

THE SPIRE

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St. Paul's On The Hill Episcopal Church
40 Ganung Drive, Ossining, New York 10562



On the front of St Paul's bulletin every week, there is printed "you are the light of the world, a city set on a hill cannot be hid." I am guessing that this particular quotation from Matthew was chosen because St Paul's is actually set upon a hill...and yet for years we, as a community of worship, have struggled to be more visible, easier to find. St Paul's was on a hill and yet it remained hid. A well kept secret.

But over the past year, some members of St Paul's have made it a priority to make us more visible through social media, seasonal signage, and so forth. These efforts have been successful and we are all grateful for them.

And now, it is time for us as a community to let our spiritual light shine brighter as well. To that end, your vestry voted that St Paul's would take part in Renewal Works. It is a spiritual renewal program which the diocese has recommended to us as a way to grow disciples right here in Ossining! In fact, the diocese is so keen on the potential of the program that it has given us an eighty percent scholarship to participate.

And what does participation look like? Well, first comes your part. You have been emailed a link to a spiritual inventory. This is a short but thought provoking questionnaire which will gather information about your spiritual preferences and practice. Don't worry...it is completely confidential. Only you will know how you answered the questions posed. Renewal Works will take all the inventories and construct a picture of who we are **Spiritually**. Think of it as a spiritual mosaic made up of over forty individual stories.

Once that mosaic picture is compiled, the parish Renewal Works Team will meet four times to process what this picture means for us. Finally, a report on our spiritual community's strengths, needs and desires will be presented to the vestry and then to all. So you can see how important your input will be to the process. The twenty five minutes which you give to this project is a gift to us all.

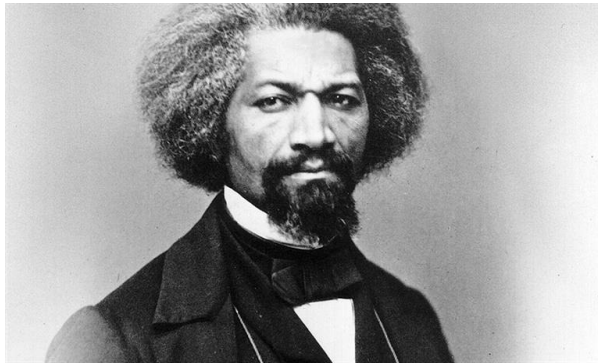
St Paul's has been, is, and will be a light that is much needed in today's world...and yet from time to time it has been hid. So, I invite you now, today, to do what you can to share your lights so that St Paul's light may shine the brighter.

---Faithfully, Mo. Cooper+

Poem of the Day: Frederick Douglass

BY ROBERT HAYDEN

When it is finally ours, this freedom, this liberty, this beautiful
and terrible thing, needful to man as air,
usable as earth; when it belongs at last to all,
when it is truly instinct, brain matter, diastole, systole,
reflex action; when it is finally won; when it is more
than the gaudy mumbo jumbo of politicians:
this man, this Douglass, this former slave, this Negro
beaten to his knees, exiled, visioning a world
where none is lonely, none hunted, alien,
this man, superb in love and logic, this man
shall be remembered. Oh, not with statues' rhetoric,
not with legends and poems and wreaths of bronze alone,
but with the lives grown out of his life, the lives
fleshing his dream of the beautiful, needful thing.



Submitted by Julie Gross

Upcoming Events at St. Paul's

February 5 – 11th – The Emergency Shelter at St. Paul's Parish Hall.

Saturday, February 11th – Absalom Jones Celebration: at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The Eucharist will be held at 10:30 AM. Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Andrew M. L. Dietsche, Bishop of New York and the sermon by The Rev. Canon Gregory Jacobs of the Diocese of Newark. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the church entrance way.

February 12th – Annual Parish meeting will take place in the Parish Hall after the service. Reports are due to Tina by Tuesday, February 7th/ Wednesday, February 8th.

Tuesday, February 14th at Trinity: (Our Sister Parish) Weekly Landmark Service will include healing and Eucharist. Mother Cooper and Mother Yejide (of All Saints) will take turns as Celebrants. (12:00 Noon)

Sunday, February 19th “Come As You Are” Family Service: will be held at St. Paul's at 5:00 PM. Please help spread the word that this is a short, casual service led by Mother Cooper and is tailored to families with children. It includes Communion and is open to all.

Tuesday, February 28th – SHROVE TUESDAY MARDI GRAS 2017. We are having our annual Shrove Tuesday/ Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 28th at 6 pm.

\$15.00/adults, \$ 10.00/seniors and children (6- 11), free for children 5 and younger. There will be Gumbo for God, Jambalaya for Jesus and pancakes for all. To help with set-up, food prep, clean-up there will be a signup sheet in the narthex. Hope you can join us!

Wednesday, March 1st – Ash Wednesday at 12:00 Noon – Service at St. Paul's. 7:00 PM – Service at Trinity.

Monday, April 3rd – Spring Session of the Youth Music Program at St. Paul's, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. Please Spread the WORD!

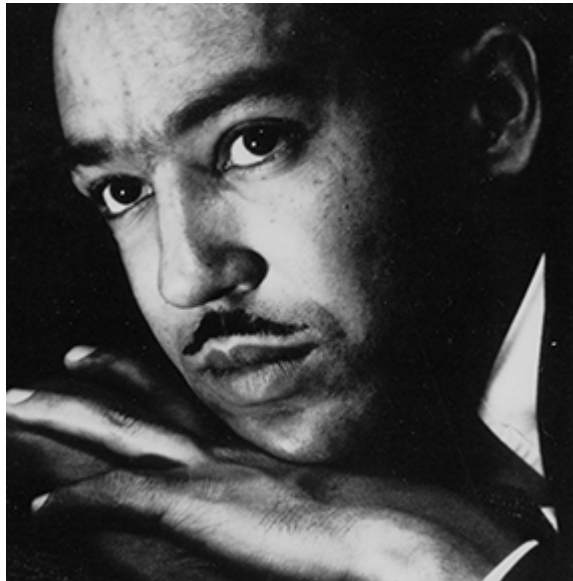
I look at the world

BY [LANGSTON HUGHES](#)

I look at the world
From awakening eyes in a black face—
And this is what I see:
This fenced-off narrow space
Assigned to me.

I look then at the silly walls
Through dark eyes in a dark face—
And this is what I know:
That all these walls oppression builds
Will have to go!

I look at my own body
With eyes no longer blind—
And I see that my own hands can make
The world that's in my mind.
Then let us hurry, comrades,
The road to find.



Submitted by Julie Gross

Renewalworks: forward movement - our 2017 Goal!

We each have until February 16 to complete the spiritual inventory!! Tune in; log on and think!!!!!!

The survey is neither difficult nor time consuming and should be seen as a gift towards the spiritual future of oneself and the entire congregation!!!

Our diocese renewal works representative has set a goal of 47 completed surveys. We can surpass that number easily!!!

Refer to your email from me for your link to participate or contact me directly at mcgrathinator@gmail.com with any questions or concerns!"

Blessings
Jo McGrath
Renewalworks team

A New Years Resolution!!

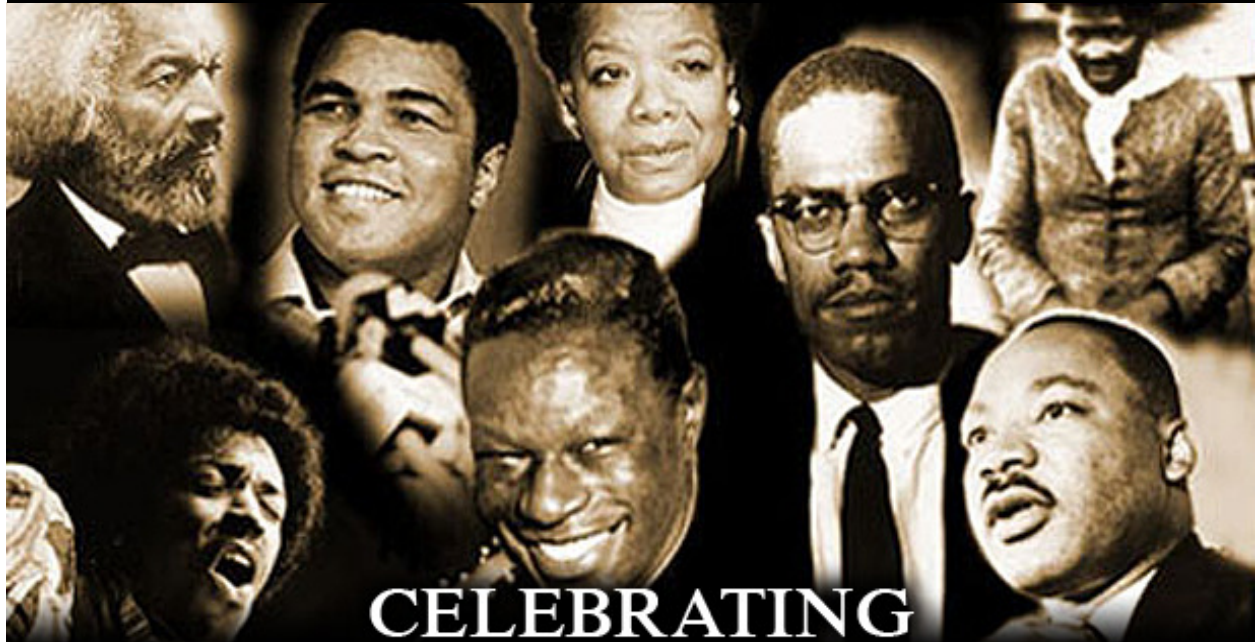
"Some Days" by Philip Terman

Some days you have to turn off the news
and listen to the bird or truck
or the neighbor screaming out her life.
You have to close all the books and open
all the windows so that whatever swirls
inside can leave and whatever flutters
against the glass can enter. Some days
you have to unplug the phone and step
out to the porch and rock all afternoon
and allow the sun to tell you what to do.
The whole day has to lie ahead of you
like railroad tracks that drift off into gravel.
Some days you have to walk down the wooden
staircase through the evening fog to the river,
where the peach roses are closing,
sit on the grassy bank and wait for the two geese.

----Sent by Julie Gross







CELEBRATING
BLACK HISTORY
Month

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/02 Karen Pauline
2/09 Susan Holsten Madera
Robert Docker
Mo. Cooper Conway
2/12 Christina Cowan Richmond
2/13 Kathen Cowan Reynolds
2/14 Nicholas Kip
2/20 William Cowan
Doris Beresford
2/22 Stephanie Silicato
2/24 Evelyn Marie Steckmeister
2/25 Julie Gross
Ian Robertson
2/26 Audrey Del Bene
2/29 Jessica Bowen

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

2/05 Stephanie Kip
2/21 Jeanne Rothrock

FEBRUARY DEATHS

2/1 Reggie Williamson
2/01 Roger Trommelen
Ann Potts
2/07 Mary Allen (Jayne) Jones
Richard Vaillancourt
2/12 John William Matherly
2/18 Edith Skidgell