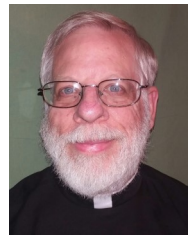


ST. JAMES' JOURNAL

MARCH 2023

Rev. Wayne Sherrer — Priest-in-Charge



Rt. Rev. John Palmer “Jack” Croneberger



With sadness we share the news of the death on February 23rd of the Rt. Rev. John Palmer “Jack” Croneberger, 84, peacefully with his family by his side.

Bishop Croneberger was elected Bishop Coadjutor on June 6, 1998 and consecrated on November 21, 1998. He became Bishop Diocesan upon the retirement of Bishop John Shelby Spong on January 29, 2000 and served as 9th Bishop of Newark for seven years, until the consecration of Bishop Mark M. Beckwith on January 27, 2007.

Before his election and consecration, he served for 18 years as Rector of Church of the Atonement, Tenafly. During that time, he served as Deputy or Alternate to five General Conventions and on the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, the Budget & Finance Committee, the Christian Education Commission, the Camp and Conference Center Board, and the Committee on Congregational Development, Renewal, Church Growth and Evangelism.

Bishop Croneberger was predeceased by his wife, Marilyn, in 2013. He is survived by their five children and many grandchildren.

Good and gracious God, the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, you sent your servant Jack to be a priest and bishop in your Church to feed your sheep with your word and to guide them by his example; give us the grace to keep the faith he taught and to follow in his footsteps. We entrust him into your unfailing mystery of Love and Hope through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Reminiscence

Some of you saw the oversized button (which said Equal Rights in '63) from the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Equality that I'd brought to church a few Sundays back to show Barbara Olesen. I attended that Summer, 1963 march with my grandmother which was at the reflecting pool on the mall in Washington, D.C. And, while I didn't quite come to appreciate the historical significance of the varied activities of that day until much later in life, (I was nine years old), almost every one of our age demographic remembers the event; the world was introduced to the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King's soaring oratory in his “I Have A Dream” speech. Dr. King's original name was not Martin Luther, but Michael King, Jr. His father (King, Sr.) journeyed to Germany in 1929 to study theologian Martin Luther's protests against the (then) pervasive corruption of the Catholic Church, which culminated in his nailing the 95 Theses to the door of a German church. King, Sr. was so smitten with this act of courageous protest that upon returning to the United States, he legally changed his name to Martin Luther King, Sr. His son, born that same year, and christened, Michael King, Jr. subsequently became Martin Luther King, Jr.



This oversized button that I wore, and the spoon rest that I brought back for my mother's kitchen (which I still have) are the only indicia of my having been physically present at a history making event on the road to advocating for equality of opportunity and equal dignity between the races. Although one of many background participants, I do get to tell people at this latter life stage that I was there when this particular phase of history was formed.

Continued on next page

The Civil Rights Movement was inaugurated with the Montgomery (Alabama) Bus Boycott on December 1st, 1955, when seamstress Rosa Parks was ordered to abandon her seat in the front section (public conveyances were segregated) of a bus to a white man. When she refused, she was arrested, photographed, fingerprinted, and jailed. I'm sure that some of you have seen the iconic portraiture of her "booking" photo with the date and time of her 1955 arrest.

Those of you who may have lived in, or spent a significant amount of time in the South may be well aware of the strident defense (among some in the political class) of what was euphemistically termed "The Southern Way Of Life." We know that the national fabric was irretrievably rent in 1861 when South Carolina seceded from the Union with the artillery shelling of Fort Sumter, initiating the hostilities that became known in the North as "The Civil War," and in the South as "The War of Northern Aggression." It was fought over "the Peculiar Institution" also known as slavery. The south, predicated primarily upon an agrarian industry of cotton cultivation, conscripted large quantities of uncompensated (and remarkably cruel) labor in the form of Black men, women, and children, (age was no barrier) who were bought and sold to sustain the harvesting and export of the cotton crop. There was strident resentment in the North's dictating to the South how they should conduct their affairs, and an implicit belief that Black people were only worthy of being kept in an unrelenting state of inferiority and perpetual servitude. Prohibitions against equal protection under Federal laws were enshrined in the 1857 Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision, and the 1896 Plessey V. Ferguson decision. Although Eli Whitney had invented the Cotton Gin as a mechanized labor-saving device, the south still preferred the institution of slavery to fulfill their agrarian mercantile needs, as well as reinforce their fervent belief in the prevailing prescribed social order.

Although the war ended in April, 1865 with Robert E.

Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia's Courthouse, (he and Ulysses S. Grant had been classmates at West Point; he resigned his US commission in 1861, at the commencement of North/South hostilities, and returned to Virginia to command Jefferson Davis's Confederate troops) the residual sting of Southern defeat, and a conflicted national identity (North vs. South) did not enhance the meaningful, and sincere pursuit of national reconciliation, despite various courtesies extended by Abraham Lincoln, and General Grant, to Jefferson Davis, and General Lee. A victorious President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated that same April while viewing a play, *Our American Cousin*, from the presidential box at Ford's Theatre, in Washington, D.C. by John Wilkes Booth, an actor, who had been an ardent segregationist, and enthusiastic defender of Southern mores and folkways. Washington D.C., although the seat of the Federal government, was then a segregated city, (which gravitated toward a Southern identity) with conflicted ideals regarding Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln had been surreptitiously smuggled into Washington D.C. by Allan Pinkerton's bodyguards in March of 1865 (when inaugurations were originally held; Pinkerton was the architect and forerunner of the Secret Service's protective responsibilities for US chief executives) immediately prior to his second inauguration when intelligence disclosed that various plots against his life had been detected by disaffected Southerners, aided, and abetted by Northern sympathizers.

Robert E. Lee had been married to a cousin of George Washington, Martha Custis Washington, whose homestead was appropriated by the Lincoln Administration for the Civil War era siting of Arlington National Cemetery, when the Northern military began burying the fallen within close proximity of the homestead's back porch. General Grant's expressed logic was enshrined in his quote: "Every time Lee steps off that back porch in the moonlight to relieve himself, he'll be daily reminded of the folly which he unleashed."

Fast forward to 1963, and 1964, when Northern, and idealistic youthful White kids rode South with Blacks to

March Birthdays

Lily Vitalos	03/05
David Lacouture	03/05
Pat Taylor	03/05
Phyllis Bartkus	03/08
John McKinney	03/10
Tim Niculcea	03/14
Sylvia Okoye	03/23
Tina Okoye	03/23
Charlotte Brooks	03/25
Anne Dutton	03/27
Helen LaForge	03/27



Upcoming Events

March 5	Annual Meeting Food Bags for Easter Available
March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday School 9 AM
March 17	Happy St. Patrick's Day!
March 20	First Day of Spring!
March 23	Vestry Meeting 7 PM
March 26	Journal Articles Due
April 2	Palm Sunday
April 6th	Maundy Thursday
April 7th	Good Friday
April 8th	Holy Saturday
April 9	Easter Sunday

Office Hours

Tuesday 12-5 PM
Thursday 11-5 PM
Friday 11-5 PM

Lenten Study

On Wednesday evenings at 7 PM, Fr. Wayne and the Rev. Lorna Woodham of Christ Church, Budd Lake, will jointly lead a Lenten series on Justice for members and friends of our two parishes. Contact Fr. Wayne or the church office to be added to the Zoom link.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee has discovered a new way to raise funds while shopping. While Amazon Smile is no longer an option, we found out that St. James' is already set up on the [iGive.com](https://www.give.com) website. This fundraiser pays us (much the same as Amazon Smile) for shopping online at stores such as CVS, Kohls, Macy's, Michaels, Old Navy and many other places. You will need to sign on and create an account and select your favorite stores before shopping. More information will be available shortly, but check out the website. We actually have over \$10 sitting out in the account that we did not know about! Checks are sent once the amount reaches \$25!

We decided to not move ahead with Got Sneakers. We did receive \$14 for the 6+ bags of sneakers we sent, but it most likely will not be sustainable. Thanks to those who participated.

We are considering doing another Raise Right Gift Card order in a few months. If you shop at any retail store or buy gas, you might want to think about supporting us.

Thanks for your support on these fundraisers. If you have any ideas for other fundraisers, please contact Anne Dutton or Barbara Olesen.

March Journal
Articles Due
Sunday, March 26th



Harriet Tubman

Regional Ministry Networks

The 93 plus 2 congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark are divided into Regional Ministry Networks (RMNs). St. James is one of 12 parishes in the Harriet Tubman RMN, which covers the Southwest territory of our diocese. A list of parishes in our RMN may be found here: <https://dioceseofnewark.org/rmn-harriet>.

Geographically we are spread far and wide but in the past, our RMN has been quite active about meeting and communicating with each other. At this year's diocesan convention, both lunch periods were designed to bring the RMNs together in order to rekindle our connections as a network.

St. James is currently looking for at least one representative for our RMN. Typically the meetings are held via Zoom. The role, as it currently stands, is to join the meeting, participate in the regional discussions and bring the communications back to St. James. If we had a team of a few people, the role could be shared. Additionally, as the RMN evolves, you may feel called to serve as a designated resource person or you may feel called to fill a provisional need as a member of a short-term committee. When this article went to print, the first reorganization meeting's notes were not yet available.

Some notes from the fruitful discussions:

- The parishes of our RMN are interested in Congregational Collaboration
- Some ways to do that may be through designated resources persons for lay training, audits and other admin responsibilities, communication, and social stuff
- The parishioners of the HT RMN look forward to getting know each other as individuals and congregations

The congregations will be looking at ways to support each other with shared resources, staffing, and clergy presence

If you are interested in being involved or just attending

meetings, please let Father Wayne know.

Thank you,
Julia Quelly

Notes from Diocesan Council

In September 2019, I accepted an appointment to diocesan council from Bishop Hughes. For many years, being involved with church governance at the diocesan level called to me, but there were always other responsibilities and reasons that I allowed to deter me from running for a position. When Bishop sent the invitation to serve, the timing was right and in my house, we just don't say no to Bishop, so I began my first term.

This term ended at February's diocesan convention and I was not re-elected, however, I was reappointed to Diocesan Council by the Bishop. As this new term began, I promised our outgoing Senior Warden that I would use my "insider diocesan information" to update our parishioners about the diocese.

There are folks who volunteer for roles in church governance who take many things for granted. For instance, the diocese has several committees with interesting names and people may have no idea what those committees are responsible for.

The Diocesan Council acts as "the convention between conventions". We look at long-range planning and programming for the diocese. We are basically the vestry of the Diocese.

The Standing Committee serves as the Bishop's council of advice. Not only does the Standing Committee recommend persons for ordination, the committee is also requested to give consent to each bishop elected in the US. The Standing Committee is responsible for advising and consenting on purchases, sales and encumbrances of properties in the diocese.

The Trustees hold title to and administer the funds and real estate for the benefit of the diocese. The members must live within the geographical boundaries of the

organize the “Freedom Summer of 1964” to register Southern Blacks to vote. As those of us of a certain age know, public opinion migrated to support for the Civil Rights movement when Chaney, Schwerner, and Goodman’s bodies were retrieved from an earthen dam in Philadelphia, Mississippi, having been fatally shot, and buried there by the Freedom Riders of the Ku Klux Klan. Images of indiscriminate police brutality, and high pressure firehoses trained on non-violent protestors, White and Black, and clergy persons of all faiths, further cemented national opinion in support of Civil Rights for people of color. Then President John F. Kennedy, until his November 22nd, 1963 assassination in Dallas, Texas, had constructed, and maintained meaningful and substantive dialogues with A. Phillip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., Roy Wilkins, Hosea Williams, and their organizations; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Congress of Racial Equality.

That same day, John F. Kennedy’s vice president, Lyndon Baines Johnson, took the presidential oath of office aboard Air Force One while returning to Washington. LBJ (who had begun his political career in 1948 as a congressman representing a Texas district, and was also an ardent segregationist) was moved to believe in, passionately adopt, and legislatively implement, JFK’s Civil Rights agenda, successfully (and through much arm twisting) pushing through Congress the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; both articles of legislation prohibited discriminatory and unequal treatment to people of color, and ensured unhindered access to the voting booth without any prequalification. LBJ had his “Road To Damascus” moment on that fateful day in 1963.

Marvin Walker
Jr. Warden



diocese.

Currently, in addition to our month-to-month duties, the council is exploring Congregational Collaboration, Wellness and Connectedness for individuals and congregations, and helping the Visioning Committee carry out the evolving mission of the diocese.

Thank you,
Julia Quelly

Visioning Committee

Approximately 20 years have passed since our last diocesan congregational study was done. In November 2022, the Episcopal Diocese of Newark hired an outside consultant, Katie Ong to lead a team of 13 diocesan commissioners to develop a new vision for our diocese. The first objective was to gather where each parish currently stood and in which directions our members would like to see the diocese move. This was accomplished by the Visioning Team members who visited each parish and conducted listening sessions geared around a standardized questionnaire. Once collected, Ong summarized the data and the team designated four areas of focus for the diocese. They are:

- Children, Family, Youth and Young Adults
- Justice for People and Planet
- Communications and Technology
- Congregational Collaboration (co-lead by myself)

The next step in the process is to build sub-teams who will meet and develop ideas, plans, and strategies for helping our diocese achieve our visions of spreading the love of God in an ever-changing world.

We would love your help, even if it is for only a brief time. If you have any desire to contribute to one of the above priority teams, please let me know by sending an email to jewelsquelly@gmail.com. We can use both dedicated team members and also folks who have ideas or can act as sounding boards, but may not have a lot of time or energy to commit.

Thank you,
Julia Quelly

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St. James' Staff & Vestry

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Wayne Sherrer
Parish Administrator:	Julie Mills
Organist	Dmitry Nikolaev
Sexton:	Pauline Volkert

Vestry

Senior Warden:	Peter Quelly
Junior Warden:	Marvin Walker

Jane Mutascio	Pam Laura	Nona Wolosin
Janice Cipriani	Ruth Nejemian	David Olesen
Marvin Walker	Devin O'Connor	Rachel Barber

Vestry Clerk:	Pam Laura
Treasurer:	Janice Cipriani
Bookkeeper:	Barbara Olesen

Barbara Olesen, Editor

All Journal submissions
should be sent to:

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