

FEBRUARY 2025

THE MESSENGER

St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA



Shout out to our amazing Angel Tree Coordinators: Annie Lattanzio and Anne Carroll and their teenagers, Em, Sophia, Helena and Evie! Christmas comes and goes so swiftly that it seems we might forget to thank all the behind the scenes work that our Annual Angel Tree Gift Giving requires ♥ St. John's continues to bless many, because of you. Gracias.

NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

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A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR



Dear St. John's,

Over the past several weeks, I've found myself drawn to a quote I was introduced to years ago when I was studying in seminary. A loose translation of the Pirkei Avot, it reads :

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.
You are not obligated to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it...”

When the world feels heavy, when there are more questions than answers, when fear is palpable, we would be wise to remember these holy words. We are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are we free to abandon it. We have the holy responsibility to shed light where darkness prevails. As followers of Jesus and the Way of Love, we are responsible for acting NOW. Where can you seek justice, right now? Can you speak up for the those who are marginalized or afraid by giving voice to their concerns? Could you show mercy to a neighbor by offering compassion, forgiveness, or by recognizing their dignity and worth as God's beloved? Might there be a more humble step you could take in a conversation with a family member, loved one, or, even better yet, a stranger?



Walking in the Way of Love will break your heart, friends because our faith prevents us from turning a blind's eye to the grief of others, and yet, we walk on anyway trusting that God's very spirit will breath new life into the world around us. And what's more, God desires to use our voices, our hands, our hearts to ease that grief and to help restore what is broken. So lean in to the grace of our Redeemer, knowing the God of light and love has given you every good and perfect gift to do your part right here, right now....

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Souper Bowl of Caring

Sponsored by our St. John's Youth

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Most of us are at least somewhat aware that a football game is being played on February 9. Years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring started at a church in South Carolina with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This prayer has inspired a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

In 2024, we helped to feed people 9,071 people of all ages: 3,288 children, 4,508 adults, and 1,275 seniors. We spent \$30,394 in 2024 to purchase nutritious food, in addition to the items generously donated by our parishioners and some local churches or other organizations that don't run food pantry ministries of their own but want to help our neighbors. When you donate money to the food pantry, we're able to stretch those dollars by ordering from the Central PA Food Bank (at wholesale price or drastically reduced prices), and carefully shopping at some local stores.

On "Souper Bowl" Sunday, our youth will host a soup luncheon following the 2nd service to raise funds for our Food Pantry.

- **Donate (envelopes provided in the pews and in the Parish Hall).**
- **Stay for a fun luncheon of soup and extras.**
- **Can't stay? Take-out soup will be available.**

Questions? Contact Sue Dodge or Marion Wear for more information.

**Thank You
For Your**



**St. John's
Support!**

DIOCESAN EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED!

Celebrating the Feast of Absalom Jones

with Dr. Catherine Meeks
February 14-15, 2025



Welcome Reception with Dr. Meeks and Afro-Centric Evensong

Friday, February 14 | Reception 4 p.m., Evensong 6 p.m. | St. Stephen's Cathedral, 221 N. Front Street, Harrisburg

Celebrate the Feast Day of the first Black Episcopal Priest, Absalom Jones, with a time of worship and fellowship. We will begin with a welcome reception with Dr. Meeks, followed by a service of Evensong and Afro-Centric music.

The Love Awards and Luncheon

Saturday, February 15 | 10 a.m. | St. Paul's, 248 Seneca Street, Harrisburg

The weekend continues with the Absalom Jones Contest and Dr. George H. Love Youth Awards Ceremony, which offers students an opportunity to reflect on the saint's legacy. The contest invites students to explore how Jones's journey – from enslaved person to community leader – can inspire their own responses to human rights challenges today. This will be followed by a luncheon with Dr. Meeks at St. Paul's.

Register on the diocesan webpage: www.diocesecentralpa.org

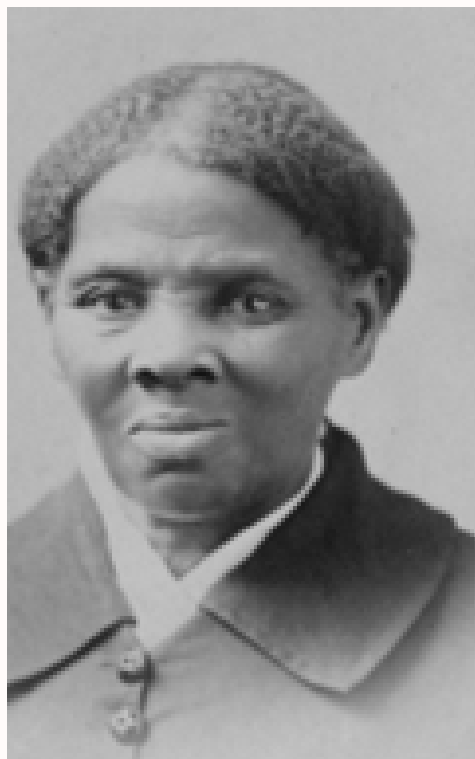
MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Three special African American women and their music

For the month of February, my focus in music at St. John's will be on African American composers...organ music, hymns and anthems that draw attention to the musical gifts and message of African Americans.



Each week, I will be playing a prelude on the organ that was composed by Florence Price. She was the first African American woman composer to have her classical symphony performed by Chicago Symphony orchestra early in the 20th century. Her music besides being classically created, has nuances, harmonies and rhythms that one finds in the music of the spiritual.



In addition to focusing on an African American woman composer, I will be looking at the person of Harriet Tubman. She was an amazing woman born into slavery in Maryland, and who is responsible for the freeing of many slaves in the south through means of the underground railroad which ran into Pennsylvania. Her love of music, particularly that of gospel hymns is found in a concrete way through a collection of songs that was put together by Ira Sankey, the organist song leader for the Evangelist Dwight Moody. Her favorite hymnal, which is a little volume of 111 pages, is now at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. A copy of that little songbook, which is identical to the one that is now at the Smithsonian, will be on display as will a picture that was painted and is quite famous, of her leading escaping slaves.

I encourage you to listen and become part of this month's Black History month in a musical way. Each week as the presentation hymn, we will sing the most wonderful song with melody and rhythm that lifts one up, entitled "Lift every voice and sing". In addition to the organ music of Florence Price and several of her art songs which will be sung as part of worship, I will also be playing works found in a five volume collection of contemporary African American Organ composers. Let's celebrate the wonders of music as inspired by both the hopes and struggles yet present today in African American culture.

MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH CONTINUED



I close with a story about my good friend Dr Maxine Garrett, an African American woman who had accomplished great things from when she was a simple bank teller in Chicago raising four children on her own after her husband's suicide. She worked her way up into the banking world and in spite of being a black person and a woman, she became senior vice president of the International division of Riggs bank In Washington, DC. She was largely responsible for all of the embassies in Washington having their bank accounts at this important bank. Each month I went to the bank and to her office to serve as the house calligrapher that would hand calligraph national day cards for all of the embassies. The cards are not simple cards but cards with 14 karat gold embossed Riggs Bank images and edging on the cards.

When I would come into Maxine's office to do calligraphy and she would host various ambassadors such as President Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, (who I had the honor of meeting). I would on occasion, hear her begin to sing. When she was singing in her office, I knew not to bother her. I once asked her what was she singing and why was she singing. Her answer to me was that she was singing hymns and was doing so to sing her cares away as her mama taught her to do when she was a child. Sing your cares away is so important a part of what we do together each Sunday. We sing to lift each other up, we sing to prayer, we sing to praise and we sing to bring the message of Christ to each other and even to a wider world as people watch our broadcast on YouTube or Facebook. Remember your singing voice, no matter how mediocre it might be, is important to be heard as we sing together. So, in the cold month of February, remember sing for joy sing for love sing for comfort sing for release. Blessings.

Compassionate God,
who sent Jesus Christ to deliver us
from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,
to see the image of God in every person
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending racism and injustice;
creating communities of human flourishing,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FINANCIALS BY CHARLES WEAR, TREASURER

Contributions for the year were \$6.8k ahead of last year but \$15.1k below budget. Two unbudgeted bequests totaling \$32.5k, along with below budget spending, enabled us to end the year with an operating surplus of \$17.1k.

A new sound system for the sanctuary, funded by a \$10k anonymous gift, was installed in December. Gross sales of \$10.9k were realized from the Makers Market, which netted a profit of \$9.8k. \$5.0k was allocated to the church general fund with the balance to St. John's food pantry.

Yearend reconciliation resulted in a net transfer of \$9.7k from our operating books to restricted accounts. Notable restricted account gains were \$5.2k for Concord 209 (deferred maintenance) and \$11.8k for the food pantry (\$4.8k of which came from the Makers Market).

Capital gifts of \$28.5k were received in December, bringing the total gifts for the project to \$716.7k. Bequests and pre-campaign savings applied to the project bring the grand total received to \$829.7k. An additional \$273.8k in pledges is outstanding, leaving a gap of about \$50-100k needed to totally fund the project. The last payment of \$25.4k was made in December to J&G, our HVAC contractor. Other expenses in the month included \$1.1k for patch and repair work and our monthly loan service of \$5.8k to the Diocese. Total project spend to date is \$976.5k.

St. John's Episcopal Church Church Operating Income Statement

December 2024 vs 2023

Cash Basis in \$000's

| | 2023 | | | 2024 | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Actual Dec | Actual Full Yr | Budget Full Yr | Actual Dec | Actual Full Yr | Budget Full Yr |
| Income | | | | | | |
| Pledge Income | \$31.9 | \$405.2 | \$415.0 | \$43.8 | \$420.6 | \$428.4 |
| Other Contributions | \$16.8 | \$70.8 | \$50.5 | \$21.2 | \$62.2 | \$69.5 |
| Investment Draws | \$0.0 | \$63.6 | \$63.6 | \$0.0 | \$66.3 | \$66.3 |
| Other Income | (\$38.4) | \$25.5 | \$20.7 | \$3.0 | \$75.5 | \$22.3 |
| Jubilee | (\$22.5) | \$8.4 | \$23.9 | \$15.8 | \$48.8 | \$25.5 |
| Income to Transfer | \$1.4 | \$1.5 | \$0.0 | (\$49.2) | (\$49.2) | \$0.0 |
| Total Income | (\$10.8) | \$575.0 | \$573.7 | \$34.6 | \$624.3 | \$612.0 |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| Clergy | \$22.9 | \$241.3 | \$247.0 | 19.6 | \$255.7 | \$265.3 |
| Lay Staff | \$10.2 | \$99.6 | \$116.5 | 11.9 | \$106.8 | \$102.6 |
| Vestry/Finance/Comm | \$3.2 | \$32.6 | \$27.6 | \$4.2 | \$36.3 | \$34.2 |
| Utilities | \$3.7 | \$49.6 | \$39.2 | \$1.1 | \$38.7 | \$41.6 |
| Building Repairs & Supplies | \$4.6 | \$38.8 | \$33.6 | \$9.4 | \$35.2 | \$33.1 |
| Other Property | \$2.7 | \$30.1 | \$28.9 | \$3.0 | \$33.6 | \$31.1 |
| Worship/Ed/Community | (\$11.4) | \$20.1 | \$17.2 | \$6.0 | \$45.7 | \$13.8 |
| Outreach | \$12.9 | \$67.9 | \$64.6 | 6.8 | \$62.1 | \$62.3 |
| Jubilee | (\$21.3) | \$8.6 | \$34.2 | \$3.1 | \$37.8 | \$28.1 |
| Expenses to Transfer | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | (\$44.7) | (\$44.7) | \$0.0 |
| Total Expenses | \$27.5 | \$588.6 | \$608.7 | \$20.5 | \$607.2 | \$612.0 |
| Net Total | (\$38.3) | (\$13.6) | (\$35.0) | \$14.1 | \$17.1 | \$0.0 |

IMMIGRATION CLINIC FROM THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER

The Parish Resource Center and CWS Lancaster are partnering with the broader community to help stop deportations in Pennsylvania - we need your help!

Many immigrants face immigration court without a lawyer. Beginning in March, we will host weekly evening legal clinics to support immigrant community members who are fighting against deportation alone. Our clinic will provide legal consultations, education to better understand immigration court and the defenses against deportation, and assistance completing and filing applications for those defenses. We'll help people apply for asylum and work on requests to get people out of immigration detention.

We need you! You don't need to have legal training or experience to volunteer. We are looking for volunteers to help with everything from interpretation and translation to childcare to assistance with document preparation. Come to a volunteer orientation to learn more about how you can help.

New volunteer orientation trainings will be held monthly. The first volunteer training will be Saturday, February 15th from 9-10:30am at the Parish Resource Center - 2160 Lincoln Hwy E #18, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Register by clicking here: [Volunteer Training](#) or by contacting the church office at office@stjohns-lancaster.org



Parish
Resource
Center



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and we can never know when angels are in our midst.

Global Partnership Challenge for February 2nd

“Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive.” Dalai Lama

Global Partnership Challenge for February 9th

“There is no such thing as Jew and Greek, slave and freeman, male and female; for you are all one person in Christ Jesus.” (Gal 3:28). And you are ALL loved! Let us follow that example and share our caring, regardless of any differences. Great cardiac healing for ALL.

Global Partnership Challenge for February 16th

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting improve the world.” Anne Frank. Our Food Pantry improves our community every week in feeding with food and love. Any offering is an example of your caring to SO many.

Global Partnership Challenge for February 23rd

The smallest act of kindness could be huge to the unexpected - food, shoes, smiles, socks...



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Garth Alexander
- 2 Alice Ogwang
- 3 Sue Zuke
- 4 Rosemary Coverly
- 7 Ben Webber
- 8 Dan Farmer
- 8 Matt MacDougall
- 9 Ron Wenger
- 10 Teresa Sullivan
- 11 Ryan Olah
- 12 Nancy Brenton
- 12 Scott Qualls
- 13 Joe Way
- 14 Greyson Way
- 16 Joe Thompson
- 17 Carolyn Maxey
- 18 Susan Burlingame
- 18 Tom Hobbins
- 19 Sean Cliff
- 19 Mary Glazier
- 21 Emma Di Pace
- 22 Andy Carroll
- 24 Kate Springer
- 25 Caleb Knouse
- 28 Anne Carroll
- 28 Wade Hinkle

ANNIVERSARIES

- Liz & Paul West 18
Janice & Kevin Henry 20

OUR FRIENDS AT HOME

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane, Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield, Sandy Grove, Darlene Bentley, Peggy Zuke

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Alex Kelly, Brooks Morgan, Brian Hobbins, Joshua Watkins, Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater, David Wolfe

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Pat Pankey, Nancy Strasburg, Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Richard Anderson, Collin, Liz Kryder Reid, Eileen Waite, Andrew Wright, Marshall, Sandy Patrone, Carol



Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR PANCAKE SUPPER!

Pancake Supper!

Tuesday, March 4 from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM



Meals include pancakes, sausage,
fruit, butter & syrup.

Free will donations are requested to support
our J2A Youth Ministries!

Take-out orders are also accepted. You can place your
orders in advance by emailing the church office at
office@stjohns-lancaster.org.

February 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>26 Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II</p> | <p>27 12:00pm NA 5:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00pm SLAA</p> | <p>28 1:30pm Marthas Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 6:00pm AA (AP)</p> | <p>29 12:00pm Holy Eucharist w/ Healing 12:00pm NA 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>30 9:00am Morning Prayer 1:00pm AA 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>31 Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p> | <p>1 11:00am Funeral for Carole Humphrey 1:00pm AA</p> |
| <p>2 Birthdays & Anniversaries Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 2:00pm EtM</p> | <p>3 12:00pm NA 4:30pm Trans Loving Community 6:00pm Ministres Council 7:00pm SLAA</p> | <p>4 1:30pm Marthas Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 5:00pm Executive Committee 6:00pm AA (AP)</p> | <p>5 12:00pm Holy Eucharist w/ Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>6 9:00am Morning Prayer 10:00am Worship 1:00pm AA 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>7 Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p> | <p>8 12:30pm Citizen's Climate Lobby Group 1:00pm AA</p> |
| <p>9 Coffee hour after each service Souper Bowl of Carings! 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 2:00pm EtM</p> | <p>10 12:00pm NA 4:00pm Caring Ministry Meeting 7:00pm SLAA</p> | <p>11 1:30pm Marthas Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 4:00pm Finance Committee 6:00pm AA (AP)</p> | <p>12 12:00pm Holy Eucharist w/ Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>13 9:00am Morning Prayer 1:00pm AA 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>14 Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA 4:00pm Afro-Centric Evensong with Dr. Meeks</p> | <p>15 9:00am Community Breakfast (First Reformed) 1:00pm AA</p> |
| <p>16 Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 12:00pm Vestry Meeting 2:00pm EtM 3:00pm Funeral for Debbie Carter</p> | <p>17 12:00pm NA 7:00pm SLAA</p> | <p>18 1:30pm Marthas Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 6:00pm AA (AP)</p> | <p>19 12:00pm Holy Eucharist w/ Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>20 9:00am Morning Prayer 1:00pm AA 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>21 Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p> | <p>22 1:00pm AA</p> |
| <p>23 Coffee hour after each service 8:00am Holy Eucharist: Rite I 9:15am Sunday School 10:15am Holy Eucharist: Rite II 2:00pm EtM</p> | <p>24 12:00pm NA 5:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 7:00pm SLAA</p> | <p>25 MESSENGER DUE 1:30pm Marthas Ministry 2:30pm Food Pantry 6:00pm AA (AP)</p> | <p>26 12:00pm Holy Eucharist w/ Healing 12:00pm NA 2:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>27 9:00am Morning Prayer 1:00pm AA 2:30pm Food Pantry 7:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>28 Rector's Day Off 12:00pm NA</p> | <p>1 1:00pm AA</p> |