction that we will love."

As a part of the St. Paul's community, you are invited to speak to the vestry. Your message will not be taped or recorded in anyway. Individual vestry members may take personal notes. The vestry will be asked to hold what is said in their hearts.

The vestry will meet as a Peace and Reconciliation commission on February 12 at 10:30 A.M. and on Tuesday February 15 at 6:30 P.M. If further dates are needed they will be scheduled.

If you plan on speaking, the courtesy of calling (or emailing) and letting Fr. Don or Megan (Administrative Assistant) know would be sincerely appreciated.

With this invitation comes the hope that we may move forward without the weight of past wrongs or misunderstandings.

Leaving the church, staying home or allowing something to fester is unhealthy and not about loving our neighbor.

Reconciliation takes time. This is the beginning of being open to understanding.

In the words of our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "if it is about God, it is about love."

Information and Reports
from
The 183rd Annual Meeting of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

www.stpaulschurchflint.com/annual-meeting-2022

This includes all the reports and the
Annual address of the Priest-in-Charge.



The Warden's Wisdom

Initially, we offered online church because we were not entering our buildings. Then we slowly started to try different ways of broadcasting the service as we opened the church to more parishioners. We quickly discovered we did not have the necessary equipment or sound system. As the vestry has begun to address these issues, we now need to figure out how to make the online experience more than just a recording of our in-person service. I believe from now on we will have both in-person and virtual church services and committee meetings.

I listened to a podcast the other day that was discussing how to do virtual church. Some of the issues discussed involved how to make the virtual and in-person members feel like one community. Should we open up the chat box so the on-line participants can offer names for prayer requests? Do we have a time before the service to get acquainted? Maybe a virtual coffee hour or introductory session before the live service. One other question was how to share communion. Will we have folks share a spiritual communion with those receiving the actual body and blood of Christ. How do we reach our children since many of them have been overwhelmed by zoom classroom work? Maybe we need a digital usher to answer questions and provide informative links.

One idea I found suggested we recognize our members who are gathering on-line, praying together, studying scripture, and serving others. Since we only have one service at this time, it will give us a way to recognize our members that are joining in fulfilling their Baptismal covenant in other ways than Sunday morning worship. During our stewardship campaign this year we did suggest parishioners share ways they plan to use their gifts to spread God's kingdom. Different groups may form outside the Sunday service

that offer the Love of God and the spirituality people are seeking.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Some things we try may not last or will morph into something we can not even imagine today. That's ok. I think the time we have spent focused on the disruption caused by the virus will now allow us to look at how we can and will develop a new normal. It will create an opportunity for parishioners to volunteer and learn new skills.

Another challenge will be to connect to those not able to attend on-line worship because they do not have internet. All of us need to think of ways to bring more people to know the love of Christ and fellowship with one another. As we proclaimed in our baptismal covenant, I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers with God's help.

For His Sake Barbara Mannor

A Music Note

I had some questions recently asked me about "Lift Every Voice and Sing" so I decided to answer questions about this hymn which is now identified as the Black National Anthem.

The lyrics were originally written by James Weldon Johnson whose brother, J. Rosamond Johnson set to music. The poem was written in 1900 for the celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The music was added in 1905.

James Weldon Johnson was the first African American to be chosen as executive secretary of the NAACP, and was a prolific poet during the Harlem Renaissance. He later went on to become a consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua under President Theodore Roosevelt, after he served under President T. Roosevelt he was a professor at New York University and Fisk University.

The male gospel group Manhattan Harmony Four, recorded the song as early as 1923.

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The song has been featured in numerous films and plays. The recording from 1990 by Melba Moore, Stephanie Mills, Freddie Jackson, Anita Baker, Dionne Warwick, Bobby Brown, Stevie Wonder, Jeffrey Osborne, Howard Hewett, BeBe & CeCe Winans, Take 6 and The Clark Sisters was added to the Nation Recording Registry in 2016.

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers died.
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood
of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where
we met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we
forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land. ^[19]

This hymn is included in our LEVAS hymnal and if you read the front of our LEVAS hymnal it will give you some history of the hymns included in the collection and tell you about the importance of Fisk University and the preservation they did of spirituals. Without Fisk University, much of the music we hold dear would be lost, because their Jubilee Singers wrote the music down, and sang it at their concerts, is the reason why we have this music today. While February is the month, we set aside to pay tribute to African Americans, you will have noticed that I am choosing music from LEVAS throughout the year. Yes, we celebrate African American history specifically in February, African American history is American history and is part of all of us who live in America.

I am including the version used by the NFL and sang by Alicia Keys

<https://youtu.be/i30SdcfEpSE>

Holly Richardson,
Director of Music



Www.stpaulschurchflint.com
810-234-8637

2022 Vestry

Each Vestry member has their own St. Paul's email address as listed below.

Barbara Mannor, (23*) Senior Warden
seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com

Rebecca Bennett, (23*) Junior Warden
juniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com

Maggie Hart, (23) Treasurer
treasurer@stpaulschurchflint.com

Jan Bugbee, (23) Clerk
clerk@stpaulschurchflint.com

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan (23)
elizabeth@stpaulschurchflint.com

Walter Peake (24)
achivist@stpaulschurchflint.com

Ed Henneke (24)
ed@stpaulschurchflint.com

Ferrell Katzenberger (24)
ferrell@stpaulschurchflint.com

Joel Arnold (25)
joel@stpaulschurchflint.com

Celeste Lord (25)
celeste@stpaulschurchflint.com

Tina Morrison (25)
tina@stpaulschurchflint.com

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Staff

The Reverend Don Davidson, Priest-in-Charge
rector@stpaulschurchflint.com

810-234-8637 office

810-836-8727 church cell

Holly Richardson, Director of Music
directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com

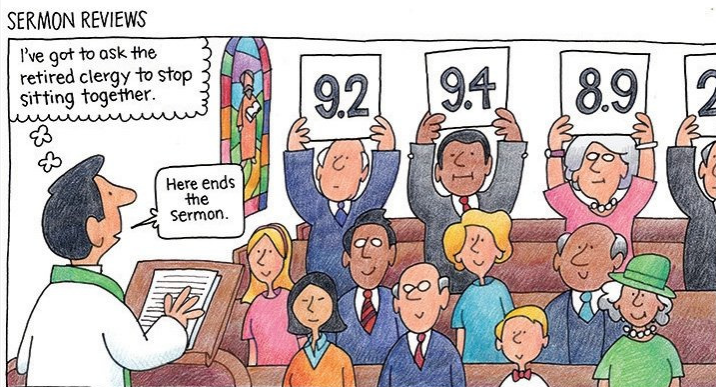
George Gibson, Director of Finance
directoroffinace@stpaulschurchflint.com

Megan Faris, Administrative Assistant
megan@stpaulschurchflint.com

Matthew Benkert, Organist
Rafael McDaniel-Walker, Director of Gospel Choir
Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor
webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com

The Master Calendar of all events within the Community of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is available on our website.



St. Paul's Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00-2:00

Fr. Don's Office Hours by Appointment
office@stpaulschurchflint.com

810-234-8637



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday February 13, 2022

Honoring

The Reverend Absalom Jones

*The first African American to be
ordained as an Episcopal Priest.*

Reverend Jacolbi Jerrett, Speaker.

9:00 AM



In 1792, under the dual leadership of Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, "The African Church" was organized as a direct outgrowth of the Free African Society. Both Jones and Allen wished to affiliate with the Methodists, but the majority of the congregation favored the Episcopal Church. Richard Allen withdrew with a part of the congregation to found Bethel Church (later, Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church).

The African Church became The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas with Absalom Jones as its Lay Reader and Deacon. In 1802, Jones was ordained by Bishop William White as the first African American Episcopal Priest.

During the severe yellow fever epidemic of 1793, Absalom Jones and Richard Allen mobilized the Black community to care for the afflicted. In 1797 and 1799 Absalom Jones, with other free Africans, presented tenable petitions to Congress and to the President of the United States opposing slavery. Two schools and supportive services for the Black community developed under his leadership. In 1797, when the first African Masonic Lodge of Philadelphia was warranted, Absalom Jones was installed as First Worshipful Master and in 1815 he was elected the First Grand Master of the First African Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
711 South Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502