



Union of Black Episcopalians of Central Pennsylvania Bishop Nathan Baxter Chapter

Honoring Absalom Jones



The Union of Black Episcopalians of Central PA, the Bishop Nathan Baxter Chapter, invites middle school students to participate in the **2019 Absalom Jones Essay Contest: Triumph and Tragedy Through a Life of Service**. This contest engages youth in researching the life of Absalom Jones who lived from 1746 – 1818 during the time that our country was still gaining its freedom from England!

As youth read they will learn about Absalom's transition from a slave, brought to Philadelphia as a teenager, to the charismatic community leader and respected clergyman he is known for today. They will discover why Absalom Jones left the Methodist Church and moved to the Episcopal Church where he is recognized as the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church and the founder of Historic St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

One of the goals of our UBE chapter is working with the children in the Diocese of Central PA-urban, suburban and rural- and teaching them ways of working with people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. This contest is designed for middle school students to use the example of Absalom Jones's life to discover ways to handle triumphs and tragedies in their own lives. The attached form has all the necessary details.

We hope you will encourage your middle school students to participate and look forward to receiving their responses by February 1, 2019. In addition to awards for the top three winners, students are invited to read their essays during the UBE's **Absalom Jones Day celebration on Saturday, February 16, 2019 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, 221 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101**. Please contact Karen Love at klove7511@gmail.com, if you have any questions about the Absalom Jones Essay Contest or about the UBE's Absalom Jones Day Celebration. Thank you!

Friday, February 1, 2019 - Deadline to submit 2019 Absalom Jones Essay Contest Entries
(details attached)

Saturday, February 16, 2019 - Absalom Jones Day Service & Celebration (RSVP Feb. 10th)

Family and friends are welcome! Refreshments will be served.

The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop, and The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter, Retired Bishop, will officiate during the 10:00 AM service. The awards ceremony will follow the service.