The Dean's Corner: Absalom Jones

Born into slavery in Delaware in 1746, Absalom Jones was an abolitionist and evangelist who would found the first black Episcopal congregation, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. Bishop William White ordained Jones as a deacon in 1795 and a priest in 1802 in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The Diocese of Ohio, along with the Wilma Ruth Combs Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, will host its annual Absalom Jones liturgy this year at Trinity Cathedral at 4:00 p.m. this Sunday, February 16.

As I reflect on the importance of this feast day to the Episcopal Church and to Trinity Cathedral, I am struck by the moment in history in which Absalom Jones found himself. He lived at a time when our nation was being formed, shaped by beautiful ideals yet also by our greatest sins of separation and inequality. This was the same time that the Episcopal Church was being formed as a new expression of Anglican Christianity. Indeed, the bishop who ordained Jones was the first Bishop of Pennsylvania and the first Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Read the dean’s entire message here
This Sunday, February 16
The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

Click here for this week’s scripture

The Very Rev. Bernard J. Owens will preach at all morning services
8 a.m. Early Eucharist
9 a.m. Mostly Jazz Mass

Children's Chapel - Children in grades pre-K through 5 are invited to arrive a few minutes early to join the opening procession at the 9 a.m. worship service. We will then gather in the chapel following the opening prayer.
11:15 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Trinity's nursery is open through all morning services and 10:10 a.m. educational offerings

4:00 p.m. Absalom Jones Celebration Service (details below)

---

10:10 a.m. - Sunday School & Youth Group

• Godly Play curriculum for Cathedral Kids in grades pre K - through 3
• Weaving God's Promises curriculum for Cathedral Kids in grades 4-5
  • Youth Group for grades 6-12

All classes take place in the Youth and Family Center on the third floor except for the Pre-K/Kindergarten class, which meets on the first floor by the nursery.

---

10:00 a.m. - Tai Chi

Meet up with Trinity member George Anderson for an hour of tai chi on the cathedral hall stage.

“Think of the circular path of each movement, in tai chi every movement is in curve or circle that has no ending or beginning.” ~Paul Lam
Join Trinity member Bob Fowler for the last class in a three week study of the book *The Forgotten Creed: Christianity's Original Struggle Against Bigotry, Slavery and Racism* by Stephen J. Patterson.

The class will examine how the Bible itself has been used to promote racism, classism, and sexism, even as it also provides shining examples of the vision of the oneness of all of God’s children. You need not have attended the previous classes to participate.

---

Join Becky Fuller and Janet Lechleitner as they hold an interactive forum on *The Way of Love*. This is a great opportunity to reinforce and build on our previous work, or serve as an introduction to those who missed our previous studies on *The Way of Love*.

The Way of Love is an initiative of Presiding Bishop Micael Curry and the Episcopal Church, and is a set of practices to, "return to the ancient pathways and Rules of Life that followers of Jesus have observed for centuries." See [www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love) for more information.

---

Trinity's Green Team will meet in the 2nd floor board room. The group will be
laying out plans for Trinity’s Earth Day celebration in April. All who are interested in caring for the earth are welcome to attend.

12:30 p.m. - Daughters of the King

Trinity’s chapter of The Order of the Daughters of the King® will be discussing chapter 3 of the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry’s book *The Power of Love*. The group will also be helping with the Wall of Love and assisting in setting up the reception for Sunday’s Absalom Jones service.

4:00 p.m. - Absalom Jones Celebration Service

The Wilma Ruth Combs Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Diocese of Ohio will host this year’s Absalom Jones service at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, Ohio. Absalom Jones was the first African American to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. Bishop Arthur Williams Jr. will be the celebrant and the Rev. Ronald C. Byrd, Sr., The Episcopal Church Missioner for Black Ministries, will preach.

Nursery Open with Experienced, Quality Child Care

The Trinity nursery has reopened and will be providing quality child care for children from 3 months old to 4 years old. Sunday nursery hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteer and professional personnel are on hand.

If you or someone you know is interested in being trained as a volunteer for the nursery, please contact Associate for Youth and Family Ministries Allie Heeter at aheeter@trinitycleveland.org.
Thank You For Your Generosity!

HEARTFELT THANKS to our Trinity family for your generous pledges to the stewardship campaign. As of this printing, 179 households are participating, totaling $419,757.

We are also grateful to those who significantly increased their pledge this year. Overall, average pledges were up 31.83% percent. Every gift is appreciated and helps support our ministries.

Pledges are always helpful year-round, and it is not too late to be included. Visit our website to make a pledge or pledge payment or contact Rita Asbury 216-774-0411 or rasbury@trinitycleveland.org.

Adult Catechesis Starts Soon

By popular demand, Trinity will soon be conducting a series of Lenten classes known as catechesis. These classes are for those seeking membership, baptism or confirmation, but they are really for everyone. We encourage each of you to attend, not just those seeking baptism, confirmation or membership.

Our first class, a labyrinth walk to kick off catechesis is scheduled for Sun., Mar. 1 at 10:10 a.m. Most of the classes take place at the Sunday education hour with the addition of an Enneagram quiet day retreat on Sat., Mar. 21.

You can get more details about the catechesis in the Feb. edition of Cathedral
Update on "The Year of the Organ" Challenge Grant Appeal

Since announcing the 50% challenge grant appeal for Trinity's Chancel Organ Project on March 26, $11,480 has been received or pledged toward the appeal goal of $30,000. This is great progress! However, to secure the challenge grant dollars the balance of $18,520 must be received or pledged before April 1, 2020. Please help meet this deadline with a gift payable to Trinity Cathedral with "Organ Project" in the memo line or by sending an email to Dean Owens or Todd Wilson indicating an amount you would like to pledge. Pledges may be honored up to three years. Add your name to the list of those participating in this important enhancement to the music ministry at Trinity. More information is available at the literature table in the promenade.

Nominating Process to Begin

The nominating committee is ready to begin its 2020 work. The appointed vestry members are Marie Kittredge and Janet Lechleitner; the appointed cathedral council members are Dale Murphy and Michael Wells. At the 2019 annual meeting, Mark Bitikofer and Fran Csoma were elected by the congregation to serve on the committee which will be chaired by Dale Murphy.

This year there are 3 slots for vestry members. There are 4 slots for new council members. The congregation will also elect 2 representatives for the 2021 nominating committee.

If you feel you might be called to lay leadership, or if you know someone you might like to nominate for a position, now is the time to think seriously about nominations. Members may nominate themselves or someone they know. For vestry nominations, persons must be received or confirmed in the Episcopal Church.
Church, have a broad knowledge and demonstrated interest in the mission of the cathedral, an understanding of non-profit government, and a commitment to fiduciary responsibility and stewardship. The committee is especially interested in candidates with finance backgrounds, and those with stewardship and development experience.

The congregation will also elect 2 representatives for the 2021 nominating committee. Cathedral council nominees must have a broad knowledge and demonstrated interest in congregational mission and ministry, as well as a commitment to responsible stewardship.

The nominating committee will meet on Feb. 23, nominations will open Feb. 24th and close March 13th. There will be weekly reminders about the nominating process. For more information, please contact Dale Murphy at dale.murphy@sbcglobal.net

---

Spring Ministry Fair

Visit the spring ministry fair on Sun., Feb. 23. Many of Trinity's ministries will be present. Congregants are encouraged to stop by and learn about all of the ministry opportunities available at Trinity. Learn about ministries like the urban farm, green team, The Order of the Daughters of the King®, SoulCollage® and Welcome to America (our refugee ministry). Stop by the tables any time between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to learn more. If you have questions, please contact Dale Murphy at dale.murphy@sbcglobal.net.

---

Tues., Feb. 25 – Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras Celebration
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Come join the pre-Lenten fun on Shrove Tuesday for a New Orleans-style supper of jambalaya, cornbread, salad, beverage and dessert (there will be a kids menu). Jazzy music will be provided by the Gateway Band and a dance floor will be available. We’ll have beads for everyone and a Mardi Gras photo booth, too. Kids can make crafts, and after supper, we will symbolically bury our ‘Alleluias’ for the Lenten season. Suggested donation is $9 for adults, $4 for kids, to help defray costs of the meal and entertainment. If you’d like to attend, please sign up at the table in the Piazza.

Volunteers are needed to help decorate, set up, serve and clean up. If you can help, contact Jan Kelemen at jantkelemen@gmail.com or Ginger Bitikofer at 216-774-0407.

______________________________

**Ash Wednesday Services**

The first day of Lent – Wed., Feb. 26th – will begin with three worship services held at Trinity on Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be imposed on the heads of parishioners as a sign of mortality and penitence. Service times are 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and a 6:00 p.m. choral worship.

______________________________

**Have You Experienced Lent Madness?**

What is Lent Madness? It’s a fun engaging way for everyone to learn about the men and women who are included in the church’s calendar of saints. Starting Wed., Feb. 26, 32 saints are placed into a tournament single elimination bracket, like NCAA March Madness. You learn more as the tournament progresses all the way to the semifinal and final contenders and ultimately one saint earns the coveted golden halo.
All congregation members are invited to participate. It's easy to join and it's free. Find out more at www.lentmadness.org or on Facebook or Twitter. Lent Madness is sponsored by Forward Movement, the religious education resource that publishes Forward Day by Day. Stop by the Lent Madness table in the promenade to learn more. Talk with Lent Madness enthusiasts Sally Lambert, (216) 371-2168, salambert25@gmail.com and Debbie Hunter.

---

**Friar Friday Fish Fries**

In 2019, Trinity members began a new Lenten tradition to find the best fish fry in greater Cleveland. They visited many local churches for dinner, made friends and kept track of the best fish in the city.

This year, the Friar Fridays will begin on Fri., Feb. 28, the first Friday in Lent. Subsequent events will be held on Fridays including Mar. 6, Mar. 13, Mar., 20, Mar. 27 and Apr. 3.

If you're interested in attending one or more of these events, contact Bill DiTirro at bdt8320@sbcglobal.net to get on the mailing list. Each Sunday, you will receive an invitation to the next Friday's fish fry. The time and location for the following week's fish fry will be determined after dinner each Friday and emailed on Sunday.

---

**Support Cuyahoga County Crisis Centers**

We are asking for volunteers to take part in our latest action Thurs., Feb. 27 at 7:00 p.m. We are advocating the creation of 2 or more pre-arrest crisis centers in Cuyahoga County. The gathering will take place at Olivet Institutional Baptist Church (8712 Quincy Ave., Cleveland.)

These centers are places where the police could drop someone off who is in a
mental or emotional crisis rather than arresting the person and putting them in jail. Subjects would be assessed and treated instead of arrested and jailed, helping to combat the overcrowding issues at the Cuyahoga County jail. Several of the key players including county prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley, chief judge Brendan J. Sheehan and the majority of the Cuyahoga County council are supporting the creation of these mental health centers.

Trinity has committed to 50 people attending the action. Can you be one? If you have questions and/or you would like to attend this action, please contact Gary Benjamin at garyabenjamin@aol.com, benjaminlawohio@gmail.com or (313) 590-6136.

---

**Holy Conversations**

This new Wednesday evening offering will take place once each month following evensong. The dates are Feb. 19, Mar. 18 and Apr. 22. These conversations are an invitation for you to practice holy curiosity and listening through a prompt based on the topics put forth by Dean Owens's vision for Trinity: **Holiness, Witness and Transformation**.

Starting over supper, each conversation will take place from 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. In the midst of a conversation, pay attention to the other person's story, experience, values, beliefs, struggles, passion, pain and joy so that when it is time for you to share your own story, you will be better prepared to truly connect with your conversation partner.

---

**Be a Peacemaker – Read Up on EPF's Action Guide**

Trinity's EPF chapter has come out with a new February action guide. View the guide [here](#).
If you have thoughts or questions, contact Bruce Freeman freeman.bruce@gmail.com or Debbie Hunter hunterd16@roadrunner.com.

---

Thanks for Your Donations from the Wall of Love

The people behind our Wall of Love want to let everyone know the team is grateful for all the donations that have been dropped off. At this time, we're unable to accept monetary donations. However, donations of the warm winter items to put up on the wall are greatly appreciated. We are now focusing on donations of just the following items:

- Warm gloves
- Winter hats
- Warm Scarves
- Hand warmers
- Chapstick
- Sweatshirts
- One gallon and two gallon zipper bags

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Morrison at jlmorrison611@gmail.com.

---

Vestry Seeking Treasurer Candidates

Tim Espy is approaching the end of his term as Trinity treasurer and cannot be re-elected. Therefore, vestry is in need of a treasurer. In order to be treasurer, the candidate must be a member of vestry. The preferred candidates should have financial budgeting and planning experience. If you are interested, please contact Tim Espy (tgespy@gmail.com) or any member of Vestry by April 15, 2020.

---

Youth & Family Ministry
Middle school students in grades 6 through 8 are invited to come together for community and fellowship as we dig deeper into the purpose of Lent. The event will take place Fri., Mar. 27 through Sun., Mar. 29.

During Lent, all Christians are asked to explore how we live into our faith. Let's come together to make friends and learn how we can be more true to ourselves – through art, adventure, and worship. Step out of your comfort zone and breathe in new opportunities!

Youth or parents can register by March 26 at dohio.org/lockin. For questions, please contact Allie Heeter at aheeter@trinitycleveland.org.

---

**Music & Art at Trinity**

---

**Choral Evensong**

Since the first book of Common Prayer in 1549, Choral Evensong has been an evening offering sung in cathedrals and churches of the Anglican communion.

On Wed. Feb. 19, we will commemorate saint Martin Luther. The Rev. Peter Faass will give the homily and the high voices of the cathedral choir will sing Service: *Francis Jackson in C*.

The service will be followed by a soup and salad supper (catered by Luna Bakery/Café) at 7:00 p.m. This week's soup is Italian wedding soup and a vegan alternative will also be prepared. Suggested donation is $6 per person.

For a complete listing of choral evensong services through May, please visit trinitycleveland.org/evensong.
BrownBag Concerts

Our popular BrownBag concerts, held Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, will resume this week on Wed. Feb. 19 with a performance by the guitar students of The Cleveland Institute of Music. The BrownBag concert schedule runs through late spring and can be viewed at www.MusicandArtatTrinity.org, then scroll down for details.

Bring a lunch, purchase one at the cathedral for $7 or dine after the concert at neighboring Elements Bistro, which provides a discount coupon in the BrownBag program.

Trinity's Organ Scholar

In last week's story about Trinity organ scholar Daniel Colaner, we provided a broken link. Our apologies!

Daniel recently recorded a live performance and interview for the NPR radio program From the Top. His performance of “Jupiter” from Gustav Holst’s The Planets was featured in show #377 on WCLV radio. You can listen at the corrected link https://www.fromthetop.org/musician/daniel-colaner/

Save the Dates

Feb. 18 - Vestry meeting
Feb. 22 - SoulCollage® workshop
Feb. 29 - TrebleFest
Mar. 4 - Lenten morning prayer services begin
In the Diocese

Summer Camp at Bellwether Farm

Bellwether Farm summer camp is an opportunity for campers to immerse themselves in fun, engaging outdoor activities. These programs will seek to teach healthy social, nutritional, and environmental practices, while providing a safe context in which to encounter God's beautiful creation. Campers will have an opportunity to learn about organic gardening, animal care, and creative cooking. They will also participate in traditional camp activities, including swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, fishing, and field games. The Bellwether Farm staff is invested in the life of every camper, seeking to inspire future generations to become passionate leaders in the world around them.

Registration is open. Register by March 15 and enter promo code WORM to receive $25 off.

In the Community

The Rev. Adrienne Koch to Participate in Women of Faith Panel Discussion

Our own the Rev. Adrienne Koch will be speaking as part of a panel presentation Wed., Mar. 4 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Cuyahoga Community College, 2900 Community College Ave., Cleveland. The panel, "Women of Faith: A Panel Discussion on Diversity, Gender and Inclusion in the 21st Century," is being held on the occasion of Women's History Month in March. Other participants on the panel include Stacy Schlein, Rabbi and Director of Learning at the Temple Tibereth Israel,
the Rev. Lillian Laboy, pastor of West Park Elim Church, the Rev. Andrea Jacobs, director of spiritual care, OhioGuidestone and the Rev. Cathy Lawrence, chaplain and pastor of Parkvue Senior Living Community. Registration is required as seating is limited. Please register at www.tri-c.edu/womenoffaith.

Submit Your News for Publication

The deadline to submit program updates or events for This Week @ Trinity, is the Tuesday before each Thursday publication date. Please send news to sblanchard@trinitycleveland.org

Deadline for items to be included in the March Cathedral Connections newsletter is Fri., Feb. 21. You can read the current issue of Cathedral Connections online, or pick up a printed copy available throughout the Cathedral. Please contact Scott Blanchard at sblanchard@trinitycleveland.org to receive a printed copy at home.

The mission of Trinity Cathedral is to proclaim in word and action God's justice, love and mercy for all creation.

www.trinitycleveland.org
trinity@trinitycleveland.org