



St. John's Episcopal Church

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WORDS FROM OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: The Rev. Pauline A. Samuel

Greetings and welcome to the first newsletter of 2019! Welcome also to Black History month where we celebrate our heritage, culture and accomplishments throughout the course of history. We celebrate not only the familiar names such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey and Sidney Poitier. We salute some of our younger modern day heroes, youth and young adults who are doing amazing things to make a difference in their communities and the world.



Eleven-year-old Naomi Wadler, one of the youngest faces in the fight for gun control spoke at the March For Our Lives rally last year in the wake of numerous school shootings across the country. At the March for Our Lives she demanded that people see and appreciate the lives of black girls, in particular those who are victims of gun violence and go unnoticed.

Marley Dias is 14 year old girl from New Jersey of Jamaican descent who created the campaign #1000BlackGirlBooks calling attention to the need for more character diversity in children's books. In effort to collect 1000 books, she was able to collect over 9,000. In 2017 she was awarded the Smithsonian Magazine's American Ingenuity Youth Award.

Proverbs 22:6 states that we should "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it". Our children are not only our future they are our present and they are capable of doing amazing things. May we continue to nurture and empower the young people in our faith community, mentoring them, praying for them and with them. May they always know that they never walk this journey called life and following the way of Jesus alone.

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT



Adrienne Lawrence
Get to Know Your
Fellow Parishioners

PRAYER WORKS

Adrienne Lawrence has been a devoted Anglican Episcopalian since she moved from Brooklyn to Jamaica, Queens with her parents and sister 52 years ago. She attended LaGuardia Community College. She loves Theater, traveling and delicious food. She changed from the demanding field of banking to now 35 years in the medical field to spend more time with her 2 children, Amanda and Andre'. She is a recipient of two Employee of the Month awards, an appreciation award and two plaques of gratitude. Adrienne and her heart, her Granddaughter Mylasia, immediately fell in love with St. John's. Everyone is so warm and wonderful. When Mylasia and I talk about St. John's, I say "I love Church and she says "I love Sunday School". Adrienne is a member of The Altar Guild, ECW and PAG II. Prayer works! I was young when I realized "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"; Philippians 4:13; even the worse situation gets better with prayer.



TOWNHALL MEETING - PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Mo. Samuel held a town hall meeting on December 30th '18; it was an informative discussion on prayer and spirituality.

PRAY - Dwell intentionally with God daily: He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1 "Lord, hear our prayer." - Book of Common Prayer



"SACRED STEWARDSHIP STORIES" - Monica Leslie-Harrison

My Personal Story—As a little girl growing up in Westmoreland, Jamaica, I remember going to Sunday School with my sisters and brothers. There were 6 of us and I remember getting "Collection" for the collection plate. We all knew in our household we had to give this "collection", religiously every Sunday during Sunday School. (Of course I did not understand why we were doing this then - Was it a cool thing to do or, were we just being obedient kids, following our parents instructions?). As I got older I realized why we were doing this - Not sure whether the revelation came from our parents or from our Sunday School teachers, but I began to understand that I have to give thanks to God for all the good times and things in my life, because God made it all

possible. For me, I see giving as a privilege, not a burden. I also give not out of a sense of duty, but out of a sense of love, gratitude and service. Quoting from the New Oxford Annotated Bible (with the Apocrypha) - 2 Corinthian Chap.9: v7-8 "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work". I have had a very rich and fulfilling childhood, even with sibling rivalry. As an adult I am grateful for all that I am, however imperfect, (because I am human). I am grateful for what

I have achieved, and I know that everything that I have achieved, and all the accolades bestowed, would not have been possible but for God and others before and with me. So I thank God every day for his mercy and for providing me with His grace, family, good friends, shelter, and food. Therefore, as a "believer in God's abundance" I pledge weekly. If I miss a Sunday I double the weekly offering for the next Sunday. I make arrangements for when I am on vacation or will be away for a long period of time. It is a joy to give back because God has been very good to me.



ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION RESULTS

Warden: Stanley Hall
Sharon Hunter - *Elected*

Vestry: Anne Bernard
Joydeth Lacey-Amos - *Elected* (2yr term)
Yolanda Peters
Barbara Taylor - *Elected* (3 yr term)
Nikki Young - *Elected* (3yr term)

FAREWELL TO ST. JOHN'S PARISHIONERS

Mary Cox, Elizabeth Gbinigie & Cheryl Boyce

"In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; Deliver them now from every evil and bid the eternal rest.

COMEDY CORNER

