

PRAYER LIST

Let us pray...

...in thanksgiving for the members of our congregation: Patrice Rohde, Renae Rohde, Frank Santora, Jean Santora.

...for those who travel or are absent for a time: June and Gary Leyland; Cindy Shoemaker.

...for support and protection for those who serve our country at home and abroad: Mike Busey, Christopher Walker, Steven Mattingly, Sam Gray, Wes Dyson, Michael Petrusic, and Thomas J. Hunt.

...for those in need of God's healing grace: Missy Bowie; Chris Bowie; Kathy Doyle; Lindy Lynch; Erin Macri; Tom Saxton; *Our continuing prayers are offered for:* Hope Cameron; Conor Doyle; George Dyson; Butch Helwig; Carol Hindle; Dian Lockamy; Buddy Linton; Sam Linton; Rhonda McGraw; Jeanne Read; Jean Santora; Rose Speake; Joan Shoemaker; Roy Squires; The Rev. Arnold Taylor; Lisa Tuono; Luci Wright.

The Diocese of Washington cycle of prayer: Diocesan Commission on Ministry; all seminaries, seminarians, and seminary professors; postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; Pray in thanksgiving for the life and witness of Absalom Jones (February 13). **The Anglican Communion cycle of prayer:** The Anglican Church of Canada, The Most Revd Frederick Hiltz - Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget that these announcements can also be found on the church website, OldDurham.org. You can view them in the calendar (look under "About Us" in the upper left) or view the service bulletin via the "Bulletin Announcements" button. When you read them on line, you can follow the links to websites mentioned in the announcements.

Adult Forum: Please join us at 9:15am in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings for coffee, learning, and thought-provoking discussion.

Coffee Hour: The Daughters of the King will host a Coffee Hour after church today.

Pastoral Care Team will meet today after church in the Parish Hall.

Ladies Mites Society will meet on Tues., Feb. 12 at 1:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Joe's Place Food Pantry distributions are on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 4:30 to 6pm in the Parish Hall. The next distributions are Feb. 14 and 28. Volunteers are always welcome to sort and distribute food to our neighbors. Contact: John Welch.

Health and Wellness Ministry Discernment Group will meet Tues., Feb. 19 at 11am in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group: the next meetings of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will be on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6pm and Feb 27 at 2:30pm.

Safeguarding God's Children: The spring training sessions for Safeguarding God's Children have been scheduled. This training is recommended for all church leaders. Safeguarding God's Children provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and the ministries in which they serve. [Registration is open](#) for all workshops through May, and can be found here: www.edow.org/forms-and-resources/safe-church, or looking under Resources and Forms>Safe Church on the diocesan website, edow.org.

The Southern Maryland training session will be held Saturday, April 13: St. Andrews, Leonardstown, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Other sessions are on Feb 9 in Kensington, Feb 23 in Georgetown, March 2 in Silver Spring, March 9 at St. Timothy's, D.C., and May 9 in Hyattsville.

Special Parish Meeting: On March 3 after church we will hold a special Parish Meeting to elect

two new members to the Vestry. Millie Hamman and Bill White are concluding their years of Vestry service, and in to bring us into compliance with our new by-laws (approved by the parish last November) we will be electing two new Vestry members in March 2019, November 2019, and March 2020. A list of parish members entitled to vote in next month's election is posted in the Parish Hall and is available from the Vestry Secretary. If you have any questions about the list, please contact Rev. Catharine or Senior Warden Rick Posey.

Diocesan News: If you are not receiving the Diocese of Washington's newsletter, you might want to sign up for it. It typically contains a reflection from Bishop Mariann along with news about diocesan plans and events, as well as functions at other parishes. Especially now with the diocese entering into a strategic planning process, there's a lot to keep up with! Sign up [here](http://www.edow.org/news-events) : www.edow.org/news-events or under News and Events on the diocesan webpage, edow.org.

OF NOTE IN THE WIDER CHURCH

Absalom Jones Offering

In honor of Black History Month and Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has invited Episcopalians everywhere to deepen our participation in Christ's ministry of reconciliation by engaging with and supporting Episcopal Historically Black Colleges and Universities, known as HBCUs.

Congregations and individuals are urged to dedicate the offering from their observance of the Feast of Absalom Jones (February 13) to support the two Episcopal HBCUs: St. Augustine's University in Raleigh, N.C., and Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C. "These schools bring educational, economic, and social opportunity to often resource-poor communities, and they offer many blessings into the life of the Episcopal Church," Bishop Curry said. Donations to the HBCUs will provide much-needed help to offer competitive scholarships and financial aid, attract and retain exceptional faculty, support cutting-edge faculty research, install new and upgraded technology campus-wide, and provide state-of-the-art classroom and athletic equipment.

"The Episcopal Church established and made a life-long covenant with these schools, and they are an essential part of the fabric of our shared life," the Presiding Bishop noted.

Jones was an African-American abolitionist and clergyman and the first African American ordained a priest in The Episcopal Church. He was born enslaved to Abraham Wynkoop in 1746 in Delaware. Jones moved to Philadelphia after his master sold his plantation along with Absalom's mother and six siblings. Jones bought his wife Mary's freedom and later his master granted Absalom's emancipation in 1784. In 1787, with his friend Richard Allen, they founded the Free African Society, a mutual aid benevolent organization that was the first of its kind organized by and for black people. Jones was ordained a priest on September 21, 1802, faithfully serving the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, a church which remains a vibrant congregation. "As we approach February, the remembrance of the Blessed Absalom Jones, the first African-American priest in the Episcopal Church, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate his memory and to honor the witness of two schools that continue to form new leaders," Bishop Curry said. "In honor of Jones' commitment to advancing the education of African Americans and promoting the development of African American leaders in all areas of life, the Episcopal Church is delighted to designate Saint Augustine's University and Voorhees College as the beneficiaries of the 2019 Feast of Absalom Jones offerings."

Donations are accepted at episcopalchurch.org/give. For more information, contact Cecilia Malm, Development Officer, at cmalm@episcopalchurch.org or (212) 716-6062.

On February 15, the Episcopal Church remembers The Reverend Thomas Bray, an early colonial priest with direct ties to Durham Church.

In 1696, Thomas Bray, an English country parson, was invited by the Bishop of London to be responsible for the oversight of Church work in the colony of Maryland. Three years later, as the Bishop's Commissary, he sailed to America for his first, and only, visitation. Though he spent only two and a half months in Maryland, Bray was deeply concerned about the neglected state of the American churches, and the great need for the education of clergymen, lay people, and children. At a general visitation of the clergy at Annapolis, before his return to England, he emphasized the need for the instruction of children, and insisted that no clergyman be given a charge unless he had a good report from the ship he came over in, "whether ...he gave no matter of scandal, and whether he did constantly read prayers twice a day and catechize and preach on Sundays, which, notwithstanding the common excuses, I know can be done by a minister of any zeal for religion." His understanding of, and concern for, Native Americans and Blacks were far ahead of his time. He founded thirty-nine lending libraries in America, as well as numerous schools. He raised money for missionary work and influenced young English priests to go to America.

Bray tried hard to have a bishop consecrated for America, but failed. His greatest contributions were the founding of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, both of which are still effectively in operation after two and a half centuries of work all over the world.

From 1706 to 1730, Bray was the rector of St. Botolph Without, Aldgate, London, where, until his death at the age of 72, he served with energy and devotion, while continuing his efforts on behalf of Black slaves in America, and in the founding of parochial libraries.

When the deplorable condition of English prisons was brought to Bray's attention, he set to work to influence public opinion and to raise funds to alleviate the misery of the inmates. He organized Sunday "Beef and Beer" dinners in prisons, and advanced proposals for prison reform. It was Thomas Bray who first suggested to General Oglethorpe the idea of founding a humanitarian colony for the relief of honest debtors, but he died before the Georgia colony became a reality.

Commemoration of Thomas Bray: February 15

O God of compassion, you opened the eyes of your servant Thomas Bray to see the needs of the Church in the New World, and led him to found societies to meet those needs: Make the Church in this land diligent at all times to propagate the Gospel among those who have not received it, and to promote the spread of Christian knowledge; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Psalm 102:15–22; Lessons: Isaiah 52:7–10; Philippians 2:1–5; Luke 10:1–9.