

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am happy this week to return to a full newsletter! Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please consult the weekly “eBlast” from the office for most of the important information you need about services, additional offerings & programs and other relevant St. Philip’s news. This newsletter is now a link that is part of the eblast. The information I share here will sometimes duplicate what’s in the eblast. Other times, it will be additional.

About worship:

- Services continue to be at 9:30, followed by coffee hour. This change has been very well-received from what I have been told. We will continue to offer a Rite 1 service on the first Sunday of most months. Vestry will discuss whether or not we return to two services in August. I will have more to say on that subject later.
- We are now back to kneeling or standing at the altar rail. Please know that kneeling is optional. Once you receive the host, please hold on to it until the chalice comes by. If you want wine, you MUST intinct (dip, rather than sip). Many people prefer to forgo the wine completely. If so, just consume the host and return to your seat. The Church Fathers have always held that receiving communion in one kind is as efficacious as in both. (In terms of my personal practice, I absolutely LOVE drinking from the common cup. It’s what the disciples and first Christians did. But my sense is that most people are not ready to do so. Therefore, intinction or just the host. God understands and is not a dictator about matters of personal piety).
- This Sunday, there will be prerecorded music. Michelle is on vacation. If you wish to sing along, the lyrics are printed in the bulletin. I chose the music but I couldn’t have made this happen without the contributions of Mike Livingston and Dolores Kampert. Thank you, both!
- On all Sundays until further notice, we ask that any unvaccinated person who wishes to sing wear a mask. This is just an added layer of protection recommended by the diocese and its medical consultants.
- You are welcome to shake hands and hug as you feel comfortable to do so. Those who aren’t ready to do this should not feel bad about their choice – we welcome and honor all. A bow, a peace sign, an elbow bump and a big smile are certainly sufficient. That said, if you and a friend want to hug or shake, have at it. It’s good to be inching closer to “normal”, isn’t it? Again – unvaccinated persons are asked to mask up and maintain distance. You, too, are very welcome though and greatly loved!  
Upcoming and Additional News...
- Please mark your calendar for September 26th! The Rev. Courtney Reid, from the Diocese, will be our guest preacher. After the service and during coffee hour, Courtney will offer an introduction to “Fierce Conversations” – a program used in business, by marriage counselors and in congregational settings. The goal is foster respect, understanding and complete honesty. To read more about it, click on this link: [Fierce Conversations - Episcopal Diocese of Chicago \(episcopalchicago.org\)](http://episcopalchicago.org)
- We have purchased a quantity of two books that we are making available to parishioners free of charge. There is a limited quantity but more can be obtained. A few things to know:

1. The first book is Fierce Conversations by Susan Scott. This is the basis of the FC

program adapted by the Diocese for congregations. It tends to focus on business and marriage conversations but the principles are quite applicable in the local church setting. Please pick up a copy in the office. It can be yours to keep or yours to borrow and return.

2. The second book comes highly recommended by the national Church, the Diocese and your rector. It's called *Waking Up White* and the author is Debby Irving. It is the story of a good woman, raised in an honorable and kind family. (Like all of us, these are NOT evil, KKK-type people! They are loving, patriotic and religious Americans who do NOT hate anyone.) The story is about discoveries Debby made regarding race in America. It is NOT about beating anyone up or laying blame. It focuses much less on the long-ago past and more on inequalities extant over the past couple or three generations. People of color in our congregation have expressed concerns about these very things to me. I asked a number of Sundays ago that informal conversations take place around these issues, with white members of the parish listening to the concerns and stories of our members of color. A few of these conversations have occurred and for this, I am deeply grateful. Because this is ongoing work, I am encouraging us to read this book together. No one must, of course. It's not required reading to be a member! It's just something that the Presiding Bishop, our previous and future diocesan bishops and many clergy across the diocese are recommending.

A few biblical principles to guide our reading and conversation:

- Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)
- Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. (Romans 12:15)
- Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4)

Please consider helping yourself to a free copy of this book. St. Philip's did not pay for these. They were donated by one of our members with a request that the gift be used to encourage understanding and care on issues of social and racial justice. You're welcome to borrow a copy and return it. Or keep it. All I ask is that you read the whole story from cover to cover. It's not a difficult read or an academic exercise. Thanks for your consideration.

My other bit of news is personal. On Thursday, I asked Lisa to marry me. And she said, "Yes." Your rector has a fiancée. I want you all to meet Lisa soon. We're working on that. I think you will quickly love her as she is vivacious and loads of fun. At this point, I do not believe she will be an active (every Sunday) member of the parish. Lisa's cultural and familial ties to the Catholic Church are deep and go back many, many generations. We have agreed that we can be happy together without her officially joining the Episcopal Church. That said, we have also agreed that anything can change. Ultimately, it's not that big a deal. Both Churches love the Lord Jesus, care for the poor and seek to grow in grace. This will also be a long engagement for family and other reasons. So absolutely nothing has been decided about dates, weddings or honeymoons. Thank you for your prayers for us as we seek to grow together in Christ and in His love. Prayer Concerns and Thanksgivings...

- We give thanks to God that Kim McDonald is now in – or will soon be in – rehab and occupational therapy. Please keep her in your prayers. Pray especially that she can gain strength in her legs.
- Continue to hold Ken and Janie Jenssen in your prayers. Ken continues to fall and this presents real challenges for Janie, who has her own health concerns. Pray that the Lord will bless them with

respite, strength and health.

- Pray for the repose of the soul of former St. Philip's member Steven Buenning, who died last Friday in Maryland. Steve was 71. Please pray for his family and friends, as well. May Steve and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ and rise with Him in glory.
- Give thanks that a dear friend of Ginger Knowles has been placed back on the lung transplant waiting list. Her name is Marge and we have been praying for her for a couple of years now. Pray that a lung that is a perfect match for her is available soon. And add a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing on all those who are organ donors.
- We have received a report that Fr. Tom Janiec, a former rector of St. Philip's, is in extremely poor health. Beverly Harrell, who spoke with Tom, tells me he seems to be approaching a need for hospice or some similar palliative care. We pray for God's intervention and complete healing. Nothing is impossible for Jesus! Should this sad news be part of God's permissive will, may the Lord give our brother strength, peace and comfort.
- Pray for peace, calm and justice in the nations of the world. In addition to our own beloved country, please pray for Haiti, Yemen, Myanmar, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Russia and Ukraine.
- Pray for the victims of natural or other disasters: the building collapse in Florida; a factory fire in Bangladesh and a plane crash in Sweden. May the Lord grant repose to the dead, healing and recovery to any injured and comfort to all who grieve.
- Give thanks for such solid attendance numbers on both Sunday and Tuesday. We're so happy to see a majority of parishioners back in the pews and even more still joining in on Zoom. What a blessing!
- Kindly continue to hold those with ongoing medical or other needs in your prayers. Pray for Linda Purcell; Bob and JoAnn Miller; Jill Hill; Roberta Butler; Lillian Conway; Andreas Kistner; Bishop-Elect Paula Clark; Levi Tsu and his parents; Kelly Scolnick; Jurth Horner; Joe and Toni Saladino; Peggy and Don; Christina Guzman; Fr. Henry Randolph; Molly and her parents – David and Laura; Tim Zierer; Sarah McCready; Aury and Faye.

In the wider Church, please pray for...

- The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and chair, Rev. Anne Jolly.
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington and the Rev. Jesse Perkins, rector; the Rev. Betsy Ward, associate priest and the Rev. Tim Murray, deacon.
- All Saints Lutheran Church on Quentin Road and Pastors Jennifer Moland-Kovash and Seth Moland-Kovash.

This week's quiz...

...should have been last week. There was no time. So here it is – a bit late, but just as fun. How much do you know about the Fourth of July or "Independence Day"?

1. 13 original colonies signed the Declaration of Independence on July 2nd, 1776. It was ratified by the same, on the 4th. Which of these states was NOT one of the 13 original colonies?  
(Georgia, Delaware; Vermont; Massachusetts; North Carolina)
2. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th, 1826. Which lesser-known President was BORN on the 4th of July?  
(Calvin Coolidge; James K. Polk; William McKinley; Gerald Ford; Chester A. Arthur)
3. Every July 4th in the USA, approximately how many hot dogs are consumed?

(90 million; 245 million; 75 million; 150 million; 15 million)

4. Believe it or not, one other country gives citizens a day off to honor America's Independence Day. Which nation chooses to celebrate its friendship with the US in this way?  
(Canada; Denmark; Israel; South Korea; France)
5. The name of this signer of the Declaration of Independence has been partially applied to the often-unscrupulous practice of designing U.S. House districts with bizarre borders in order to favor one political party over another in elections. Which of these founding fathers is it?  
(John Witherspoon of New Jersey; Benjamin Rush of Pennsylvania; William Paca of Maryland; William Whipple of New Hampshire; Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts)

Answers are at the end of the newsletter. I hope you enjoyed!

\*\*\*

This Day in Christian History...

Ø On July 4th, 1832: The national hymn "America" is first sung in public at a children's celebration of Independence Day, at the Park St. Church, Boston. The words had been written that February by the Rev. Samuel F. Smith and are sung to the tune of "God Save the King."

Ø On July 5th, 1833: Henry Wilson, the Anglican bishop of Calcutta, India, states that India's caste system must be abolished in Anglican churches. "Those who belong to Christ must give proof of having really put off . . . the old, and having put on the new man in Christ Jesus" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Ø On July 6th, 1535: Sir Thomas More is beheaded by England's King Henry VIII. More, who presided over the execution of Protestants a few years earlier, has these last words: "I die the King's good servant; but God's first." More objected to Parliament's assertion that King Henry was supreme head of the Catholic Church in England.

Ø On July 7th, 1878: Francis Grimke was ordained a pastor in the Presbyterian Church. Grimke, an African-American and the son of a white master and a slave woman, he became an ardent opponent of racism and a determined preacher of the Gospel of Christ.

Ø On July 8th, 1948: The Moscow Conference convenes to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the independence of the Russian Orthodox Church from control of the Eastern Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Ø On July 9th, 1737: Moravian missionary Georg Schmidt arrives in Cape Town with the intention of converting the Hottentots. He is roundly mocked by the Dutch Boers who believe Hottentots are beyond redemption. When Schmidt succeeds in teaching a few to read and leads some to Christ, the Dutch will expel him from the colony.

Ø On July 10th, 1553: Under pressure from her parents and her father-in-law, the Duke of Northumberland, Lady Jane Grey, a Protestant, assumes the throne of England, reigning nine days. It is an ill-fated move that will result in her execution seven months after Mary Tudor comes to power. Thanks to the Christian History Institute

\*\*\*

### News Briefs...

(ROME) -- Pope Francis ate breakfast, read the newspapers and took a walk this week as he continued recovering from intestinal surgery, the Vatican said. A statement from the Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said tests performed following the pontiff's Sunday surgery to remove half of his colon yielded "good" and normal result. The Associated Press reports, "His Holiness Pope Francis rested well during the night," Bruni said. "This morning he had breakfast, read some newspapers and got up to walk. The post-operative recovering is regular. Routine control tests are good." Francis, 84, underwent three hours of surgery Sunday for what the Vatican said was a narrowing of the large intestine. The Vatican said doctors removed the left side of his colon. He is expected to stay in Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic, which has a special suite reserved for popes, through the week, assuming no complications. The Vatican has given few details about the pope's diagnosis or the procedure he underwent, saying only that he had entered the hospital for planned surgery for a diverticular stenosis, or narrowing of the colon. It's a common problem that affects some 80% of people over age 80 but can require surgery if the lining of the colon becomes so scarred that it begins to obstruct it, said Dr. Yann Parc, head of staff at the Saint Antoine Hospital in Paris. Parc was not involved in the pope's care. The surgery generally entails removing the left side of the colon and then joining up the remaining healthy parts of the large intestine. Francis has enjoyed relatively robust health, though he lost the upper part of one lung in his youth due to an infection. He also suffers from sciatica, or nerve pain, that makes him walk with a pronounced limp. He had a busy schedule in the run-up to Sunday's surgery, including participating in a daylong July 1 meeting with Lebanon's Christian patriarchs, suggesting he was not in excruciating pain before the procedure. Francis' next routine appointment with the public would normally be on Sunday, July 11. He customarily appears on Sundays at a window overlooking St. Peter's Square, blesses the faithful below and speaks for a few minutes, often about current events. If he remains hospitalized, Francis might opt to do what one of his predecessors did while recovering at Gemelli. During some of his many stays there, St. John Paul II sometimes appeared at his hospital room's window to wave and bless well-wishers gathered outside. Associated Press

-X-

(SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO) -- St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Santa Fe, NM is reaching out to families crushed by medical debt through a big gift and a big partnership. Through donations, the parish wiped out nearly \$1.4 million of medical debt for 782 households. St. Bede's worked with RIP Medical Debt, a well-respected organization that identifies households whose incomes are less than twice the poverty level or are insolvent, and owe medical debt. Then they buy the debt at a fraction of face value (as a collection agency otherwise would) and pay it off using donations from people such as us. Furthermore, they write the affected parties a letter telling them they no longer owe the debt, and equally important, contact credit agencies to verify the debt has been paid, clearing the debtor's credit history. The letter recipients receive identifies St. Bede's as the donor. Established in 2014, RIP Medical Debt was founded by two former debt collection executives. Their nonprofit organization uses donations to buy large portfolios of medical debt at a fraction of its value, then forgive significant amounts of the debt. In 2020, the organization abolished \$1.7 billion in debt for over 830,000 people. St. Bede's most recent community contribution demonstrates the passion of its members to serve the Santa Fe community, struggling families in the Southwest and reach out with love to the world. The church community has also found many other ways to help those in need.

There is a Little Free Food Pantry outside where neighbors can either get food or drop off donations 24/7. They are regular donation partners locally with the Santa Fe Indigenous Center, The Interfaith Shelter, and have funded and built over 20 houses for families in Juarez, Mexico. Episcopal News Service

-x-

(ORLANDO, FL.) -- A day after its General Conference voted down a bill that would have allowed clergy to perform same-sex marriages, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting in Orlando, Florida, passed a resolution on Thursday (July 8) to appoint a sexual ethics discernment committee to make recommendations to the denomination about LGBTQ matters. Religion News Service reports that the ad hoc committee will identify, study and explain all biblical texts addressing sexual orientation and gender identities, as well as relevant AME doctrine and traditions of biblical interpretation. The committee will also develop and propose legislation. Importantly, according to the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Leath, one of the resolutions' co-authors, the committee "will hear the testimonials of LGBTQ+ individuals of African descent within and beyond the AME Church, so that we're really hearing the voices of the people who are affected by the position of the church on these matters." Bishop Anne Henning Byfield, president of the AME's Council of Bishops, said the committee will help preserve unity as well as address the place of LGBTQ members in the church. "We had been praying that we did not become like some of the other denominations where this issue would split the church," said Byfield. "By having the discernment committee, it really gives us the opportunity to pray, to seek God's leadership in this and to give all persons — but particularly persons in the LGBTQ community in our congregations — (the opportunity) to begin to share and talk. I think this is an excellent thing. "The church has always been a reconciling and liberating church. And we are committed to work through all areas of liberation." A proposed bill voted down Wednesday (July 7) would have allowed AME clergy to perform same-sex weddings but faltered because it had come through unusual channels, and because of the wording of the legislation itself. Religion News Service

-x-

Well, that's it for another week. God bless and keep you all. See you in church!

And here are the answers to this week's quiz:

1. Vermont
2. Calvin Coolidge
3. 150 million hot dogs!
4. Denmark celebrates American Independence Day
5. Elbridge Gerry, from which we get the word "Gerrymandering"