

St. Philip's Weekly Newsletter

December 16, 2021

Hello, friends! It's newsletter time again so let me jump right in! For information about activities in the parish, please be sure to review the eblast from our Office Manager. Actually, this newsletter is a link in that eblast - so you've probably already read it!

A couple of people have asked if St. Philip's can do anything to help the folks in the states where the recent spate of tornadoes hit. I have a few suggestions but of course - there may be additional ideas out there so please speak with me or the members of our Outreach Committee. For now, here are some things that can be done:

1. Donate blood. The Red Cross says supplies were on the low side before the tornado outbreak and they are now stretched very thin. For more information, please follow this link: [Blood Donors Needed to Replenish Supply Following Tornado Outbreak \(redcross.org\)](https://www.redcross.org/donate/blood)
2. Donate money. Here are some links to funds or helping agencies that have been checked out as effective and legitimate by "Charity Navigator":

[Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund](#)

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

[Donate to Emergency Disaster Services \(helpsalvationarmy.org\)](https://www.helpsalvationarmy.org)

[Episcopal Relief & Development](#)

3. Pray. You might consider "adopting" a family or individual you heard about in a news report. Lift them in prayer daily. Or consider adopting a church or other house of worship in the affected areas. There are lots of stories online about churches that were destroyed or damaged – or about those that weren't and are reaching out in love to their neighbors.

Just a few ideas.

Something Special:

Hey pet-lovers! Don't forget to read the "News Briefs" section of the newsletter. There's an Episcopal Church that has completely "gone to the dogs"!

Prayer Concerns and Thanksgivings

- I am opening this list with an answer to prayer and a note of praise: Kim McDonald is now home. She is no longer at Manor Care and she would love visitors. Please consider giving Kim a call and arranging a short visit - I know it would greatly cheer her. I am planning to bring her communion next week. I just found out she is now home today and this news made my day! Praise the Lord!
- We have been praying for Roberta Butler, mother of Ida. Roberta had been improving but there's been a setback and she is back in the hospital. Please pray for her recovery. And pray, too, for Ida as she seeks a suitable and supportive facility for her mom once she's released from the hospital.
- Michelle Webb covets your prayers for her grandfather, Wilbur Cavender. Wilbur suffered a heart attack earlier this week and is hospitalized.
- Please pray for Ann Fischer, who is dealing with some heart issues. We love you, Ann, and we'll remember you in our thoughts and prayers often!
- I ask you to pray for my little friend, Drew Schulz. He is just seven years old and it looks like he's rejecting a kidney transplant. This sweet boy, his mother and twin sister has been through so much. Please pray that the Lord will intervene on their behalf!
- Thanks and praise to the Lord for returning our beloved deacon to his home and family! Deacon Dan continues to make great progress in his recovery - he is rehabbing now as an outpatient! He feels a

little better each day. Dan thanks the people of St. Philip's for their prayers, cards, emails, calls and visits.

- Give thanks for the monthly Epistle that Jill Hill and her team do such a nice job on. It's hard work but it's a real blessing to everyone.
- I ask your prayers for the people in several states who were affected by devastating storms last week. May God grant repose to the souls of the many who died. May those who are injured recover. We pray that those who lost homes or businesses would be able to get back on their feet quickly. And we pray for the wonderful police, fire, FEMA, National Guard and medical personnel who are still responding.
- Give thanks for all those who have offered to serve in new and old ways at church in the new year.
- Please pray for Bishop-Elect Paula Clark and her family this weekend. There will be a memorial service on the 18th for her late husband, Andrew McLean. Andrew died recently from multiple myeloma. Rev. Paula has had her own health struggles this past year. Let's pray she is greatly comforted and that her healing continues. By all accounts, she is doing very well.
- Give thanks for the professional and generous work of Mike Livingston in preparing our upcoming "Year in Review" DVD. It will be a work of art like all his past contributions. We are SO blessed. (And if you have pictures, please get them to Mike as soon as possible.)
- There are many others on our prayer list who are dealing with various health or other issues. Please pray for Ken and Janie Jenssen; Karen Porzak; Kim McDonald; Linda Purcell; Carol Hercules; Bill Peterson; Andreas Kistner; Deacon Dan; Bruce Fichte; Lian Thian; Scott Garske; Steve Francois; Chris Trotti; Joe and Toni Saladino; Molly and her parents - David and Laura; Levi Tsu and his family; Tracy Grummer; Christina Guzman; Juan and Eloisa Musante; Peggy and Don; and Marge.

In the wider Church, please pray for...

- Our companion dioceses of Renk, South Sudan and the Diocese of Southeast Mexico.
- St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Elk Grove Village and Fr. Manny Borg, vicar.
- St. Thomas of Villanova Catholic Church of Palatine

This Week's Quiz...

...is about our Chicago Bulls. They are having a really good year and are currently 4th in the CBS Sports NBA power rankings. It's a storied franchise with lots of great history – so how well do you know....Da Bulls?

1. In what year were the Bulls established as an NBA franchise?
(1976; 1946; 1926; 1966; 1776)
2. How many NBA championships did the Bulls win in the 1990's? (4; 3; 7; 6; 8)
3. Who was the youngest player to win the NBA Most Valuable Player award? (Derrick Rose; Michael Jordan; Jerry Sloan; Steve Kerr; Scottie Pippen)
4. Which Chicago Bull was the first player to have his jersey number retired? (Norm Van Lier; Michael Jordan; Jerry Sloan; Scottie Pippen; Artis Gilmore)
5. Who was ejected from Game 3 of the 1974 Conference Finals against the Milwaukee Bucks? (Jerry Sloan; Coach Dick Motta; Mascot "Bennie the Bull"; All of the above)

How did you do? Answers are at the end of the newsletter, with some additional fun information!

This Week in Christian History...

- On December 12th, 1907: Evangelist William Durham acquires the property for his North Avenue Mission in Chicago. His Pentecostal meetings will be well attended and will often run all night.
- On December 13th, 1545: The first session of the Council of Trent opens in response to the spread of Protestantism and the drastic need for moral and administrative reforms within the Roman Catholic Church. It will meet on and off for eighteen more years.
- On December 14th, 1655: Oliver Cromwell determines that Jews will be allowed back into England centuries after their expulsion.
- On December 15th, 1791: The United States Bill of Rights is ratified, guaranteeing freedom of religion among other liberties.
- On December 16th, 1835: Fire destroys much of Arthur and Lewis Tappan's business on New York City's Pearl Street. The devoutly Christian brothers also lose business because of their strong opposition to slavery and come close to financial ruin. However they will salvage their fortunes and repay all of their debts with interest in eighteen months.
- On December 17th, 1559: Matthew Parker is made Archbishop of Canterbury and supports Reformation under Elizabeth I. Implementing Elizabeth's policies, he will be cruel with Puritans and other dissenters. In an effort to undermine the legitimacy of his apostolic succession and the validity of Anglicanism, Catholics will later assert his consecration was invalid.
- On December 18th, 1821: Young George Müller is jailed at Wolfenbüttel Castle (in Germany) on theft charges and will remain imprisoned until 22 January the following year. After his conversion, he will become a faithful steward of contributions to Christian charities.

With thanks to the Christian History Institute

News Briefs...

(CHICAGO) – One of Chicago's most recognized nuns is leaving her administrative post. The Sun Times reports that Sister Rosemary Connelly is retiring as Executive Director of Misericordia Home – a beloved North Side ministry to adults and children with special needs. The 90 year old Connelly first took the job in 1969 and never looked back. The nonagenarian isn't really slowing down, however. Sister Rosemary says she'll continue to serve the Misericordia Foundation - probably in a public relations capacity. The Rev. Jack Clair, who has been with Misericordia Home since 2000, will take over as Executive Director. Misericordia serves approximately 600 Chicagoans with special needs and is about to celebrate its centennial.

Sun Times

(LOUISVILLE, KY.) – The Episcopal Church is on the scene bringing comfort and material aid to people affected by deadly tornadoes in Kentucky. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry says members of his staff are with Episcopal Relief & Development officers as they coordinate relief efforts with the Diocese of Louisville. The Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky says the storm ripped a path mere blocks from his home. Two members of his congregation lost their homes while a dozen other congregants sustained lesser damage. Fr. Stephen Pankey says no one from the church was injured. Meanwhile, in Monette, Arkansas – another community hit hard by the tornado outbreak - Episcopal churches are attempting to make contact with families they have had a relationship with in the past. James Matthews, communications director for the Diocese of Arkansas, says once contact is made with the families, the churches and diocese will start working on ways to provide assistance.

Episcopal News Service

(JERUSALEM) – The Most Rev. Hosam E. Naoum, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, joined other heads of churches and patriarchs in Jerusalem on Dec. 14 in issuing a statement on the current threat to the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

The full statement follows.

Throughout the Holy Land, Christians have become the target of frequent and sustained attacks by fringe radical groups. Since 2012 there have been countless incidents of physical and verbal assaults against priests and other clergy, attacks on Christian churches, with holy sites regularly vandalized and desecrated, and ongoing intimidation of local Christians who simply seek to worship freely and go about their daily lives. These tactics are being used by such radical groups in a systematic attempt to drive the Christian community out of Jerusalem and other parts of the Holy Land. We acknowledge with gratitude the declared commitment of the Israeli government to uphold a safe and secure home for Christians in the Holy Land and to preserve the Christian community as an integral part of the tapestry of the local community. As evidence of this commitment we see the government's facilitation of the visit of millions of Christian pilgrims to the holy sites of the Holy Land. It is therefore a matter of grave concern when this national commitment is betrayed by the failure of local politicians, officials and law enforcement agencies to curb the activities of radical groups who regularly intimidate local Christians, assault priests and clergy, and desecrate Holy Sites and church properties. The principle that the spiritual and cultural character of Jerusalem's distinct and historic quarters should be protected is already recognised in Israeli law with respect to the Jewish Quarter. Yet radical groups continue to acquire strategic property in the Christian Quarter, with the aim of diminishing the Christian presence, often using underhanded dealings and intimidation tactics to evict residents from their homes, dramatically decreasing the Christian presence, and further disrupting the historic pilgrim routes between Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Christian pilgrimage, in addition to being the right of all the Christians around the world, brings great benefits

to Israel's economy and society. In a recent report by the University of Birmingham, it was highlighted that Christian pilgrimage and tourism contributes \$3bn to the Israeli economy. The local Christian community, while small and decreasing in number, provides a disproportionate amount of educational, health and humanitarian services in communities throughout Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. In accordance with the declared commitment to protect religious freedom by the local political authorities of Israel, Palestine, and Jordan, we are requesting an urgent dialogue with us the Church Leaders, so as to:

1. Deal with the challenges presented by radical groups in Jerusalem to both the Christian community and the rule of law, so as to ensure that no citizen or institution has to live under threat of violence or intimidation.
2. Begin dialogue on the creation of a special Christian cultural and heritage zone to safeguard the integrity of the Christian Quarter in Old City Jerusalem and to ensure that its unique character and heritage are preserved for the sake of well-being of the local community, our national life, and the wider world.

—The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem

Episcopal News Service

(SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS) – The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield elected the Very Rev. Brian K. Burgess as its next bishop. The bishop-elect was chosen by clergy and lay leaders representing each of the congregations of the diocese during the electing synod on Dec. 11. A majority of votes in both orders is needed for an election. He was elected after the 2nd round of ballots with 60% of clergy votes and 64% of lay votes. Burgess currently serves as the 13th rector of Christ Church in Woodbury, New Jersey, and dean of the three-county Woodbury Convocation of parishes and missions. Canonically resident in the Diocese of New Jersey since 2005, Burgess has held various leadership roles, including serving on the diocesan council and the diocesan standing committee. Prior to being called as rector of Christ Church, Burgess served as rector of Saint John’s in Brooksville, Florida, and associate priest and chaplain to the Parish Day School at Saint Luke’s in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He received his bachelor of science degree in music from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and his master of divinity from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. He is married to his college sweetheart, Denise Lee, and they have two children, Robert and Catherine.

Episcopal News Service

(UNDATED) – The new Anglican Communion Science Commission (ACSC) has finally held its inaugural meeting. The group met with a mission to develop a deeper understanding of science within the Anglican Communion and bring confident spiritual leadership into all global issues involving science. The commission is co-chaired by Archbishop of Cape Town Thabo Makgoba and Bishop of Oxford Stephen Croft and includes scientists, theologians and bishops from around the world. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby told the commission meeting, held online, that science was “deeply embedded in our experience of creation and of being human and of seeking to understand the world around us” but that the Church had “neglected it badly” over the centuries.

Anglican Communion News Service

(WAXAHACHIE, TX.) – A former NFL star-turned-evangelist has died. Bill Glass, a 250-pound defensive lineman who still holds the Cleveland Browns record for career sacks, was 86. Glass went to seminary in the off-season and after his ordination, he used the NFL off-season to hold Billy Graham-style evangelistic crusades. Glass was also an outspoken supporter of Civil Rights, suggesting his admiration for Cleveland Browns legend and Civil Rights activist Jim Brown played a part in that. But Glass's primary passion involved jails and prisons. His "Behind the Walls" ministry has brought thousands of convicts, their families and prison guards to faith in Christ. A memorial service for Glass is scheduled for Saturday in Texas.

(JAMESTOWN, NY) – 2021 may be receiving mixed reviews from humans, but at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Jamestown, New York, everyone agrees it has been a good year for dogs. Last spring, the parish partnered with the Mental Health Association (MHA) of Chautauqua County to create Father Bernard's Blessed Biscuits, all-natural dog treats produced by a social enterprise that aims to create employment and training opportunities for people in recovery from addiction or mental health issues. The biscuits — made with gluten-free flour, oats, peanut butter, and water — debuted at the Jamestown Public Market in June, and since then, the initiative has expanded to include pop-up kiosks at local holiday events, a mail-order business that ships the dog biscuits across the country, and even T-shirts. "We're creating kind of a socially conscious enterprise that is really not designed to make a profit, but it was designed for two particular audiences: one is conscientious consumers looking for ways to make the kind of world they want with their dollars, and then also for folks who are on the other end and perhaps have fallen out of the workforce due to internal or external barriers," said the Rev. Luke Fodor, rector of St. Luke's, who conceived of the initiative. "Father Bernard's exists to change our community for the better by creating a culture of connection." The hub of those connections is the kitchen at St. Luke's, where a crew of MHA clients gathers twice each week to bake, package

and fulfill orders for the dog biscuits. Along the way, they learn employment-related skills such as workplace ethics, maintaining proper boundaries and digital communications. This summer, participants sold the biscuits at the market, practicing customer service skills and meeting satisfied two-legged and four-legged customers. Opportunities for supportive connection can be hard to come by for people in recovery, says Steven Cobb, executive director of the MHA. “The lack of opportunity for our participants to work is an issue in a community where poverty is so prevalent,” he said. “Adding the support that a church can bring increases our participants’ opportunities to deepen their recovery and find long-term wellness. We believe that by partnering in this social enterprise we will be able to provide a different type of support for people returning to the workforce that we could not do by ourselves.” Sean Jones, a parishioner at St. Luke’s and certified recovery peer advocate at the MHA, knows firsthand about the value of community connections for people in recovery. Jones, who oversees the crew of MHA clients that produces Father Bernard’s biscuits, got his culinary start at his family’s bakery in Jamestown and spent more than two decades in the restaurant industry until being sidelined by his own struggles with substance abuse and mental health issues. “The turmoil and pain were always there and dragging me down time after time,” he said. “During this battle I had to deal with many different legal issues, being on the verge of homelessness, family issues and deep depression. In 2015 I was charged with my third DWI, and that is when I finally realized my life had to change for the better.” After celebrating his second sobriety anniversary, Jones began volunteering at MHA, teaching a cooking class for people in recovery to help them prepare healthy meals on a budget. After he had volunteered for a year, the agency hired him full-time.

Father Bernard’s, he said, gives him the ability to use his culinary skills to contribute to the community that supported him in his recovery.

Episcopal News Service

Quiz Answers (& addenda)

Okay Bulls fans...how'd you do? (I got most of these wrong!)

1. The Bulls were founded as an NBA expansion team in 1966 and went to the post-season that very year. They are the only NBA expansion team to have done so!
2. The Bulls dominated the league in the 90's, winning six championships!
3. Derrick Rose is the youngest player to be named NBA MVP in 2011. He was also that season's NBA Rookie of the Year!
4. Jerry Sloan is the first Bull to have his uniform number ("4") retired. Sloan left the game in 1976 and his number was officially retired two years later.
5. After a series of what were perceived to be boneheaded calls by refs, Jerry Sloan, Coach Dick Motta AND Bennie the Bull were ejected from the playoff game and escorted out of the arena by security.

Well friends, that's it for another week. God bless each of you!

Fr. Jim