

MID-ATLANTIC DEANERY GAZETTE

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Ordinations

On Saturday March 25th and Saturday April 1st, Mr. Sean McDermott and Mr. Tyler Phass will be ordained to the diaconate at All Saints' Church (VA) and Saint Alban's Church. Bishop Jones was the ordaining prelate. They will serve as curates at their respective churches. God bless them on their new ministries!

Clergy News

Fr. R.H. Tregenza of Mt. Calvary Church recently produced his fourth feature length film entitled Gavagai. A professor of film at VCU in Richmond, father has had a stellar career as a filmmaker and educator in addition to his parish ministry. More information about the film may be found at www.gavagaifilm.com

Thank You

Thank you for your generous support of the bishop's 2017 Lenten Appeal. The proceeds are once again going to help our own St. Philip's Church in Virginia.

News and Updates

Welcome All Saints' Anglican, Lancaster, PA

The newest parish of our deanery is All Saints' Anglican Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Originally founded as an ACC (Anglican Catholic Church) parish they joined the APA after a period of being independent. They are lead by the Rev'd. James Johnson. A graduate of the University of Maryland and Westminster Theological Seminary, Fr. Johnson transferred into the APA from the ACA where he was ordained and canonically resident. He brings years of parish experience and loads of enthusiasm to this mission. In addition to being a pastor, Fr. Johnson is also an accomplished opera singer who participates in various Philadelphia opera companies and related events. Currently, the parish rents property. But under the steady leadership of Fr. Johnson they will no doubt continue to grow and one day be able to purchase their own property.

Prayers Requested for the Sweeney Family

Please keep the Rev'd Kevin Sweeney and his brother, Shawn, in your prayers. Shawn brother is suffering from a return of his leukemia and is in desperate need of a stem cell transplant. On top of this, when Fr. Sweeney went in for testing to see if he could serve as donor, it was discovered he has some sort of pre-leukemia cells in his body. So please pray for miracles – that God would heal and deliver these men.



Book Review

This past summer while on holiday at Ocean City, Maryland, I read a really interesting book called **"Salvation on Sand Mountain"** by Dennis Covington. It was recommended to me years ago while in seminary by the late Rt. Rev'd John T. Cahoon, Jr., who was my bishop at the time. A couple of years I found it at a used bookstore, and then this past August I finally decided to read it. It was well worth reading! It tells the story of the author's exploration into the snake handling churches of the deep south. An investigative reporter, Covington decided to study these groups when news got out about a domestic violence situation concerning one of the members of these groups. He ends up being let into the very traditional and secretive network of churches where he befriends the members and learns of their beliefs and practices. Over the course of a few years, however, he slowly finds his own lukewarm faith coming alive by virtue of attending these services. Eventually he gets to preach at one of the churches and even handle a few rattlesnakes. In the end, however, he and the group amicably part ways over issues of related to church authority. The book is highly engaging and a very informative look into this fascinating aspect of American Christianity. It also has many good (and sometimes scary) pictures of people handling snakes. Check it out!

St. Paul's Establishes Scholarship Fund

In November of 2016 St. Paul's Church established a scholarship fund. Some friends of the parish and a few other parishioners pooled their financial resources and in January of 2017 were able to give out three \$800 scholarships to the children of parishioners. The fund is only for parishioners of St. Paul's and their children and is to be used for secondary education. Going into 2017 over \$3,000 has been raised to continue to grow and expand the fund. Thanks be to God!

Confirmations in Charlottesville

On Sunday, March 26th, at All Saints' Anglican Church, the Rt. Rev'd Chandler Holder Jones, SSC, will confirm fourteen people. That same number of people were confirmed there at the church in September of 2016! All Saints' is blessed to be full of young families. They have twenty eight kids under the age of thirteen. Praise God for the dedicated leadership, both lay and ordained, of All Saints' Church.

Special Guest Preacher in Joppa

On February 26th St. Alban's Church welcomed the Rev'd Canon Uche Umeh to preach at both services. Canon Umeh is a priest of the Diocese of Amichi in the Church of Nigeria. He was in the United States for the month visiting family and attended St. Alban's during that time. His brother serves on the vestry of St. Alban's. The church was packed with visitors and a fantastic reception was held in his honor. The altar guild and a parishioner also purchased him two gorgeous stoles and some clergy shirts for his ministry in Nigeria. His sermon was recorded and may be viewed on St. Alban's Facebook page.

