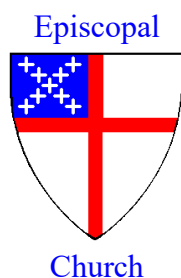


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbansyracuse.org
Facebook: stalbanschurhsyr
Church email: stalbans.syr@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
Email: julieatalban@gmail.com
Cell: 315-416-7133



Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Facebook: emmanueleastsyracuse
Email: emmanuel13057@gmail.com
Website: emmanueleastsyracuse.org

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

February 6, 2024

East Side Episcopalians 2024 Lenten Program

St. David's, DeWitt, The Rev. Dr. Daniel Handschy, Rector
Emmanuel, East Syracuse, The Rev. Julie Calhoun-Bryant, Priest-in-Charge
St. Alban's, Syracuse, The Rev. Julie Calhoun-Bryant, Rector

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 13

5:00-7:00 p.m. Emmanuel, \$5 suggested donation



Ash Wednesday Services, February 14

3:00 p.m. Emmanuel with Mother Julie

7:00 p.m. St. David's, Mother Julie preaching, Father Dan celebrating,
and St. Alban's organist, Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas

Tuesday Night Lenten Dinners and Book Study (also on Zoom)

February 20, 27 and March 5: St. David's
March 12 and 19: Emmanuel, with help from St. Alban's

Book: Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and
the Teachings of Plants, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

5:30-6:15 pm Simple Supper, \$5 - Please sign up to attend!
5:45-6:15 pm Eat & Chat on Zoom
6:15-7:00 pm Book Study (one section per week)

Maundy Thursday at Emmanuel

6:00 p.m. Lamb and Chicken Dinner, with help from St. Alban's & St. David's
7:00 p.m. Foot Washing, then Holy Eucharist (also on Zoom)

Good Friday

12:00 p.m. at St. Alban's with Mother Julie
7:00 p.m. at St. David's with Father Dan

Epiphany 5: Mark 1:29-29 (Mother Julie's sermon on February 3/4)

It is very early in Jesus' ministry. He has only called 4 of his disciples. Earlier in the day Jesus taught in the synagogue, where people were amazed at the authority of his teaching. While he was speaking a man with an evil spirit interrupted him and Jesus ordered the spirit out of the man. After that Jesus and his four disciples went to Peter's house. When he was told that Peter's mother-in-law was ill with a fever Jesus took her by the hand, the fever left her, and she got up and served them. It is now sundown and the sabbath has ended. Everyone in town who has a family member who is sick has brought them to Jesus to be healed. And Jesus healed them all.

It's now very early the next morning. Jesus rises before dawn and leaves Peter's house to find a place where he can be alone to pray. Why do you think this detail of Jesus' schedule was remembered and recorded? One scholar suggests that "perhaps exhausted, and no doubt sensing that something is amiss, Jesus takes a break. He goes ...to a deserted place, for it is in the place of silence ...where the voice of God is most often heard. Jesus withdraws in order to hear the voice of [his father]. And he hears something different than what [Peter] and his companions hear. He hears something different than what the remaining sufferers hear outside of [Peter's] house. He hears a call on his life that goes beyond being helpful. ...He hears the call to be faithful."

It's much easier to be helpful than it is to be faithful. Helpful is a onetime act; faithful is a lifelong commitment. It would have been so easy for Jesus to go back with Peter to his house and heal the rest of the town. It's what everyone in Capernaum wanted him to do. But it is not what God wanted him to do. Jesus likely went out to pray in the morning darkness because he knew he was in danger of getting off track and needed clarification of God's will for his life. And so, instead of going back with Peter, Jesus tells those who have been searching for him, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." It's much easier to be helpful than it is to be faithful. But Jesus wasn't in town to be a local celebrity; he was there to proclaim the nearness of the Kingdom of God.

Getting side-tracked is so easy to do. Even those with the best of intentions do it. We get side-tracked in our conversations and go off on a tangent. We get side-tracked in searching for something in another room, by the phone, by any number of things. Most of the time getting back on track requires nothing more than an "Oops, did it again." Sometimes, though, it can mean changing our lives.

Our lives can become controlled by any number of things - the quest for money, the quest for recognition, the quest for children, even, - as might have happened to Jesus - the quest to serve God. It didn't happen to Jesus because he kept in daily contact with God to make sure that it didn't. In next week's Gospel Jesus will have a conversation with Moses and Elijah about what he is to do when he gets to Jerusalem. He keeps the line of communication with God open to avoid becoming side-tracked.

Winter Mission Project at Both Parishes
InterFaith Works Food Drive
For 25+ Local food pantries

January - March

Pasta and Sauce
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Canned Vegetables
Soups/Ramen
Ensure
Cake mix/frosting



Canned Tuna/Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Cereal/Oatmeal
Baby formula
Pancake mix/syrup
Flour and sugar
Mayo
Shelf Stable Milk

Mother Julie's sermon continued

How do we keep from getting side-tracked? Ask yourself these three questions:

- #1 Who am I?
- #2 Why did God put me here?
- #3 What is it that God wants me to do?

Who are you? You are a beloved child of God, created to be loved by God. That is your core identity. Everything else is just icing on the cake.

Why did God put you here? God put you here to be loved by others. God also put you here to be a lover of people. In whatever it is you do, you are to love those whom God has placed around you - not be nice to them, love them. This is hard work.

What is it that God wants you to do? This is between you and God, but there are a number of ways to find the answer to this question. Prayer is the first and most important way. The more you pray the easier it becomes to recognize when God is speaking to you. Consulting with those we consider to be our "spiritual elders" is another way. Coming to church week by week and being part of a worshipping community is vital too. Living out your faith in the days in between plays a key part as well. And remember, if being faithful was easy, it wouldn't require so much work!

Pray. Be a lover of people. Seek to be faithful. In this way you will best serve our Lord. Amen.

From Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

I am writing to invite you, your congregation, and all Episcopalians to honor the life and work of Blessed Absalom Jones by making a gift to the Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). In 1804, Absalom Jones became the first African American to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. We celebrate his life and accomplishments each year on February 13.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I ask that you consider making a gift or dedicating a plate offering in your parish this year to support the Absalom Jones Fund. Since the Church established the fund in 2018 a third of all Episcopal Dioceses, 65 parishes, and hundreds of generous individuals have donated. I am profoundly grateful.

Many faithful Episcopalians have been asking me what they can do to make a real difference. One way to make that difference is to invest in a better future for young people. HBCUs create dynamic and empowering education environments for college students from diverse backgrounds. Now more than ever, these institutions need your support. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and may God bless you and keep you and your loved ones.

Keep the faith,

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Primate and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

From episcopalchurch.org/development/HBCU (donations can be made here)

What is the Absalom Jones Fund?

The Absalom Jones Fund for Episcopal HBCUs supports two institutions affiliated with The Episcopal Church since the 1800s: Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina.

In 1804, Absalom Jones became the first African American to be ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. His witness to the way of Jesus included efforts to abolish slavery and to lift up all those cast down. He understood that education is the key to empowerment. We honor Absalom Jones by supporting our HBCUs, which prepare the talented leaders who will continue the work of building a more just and humane society.

What is an HBCU?

Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) were founded to create dynamic, supportive, and empowering educational environments for young people from diverse backgrounds. Today there are more than 100 HBCUs in the United States, including public and private institutions and professional schools of law and medicine. According to a study published by the United Negro College Fund, today's historically Black colleges and universities are responsible for producing approximately 70% of all Black doctors and dentists, 50% of Black engineers and public school teachers, and 35% of Black lawyers.

(continued)

Why support our Episcopal HBCUs?

Voorhees University and Saint Augustine's provide an excellent liberal arts education to thousands of students, the majority of whom come from low-income households, and over 40% of whom are the first in their families to attend a four-year college. The Gospel work of education and emancipation, evangelism and formation, reconciliation and commitment to a just and humane society and world is happening at these schools! Yet in today's economic and political climate, HBCUs increasingly struggle to secure the funds they need to maintain their facilities, retain excellent faculty, and provide much-needed student financial aid.

Mail Checks to: Absalom Jones Fund
The Episcopal Church
815 2nd Avenue
New York, NY 10017

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Tuesday, Feb. 13 Emmanuel 5:00-7:00 p.m. Pancake & Sausage Supper, \$5

Wednesday Emmanuel * 2:00 p.m. Bible Study

Saturday Emmanuel * 4:15 p.m.: Coffee Hour
5:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, Church School on Feb. 10
& 24

Sunday St. Alban's * 8:30 a.m.: Bible Study
* 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m.: Mardi Gras on February 11

* also on Zoom

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel: **812 9701 3112 & 381729**

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: **825 2837 9378 & 695433**

9:30 a.m. St. Alban's: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **849 7442 6644 & 031228**

Wednesday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study: **840 0349 8213 & 586548**