

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

February 18- February 24



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

Click on link to email St. Paul's: stpaulsmontrose@epix.net

Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

Click on link to go to our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

Our Vestry Members

The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

John Warriner, Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Jack Lasher

Dan Graham

Vera Dunn

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website

<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.



Donations You can scan the QR Code. Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving. You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801

Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

View from the Pulpit: Mother Liz

Tuesday February 13th was the feast of Absalom Jones, Priest. Absalom Jones was the first Black Priest in the Episcopal Church. He was born enslaved in 1746 in Delaware. As he grew, his master realized that he was an intelligent child and ordered that he be trained to work in the house. He learned to read. He also saved money he was given and bought books (among them a primer, a spelling book, and a bible). After his owner's death, his son who inherited him, brought Absalom to Philadelphia, where he opened a store and joined St. Peter's Church. In Philadelphia, his owner permitted him to attend a night school for Black people operated by Quakers.

At twenty, with the permission of their masters, Absalom married Mary Thomas. Absalom and his father-in-law used their savings, donations, and loans primarily from prominent Quakers, in order to purchase Mary's freedom. Eventually they saved enough money to purchase property and to buy Absalom's freedom. After quite some time, Absalom was freed and continued to work in his former master's store as a paid employee.

Absalom began worshipping at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church. He met Richard Allen, who had been engaged to preach at St. George's, and the two became lifelong friends. Together, in 1787, they founded the Free African Society, a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for Black people. The active evangelism of Jones and Allen significantly increased Black membership at St. George's. The Black members worked hard to raise money to build an upstairs gallery intended to enlarge the church. The church leadership decided to segregate the Black worshippers in the gallery without notifying them. During a Sunday morning service, a dispute arose over the seats Black members had been instructed to take in the gallery. The ushers attempted to physically remove them by first accosting Absalom Jones. Most of the Black members present indignantly walked out of St. George's in a body.

Prior to the incident at St. George's, the Free African Society had initiated religious services. In 1792 the Society began to build the African Church of Philadelphia. The church membership took a denominational vote and decided to affiliate with the Episcopal Church. Absalom Jones was asked to provide pastoral leadership, and after prayer and reflection, he accepted the call.

The African Church was dedicated on July 17, 1794. The Rev. Dr. Samuel Magaw, rector of St. Paul's Church, preached the dedicatory address. Soon thereafter, the congregation applied for membership in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania on the following conditions: 1) that they would be received as an organized body; 2) that they would have control over their local affairs; 3) that Absalom Jones would be licensed as lay reader, and, if qualified, be ordained as a minister. In October 1794, it was admitted as the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. The church was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1796. Bishop William White ordained Jones as deacon in 1795 and as priest on September 21, 1802.

Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery and warned the oppressors to "clean their hands of slaves." To him, God was the Father, who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." But it was his constant visiting and mild manner that made him beloved by his congregation and by the community. St. Thomas Church grew to over 500 members during its first year. The congregants formed a day school and were active in moral uplift, self-empowerment, and antislavery activities. Known as "the Black Bishop of the Episcopal Church," Jones was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument. Jones died on this day in 1818. (Materials abridged from Lesser Feasts and Fasts, 2022 Ed.)

The Diocese of Bethlehem will have a day of reflection, formation, and fellowship celebrating Absalom Jones & Black History Month with keynote speaker the Rev. Ryan Hawthorne, Assoc. Rector at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, Houston, TX. The event will take place at St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral in Wilkes-Barre, on Saturday, February 24th beginning at 9:30am, with the keynote address, discussion, lunch, and a concluding worship service. Please use the link below to register for the event.

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ek7hhr9d2495ee6d&oseq=&c=&ch=>

View from the Pew:

Nothing So Bad

There's nothing so bad, that it could not be worse;
There's little that time will not mend.
And troubles, no matter how thickly they come,
most surely will come to an end.

You've stumbled well, so have we all in our time.
Don't dwell over much on regret.
For you're sorry, God knows well, leave it at that.
Let past things be past and forget.

Don't despond, don't give up,
but just be yourself-
the self that is highest and best!
Just live- leave to God all the rest.

We cannot change yesterday, that is quite clear,
Nor begin on tomorrow until it is here,
So all that is left for you and for me
Is to make today as sweet as can be!

{A poetic treasure always found in my mother's kitchen - Tom Undercoffler.}

We would love for you to be included!

Article submissions (photos, community news items, or a personal or faith story) are due every Wednesday. This is YOUR newsletter, and all congregants are invited to share their stories and photos. Please email your items to Kate at stpaulsmontrose@epix.net or John Warriner at jdwarri@me.com; post an item to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church St. Montrose, PA 18801 on Facebook; or drop a note in the offering plate.

Sundays Service

Feb
18



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms: 25:1-9

The Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger

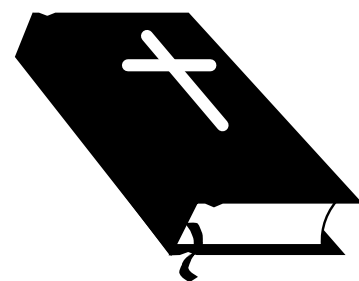
Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Richard Marker

Hospitality: Sandy Seeger

This week's Hymns:

Lord who throughout these forty days
O love, how deep, how broad, how high
Now let us all with one accord
The glory of these forty days

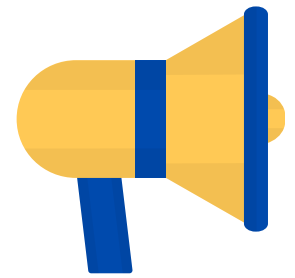


This week's Gospel according to: Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Happenings and Announcements



This year, for Black history month, Bishop Curry has invited all Episcopalians to honor the life and work of Blessed Absalom Jones by making a gift to the 2024 Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Please consider making your gift today:

Online – Absalom Jones Fund

Call -- (212) 716-6002

Text -- 'GIVEAFJ' to 41444

Mail to -- DFMS Protestant Episcopal Church US

P.O. Box 958983, St. Louis, MO 63195-8983

(Please indicate Absalom Jones Fund in your memo line.)



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Bishop Michael Curry, The Rogers Family

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call Mother Liz 212-222-8109.



This Months Birthdays:

Wanda Peirce 2/1, Kristina Rogers 2/24, Carol Lasher 2/27, Nancy Finlon 2/28



This Months Anniversaries:

Our thanksgivings:

We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Amen.

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.

MONTH BLACK HISTORY MONTH
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ROOTED IN JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND EQUALITY

Absalom Jones and Black History Month Celebration

**FEBRUARY 24, 2024
10:00AM**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND PREACHER:
REV. RYAN HAWTHORNE,
Associate Rector at Palmer Memorial Episcopal
Church, Houston, TX.**

Hosted by the Diocesan Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force



St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes Barre
35 S Franklin St,
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Last Week's Service and Events

LAST SUNDAY – Last Sunday After Epiphany, February 11, 2024

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

It's a busy week. The February 11, 2024, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham made the announcements, John Warriner served as chaliceist, and Ellen Ely read as lector. Dan and Lynne Graham provided hospitality. .As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.

On February 14, 2024 at 11:30, there was an Ash Wednesday Service, which calls us to a Holy Lent, officiated by Mother Liz. Ashes were imposed.



Pancake Supper

On Tuesday the 13th, we had our annual Strove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thanks as always to the cooks, the set-up folks, the dessert makers, servers and the clean-up crew. It was a great success. We had four griddles going at the same time and used about 350 sausages, 25 dozen eggs, 20 pounds of pancake mix, lots of coffee and orange juice. We delivered 30 take-outs to the Square. It was a lot of work but a lot of fun. Dan forgot to take a group shot of the St.

Paul's folks!



Ashes to Go

On Wednesday, after the Ash Wednesday service, Mother Liz gave "Ashes to Go" on Church Street. It's become a St. Paul's tradition. It looked a little cold.





Happy Valentine's Day

"I made a wish, then you came true."
February 14th was, of course, a special day.
Happy Valentine's Day!. Give your honey a hug!

Sleeping Bags

It's the second Wednesday of the month and John, Carol, Barb, Teddy and Lynne, were the Sleeping Bag crew this week.

Twice a month these hardy sleeping bag makers get together and make sleeping bags. They are always looking for helpers. "If you can tie a knot, you can help make sleeping bags."



Welcome to St. Paul's

Our sign on the inside wall of the Chestnut Street entrance says it all.

MID FEBRUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

While it is February one can taste the full joys of anticipation. Spring stands at the gate with her finger on the latch. Everything's brown. We missed the big snow but it got cold. There was a flock of robins who came early probably wondering why they came. When it gets colder this week, the crocus, daffodils and day lilies that are sticking their heads up early are gonna get zapped. It's February in Susquehanna County.

