



DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of March 9, 2021

A Reflection on Black History Month

**From Asleain "Scotty" Hodges,
Grace Episcopal Church, Fairfield
(Wingfield Deanery)**

Thoughts on Being Black and in America and Black History

As Black History Month arrives, I contemplate it along with Lent. Some years back, I ceased to list material items to give up for Lent though I still save the coins to donate. I decided instead to master letting go of resentment, bitterness, and feelings of revenge related to racial hatred and other abhorrent human behavior. I also make an effort to appreciate the goodness of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, whose February birthdays influenced the selection of February as Black History Month.

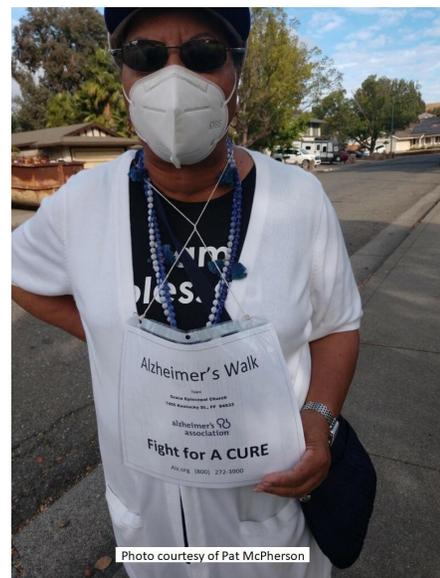


Photo courtesy of Pat McPherson

Of course, I cannot think of Black History month without considering the experience of growing up Black in America in the 1940s. It was certainly different and definitely challenging. Although I rather think the experience differed for each of us based on the state in which we were raised, the family dynamics, and the specific environment(s) in which we were nurtured. Faith, strength, moral character, and the ability to forgive also influenced how we were able to survive and thrive in a racist arena.

I was born in a little country town in the Deep South in the state of Louisiana steeped in all the tenets of slavery and segregation. I can recall the scene of travelling with a great Aunt when I was 4 or 5 years old, climbing on a bus and plopping down in the very front seat while my Aunt who knew the rules of survival, made her way to the 'back of the bus'. But she soon realized that I was not by her side, ran back to the front of the bus and yanked my arm so hard that I think I literally flew through the air to the back of the bus!

[Read more of this powerful reflection here.](#)

From the Office of the Bishop



The Episcopal Diocese
of Northern California
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

2021 Communication Survey Results

2021 Communications Survey

Recently Alan Rellaforde, the communications consultant to the Office of the Bishop conducted an online communications survey to gather information to help shape a new Communications Plan for the diocese.

There were 404 members of our diocese that completed the survey and the results have been analyzed and presented to the Communications Committee and the Clergy and Lay Leaders monthly Zoom call. We want to share the results with all members of the diocese.

Thank you for your participation. [Click here for the survey results summary.](#)

Day of Discernment



Our next **Day of Discernment** will be on **Saturday, April 17**. The format will be on Zoom, beginning at 9:00 am and ending at about 12:30 pm. Attendance at the Day of Discernment is required for sponsoring clergy and those seeking ordination. It is intended to help all members of the Episcopal Church deepen their understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit and the many ways one can be called to serve in the Church. During the Day of Discernment, there will be presentations on the priesthood and the diaconate. There will also be an overview of the ordination process (including access to an application packet and copy of The Manual and Guide for Ordination.)

In order to make sure we can accommodate everyone who wants to participate, it is necessary to register in advance so we can plan accordingly.

Please fill out the registration form prior to April 5.

[Aspirants click here to register](#)

[Sponsoring Clergy and COM members click here to register](#)

If you have questions you may email ordinations@norcalepiscopal.org or call the Office of the Bishop at 916-442-6918

From the National Cathedral



MY WAY OF LOVE

POWERED BY RENEWALWORKS

Offering personalized suggestions for spiritual growth

The Episcopal Church, in partnership with **RenewalWorks**, a ministry of **Forward Movement**, is offering [My Way of Love](#), a free, eight-week email series that provides personalized suggestions for spiritual growth based on the seven practices of the Way of Love.

Each email in the series includes ideas on how to pray, engage with scripture, and practice the Way of Love regularly.

For more information and to sign up [visit the website here](#).

Diocesan Ministry Opportunity

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California is seeking new Board Members!

The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California is looking for a few good persons to be considered for a position on the board of directors. The Board is made up of clergy and lay members of this Diocese who are interested in realizing the Foundation's mission of enhancing and complementing philanthropy in this Diocese.



Please click [here](#) to read more about the Foundation's goals, and [here](#) for an application.

To submit applications, or if you have questions, please email [Michelle Karimi](#)

2021 Diocesan Convention - Save the Dates

2021 Convocations

October 9, 2021
(Online)

2021 Diocesan Convention

November 5 - 6, 2021
(Redding, CA)

Grant Opportunities

Episcopal Community Services of Northern California launches the annual 2021-2022 grant cycle. ECS Northern California will be administering five

innovative outreach grants this year:

- **The Ministry Development Grant** (1 year) focuses on human rights advocacy, human service or health programs or lay leadership/empowerment.
- **The Warren Dunning Memorial Social Justice Grant** (up to 3 years) focuses serving to the least and/or the lonely.
- **The Barry L. Beisner Grant** (up to 5 years) focuses on human rights advocacy, human service or health programs and lay, leadership/empowerment programs.
- **The Lamb Grant** focuses supporting youth/young adults in providing social and health ministries projects within and outside the Diocese of Northern California.
- **The Anita Weaver Grant** (up to 2 years) is to help persons, 50 years or older, to move from homelessness to supportive housing, and with a plan that leads to long-term solutions.

Letters of Interest due April 15, 2021, Requests for Proposals June 1, 2021

To find out more about these grants visit the [NorCal ECS website](#).

The Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism seeks to support and expand The Episcopal Church's loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with God, with each other and with Creation. At The Episcopal Church's General Convention in 2018, the convening body allocated funds to support local and regional eco-ministry efforts through grant awards ranging from \$15,000 to \$40,000.



Grant proposals must have an impact beyond the applicant organization/parish and include at least one partner in accomplishing the granted project.

The deadline to submit proposals is March 26th, 2021. Questions can be directed to [Phoebe Chatfield](#), Associate for Creation Care and Justice.

Additional Resources and Links

[Episcopal Church Toolkit for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution](#) This toolkit is designed as a compilation of ideas and educational resources to help your local Episcopal Church work with the government to help end this pandemic. Churches and church leaders (lay and ordained) can serve as important trusted bridges between public health officials and congregations.



In addition to the ongoing financial aid program the **Fund for the Diaconate** has been assisting deacons -- working, retired, or disabled -- who have insufficient funds for their needs. The Fund is unique in its mission of service to deacons by deacons. The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church has

created a special Emergency Grant Program, to aid deacons affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

For more information visit the [website here](#).

Project Resources - Spring 2021 Training

Six consecutive Sundays, April 18 to May 23
2:00 to 3:30 pm PT , via Zoom



Project Resource teaches culture and systems change around financial development in the worldwide Episcopal Church. Providing teaching, focus, and adaptable resources to equip clergy and lay leaders to develop their year-round annual stewardship campaigns and to plan, ask for, and receive major gifts.

Spring 2021 Training will:

- Help your team gather the best resources to transform all areas of stewardship and explore internal narratives of money while addressing societal shifts, organizational change, and leadership challenges.
- Assist your team in interpreting the training curriculum, session by session, relative to their cultural and regional context.
- Empower participants to leave the conference with a working plan and measurable objectives tailored specifically for their own congregation.

For more information visit the [Project Resource website here](#).



Episcopal Relief & Development offers a [new digital prayer tool](#), bringing together prayers from many sources and the opportunity to share prayers with others.



[Online resources for people in recovery](#)

To submit news/events, please email communications@norcalepiscopal.org. The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ
www.norcalepiscopal.org



