

The Voice of *St. Margaret's*

The Official Newsletter of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
2021

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Mission Statement

The Mission of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church is
To worship, to serve, and to form the spiritual growth
Of individuals according to the teachings of Jesus Christ



The Rector's Desk

THE RECTOR'S DESK

THE ESSENCE OF FRIENDSHIP

A wise man once said, "A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world has gone out." Good friends are a gift from God. And God wants you to be a good friend. That means we need to discover new friends. God wants us to find new friends for Christ, and He can help us in unexpected ways. A real friend is there for you, no matter what, and having such a person in your life is a great gift.

Here are some tools to consider when creating better friendships. Trust is essential to true friendship. We all need someone with whom we can share our lives, thoughts, feelings, and frustrations. We need to share our deepest secrets with someone without worrying that those secrets will end up on Facebook the next day! Failing to be trustworthy with those intimate secrets can destroy a friendship in a hurry.

Faithfulness and loyalty are essential to true friendship. Without which, we often feel betrayed, left out, and lonely. In true friendship, there is no backbiting, no negative thoughts, no turning away. True friendship requires certain accountability factors. Real friends encourage one another and forgive one another where there has been an offense. True friendship



Service Schedule

Sundays
8:am
Holy Eucharist Rite I
(No Music)
On Hold for Now

9:30am
Holy Eucharist Rite II
(With Music)

11:00am
Sunday School
On Hold

Wednesday 6:30pm
Bible Study
Via Zoom

supports during times of struggle. Friends are dependable. In true friendship, unconditional

Continued....

love develops. We love our friends no matter what, and we always want the best for our friends.

Friends are one in spirit. Don't seek to make a friend with someone you don't like. God has made us all differently. We should all get along, but we would rather not get along with some people for very long! Choose your friends based on how you "connect" don't get me wrong - we should be friendly to all, but let God build the "connection" in our spirit. In seeking friendships, ask who I am close to as a person? Friends are committed to each other.

People get into all kinds of trouble. Sometimes it's their fault. Many times it's just the circumstances of life. Friends will stick by you. They are there when the going gets tough. They are not "fair weather" friends. Some of you here can tell of friends who stood by you at difficult times in your life. Friends look out for one another. How much do you look out for the interests of your friend? Do you care about the problems they are facing? Are you willing to speak up when you see a problem?

Proverbs 27:6 says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Friends encourage one another. If you are a good friend, you will seek to bring encouragement when your friends are down. Don't be afraid to express your friendship. We live in such a divided and polarized society where we are so scared to show associations. Friends encourage one another in the Lord. The actual test of a friend is how they affect your walk with Christ. Friendship is not about what you get; and it's about what you give. It's not about someone loving you, and it's about commitment to others and those they love. It's about extending your love beyond yourself. If you are a friend, others will reap the benefits.

Compassion is important because everyone makes mistakes. Rather than turning your back on a friend who has hurt you, talk about your pain. If this person is a real friend, they will [apologize](#). **Trustworthiness** is a cornerstone of good friendship. Knowing that you can call on someone who will be there for you and have your back is empowering and superb comfort. **If** you want to have a friend, learn to be a friend. Giving what you want to get is the best

way to show someone how to be your friend. People generally like us because we like them.

Continued...

Jealousy will kill a friendship, and so will [jealousy](#). Your friend may have everything you think you want, but if you are green with envy, your friend will sense that something's out of sync in your relationship. So count your blessings, which should include having a friend who inspires you to achieve your [goals](#).

Negativity is the antithesis of friendship. No friendship will be perfect all of the time, but keep the bad vibes away; they can only undermine the good thing you've got going.

Deep discussions are a treasure of friendship. Having a friend who won't judge you can make your life better. Letting out your feelings with a trusted ally is good [therapy](#). Sharing your feelings and being able to listen are essential parts of any good relationship. For some reason, women seem to be better at this than men, so guys, let's be better buddies to each other. **Joy** can come from knowing you have good people in your life. If you don't have a family of your own, having your friends as a family is a true privilege.

Openness is an essential part of good friendships. Your friend, no matter how close they may be, can't be there for you every minute; almost no one can. That would make for an unhealthy dependency; friendship needs to be a two-way street. People from your past may be more than just someone you once knew. For several reasons, it's easier to feel close to people you have known for a long time.

There is trust there and the knowledge of how someone behaves in a variety of situations. Old friends are reliable, and most of the time, they make us feel a little safer. Friends have been my bedrock. Some leave for various reasons, but if you are a good friend, others come in to take their place, and your world becomes a little sweeter. If you need a place to start, try Facebook — I'll be your friend.

To be a friend, to love, you must know the one who is love, God. John 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends. God showed his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ

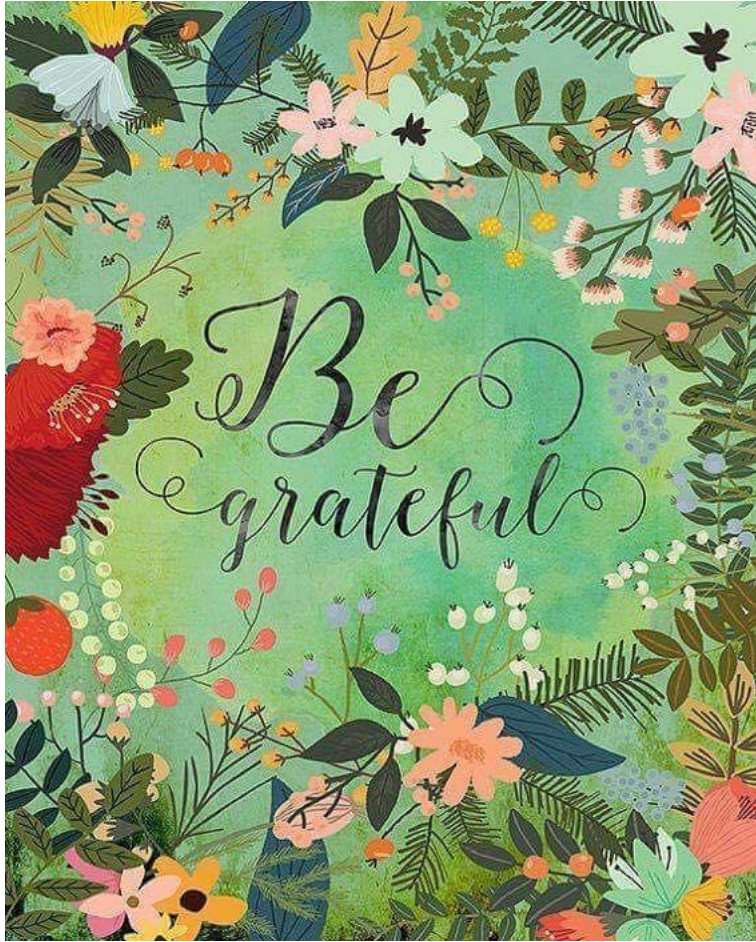
died for us. Most Americans know the story of Jesus - but many still have not chosen to commit their lives to him and accept him as Savior. Only by

Continued...

personally receiving Christ can anyone have his sins forgiven and be saved and be a true friend to others.

Proverbs 18:24 Says: "Some friends play at friendship but a true friend that sticks closer than one's nearest kin." Far too many people are looking to have a friend than to be a friend. Being a friend of God has to do with love and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Why should we love Him? -- Because He loves us and gave Himself to be the Sacrifice for our sins. BE A FRIEND
TODAY.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Speare-Hardy II



Who's Who...

Spiritual Advisor

Benjamin Speare-Hardy II, Rector
837-7741

Priest Associate

The Rev. George Kamani

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Lucille Scott, Nancy Butler

St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

5301 Free Pike

Trotwood, Ohio 45426



Vestry

Agnes George, *Senior Warden*
Mitchell Lucas, *Junior Warden*
Joyce Stone, *Church Treasurer*
Monty Reece, *Assistant Treasurer*
James Bolden, *Assistant Treasurer*
Barbara Bass, *Secretary*

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Thora Holder
Beatrice Ramsey
Ellen McDaniel
Karen Schuster-Webb
Brenda Cochran
Mitchell Lucas

Regular Contributors to the Voice

Fr. Benjamin Speare-Hardy II,
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Beatrice Ramsey

The Voice is Published Monthly

Deadline: 18th of Month

Please e-mail all articles to:

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Anniversaries



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Brotherhood and ECW meetings are now held following the 9:30am service on the Second Sunday of the month.

The brotherhood is making plans for thNovember. We hope to resume our fish fries soo

The ECW is making plans for their annual Women's Day Celebration to be held in May of 2022. The current fundraiser is a raffle for a pair of tickets to the Ohio State University vs Purdue University home football game on 13 Nov 2021. See any ECW woman for tickets. We appreciate your support.

Drawing will be on 31 Oct 2021. The ECW also have Dishclothes for sale 3 for \$20.00.

Continue wearing your mask, washing your hands and practicing social distancing.

The Altar Guild will be selling the 2022 Church Liturgical Calendars. Cost \$5.00 ea. Please contact Phyllis Brunson to order. 937-305-9005.

Say Hello Too...



This month, meet one of the newest members of our congregation.

She is the daughter of Kenneth, an AF retiree, who still works at WPAFB, and Andrea, a retired School Nurse. She is the oldest of four siblings, two sisters, Hope and Ashley, and one brother, Matthew.

When asked how she came to choose St. Margaret's as her church home, she explained that she had been earnestly searching for a church and had heard about St. Margaret's. It was her intention to visit, and then the pandemic hit. Charity tells us she was delighted to learn of our virtual services and became a frequent visitor. After months of virtual attendance, she decided she would like to become a member.

Charity enjoys the moments of reflection after lessons, and views that time as an opportunity to learn something new, and to ponder it. She also enjoys Father Ben's sermons. Asked where she would like to

Continued...

see us in five years, Charity said she would like to see our community impact doubled, and well-funded.

This young lady brings with her a very impressive educational background. She is the proud graduate of not one, but two degrees from the University of Dayton. She holds a BA in communication and an MA in English. That's quite a nice one-two punch! Charity is currently employed at WPAFB.

Charity tells us that she enjoys reading a good book, is a casual sports fan, and really likes movies, especially action movies, and suspense thrillers. She takes great pleasure in solving the mystery before it's end. She also is looking forward to exploring the extensive arts offerings in Dayton.

She is happy to be at St. Margaret's, and looks forward to growing and serving with all of us.

Add to her interests her joy of cooking. Charity says she dabbles in several cuisines, but good old fashion southern cooking is her favorite.

So the next time you see this double degree holder, with several books in her arms, earbuds in her ears listening to her favorite music of the day, as she figures out "who dunnit", all while shopping for her next fabulous meal,

SAY HELLO TO.....
CHARITY SMALLS

Happy Fifth Wedding Anniversary

Fr. Benjamin and Stacey Speare-Hardy



Wishing You Many More!!!

Remembering the Relevance Of the Black Church

The Black Church continues to be an important source of support for members of the African American community. When compared to American Churches as a whole, Black churches have a tendency to focus more on social

Issues such as poverty, gang violence, drug use, prison ministries and racism.

In the centuries since its birth in the time of slavery, the Black church has stood as the foundation of Black religious, political, economic and social life. With all of its many denominations and differences over time, the Black church has remained deeply connected to the culture.

Although church attendance has waned across the years, the power and influence of the Black church cannot be overestimated. It has been a refuge as well as a sanctuary for African Americans against the widening forces of White Supremacy and today it remains one of the most sacred institutions in America.

In a time when Blacks were restricted from fully engaged in life in the broader society, trustees and members of the religious groups held prominence in their brick-and-mortar buildings.

When Whites refused to acknowledge the humanity of Blacks, forcing them to worship from the balcony of an Episcopal Church located in Philadelphia, Reverends Richard Allen and Absalom Jones left and formed the African American Methodist Episcopal Church which today reports a membership of more than 1.4 million. When we think about it, the Civil Rights Movement would not have gained any recognition at all, had it not been for the hard work of the Black church, which served as a meeting place for not only activists, but further provided a national platform which would thrust a twenty-six-year-old preacher named Dr. Martin Luther King into history.

Today when we think of the term the Black church, we find that it encompasses many churches of differing denominations and also diverse traditions, worship styles, political views, and theologies. However, for many, it is less about ethnicity and more about the human experience.

Cont'....

The Black church is more than an ethnic composition. It's not the preaching nor the choir, it's the commitment to change, to loving through change, that makes- a Black church. It is also not the color of one's skin that makes one "Black." Those who are Black are not necessarily of a particular skin tone, but those who are committed to working with the oppressed.

It seems to me today that the church should be identified as a place of healing, not separation.

According to former President Barack Obama, ***"Nothing is more powerful than the Black church experience. A good choir and a good sermon in the Black church, it's pretty hard not to be moved and be transported."***

Submitted By: Ms. Brenda Cochran



**The Brotherhood of St. Andrew
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Chapter
Men's Day "Virtual" Celebration Sunday,
November 21 2021 9:30am**

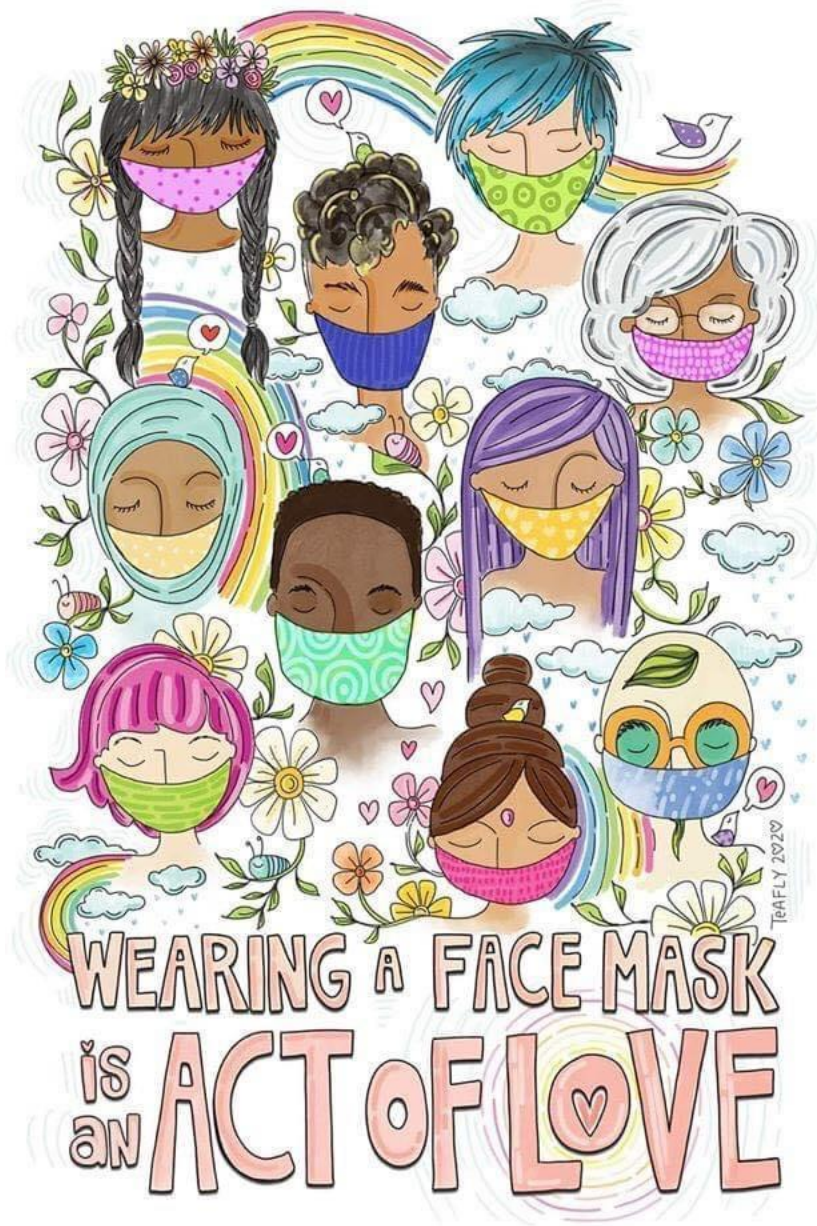
**"Honoring Our Spiritual Covenant with GOD,
During the Pandemic:
"Faith Says It, Before We See It".**

**Guest Speaker,
Eddie Koen, President and CEO:
Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio**

**Rev. Fr. Dr. Benjamin E.K. Speare-Hardy II,
Rector**

**Dial -In 1-301 715-8592
Enter Meeting ID#: 894 9942 0825 and Passcode:
958753**

**Live Stream [via Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/St-Margarets-episcopal-Church)
[www.facebook.com/St-Margarets-episcopal-
Church](https://www.facebook.com/St-Margarets-episcopal-Church)**



In Memory of our Loved Ones



Catherine L. Yancey

September 17, 1933 - September 14, 2021



St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Annual Women's Weekend Program
May 21-22, 2022

Theme: *Women Chosen for Such A Time as This (Esther 4:13-14)*

September 18, 2021

Greetings St. Margaret's Episcopal Church Sisters in Christ,

Prayers this letter finds you safe and well as we continue to journey through these challenging days.

I write today to share some good news. I have been asked to serve as **Chairwomen** for the St. Margaret's Episcopal Church ECW Annual Women's Weekend Program scheduled for **May 21-22, 2022**. I am kindly requesting your prayers and support as I step into this leadership role and work with our ECW sisters to fulfill the vision God has given us for this momentous annual weekend.

We are planning numerous activities to praise God, celebrate our sisterhood and support our church's community outreach programs, including activities like our *emergency response activities during the 2019 Dayton tornados, Montgomery County Public Health Covid testing and vaccination support, summer arts and STEM camps, workforce development training and summer school academic programming for K-3, to name a few*. All funds raised will be donated by the ECW to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in support of women centered programing and continuing general community outreach and service.

Today I am prayerfully seeking your commitment to **serve as a 2022 St. Margaret's Episcopal Church ECW Women's Weekend Captain**. As a **Captain** you are committing your available time, talent, and willingness to *personally* raise **\$500** by April 2022 toward our overall goal. Please know this is a group effort, we will work together along this journey by providing a template solicitation letter and guidance on how to ask your friends, family, and colleagues for support. We are trusting God to help us each step of the way and prayerfully request your consideration of this faithful request.

Please *acknowledge your acceptance (or declination) to serve 'at such a time as this'* by calling me at **708.369.1314** or via email at **stacy_m_thompson@keybank.com**. Abundant blessings to you all.

Blessings,

Stacy

Stacy Thompson Speare-Hardy
2022 St Margaret's Episcopal Church
ECW Women's Weekend Chairwoman

Deputies of Color organize for change in Episcopal Church, society ahead of General Convention



[Episcopal News Service] A group of Episcopal clergy and lay leaders who self-organize as the Deputies of Color will kick off their preparations for the 80th General Convention on Sept. 25 with an online conference focused on “Truth Telling,” during which Episcopalians share their various experiences with racism in the church and in society.

The Deputies of Color is a standing umbrella group that combines the church’s four primary ethnic caucuses: Black, Indigenous, Asian and Latinx. Together, those caucuses total over 170 members – a large majority of the church’s estimated 230 total deputies of color – and many of them will be first-time deputies when they arrive in Baltimore, Maryland, in July 2022 for General Convention.

One of the primary goals of bringing the ethnic caucuses together as the Deputies of Color is “changing The Episcopal Church,” said Byron Rushing, vice president of the House of Deputies and a longtime lay leader from the Diocese of Massachusetts. Rushing will be one of the presenters during the Sept. 25 webinar, which will not be open to the general public.

“The Episcopal Church would never talk about racism if there were not people of color in their face,” Rushing said in an interview with Episcopal News Service. The Black caucus has organized for change in the church since the 1960s, he said, and coordinating with the other caucuses can amplify all voices. “We try to talk to each other so we can understand, so we can generally support each other in their specific resolutions.”

The Deputies of Color also helps prepare new deputies to understand how General Convention works and navigate the legislative process. They can learn the basics at a “General Convention 101” workshop to be held online Oct. 9, with participation from Rushing; the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, House of Deputies president; and the Rev. Michael Barlowe, General Convention secretary. That workshop will be offered again in Spanish on Oct. 19.

Joe McDaniel, a deputy from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and the convener of the Deputies of Color, said new deputies also can participate in a mentor program. They will be paired with experienced deputies who can answer questions and offer guidance before and during the 80th General Convention.

“That will only increase the effectiveness of the overall caucus,” McDaniel told ENS. He is a Pensacola, Florida, resident and past chair of the Black caucus. “We’ll be able to influence legislation – resolutions – and also the elections.”

That influence continues to grow. Jennings, while referencing a recent Racial Justice Audit of Episcopal Leadership, announced last month that 70% of the convention’s deputies of color will serve on legislative committees, making those committees the youngest and most racially diverse in recent history. Of the committees’ officers, 36% are deputies of color. Over 800 total deputies are certified so far to attend General Convention.

“Ensuring that House of Deputies legislative committees represent the full diversity of the church will not automatically correct the manifestations of structural racism that exist at General Convention,” Jennings said in a news release. “But I hope that more diverse legislative committee leadership and membership will help us make inroads in eradicating some of the injustice identified by the racial audit and help General Convention lead our church ever closer to Beloved Community.”

Becoming Beloved Community, the church’s cornerstone racial reconciliation initiative, inspired the theme and structure of the Deputies of Color’s Sept. 25 meeting, which will focus on “Telling the Truth,” one of four components of Becoming Beloved Community. Rushing and the other three main presenters will discuss the experiences of Black, Indigenous, Asian American and Latino/Hispanic Episcopalians.

“All of the various caucuses have a shared story of discrimination and racism in America, but we don’t fully understand the unique nature of the racism,” McDaniel said. “Our expectation is we will come out with a fuller understanding of the horrors of

discrimination that each of the respective groups have encountered and still encounter, in America and also in The Episcopal Church.”

Heidi Kim, an Episcopalian from Minnesota, will share her thoughts on Asian American struggles against bigotry and violence. The March massacre in the Atlanta, Georgia, area of six women of Asian descent drew the nation’s attention to the growing “Stop Asian Hate” movement, and it also underscored that racism isn’t a simple Black-and-white binary, Kim told ENS.

“As we think about the way that we want to advocate for our own communities,” she said, “what is it we want to learn from our siblings in those other communities so [that] we are all about disrupting racism?”

Kim, though not a deputy, has experience working with the Deputies of Color in her previous position as The Episcopal Church’s staff officer for racial reconciliation. She now works as director of talent and organizational culture for the Minneapolis-based Propel Nonprofits.

“It’s just been such a crazy last two years,” Kim said – from the onset of the pandemic in March 2020 and the national dialogue on systemic racism after the police murder of George Floyd to the increasing attacks on Asian Americans and the underreported problem of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

“I’m hopeful our hearts have been broken open by these things,” she said. “It’s kind of a moment for people paying attention in a different way.”

Missing Indigenous women is one of the topics the Rev. Robert Two Bulls plans to discuss on Sept. 25 in his presentation during the online conference. Two Bulls serves as missionary for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota’s Department of Indian Work and Multicultural Ministries.

He also will talk about the “historical trauma” that Indigenous communities still experience today because of the system of boarding schools that once separated earlier generations of Native American children from their families and promoted their assimilation into white society at the expense of their own cultures and languages.

The Episcopal Church was connected to at least nine of the 367 boarding schools that have been identified by the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

“A lot of folks don’t really understand or see how it affects us today, those early assimilation practices,” Two Bulls told ENS. “One can argue that by opening the door to Western educational practices, that brought sort of the slow death of our oral traditions and how we look at the world.”

The legacy of those boarding schools faces increased scrutiny this year as the Department of Interior announced in June it was launching a comprehensive review of federal boarding school policies dating to 1819. The inquiry was prompted in part by the discovery of unmarked graves

After online gatherings this fall, the Deputies of Color will hold an in-person workshop over a weekend in March 2022 in Baltimore, to foster personal connections among the deputies and finalize a list of legislative priorities for the group before they meet again at General Convention.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church in New York's South Bronx. She said in an interview with Episcopal News Service that, as an immigrant from Honduras, she can relate to the experiences of other deputies in her caucus and in the broader Deputies of Color.

"We are able to come as one body of color and able to share everything, all the issues affecting us," Cañas said. "We are fighting for equality among our church, and not only in our church, out in the world."

Episcopal News Service

— David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org.



Remembering St. Margaret's Episcopal Church

You may make a bequest to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church by preparing a new will or by adding a codicil to your present will. To make sure your exact intentions are carried out, wills and codicils should be prepared by or with the advice of an attorney.

The most useful bequest is an unrestricted bequest for the general purpose of the Church. This permits the Church to use your gift wherever it is needed at the time.

For more information on making a bequest, consult your attorney or estate planner.

Membership in St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Trotwood

If you are currently a member of another Episcopal Church and would like to transfer your membership to St. Margaret's, please contact the Parish Administrator at 937-837-7741 so that a request for a letter of transfer can be prepared for you.

If you are not currently a member of an Episcopal Church and desire to become a member, we would welcome your commitment to God and the Church. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in the Episcopal Church and to participate fully in programs and ministries of the Church.

Individuals who have been baptized within any denomination can officially be prepared for membership by attending formal confirmation classes, which are conducted by the church. The Bishop, subsequent to class completion, will perform confirmation of prepared candidates. Dates for both classes and confirmation will be announced when they have been determined. If you would like additional information or baptism, please call the Parish Administrator at the church office 937-837-7741.

Church Rental: Are you planning a reception or anniversary, celebration, or just looking for a place to hold a meeting or musical concert? St. Margaret's can accommodate your needs. Contact the church office 937-837-7741 for complete details.

“Live Streaming” is up and running. If you are unable to attend in-person church service, you may connect for AUDIO only by dialing **1+301 715 8592**. If prompted, enter the:

**Meeting ID#: 894 9942 0825 and
Passcode: 958753.**

Be aware the connection will be billed as a long -distance call if you Utilize a landline telephone.

Or

Enjoy a **visual view** of the service by connecting through the church's **Facebook** page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Margarets-Episcopal-Church>

Convention news

147th Annual Convention

"Proclaiming the Dream"

**Saturday,
November 13,
2021 on Zoom**

[Convention website](#)

147th Annual Convention: November 13, 2021

First milestone approaching

August 15 (90 days prior to convention) is the date that the Committee on Constitution and Canons requests that any proposed constitutional or canonical changes be submitted for review. No proposed changes will be considered after the September 14 deadline (60 days prior). Send changes to diocesan chancellor Joe Dehner at jdehner@fbtlaw.com.

Other important dates and deadlines

- **Sept. 14:** Deadline for [Constitutional/Canonical Changes](#)
- **Sept. 29:** Requested date for [nominations](#) for diocesan office; Deadline for [resolutions](#) to be considered by convention
- **Oct. 29:** Deadline for [nominations](#) for diocesan office
- **Nov. 3:** [Pre-convention meeting](#) via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 13:** 147th Convention via Zoom, time TBD

Find all information, including how to propose a constitutional/canonical change or resolution, diocesan offices needing nominations and nomination forms at our convention website, dsconvention.org, or find the link on the [diocesan website](#).

Movement grows to honor Bishop Barbara Harris with a feast day on her date of death



[Episcopal News Service] Dioceses and Episcopal leaders are joining a growing movement to add Bishop Barbara Harris to The Episcopal Church's calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts. They are lining up diocesan resolutions that will ask the 80th General Convention to advance her elevation to the status of a church saint at its meeting in July 2022, just two years after her death.

Harris was consecrated in 1989 as bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, becoming the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. She retired in 2002 but remained an active and prominent figure in The Episcopal Church and a role model for younger generations of Episcopal leaders until [her death March 13, 2020, at age 89](#). Harris also is remembered for her support of social justice causes and her part in the first wave of women to be ordained as Episcopal priests.

"Bishop Barbara Harris's life and ministry called out to us to strive for justice and truth as manifested in Scripture in our church and world," Bishop Gayle Harris, the Diocese of Massachusetts' current suffragan, said in an email statement to Episcopal News Service. "Her voice was an uncompromised clarion call for full

inclusion and equality in our corporate life as the Body of Christ from the beginning of her ministry as a lay leader and throughout her episcopacy.”

In February 2021, she and Massachusetts Bishop Alan Gates [issued an invitation to congregations and dioceses](#) across the church to celebrate the life of the late bishop on the first anniversary of her death. Gates and Harris then asked for brief descriptions of those commemorations because “such accounts may become part of the testimony for subsequent consideration of churchwide observation.”

In November, Massachusetts will vote on a resolution at its diocesan convention endorsing the push to create a churchwide feast day on March 13 honoring Harris, echoing a resolution [approved in July by the Union of Black Episcopalians](#). Other dioceses are considering similar resolutions, including [California](#), Los Angeles, Missouri and New York.

Proponents plan to cite examples of local commemorations in making their case for adding Harris to the liturgical calendar as one of its optional observances, alongside the church’s principal feasts and holy days that are listed in the Book of Common Prayer. The church’s Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, or SCLM, has emphasized such a record of “local, organic observance” be part of the “Principles of Revision” for Lesser Feasts and Fasts, which the commission submitted to the 80th General Convention for consideration. (The guidelines [can be found here](#), starting on page 11.)

“There should be a history of people having celebrations of someone they want on the calendar. It shouldn’t be top down,” Byron Rushing, vice president of the House of Deputies, told ENS in an interview. He thinks that qualification has been met by the widespread enthusiasm for commemorations of Harris since her death.

The pandemic forced church leaders temporarily to shelve plans for large-scale, in-person memorial services honoring Harris. While such memorials are still pending, [numerous virtual services were held](#) to mark the one year anniversary of her death.

Rushing and other advocates of a Harris feast day also are in favor of expediting her inclusion in the church calendar. [The Episcopal Church's Canons](#) don't specify rules for conferring sainthood, though individuals traditionally aren't considered until 50 years after death.

"The passage of time permits the testing and flowering of their Christian witness," SCLM says in its guidelines.

Exceptions, however, can be made with approval of General Convention. In 2018, for example the 50-year precedent was waived when the [79th General Convention approved the addition of Thurgood Marshall, Pauli Murray and Florence Li Tim-Oi](#).

Because the liturgical calendar is part of the Book of Common Prayer, additions must be approved by two successive General Conventions. If approved, a trial-use liturgy for a Harris feast day would return to General Convention for final approval in 2024.



Retired Bishop Suffragan Barbara Harris leads members of the Diocese of Massachusetts in singing hymns during its 2014 electing convention. Photo: Diocese of Massachusetts

A feast day honoring Harris already has a [leading contender for its liturgical propers](#). Missouri Bishop Deon Johnson wrote a prayer to be used as a collect honoring Harris, and he selected accompanying biblical readings, in consultation with one of Harris' close friends, the Rev. Sandye Wilson. Those propers now are being used in Johnson's St. Louis-based diocese and were recommended by the Massachusetts bishops for use there and in other dioceses.

Johnson told ENS that Harris served as his mentor while he was attending General Theological Seminary in New York, and "she's always been a role model figure for me throughout her ministry."

She congratulated him when he was elected bishop in November 2019, but she died before he was consecrated in June 2020. For that ceremony, Johnson chose to honor her with the propers he had written.

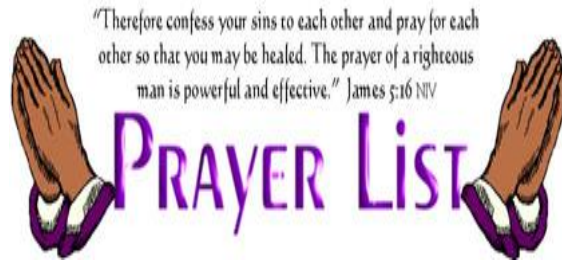
The collect calls on God to "defend us in our own day to make no peace with oppression; that boldly following the example of your servant Barbara Clementine Harris, chosen bishop in your church, we may strive not for ease or fame but gladly toil and walk with you all along our pilgrim journey."

Missouri is drafting its own resolution calling for a churchwide feast day on March 13, which Johnson said is deserved because of "her example in being Christ's hands and heart for social justice and welcome in The Episcopal Church."

Even before being elected bishop, Harris "was an outstanding minister for social justice in The Episcopal Church," Rushing said, citing her work in the civil rights movement, her advocacy for women's equality and her ministry to prison inmates.

"She had a deep history of social justice work," Rushing said. "That of course is one of the reasons why Massachusetts elected her."

– David Paulsen is an editor and reporter for Episcopal News Service. He can be reached at dpaulsen@episcopalchurch.org.



**Please remember our sick and shut-in with prayers, calls and cards
(as of February 1, 2021)**

Barbara Scott, 420 Majestic Dr., Dayton, OH 45417, (937) 263-1212
Barry Johnson, 3101 Valerie Arms Dr. #3D, Dayton, OH 45405 (Sylvia Wilson's son)
Bernadette Wills, 4821 Old Hickory Place, Trotwood, Ohio 45426
Bette Stratton, Grand Haven Living Center 3145 West Mount Hope Ave., Lansing, MI 48911,
 (860) 899-6633
Beverly Barker, 5012 Heatherton Dr., Trotwood, Ohio 45426, (937) 837-0949
Billy Jean Edwards, Bette and Harold Stratton's son's mother-in-law
Brenda Wise, 701 Rosamond Dr., Dayton, OH 45417, (937) 268-8059
Catherine Yancey, Sienna Woods Rm.312, 6105 N. Main Street, 45415, (937)853-5275
Connie Hudgens, 5790 Denlinger Rd., Trotwood, OH 45426, (937) 854-7864
Donna Wright, 413 Majestic Dr., Dayton, OH, 45417 (937) 263-3700
Harvey Toles, 5071 Dayton-Liberty Rd., Dayton, OH 45417, (937) 263-5728
James Francis, 148 Copperfield Dr., Dayton, OH 45405, (937) 540-8206
Deacon Jeanie Manning, 2113 South 23rd Street, Quincy, IL 62301, 309 775-3313
Joyce Bolden, 2150 Poplar St., Obetz, Ohio 45307, (614) 491-7879
Joyce Emory, 725 Ellsworth Dr., Trotwood, OH 45426, (937) 546-3476
Kevin Twyman, Palm Desert, CA, son of Jeff and Phyllis Brunson
Khalid Moss, 30 Forest Glen Ave., Dayton, OH 45405, (937) 259-8473
Lucille Scott, 1438 Chadwick Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45406, (937) 275-0587
Lukinta Lucas, Atlanta, Georgia, son of Mitchell, nephew of Raymond Lucas
Michael Thompson, 300 W. First St. #704, Dayton, OH 45402
Madeline Moxley, 531 Belmonte Park North #904, Dayton, OH 45405, (513) 633-6659
Patricia Simpson, 3050 Valerie Arms Drive #304, Dayton, OH 45405, (937) 529-2189
Paula Ramey, Wood Glen Alzheimer's Community, Magnolia Unit, 3800 Mall Woods Dr.,
 Dayton, OH 45449
Peggy Libecap, St. Margaret's Hall, #221, 19860 Madison Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45206
Roy Parks, 510 Ketcham St., Dayton, OH 45431, (937) 258-1788
Ruth Dunson, 5119 Weddington Dr., Trotwood, OH 45426, (937) 837-8001
Shawn Sandridge, 917 Stolz Ave., Dayton, OH 45408, (937) 268-3967
Thasha Kuntz, Cynthia Kilby's cousin
Theresa Griffiths, Father Ben's mother who is in Liberia
Valerie Jackson, 3650 Stormont Rd., Trotwood, Oh 45426, 937 837-6717

Additions or corrections to this list should be called to the church:937-837-7741

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Christmastide

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Face Mask Required

Noonday Prayer 1-602-580-9715 Pass Code: 6434898#

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Passcode: 815308

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