

February 2025

THE PARISH POST

Holy Innocents'
Episcopal Church
Pearl & Marine Streets
Beach Haven, NJ 08008



A Word from Father Peter

A community of faith, sharing the love of the Holy Spirit, seeking and serving Christ in his creation.

2025 National Theme: *African Americans and Labor*

Church Email
hichurch08008@gmail.com
Website: www.hiecbh.com
Office: 609 492 7571
Parish Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Inside this Issue!

A Word from Fr. Peter	1-2
Parishioner Spotlight	5-6
February Calendar	7

On a visit to Delaware, Carl and I stopped at the Delaware Art Museum. We wanted to see some works on exhibit by Dale Chihuly, an American Glass artist. It is a small museum so we could see most of the works. As we were planning to leave, I noticed a gallery which we missed, and as soon as we entered it my heart leaped for joy. We saw the original painting of Absalom Jones, the first Black person ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.

Absalom Jones was born a slave on November 7, 1746. As happened with many slave families, Absalom's mother and siblings were sold to different people and Absalom was sent to work in Philadelphia. He married another slave, Mary King, in 1770, in a marriage presided by an Episcopal priest. Absalom purchased Mary's freedom in 1778. Since both of their owners were Episcopalians, they became acquainted with the Episcopal Church but they worshiped at St. George's Methodist Church which allowed persons of color to preach.

At St. George's, Absalom met Richard Allen, a freed slave, and together they became Licensed Lay Preachers for the Black members of St. George's Church. They formed the Free African Society which eventually began to hold religious services for Black persons in Philadelphia. Episcopal priests would help lead services. In 1791 or 1792, after the Black members helped to expand St. George's by building a gallery for the growing congregation, the white members of the church forced the Black members to segregate themselves by going into the gallery. Jones and Allen lead out the Black members of the church. That year, Jones and Allen formed the African Church of Philadelphia. Jones and Allen disagreed on how to affiliate this new Black Church. Jones and some of the members formed the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas which secured from the Episcopal church the right of autonomous Black leadership and Absalom Jones as their leader. In 1795 Jones was ordained a deacon and in 1802 a priest. The church grew to 500 members in their first year. Allen started Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Methodist tradition.

Absalom Jones showed exceptional skills as a preacher and community organizer. He initiated a series of anti-slavery sermons on New Year's Day. On January 1, 1808, when the United States Constitution banned the African slave trade, Jones preached his famous "Thanksgiving Sermon." *continued on next page...*



A Word From Father Peter Continued...

Although a leader of Black Episcopalians, Absalom Jones endured significant prejudice from white Episcopal clergy. He was denied a voice and vote at the Diocesan Conventions. The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas did not enjoy the same rights in the Episcopal Church as did white congregations. Only in 1863 was St. Thomas Church admitted to full membership in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Absalom Jones opened a door for other Black persons to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. In 1874, James Theodore Holly was ordained the first Black Bishop of Haiti and in 1885 Samuel David Ferguson the first Black Bishop of Liberia. In 1907, General Convention allowed for Black Suffragan Bishops with oversight over Black churches but these bishops did not have a vote in the House of Bishops. In 1917, Edward Thomas Demby and Henry Beard Delany were consecrated the first Black Suffragan Bishops. In 1962, John M. Burgess was elected the first Black Bishop of Massachusetts with authority over Black and White Episcopalians.

The Episcopal Church's struggle with full inclusion of all members has correlated with the growth of the civil rights movement in our country. As the broader society became more inclusive, the Episcopal Church followed that pattern. The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey organizes regular Anti-Racism Training programs for our diocese and for the broader Episcopal Church. We are taking significant steps to help people identify racism and work to include all of God's children into the church and society. ~ Fr. Peter De Franco

Congratulations to the newly-elected Members of the Vestry, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Deputies and Alternates to Diocesan Convention, and Delegates and Alternates to the Atlantic Convocation at our annual meeting on January 12th.



Wardens:

Pat Peacock - 2025 Senior Warden
Dave White - 2025 Junior Warden

NJ Diocesan Convention

Delegate

Jeanne Cashel
Bill Kehr
Mary Jane Mannherz

Atlantic Convocation Representatives

Gail Jacobsen
Jean Nelson

Vestry:

Vince Contreras
Melissa Wall
TBD

Alternate

Richard Cashel
Rob Meyer

Alternate

Bill Kehr
Kay DeCicco

CONGRATS

Minister of Music

Music News

ALL ARE WELCOME to sing in our choir.
Please contact me if you are interested in joining.



Choir returns for Sunday worship on February 9th.
First rehearsal for 2025 is Wednesday, February 12, 11AM –2:30PM (with lunch break).

February is Black History Month

In honor of Black History month, we will feature hymns & other music by black composers each Sunday.
Watch for information and some recordings in the E-pistle .

Save the Date: Spring 2025 Concerts

March 22 3PM Nocturnes Big Band
June 1 4PM Capital Singers of Trenton



Ellen Dondero
Minister of Music
ejdondero@comcast.net

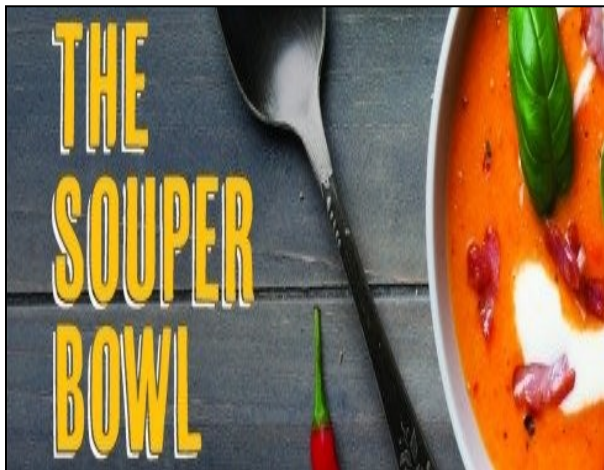
Words From Your Wardens

Most of you have heard the Search Committee's recent update in church. To reiterate in case you have not, the Committee has completed the Church Profile for Holy Innocents' that will be used for advertising for a new rector. The Vestry has made some minor recommendations and has voted to approve the Profile. We are moving forward in our search! The next step is to forward the Profile to the Diocese for approval before it is posted for potential rectors' to see and act on.

Next, is a time of waiting for us...and none of us like to wait patiently. We need to pray for our church to remain humble and unified during this time. Pray for us to be patient and willing to wait for God's timing in our call. Remember that "we" are the church, even without a full-time priest.

We also need to pray for the Search Committee. Pray that they too be unified and practice godly wisdom and discernment. Pray that they will be thorough in their screening of potential candidates and pray that the Lord will protect our Search Committee from unnecessary and unfair criticism from impatient church members.

A season without a priest is an important season in the life of our church. It can be difficult to show patience and grace in the face of uncertainty but that is what our faith is for. Please feel free to reach out to either of your Wardens with any questions or concerns. Blessings and Love, Pat & Dave



February 9th is the SOUPER BOWL!

We hope to see lots of choices of soups, breads, and cookies to serve during coffee hour that day. As is our custom, we will have two soup kettles representing the two football teams that are playing in the NFL game later that day. This year it's the Philadelphia Eagles & Kansas City Chiefs!!

Put your donation in the kettle of your choice. In the past the most \$'s collected in a team's kettle will be the winning team that evening!

All donations collected during SOUPER BOWL coffee hour will be sent to OPERATION SMILE.(NJ Chapter) Anyone interested in making soup text Maggie Aftanis 609-709-6133.

Parish Prayer List February

If you need to add or delete a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator

Lara Sparks Deitz
Dennis
Bob Hendricks
Warren Lamon
Lovas Family
Joe
Lynne Weidmann
Rob Meyer
Florence Lamon
Kathy Rice
Charles Sullivan
JoAnn King
Judy Hamilton
Linda K.
Gia
Frank

Joan Connolly
Connie Anderson
Christine Hendricks
Ann White
Debbie & Joe Reising
Peg Appleget
Alycia Mullin
Chuck Hall
Melanie Harman
Jessie
Doug Hunter
Matt Starr
Cindy Wood
Linda M.
Jeannine

Mary Ann Crewdson
Christian Balint
Barry Longenbach
Pierro Family
Connie
Dcn. Judy
Meg Neff
Tino
Pat
Rich
Marie Kleber
Ellis Barbieri
Diane
Ray M.
Phil

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall, Brandan White

Environmental Education and Advocacy Committee



Field Trip to Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville Scheduled for March 13th

The winter season is brutally cold; the sun sits low in the sky, as the daylight hours are limited. I want to sleep late, cozy in flannels by the fireplace, and stay inside. Nature follows along with some animals deep in hibernation, while others seek cover in burrows, and many find protection and warmth in piles of dead vegetation until a day arrives with hours of sun. Plant stalks and leaves look mournful, but for insects, this may be their only protection during these harsh winter months. Many birds from northern areas head to our Mid-Atlantic forests, marshes, bays and ocean for the winter. Some of our largest birds such as Bald Eagles and Great Horned Owls will be sitting on eggs by mid-winter.

On Thursday, March 13, the Environmental Education and Advocacy Committee (EEAC) will lead a day-long field trip to uncover the treasure of nature's winter landscape, including a drive and walk through various habitats at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville. Nature is hard to predict, but we may observe snow geese and brants; wigeons, gadwalls, pintails, the American Black Duck, and other ducks in the brackish waters. Then, we will turn to the other side of the refuge for ducks which live in the winter bays of NJ, including mergansers, ruddy duck, bufflehead and gulls! Coastal salt marshes are beautiful in every season, but in the winter the marsh grasses are a golden brown and as the sunsets off to the west, behind the sea whipped bending trees, we may find the short-eared owls beginning to soar and hunt, as the northern harriers find their roosts for the night.

Trip details will be posted soon; meanwhile, pick up Mark S. Garland's *Watching Nature*, or Scott Weidensaul's *Seasonal Guide to the Natural Year – Mid-Atlantic* to begin your tour from a cozy inside sunny spot. ~ Submitted by Mary Jane Mannherz



In the Spotlight

Parishioner Spotlight is a regular feature in The Post. The purpose is to provide insights into the background and personalities of our fabulous parishioners!

We hope you enjoy getting to know the people of Holy Innocents'!
February Parishioner Spotlight ~ Marilyn Thomas

I grew up in West Collingswood, NJ, and attended Sharp School for kindergarten thru 6th grade. My teachers there were so special and really made learning a pleasure. It was there that I got to know Rita, who would become my best friend through many years of school. All I remember is having wonderful teachers who tried and succeeded in giving us the skills to handle junior high. It was there that I would meet lots more classmates from all around the town and even the outskirts of Collingswood. On to high school, again making more friends. I became a member of the swim team and even held a record in the butterfly stroke. Also played hockey but not well. During this time there were several clubs that formed, and I became a member of the NNC's (No Name Club). What fun to meet in each other's homes and develop relationships with these delightful girls. Believe it or not, we still meet for lunch several times a year.

Summers were spent in Brant Beach in a home my parents bought in 1931. It was across from the Bay, and my father bought a boat so that we could go crabbing and clamming. He also tried to get me to sail his sailboat, but I was a disaster. The only thing I can say is later on two ladies and I bought a small sailboat and I was crew except for the day, the captain fell overboard going around the mark. I had to go back and get her—and somehow I did.

After graduation, I attended Hood College in Frederick, MD. At that time, it was all girls and there were 500 of us. My roommates over the years were just delightful and I felt I was blessed. My major was textiles so I lived in Strawn, a house for those majoring in Home Economics. It was great except for the night when a bat got under my bed while I was in the bed...ugh.

When I finished college, I moved to New York with two friends. We felt very lucky to be able to afford a seven-room apartment in an old brownstone on the Upper East Side. I had wanted to be an interior designer but when I saw an ad in the New York Times for a lace designer, no experience needed, I went straight down to that office. Somehow, I got the job although I did not have an art background. Fortunately, I was able to design lace after a long time of learning the limitations. It was shortly after this that our apartment group broke up so we could live independently. I found a one-room apartment down town close to the office, which was perfect. I had met Tom, my future husband, a year or so before and when we got married, we lived there for one year and then moved to Summit, NJ.

Tom commuted to New York City every day, and I became involved in the Junior League doing all sorts of volunteer work. It was a wonderful experience not only for the work I did but also the people I met. I learned to use video equipment and later had a small company with another gal doing home inventories on video. Later I started working at H&R Block doing taxes. Several people came back each year to have me help them again this was so rewarding. We had two boys, George and Ted, who attended the local schools and made many friends there. Our summers were again spent at the Shore, only this time it was in Beach Haven where Tom's family owned a house. The boys learned to sail and play tennis, and I started playing tennis.

We moved to Beach Haven full time when Tom retired in 1986 and spent the next 25 years enjoying old and new friends as well as traveling. Our children had finished college and were working in various places.

Continued on next page...

Parishioner Spotlight continued...

One thing that I enjoy is the Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club. I have mainly been involved there in chairing the Bridge Committee and a couple of other committees. Tom and I attended most all the social events, and I still do. Last summer, I was awarded the Kit Heilman Trophy through the Yacht Club. Wes Heilman (a summer parishioner at Holy Innocents', standing next to me in the picture) started the award in honor of his wife, Kit, in 2006, shortly after she passed. It is presented to a woman who fosters a sense of community and "who continues the traditions of involvement and community at Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club that Kit found so rewarding." It is a prestigious award and one of only a few awards that is deliberated on by the Flag Officers. I was honored to receive this award. The picture is of me receiving the award.



After we had moved here full time, I became more active at Holy Innocents'. Both of my sons were christened at Holy Innocents', as were my four grandchildren. The main thing I did at Holy Innocents' was to form a group to do the flower arrangements for the altar. Looking at what was there before, I thought we could do a better job, and I think we have. There is lots of talent in our membership. Although I have attended and been involved with Holy Innocents' for many years, the only picture that I could find that shows my involvement is from this year's Silent Auction, where I enjoyed a table with friends.

We loved being down at the Shore all year long and met many people up and down the Island. We lived in Beach Haven for 25 years after Tom retired. It was great because we met a number of people from the other end of the island. And we were able to travel to Europe, Asia, and Australia. I spend each summer and a few weekends in the fall and spring in Beach Haven.



By the end of those 25 years, we decided to move to Medford Leas, a continuing care residence where we have a small home on the campus. It was a very wise move, as we had health benefits, and there are lots of activities and a lot of lovely people. Tom passed away in 2019, so I have had to make a lot of adjustments but always remember the wonderful years we had

together. My son, George, lives in Redmond, WA, and is involved in solar projects. He has a son, Henry, who has a building business, and a daughter, Anna, who is a senior in college. Ted has a photography business in Petaluma, CA, where he lives with his wife, Hilary and their two children, Whitney and Ian. The collage includes pictures of both of my sons, including Ted with his family, and also of two women who were dear to me but are no longer alive, Marilyn Flagler and my sister, Nancy Jones. From top left, moving clockwise, they are: Ted and me; George; Ted, his wife Hilary, his children Whitney and Ian, and me; both sons with Marilyn Flagler; George, my sister Nancy, and me.



FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>11:00am Funeral Liturgy Suzette Whiting</i>
2 <i>The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple</i> 9:30am Rite II	3 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	4	5	6 2:00pm Book Club/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	7 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	8
9 <i>The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II SOUPER BOWL During Coffee Hour!	10 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	11	12 9:30am-11:00am Sandwich Ministry 11:00am-2:30pm Choir Rehearsal w/ Lunch	13 2:00pm Book Club/Bible Study 7:00pm Vestry 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	14 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> 	15
16 <i>The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II EEAC Presentation During Coffee Hr.	17 <i>Parish Office Closed</i> <i>President's Day</i> 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	18 11:30am-2:30pm ECW Holy Eucharist, brown-bag lunch & Organizational Mtg. (Sanctuary & MH)	19 4:00pm Prayer Ministry in the Chapel	20 2:00pm Book Club/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	21 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	22
23 <i>The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 8:30am Choir 9:30am Rite II BISHOP VISITATION	24 9:00am MP (FB) 9:15-10:15am Yoga 	25	26	27 2:00pm Book Club/Bible Study 7:30pm AA Mtg. Clam-Diggers 9:00pm Compline (FB)	28 <i>Parish Office Closed</i>	

The
Engleside Inn

Hotel • Restaurant • Bar

Sushi Bar • Sand Bar

Open Year Round

Engleside Avenue on the
Ocean Beach Haven

SURFLIGHT
THEATRE
BEACH HAVEN, NEW JERSEY

Musicals, Plays,
Children's Theatre,
Concerts, Comedy

SHOW PLACE
Ice Cream Parlour

Featuring our Singing Waitri
Open mid-June to Labor Day

Beach Haven, NJ

www.surflight.org
609.492.9477

MURPHY'S
Fresh
MARKETS

Your local
full service
grocery store
for over
40 years!

Murphysmarkets.com

Catering

PROUDLY SERVING SOUTH JERSEY

Medford Tabernacle Beach Haven

Stokes Rd. Medford Lakes Rd. South Bay
Ave.

609.654.8422



609.268.8301
609.492.5100

Larry Peacock

for all your
Real Estate needs



**G. ANDERSON
AGENCY**

Your LBI Real Estate Partners

OCEANFRONT **TIKI** BAR & RESTAURANT

SEA SHELL
Open to the Public

TIKI BAR & BEACH BAR
MARTINI + WINE BAR
LUNCH, DINNER & TAKEOUT
FIRE PITS ON BEACH
PALM TREES
53 HOTEL ROOMS

THESEASHELLRESORT.COM



The schedule to sign up for Coffee Hour is on the bulletin board outside Martin Hall. There are five months worth of Sundays from which to choose: February- June. Please consider taking a week to furnish brunch items for our parishioners. You can also team up with others to share the week for more variety.

Examples are: cookies, fruit bowls, breads, bagels, coffee cakes, muffins, scones, strudels, brownies, pies, breakfast casseroles, egg salad, tea sandwiches, etc. I think you get the picture that anything is fine and welcomed! Remember that whatever you decide to bring can be homemade or store bought, and you are NOT responsible for making the coffee. Please reach out to me for questions and/or comments.

Thank you, Ellen Kehr (814) 598-4973 bkehrfl@comcast.net

THANK YOU ALL!!!

Please be sure to patronize
& thank the businesses
that so very generously
purchased ads for
this Parish Post year!

The Hughes Family
~ The Hillman Family
~ Larry & Pat Peacock
Murphy's Family of Stores
~ The Surflight Theatre

These ads greatly help defray
our publishing costs!

February Birthdays

Maria Mack	02	Matt Starr	21
Kimberly Sparks	02	Gabriella Vaughan	21
Philip Boulden	05	Connie Anderson	26
Jean Nelson	06	John Dondero	26
Ellen Dondero	08	Sherry Johnson	26
Joan Melega	10	Leila Sullivan	27
Anita Miller	11	Jo-Ann Entrikin	28
Noah Dondero	12	Barry Baxter	29
David Hunter	13		
Joe Johnson	17		



February Anniversaries

Robert and Ellen Meyer 26

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The following parishioners have graciously volunteered to assist with our worship and/or have donated either candles or flowers for the altar for the month of February.

FEBRUARY ALTAR DONATIONS

- 2nd - Artificial Flowers
- 9th - Gail & Steve Steiner
- 16th -
- 23rd - Bishop Visitation



FEBRUARY FLOWER GUILD

- 2nd - Artificial Flowers
- 9th - Joyce Hillyer
- 16th - Kim Sparks
- 23rd - Carol Hammond



FEBRUARY ALTAR GUILD

- 2nd - Jackie Sparks, Jeanne Cashel
- 9th - Carol Hammond, Chris Burlaga
- 16th - Jackie Sparks, Diane Entrikin
- 23rd - Jackie Sparks, Diane Entrikin

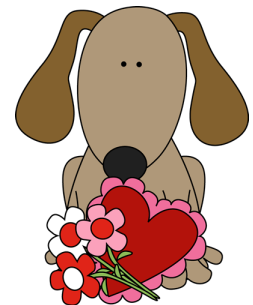
FEBRUARY USHERS & GREETERS

- 2nd - Mike Fahner, Leila Sullivan
- 9th - Sue Hughes, Melissa Wall
- 16th - Bob Weidmann, Bill Kehr
- 23rd - Sue Hughes, Melissa Wall



FEBRUARY COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

- 2nd - Jackie Sparks
- 9th - Souper Bowl Sunday/Birthday Cake
- 16th - TBD
- 23rd - Bishop Visitation



On the **Fourth Sunday of the Month**, Fr. Peter will offer prayers and anointing for healing in the chapel immediately after the Holy Eucharist for anyone who would like this ministry. Persons can come into the chapel and request healing prayer for themselves or for others. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will not be a healing service in February due to the Bishop's visitation on the 23rd.



Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
 Pearl and Marine Streets
 Beach Haven, New Jersey 08008
 609-492-7571

Sunday Morning ~ 9:30 a.m.
 Rite II Worship Service with music
 609-492-7571



Donate your way.
 Give one time, anytime or
 set up a recurring donation.

Father Peter's Contact Information

Phone: 973-886-5104

Email: revpdefranco@gmail.com

Please reach out for pastoral needs or other questions.

**THE BISHOP IS COMING!!
 VISITATION DATE HAS BEEN RE-SCHEDULED TO
 FEBRUARY 23RD**

Anyone interested in being confirmed or received into the church,
 please get in touch with a Warden or see Lisa in the office.

The canonical purposes of a visitation are for the bishop to examine the
 condition of the congregation, oversee the clergy, preach, confirm, preside at
 the eucharist, and examine parochial records.