

The Carpenter's Helper

This Week...

Kuumba

Working together to leave our communities stronger and more beautiful than we inherited them.

Weekly Parish Schedule

Add your group's event to the calendar: email stthomassooffice@googlegroups.com

Michele Chynoweth

"The Jealous Son"
meet the author
11.10.19

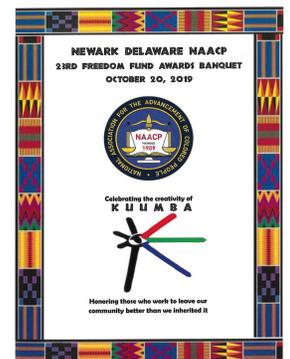
Kuumba: Creativity *To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.*

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States that honors African heritage in African-American culture. It is not a religious holiday, but a cultural one with an inherent spiritual quality. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26th to January 1st, and culminates in gift giving and a big feast. The holiday is relatively new, compared to other holidays celebrated in the U.S. Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Africana Studies at California State University, first created Kwanzaa in 1966. He created this holiday in response to the Watts Riots in Los Angeles in 1965 as a way to bring African-Americans together as a community.

Dr. Karenga researched African harvest celebrations and combined aspects of several different celebrations, such as those of the Ashanti and those of the Zulu, to form the foundation of Kwanzaa. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase matunda ya kwanza which means first fruits, or harvest, in Swahili. The extra "a" was added, Karenga has said, simply to accommodate seven children at the first-ever Kwanzaa celebration in 1966, each of whom wanted to represent a letter. Celebrations often include singing and dancing, storytelling, poetry reading, African drumming, and feasting. Dr. Karenga created **seven guiding principles** to be discussed during the week of Kwanzaa. The seven principles represent seven values of African culture that help build and reinforce community among African-Americans. Each day a different principle is discussed, and each day a candle is lit on the kinara (candleholder). The seven principles of Kwanzaa are umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity) and imani (faith). Kwanzaa also has seven symbols—mazao (crops), mkeka (mat), kinara (candleholder), muhindi (corn), kikombe cha umoja (unity cup), zawadi (gifts) and mishumaa saba (seven candles)—that are traditionally arranged on a table. Three of the seven candles are red, representing the struggle; three of the candles are green, representing the land and hope for the future; and one of the candles is black, representing people of African descent. Some families who celebrate Kwanzaa dress up or decorate their homes in those colors.

On the sixth day of Kwanzaa, celebrated on Monday, December 31, observers honor the sixth principle which is Kuumba (creativity). Kuumba is the commitment to being creative within the context of the national community vocation of restoring people to their traditional greatness and thus leaving our community more beneficial and beautiful than we inherited it. The principle has both a social and spiritual dimension and is deeply rooted in social and sacred teachings of African societies.

On October 20th, St Thomas's Cami Seward received the Kuumba award from the Newark branch NAACP annual Freedom Fund Awards. We are so proud of Cami for setting an example of how we all can reach out to our neighbors and make a difference. Congratulations Cami!





Michele Chynoweth Modern Day Bible Stories

Michele Chynoweth is a best-selling author of contemporary, inspirational novels that are modern-day versions of Bible stories, full of intrigue, suspense and romance. She and her husband Bill live in Maryland and have a blended family of five children - three boys and two girls who are mostly out on their own now - and recently, grandchildren! She loves to read, travel, swim, take long walks, and most of all to write!

I think I was born loving to write...I remember I wrote my first "novel" in a spiral-bound notebook when I was ten-years-old about a girl and her dog. But my dream of being a novelist was put on hold as "life" and its myriad responsibilities took hold, including careers as a news reporter, advertising agency owner and marketing director to help put food on the table. Fortunately, the dream God placed on my heart resurfaced and He called me to write a modern-day novel based on the Bible's Book of Job, which became The Faithful One. Looking back I see He had a plan...I was a lot like my Job character: I was losing my marriage, my business, my kids (who were becoming teenagers and, it seemed, no longer needed their mom) and finally, my health through a debilitating disease. Like my Job character, Seth Jacobs, I held onto that last shred of faith and through the grace of God got my health, family and life back in a richer, fuller way. I was healed through my writing - and knew I could help give others hope too.

The St Thomas Novel Theology group will be meeting to discuss her newest novel "The Jealous Son", a murder mystery based on the story of Cain and Able.

Jealous that his brother seems to unfairly gain the attention of their parents, the accolades of the world and the love of his girl, Cameron Trellis seeks to find justice and get rid of his younger brother Austin once and for all. A modern-day murder mystery based on the Bible story of Cain and Abel, The Jealous Son portrays how envy can go too far and begs the questions: What happens when a mother loses both of her sons? How can a family so broken piece itself back together again? And where is God in the midst of it all?

AND...Michele will be here to lead the discussion!!

You won't want to miss this!

Sunday, November 10th at 9:15

in the Deacon's office.

PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday, October 27 *Family Church Sunday*

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
9:15am (P) Anglican Way
9:15am (U) Nursery
10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
3:00pm (P) Reception for Bettie vonFrankenberg
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

Monday, October 28

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
7:30pm (GH) Scottish Dance

Tuesday, October 29

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
4:30pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 719
5:00pm (CO) AIDS Delaware
6:00pm (U) Girl Scout Troop 513
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance
8:00pm (U) KIS AA meeting

Wednesday, October 30

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
10:30am (C) Bible Study Group
4:00pm (C) Blue Hen Bounty
5:00pm (C, N) ECM
5:45pm (P) Centering Prayer
8:30pm (GH) South College Speakers AA

Thursday, October 31 **Halloween**

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
10:00am (U) Newark Music Makers
7:30pm (MR) St Gregory's Choir

Friday, November 1

6:30am (C) Sunrise Serenity AA
12:00pm (C) Al-Anon
6:30pm (P) Women's AA

Saturday, November 2

6:30am (K) Kitchen clean up
1-3pm (GH) Private Party

Sunday, November 3

8:00am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:00am (U) Youth Confirmation
9:15am (P) Anglican Way
9:15am (U) Nursery
9:30am (GH) Breakfast Club
9:45am (U) Children's Worship
10:30am (N) Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Holy Baptism
11:45am (GH) Coffee, Fellowship
2:00pm (C) Girl Scout Troop 513
7:00pm (GH) UD Ballroom Dance

location key:

(C) Classroom	(MR) Music Room
(GH) Great Hall	(U) Undercroft
(N) Nave	(DO) Deacon's Office
(P) Parlor	(RO) Rector's Office