

June 2020—August 2020



The Deaf Episcopalian

2

The Board

3

President's Message

4

ECD Convention News

5

Chaplain's Corner

6

Puzzles and Games

7

Church Mouse

8

Surviving Covid-19

10

*Celebration of Life:
Honoring Jay Croft
and
Peggy McLaughlin*

What ECD members are
doing during "Coronatide"



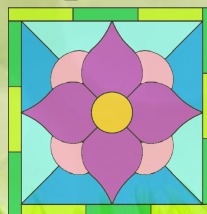
zoom



New ECD
Executive
Assistant
p. 7

Create your own stained glass

p. 11



Board Member Highlight

The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks

Chaplain



I grew up mostly along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and in Hattiesburg, MS with my mother who was a Nurse Practitioner and my grandmother, along with my twin sister, “Lauren,” now, a youth minister in Dallas Texas. I attended the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated, in Deaf Education. I was a teacher for four years in both Mississippi public Schools and at the Louisiana School for the Deaf in Baton Rouge, Louisiana before I felt a call for ministry.

In 2014, I graduated from the Seminary of the Southwest, an Episcopal Seminary in Austin, TX and got my M.Div. After seminary, I returned home to the Diocese of Mississippi to be Episcopal Chaplain for the students at Mississippi State University. As of 2018, I began my work as the Episcopal Chaplain with The Table: Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at RIT/NTID and I also serve as the Missioner to the Deaf for the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

My father is retired military and acupuncturist. I also have 4 half-brothers who live in Alabama and Georgia. My half-sister lives in Dublin, Ireland with her fiancé. In my spare time, I enjoy camping, Disc Golf, playing guitar, and “B-B-Qing.”

ECD Board Members

The ECD Board of Directors is elected from the membership of ECD Conventions.



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If you have anything you wish to see in the newsletter, let us know! It can be a picture (with description), a story, an update, or even identifying certain people for their hard work in the Deaf Episcopalian community. Contact us at deaf.episcopalian@ecdeaf.org

President's Message

Beloved Friends,

This is a very anxious and stressful time for everyone right now with Covid-19. Please do not give in to fear or anxiety. Please remain calm and trust in God. And please think of GOD - who is the creator of everything, and who wants to have a relationship with us! God wants to walk alongside us each day, and is always taking care of our concerns, fears, and anxieties. God is always with us.

Jesus is speaking to us in this time of uncertainty, fear and trouble. "I will never abandon you or forget you," he says. "I will always be with you. I am sending the Holy Spirit to be your Advocate and Comforter." He will be with you; he will teach you and show you the right way to go. He is always with you!

It is important to follow the practice of "**social distancing**." Following the rules is important for everyone. It is also a sign of our love for one another, and our desire to protect those who are weak and vulnerable to sickness.

We do not know when our churches will be open for worship. Currently, our Deaf Episcopal Churches in this country are partnering with each other to offer "**All-ECD Sunday Deaf Worship Together from East to West**" including Coffee Hours via Zoom. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other Deaf people from all over of this country! Also, we have other events such as Community Check-In & Prayer via Zoom. Please check our Facebook for the details of these services and events.

The ECD Board has decided to **cancel** our **75th ECD Convention** this August due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We wanted everyone to feel safe. The Convention will be postponed to next summer. However, the members of the ECD will have to vote our newly revised by-laws this summer. More information about how we will vote will be provided via Facebook and e-mail blasts.

We have exciting news to tell you! We have hired a new Executive Assistant, **Beth Klein**. Beth's primary role will be to support the internal functioning of the Board of Directors, tracking and managing documents and communications, and planning and organizing ECD events. We extend our warmest welcome to her as she becomes part of our ECD family! Welcome, Beth!



Please be well and stay safe. Have a safe and good summer.

Blessings to you.

Dick+



ASL Group is Forming

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice.

If you are interested, contact Diane Lynch at EfMinASL@gmail.com

Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

75th Convention Updates

Convention is Postponed

The ECD 75th convention this summer has been a topic of much discussion. Due to the serious global pandemic, coronavirus (COVID-19), the ECD Board has decided that everyone's safety is more important than meeting this summer. The Board considered a virtual convention as an alternative option; but decided against it as it does not offer full inclusivity.

The 75th Convention and Board Elections are tentatively postponed to **August 10-14, 2021** at Dumas Bay, Federal Way, Washington, subject to ongoing global coronavirus crisis.

Please contact convention chair, Lee Holland if you have any questions, vice-president@ecdeaf.org

ECD By-Laws Amendment

On the advice of our Canon attorney, we will be merging the Constitution into the Bylaws. This is the standard practice in many businesses and organizations now. This also allows us to update our governing documents more easily. For this to happen, our current by-laws (amended 2017) need to be amended as soon as possible to match the requirements established by The Episcopal Church (TEC). There will be a special online ballot for the ECD's by-laws amendment later this summer.

The current by-laws need to be updated to ensure compliance with the non-profit status

The ECD Law Committee planned to propose an amendment to the by-laws at the convention this summer. Article VIII of the ECD by-laws states that any amendment to the by-laws must be passed by two-thirds of the members at the convention. However, due to the current crisis leading to the decision to postpone the convention, the board has agreed that in place of voting at convention, the ECD will need passing votes from at least two-thirds of all current ECD members through an online voting platform, which allows for anonymous votes.

You will receive complete information in July. There will be several Q&A sessions to give you an opportunity ask board members for clarity before you vote.

Are your email and mailing addresses updated in our system?

If not, please let our membership secretary know. Thank you.

membership@ecdeaf.org

Please remember that your membership needs to be current to vote this summer

“Chaplain’s Corner”

By The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks

So many events have occurred both on campus and with the Episcopal Ministry of the Deaf in Rochester. Some of the biggest highlights for me this past year were several of the events that took place on campus. In November RIT had invited Mandy Harvey back to campus for another performance in the Field House. You might remember her from America’s Got Talent when she performed one of her original songs, “Try.” She spoke about her hearing loss and going completely deaf by the time she was 19 years old, but still continues to play and writes new songs. Back in December, Marlee Matlin was invited by the Substance and Addiction Intervention Services for the Deaf to speak about her own personal battle with addiction, her success in the film industry, and her book, “*I’ll Scream Later.*” I had a chance to meet both which was amazing!



Rev. Laurence and actress Marlee Matlin in the Panera Theater at NTID



Deacon Patrick Graybill and a college student at NTID

One of the last opportunities on campus was the chance to work with several of my ministry colleagues from the Schmitt Interfaith Center, hosting another wonderful “Ashes to Go” on campus. I was joined by both Lutheran and Catholic Chaplains to cohost our joint service in Allen Chapel. I met with both The Rev. Deacon Suzanne Johnston that morning and Catholic Deacon, Patrick Graybill later that afternoon for our services at NTID. Then, not long after we entered into Lent started we received reports that the Coronavirus had arrived in the U.S. and RIT/NTID decided to close campus just after Spring Break. Also at the beginning of Lent our Ministry of the Deaf moved from Incarnation Episcopal Church in Penfield to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. Both parishes have been incredibly gracious to us and we had one visitor from NTID who began coming to our services regularly before we couldn’t meet at the church anymore.

I miss fellowship with one another; “in real life.” Sometimes I see people sign “IRL”. I am an extrovert, which means, that I get energy being around other people. Lately, I began to notice that staring at a computer screen all day can make me feel tired. It’s really hard not being able to gather (IRL) and simply grab coffee or sit down at a table for a shared meal. I know that many of our churches feel just like that. They are tired, they really wish to gather “IRL,” and they wish that fellowship could take place over a shared meal, “communion.” Until then, our regular church service on Zoom each Sunday and regular ASL Nightly Prayers (Compline) will continue as long as there is a need for both.



Rev. Laurence during ASL Nightly Prayers on Facebook page: “Episcopal Ministry of the Deaf, Rochester, NY”

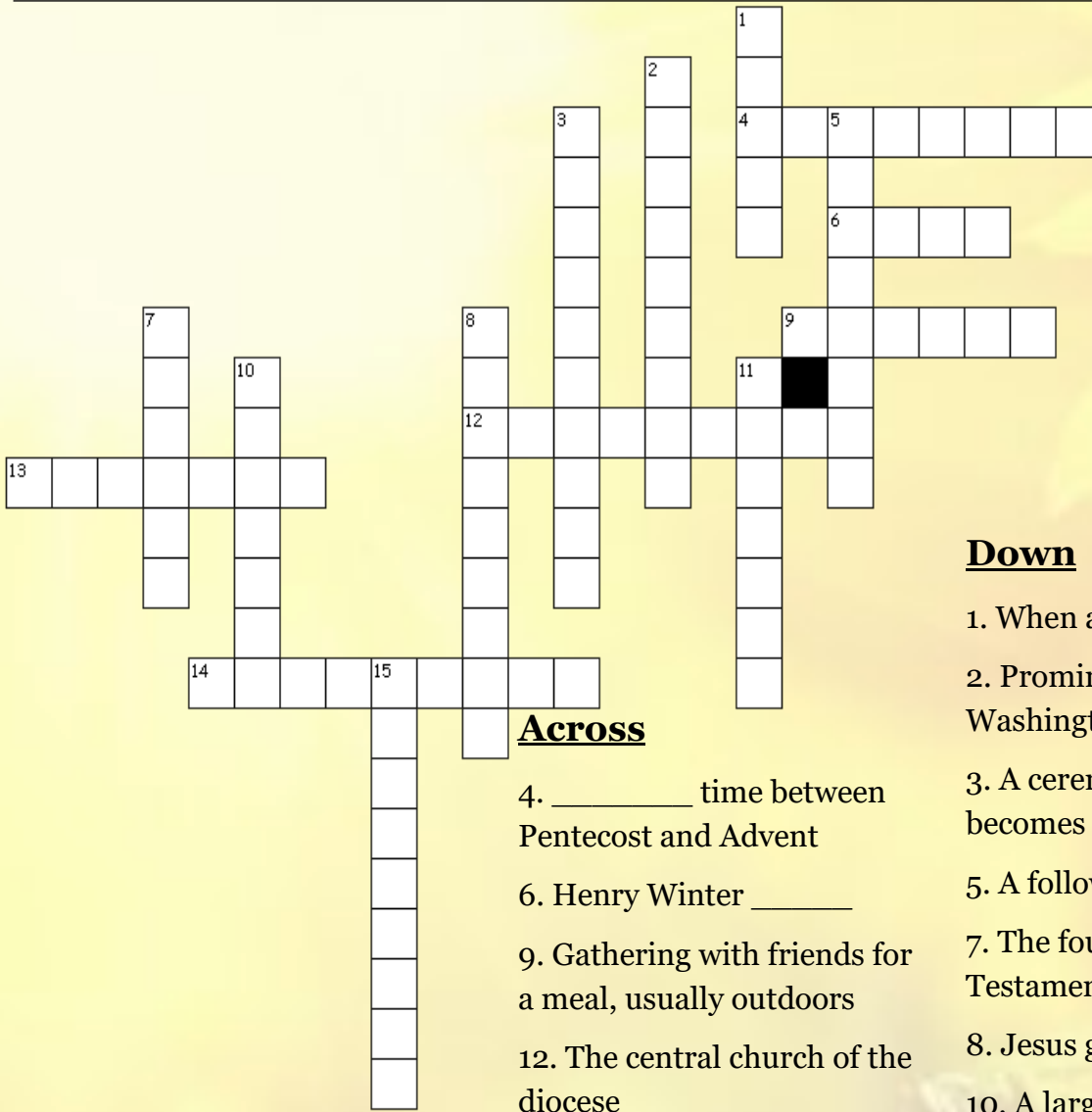
Puzzles & Trivia

Fill in the blanks using the word bank:

- 1) The _____ Chapter in Bible means “beginning”
- 2) The 10 Commandments are in 2 books of the bible:
Exodus and _____.
- 3) _____ is the “birthday” of the Christian church.
- 4) _____ means that each part of the trinity is God,
they are the same
- 5) The Episcopal Church can trace it’s roots to the Church of _____.
- 6) _____ created the poem “Dandelion”

WORD BANK

- Pentecost
- Consubstantial
- Deuteronomy
- Clayton Valli
- Genesis
- England



Across

4. _____ time between Pentecost and Advent
6. Henry Winter _____
9. Gathering with friends for a meal, usually outdoors
12. The central church of the diocese
13. Outdoor activity with tents
14. Held on the seventh Sunday after Easter

Down

1. When a flower starts to open
2. Prominent Deaf college in Washington DC
3. A ceremony where a Lay Person becomes a Clergy Member
5. A follower of Jesus
7. The four main books of the New Testament: singular
8. Jesus going up to Heaven
10. A large campfire, usually lasting several hours
11. Three in one
15. The Great Thanksgiving

Welcome Beth Klein

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is excited to announce the addition of Beth Klein, as our new Executive Assistant. Beth is a member of St George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA and has worked with the Deaf community for over twenty years in a variety of roles including Job mentoring, Benefits Planning, Interpreting, Outreach Specialist, workshop presenter and event planner.

Beth is actively involved in St George's community dinners and market style food pantry and the leader of their interpreting team. She also started intentionally reaching out to the Deaf community in the Fredericksburg area. Currently, St George's offers interpreted services and workshops, as well as ASL Classes taught by a Deaf teacher.

Beth and her husband Dale resides in Stafford, VA, about 1 hour south of Washington DC. They enjoy volunteering, water aerobics and catering to their very spoiled cat, Sebastian Bach.



Beth Klein,
ECD Executive
Assistant

Looking for Signed or Interpreted Church Services?
Check out the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf on Facebook, where there are often links to virtual services.

While you are there check out Presiding Bishop Curry's
"What Would Love Do?"
and

"Living the Way of Love During Pandemic"

You can also visit www.episcopalchurch.org/concerning-covid19 to find similar articles and videos.

WORDS OF A CHURCH MOUSE

I hope all who are reading this newsletter has been staying safe and healthy. I can see it has been hard on a lot of people, being unable to congregate with their friends and families. But despite this, I hope everyone enjoyed the Springtime. It has been a bit hard, not being able to see you all... though having the run of the churches has been fun. I sure miss all the crumbs you drop during coffee hour though!

I have been hearing whispers of this magical

thing called Zoom... I tried to create an account but being a mouse, it proved to be very difficult without any human helpers.

How are you coping with staying at home and keeping your distance? I'd love to hear from you and any tips you have about keeping your mind and body active during this time!

I don't have much to report for this issue and I only wish to say that I pray everyone stays safe and healthy through these uncertain times.



How to Survive the COVID-19 Pandemic

Submitted by Rev. Dick Mahaffy

During this time when our lives are so different because of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of us are spending a lot of time at home or by ourselves. Instead of complaining about not being able to do everything you would like to do, why not look at this as an opportunity? Why not use this time to improve your life and to grow closer to God? Here are some suggestions:

- Take time to pray and to read the Bible (use your Bible, or use the app, “Deaf Bible” on your iPhone or Samsung Galaxy, iPad, etc.).
- Take time to think about your life. Where are you going in life? What are you called to be and do at this time in your life? What is most important for you right now? What are your priorities?
- Use this time for contacting friends and family members. They need you to help and encourage them. Remind them of your love for them. Let them know that you are praying for them.
- Take time to appreciate the beauty around you (e.g. all of God’s creations on the earth, like birds, flowers, sunshine, etc.) There is wonder all around us, but sometimes we are too busy to see it!
- Make time to exercise. Walking is good (just wear a mask and stay away from other people), or find an online workout that you can do at home.
- Find interesting things to do at home, such as playing cards and games, doing puzzles, coloring books, or watching movies on Netflix or Prime. Don’t stop *living!!*
- Try doing something new – something you have never done before (maybe try a craft project). Or learn something new (learn about animals or computers or whatever interests you).
- Make sure you get enough sleep. Don’t stay up too late watching TV or working on your computer.

If you are afraid or under stress, you might recall this verse from the Psalms:

“WHEN I AM AFRAID, I PUT
MY TRUST IN YOU.”

- Psalm 56:3 (BCP, p. 662)

Recite that verse to yourself again and again, until you can feel your faith and your trust in God coming back to you. Use this verse to calm your mind.

Excerpts from “COVID-19 presents new challenges for people with hearing loss”

by Rebecca Rafferty, WXXI News, Rochester, NY - May 18, 2020

Submitted by: Deacon Suzanne Johnston

“Physical distancing, masking, and other methods to slow the spread of the virus have created inconveniences for most people, but they have exposed and compounded existing accessibility issues for people with hearing problems. In few places is the impact as pronounced as Rochester, which as home to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, has one of the highest per-capita populations of deaf and hard of hearing people in the country.”

But there are local organizations and individuals working on ways to overcome the obstacles. Accessibility issues during the pandemic have been a big point of discussion for the Hearing Loss Association of America. Suzanne Johnston, president of the Rochester chapter, said the organization has been lobbying the federal government to ensure that all essential, relevant communications are closed-captioned. “And we as an organization in Rochester have lobbied individually for local entities to provide captioning for any kind of public announcements, but it's especially important

right now,” she said. Johnston also owns a private practice as a speech language pathologist and is hard of hearing herself. She said one challenge is overcoming the misconception that being deaf and hard of hearing are one and the same. “In fact, they're not one and the same. There are people who are deaf who use ASL as a primary means of communication. And then there are people who are deaf but use verbal language as their primary form of communication.” Johnston said people often don't grasp the idea that those with hearing difficulties may require different forms of communication.

The pandemic has heightened awareness of the importance of accessible, clear, and effective communication, Johnston said. “This is especially critical during a time of angst and urgency regarding health and the economy,” Johnston said. “While in the past we might not have been so sensitive to this, now is an opportunity to begin to understand how we can and should best reach out to others to maintain our physical, psychological, and societal health.” People can do that, Johnston said, by recognizing diverse needs, educating themselves in how to address those needs appropriately, and by creating official bodies to meet the needs of people with communication access challenges...”

You can view the entire article by going to <http://tinyurl.com/ydzeh3p6>

I am Deaf



I cannot lip read through your mask

Celebration of Life

Margaret A. McLaughlin

Sept 8, 1930—Mar 27, 2020



Peggy was friendly, funny, smart, lively and faithful. She joined St. Thomas Deaf Church, St. Louis in 1952, and eventually became a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, and Worship Leader. She and her husband Ralph (a.k.a. “Mac” & “Gene”) served many times on Vestry, including as Treasurer and Sr. Warden. They enjoyed attending many ECD conventions over the years. In 2010, Peggy was elected ECD Board Member-at-Large. In 2011, she co-chaired the ECD Convention Hosting Committee when St. Thomas took the job on short notice. In 2017 she moved to Florida, so her daughter Linda could better care for her. St. Thomas Deaf Church held her memorial service April 25 on Zoom, which allowed people from many different states to participate. Peggy is greatly missed by many people at church and in the Deaf Community.

The Rev. Jay Leslie Croft

Feb 24, 1942—Apr 2, 2020



The Rev. Jay Croft was a pioneer throughout his life. At his Zoom funeral (a world first!), the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, the Bishop in Washington, DC, spoke from the National Cathedral on Jay’s more than 50 years of service. Jay died on April 2, 2020, at age 78, following a long bout with cancer. His wife, Dr. Frances Ralston Croft, said that the hospice staff worked hard to ensure that Jay was comfortable and have family visitors despite the pandemic.

It is easy to say that we will remember him as a tireless advocate for the full inclusion of all people, especially deaf people. It is true that we will remember his very dry humor, his skill at public speaking and in preaching, his advocacy for the people he served, and his deep faith. It is less easy to try and capture what Jay meant to the Deaf Episcopal community. Throughout his career, he was known as an advocate (at times, a fiery one) for equity in the church.

Jay became deaf at age five, following spinal meningitis. He attained his BA at Simpson College and his MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in NYC. Jay served Deaf churches throughout the Episcopal church, including St. Ann’s in NY; five mission churches in Akron, Ohio; St. John’s Episcopal Church of the Deaf in Birmingham, Alabama; St. Mark’s- Deaf in Mobile, Alabama; and St. Barnabas in DC, where he also served as chaplain to Gallaudet University.

The Alabama Office of Disability Services remembers him as the “godfather” of ODS. In the 90s, he fought for regional programs within the ODS, rather than contract services to mental health centers. Jay served on numerous boards, committees, and task forces on the local and state levels — and in the Episcopal Church at the local, diocesan, and national level, including as President of the ECD.

If there were one thing he could not do well, it was retire. As a priest, Jay truly loved his work. He served at St. Barnabas as a supply priest throughout his retirement, serving his final Eucharist service on February 16, 2020. As a parish priest, Jay loved, encouraged and supported parishioners, helping them to develop their lives of faith. He wanted all his people - college students, seniors, hearing, Deaf - to take their places in the work and ministry of the church.

Jay wanted us to believe he was a curmudgeonly sort... but most of us saw through his crusty exterior, endless supply of bad puns, and jokes in Latin, to his deep kindness. Jay's love for his family was also deep. His daughters were the light of his life, and his wife Frances was the love of it. He loved to tell stories of his family, recounting with pride Fran's doctoral research studies, and stories of his daughters.

The Episcopal church was privileged to have Jay in our ranks. May his life of service inspire us. May we never stop marching for equality and striving for justice and peace.



Rev. Jay croft, with his wife Frances and daughter Jennifer
50th ordination celebration, 2019

Gracious God, we thank you for Peggy, Rev. Jay, and for all those we love but see no longer. Grant them eternal rest. May light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace. Amen

Summer Activity Idea

Creating Stained Glass



1. Search for a line drawing image on the Internet and print it, or remove a page from a coloring book

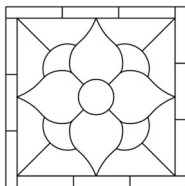


2. Carefully remove glass from an unused picture frame. You can also use a sheet of plastic if you would prefer.

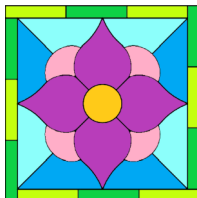


3. Figure out what colors you want to use and mix them with Elmer's glue.

Mix black paint and glue and put it into a bottle with a small, pointed opening. This will be used to make the lines.



4. Tape the image under the glass or plastic so it does not move and so when the surface of the glass facing up, the image can be seen clearly through. Using the black paint, follow the lines of your image until the outline is now painted onto the glass.



5. Once the black lining is dry, paint the image and allow to dry. Once its dry, the glue should have dried clear and given a fun, textured effect with the paint. Hang in a window and enjoy.

Answer Key:

Across: 4. Ordinary 6. Syle 9. Picnic 12. Cathedral 13. Camping 14. Pentecost
Down: 1. Bloom 2. Gallaudet 3. Ordination 5. Disciple 7. Gospel 8. Ascension 10. Bonfire 11. Trinity 15. Eucharist
Fill in the blank: 1. Genesis 2. Deuteronomy 3. Pentecost 4. Consubstantial 5. England 6. Clayton Valli

Mission:

Empower Deaf people with the Good News of Jesus Christ, encourage full participation in Church Life, and advocate for Deaf Ministries.



Vision:

Full inclusion in Church life.

The Deaf Episcopalian

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