

Absalom Jones Sunday

Along with the national Episcopal Church, every February St. Paul's remembers the life and service of Absalom Jones, the African-American abolitionist and clergyman. As part of our observance of Black History Month, on February 12th, we will mark the month of his death with a parish luncheon and guest speaker during our coffee hour after the 10:00 am service.

Our guest speaker will be Reverend Sharinese Jackson, MA, the Senior Pastor of the Vernon Chapel A.M.E. Church.



The Reverend Absalom Jones
Portrait by Raphaele Peale, 1810

Absalom Jones was America's first black priest. Born into slavery in Delaware at a time when

slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic, he taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources. At the age of 16, Jones' mother, sister, and five brothers were sold, but he was brought to Philadelphia by his master, where he attended a night school for African-Americans operated by Quakers. Upon his manumission in 1784, he served as lay minister for the black membership at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church with his friend, Richard Allen, and together they established the Free African Society to aid in the emancipation of slaves and to offer sustenance and spiritual support to widows, orphans, and the poor.

The active evangelism of Jones and Allen greatly increased black membership at St. George's. Alarmed by the rise in black attendance, in 1791 the vestry decided to segregate African Americans into an upstairs gallery without notice. When ushers attempted to remove the black congregants, the resentful group exited the church.

In 1792 Jones and Allen, with the assistance of local Quakers and Episcopalians, established the "First African Church" in Philadelphia. Shortly after the establishment that same year, the African Church applied to join the Protestant Episcopal Church, laying before the diocese three requirements: the Church must be received as an already organized body; it must have control over its own affairs; and Jones must be licensed as lay-reader and if qualified, ordained as its minister.

(Continued on page 3)



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

711 South Saginaw St.
Flint, Michigan 48502
810.234.8637 www.stpaulschurchflint.com
The Reverend Don Davidson, Priest-in-Charge
Walter Peake, Senior Warden

Holly's Notes

February 2023 Epistle

As we celebrate African American history this month, even though African American History, is American History and it is learned year round. I would like to draw your attention to the Fisk Jubilee Singers. Founded in 1871 they were sent around the country and eventually the world to raise money for Fisk University, a HBC. For their first concerts they sang standards of the day and at night would sing songs learned at their parents' knees when they were children. A couple of times they sang the songs when they were confronted by angry white mobs, and several times it calmed the crowd down so they could safely continue on their way. Their Director, George White heard them singing the songs they learned from their parents and saw the affect it had on the angry crowds and was convinced these were the songs the group should sing to raise money. It took a lot of convincing that they should sing the songs in public. The first concert that they sang their songs in raised significantly more than any of their previous concerts. These were songs they eventually took around the world, to Great Britain to sing for Queen Victoria, and other European cities where they were able to raise substantial funds for their school, saving it from bankruptcy.

These are songs that are part if American music and part of our churches across the nation. Songs that we refer to as spirituals. Swing low, Sweet Chariot, Wade in the Water, Steal Away and many other songs we have, thanks to the wonderful singers from Fisk.

They broke racial barriers in the US and abroad in the late 19th century. They raised money in support of their beloved school due to it failing. In 1999, the Fisk Jubilee Singers were featured in the documentary Jubilee Singers: Sacrifice and Glory, which aired on PBS' American Experience.^[15] In July 2007, the Fisk Jubilee Singers went on a sacred journey to Ghana at the invitation of the U.S. Embassy. It was a history making event, as it was their first time visit to Ghana. In 2008, the Fisk Jubilee Singers were selected as a recipient of the 2008 National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artists and patrons of the arts. The award was presented by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush during a ceremony at the White House. If you have PBS passport I highly recommend this

documentary, I showed it to my classes in the Flint Schools every year as part of my music curriculum.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUvBGZnL9rE> Swing Low
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wo0AOf9b6fU> Steal Away

Enjoy the month as we highlight great Americans!

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Observing Black History Month, Through Art and Music

St. Paul's Art Walk
February 10, 2023
6:00-8:00pm

Our Featured Artist: Carla Harden

Using recyclable materials, colors, and symbolism, Carla focuses on experiences within the world while narrating a story within her work. She experiments with acrylic paints and charcoal on unique materials.

Her work has been exhibited at the Charles Wright Museum in Detroit MI, Greater Flints Art Council, the Grand Blanc Arts Council, and she has designed a permanent mural within Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Flint. We are excited to welcome back this young, Flint artist this month.

Our musician is Mr. Ed Arter, the parish organist of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Ed will showcase the beauty and musical wonder of the Dalton Memorial Organ by performing African-American compositions, as our ARTWALK guests enjoy from the historic setting in the Nave.

Outreach

The Outreach Ministry members plus others volunteer to help with preparing and serving lunch at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1922 Iowa Avenue, Flint, on the months that have five Saturdays. The 2023 schedule includes: April 29, July 29, September 30, and December 30. Time commitment is 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet at church. This is an opportunity to help those in need, get acquainted and share stories with the St. Andrews commu-



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

Walt Peake, Senior Warden

seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com

vacant, Junior Warden

(Building and Grounds)(juniorwarden@)

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer (Finance)

(treasurer@)

Tina Morrison, Clerk of the Vestry

(clerk@) (Worship)

Heather Gagnon (Pastoral Care)

(heather@)

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan (Diversity)

(Member of Diocesan Council)

(elizabeth@)

Joel Arnold (Intersection 150 & PSP)

(joel@)

Celeste Lord Timlin (Outreach)

(celeste@)

Zan Milner (Stewardship)

(zan@)

Staff:

The Reverend Dr. Don Davidson, Priest-in-

charge (rector@stpaulschurchflint.com)

(Member of Diocesan Standing Committee)

George Gibson,

Director of Finance (directoroffinance@)

Holly Richardson,

Director of Music (directorofmusic@)

Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

(gospel@)

Ed Arter, Organist (organist@)

Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor

(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

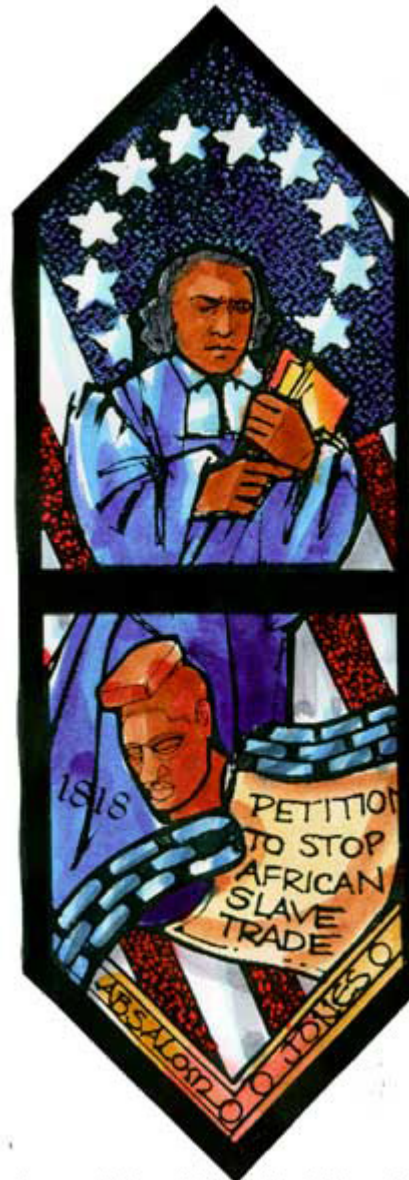
Rafeal Walker McDaniel

Director of the Gospel Choir

(Rafeal@)

Continued from page 1

Upon acceptance into the Diocese of Pennsylvania, the church was renamed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The following year Jones became a deacon but was not ordained a priest until 1802, seven years later. At 56 years old, he became the first black American priest. He continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school (as African Americans were excluded from attending public school), the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves. Jones died in 1818.



Courtesy of St. George's Episcopal Church, Dayton, Ohio



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lector Support Session

A lector support session will be held on Saturday February 18 at 10:00 AM in the second floor conference room. We will begin with a reading for group study followed by an opportunity to practice reading for supportive feedback. The practice readings are taken from the Sundays of Lent and will be available in the parlor for the next two weeks in order to choose a reading to practice in advance. We will study together the second reading from the liturgy for Ash Wednesday (2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10). We will discuss how the reading speaks to us as lectors and identify challenges the reading presents to effective proclamation. Everyone is invited to attend, whether or not they are interested in reading at services. All of us are charged by our baptismal promises to proclaim in word and deed the Good News of God in Christ. The contribution of each person may offer a challenge or an insight that spurs another on to a greater appreciation of the transforming Word of the Lord. Hope to see you in the former children's chapel at 10:00 on Saturday February 18.

Your ATTENTION Please

Does the Church take a stand
on Reproductive Rights?
Is there such a thing
as a second baptism?
What is the catechism?

Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, (February 26) Fr. Don will be leading a class about the Episcopal Church and Anglican traditions. The class will be held in the parlor following our service with enough time in-between to grab a cup of coffee. If you are interested in the church, if you wish to be baptized or confirmed, or if you plan on being confirmed —this is the class for you. You may attend one Sunday and not the rest. You need not tell anyone you plan to attend. The class will not be on-line or recorded.

Annual Meeting Recap

The 183rd Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church took place on January 22, 2023 and began with the Holy Eucharist.

Copies of all reports are available on the parish website: www.stpaulschurchflint.com and then click on the link for the Annual Meeting. Fr. Don presented his Annual Address and it is available on the Annual Meeting page as well.

Zan Milner and Heather Gagnon were elected to three-year terms on the Vestry.

Four members were elected to serve as delegates to the 2023 Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan. The convention will be held in Saginaw:

Dr. Tom Shriver
Patrice Shriver
TaMara Oertel
Edythe Peake

Carole Davis was elected as an alternate delegate.

Maggie Hart, Barbara Mannor, Rebecca Bennett, and Jan Bugbee were presented plaques and huge appreciation for their service. Barbara was the Senior Warden and Becky the Junior Warden for the last two-years, Maggie was elected Treasurer and then later elected to fill a vacancy on the Vestry, and Jan served as the Vestry clerk for the last year.

A number of members were presented "Body Builder" certificates as a way to thank them for their love of St. Paul's, and their grace-filled ministry among us.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry met and elected Walt Peake as their Senior Warden for 2023. Tina Morrison was elected as Clerk, and Jan Bugbee was elected as Treasurer. A Junior Warden was not elected as none of the vestry members present felt they could serve. The election of a Junior Warden will take place at the February meeting.

The Vestry decided to meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

A list of the Current Vestry is on page 3 of this edition.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lent at St. Paul's

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Services at 12:10 and 6:00pm (with music)

A Episcopal Walk after 10am services

Every Sunday during Lent begins February 26.

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 6:30pm

Wednesday Holy Eucharist 12:10

During the season of Lent, it is especially appropriate to consider the rite of reconciliation or confession. If you wish to make a confession with the priest, please call the office and make an appointment with Fr. Don. If you would like a different priest to hear your confession, that can be arranged.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at 6:30pm. Stations is a service of remembrance as we walk with Jesus in his procession to the cross. Each of the 14 stations is part of the journey, and each station includes a prayer.

This year, the leader each Friday will be utilizing a different version of the service from various traditions within the wider church.

You need not attend, you are welcome to attend once, or all.

Walking the Way of Christ is nearly guaranteed to bring your relationship with Christ closer, and give your spiritual life a lift.

Your leaders this year will be Fr. Don and Tim Grant.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

10:00 A.M.

Blessing and Processions begins outside or in Barth Hall, Holy Eucharist continues in Nave

Holy Monday

Holy Eucharist 5:30 P.M.

Holy Tuesday

Holy Eucharist 7:30 A.M.

Holy Wednesday

Holy Wednesday 12:10 P.M.

Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist 6:30 P.M.

Good Friday

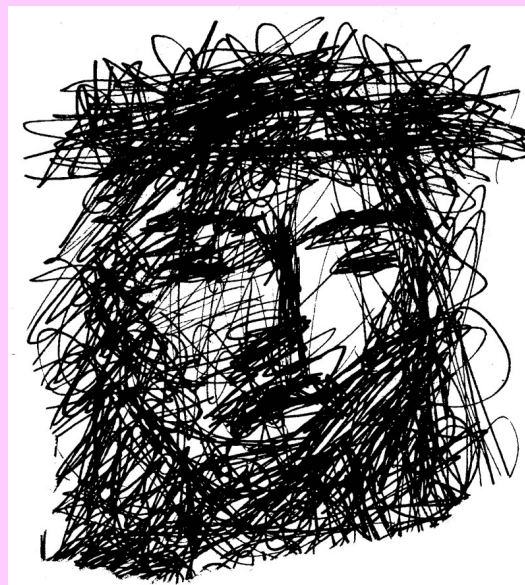
Ecumenical Service, 12:00 Noon at St. Paul's

Holy Saturday

Lighting of the Pascal Candle

8:00 P.M.

Easter Day Festival Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saving Soles

If you are a lifelong member of St. Pauls, you may recall a time, not that long ago, that our acolytes were an active group of children and teens who still view St. Pauls as their “church home.” **One of those young acolytes is now a Captain in the U.S. military and currently serving in the northeast region of Syria.**

Captain David Kennedy has been prayed for often in our church during special trainings and deployments. Now David is reaching out to us to make a difference in what may be one of the most complex military regions in the world. His job – to support the Kurdish Syrian forces and fight any opportunity for ISIS to regain a stronghold in the area.

Part of this work is to repatriate **over 50 thousand widows and children** who have been living in refugee camps in the region for nearly 10 years. These camps do not have adequate food, supplies, or safety, and ISIS recruiters are more than willing to use the desperateness of the situation to recruit demoralized young people to their cause.

While David works with other countries to try to find these families a permanent home, immediate needs must be addressed. **Currently that need is shoes.**

Winter is real in northern Syria, and many children and mothers do not have covering for their feet. **David is asking that we reach out to every individual and organization we know** to arrange for shoe donations (any shoe, any size, with some amount of wear left) to ship directly to him. He will deliver them directly to the widows and orphans, with no middle man or organization.

David’s mother and St. Paul’s member, Sheryl Kennedy, will pick them up from church and ship them directly to David. **If you don’t have any shoes to donate, please consider a donation for shipping.** Each box costs between \$17 - \$20 to ship. You can send Sheryl a donation through the church or through VENMO. Just make sure there is a memo: Shoes for Syria. Sheryl’s VENMO address is: @Sheryl_Kennedy_7. Any donation, large or small, helps to defray the cost, and writing a check to the church allows for a tax deduction.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. **Imagine that providing shoes to the needy will help make the entire globe a safer place,** while providing a basic need to God’s children. You can do that today.

Blessings,
Sheryl Kennedy



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Save the Date

PANCAKE SUPPER

Make plans to join us on Shrove Tuesday for a parish pancake supper. This is a St. Paul's tradition to celebrate a day of pre-fasting indulgence.

**TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm in Barth Hall

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKES, SYRUP, PARISH TRADITIONS

Celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday (also called "Pancake Tuesday") is the final day before the 40-day period of Lent begins. Its name comes from the Germanic-Old English word "shrive," meaning absolve, and it is the last day of the liturgical season historically known as Shrovetide.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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