

To: Episcopal parishes in Swanton, Sheldon, Saint Albans, Colchester, Jericho, Enosburg, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne, Montpelier

From: St. James Episcopal Church, Essex Junction

Subject: Invitation to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the creation of Episcopal Peace Fellowship, September 7, 2019

Dear Friends,

St. James Episcopal Church will host an event on September 7, 2019, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to celebrate the Feast Day associated with Bishop Paul Jones and the 80th anniversary of his contribution in founding the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. Please join us in this commemoration of an extraordinary voice in promoting peace and influencing reconciliation.

Melanie Merkle Atha, the Executive Director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF), will be a featured guest speaker at St. James. She and her husband, both lawyers from Alabama, are traveling throughout the United States to promote and re-energize the organization by setting up chapters where there is interest.

The September 7 event at St. James has two purposes: (1) To acquaint parishioners from throughout the greater Burlington area with the roots and goals of EPF and (2) to begin to explore how we can together form a vibrant EPF chapter in Vermont. The following pages and the EPF website (<https://epfnational.org/sermons/>) offer an excellent introduction to the broad range of topics EPF addresses.

A small team of laypeople from St. James is organizing the event and will try to follow up this message with a personal visit to discuss with clergy and any interested parishioners your interest in eventually joining EPF as a parish or as an individual.

Please contact me (heermansjg@yahoo.com tel. 802.578.8976) or Barbara Cook (bjcook68@gmail.com tel. 814.330.5155) for more information.

Peace/Salaam/Shalom,

John Heermans
Parishioner at St. James – Essex Junction

P.S. Background on Bishop Paul Jones and EPF can be found at:
https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/elifa_insert_101809_eng_bw_lettersize.pdf.

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) is a national organization connecting all who seek a deliberate response to injustice and violence and want to pray, study, and take action for justice and peace in our communities, our church, and the world. We are called to do justice, dismantle violence, and strive to be peacemakers.

“In loyalty to the Person, Spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ, my conscience commits me to His way of redemptive love and compels me to refuse to participate in or give moral support to any war.”



Getting Started as an Episcopal Peace Fellowship Member

We welcome you as an EPF member! Our members are involved in many, many different types of Peace and Justice ministries. By joining EPF you are connecting with other Episcopalians across the country, lending your expertise and picking up some new ones.

How to start out:

Join EPF: Sign up at <http://episcopalpeacefellowship.wufoo.com/forms/episcopal-peace-fellowship/>

Connect with EPF ACTION GROUPS: If you have a particular interest in an issue and have signed up for an Action Group, please write to the convener and let them know of your interest and what you would like to do. Our Action Group conveners are volunteers and need help disseminating information and you may need some or have some...so please take some time to connect. You can find their e-mail addresses on our web site www.epfnational.org under 'what we do' action groups.

Be a peacemaker IN YOUR CONGREGATION: If you would like to share EPF information with your congregation, start a chapter or create a signing table (a place where congregational members can sign petitions and letters, please let us know. Also check out store and order some of our materials to share. Please feel welcome to call the EPF office at 312-922-8628 and we will be glad to help you out!

Connect with other People of Faith in YOUR COMMUNITY: EPF works with other Peace Fellowships both within the Christian faith and with other faiths, we might be able to help – let us know

PRAY DAILY for Peace for yourself and others, CHECK OUT OUR RESOURCES on the web.

And LET US HEAR from you, what resources you may need, what questions you have, EPF is here to work with our members and together create a peace filled Church and world.

CALL OUR LEADERSHIP with your questions, resources etc. WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER!

GO TO LIST:

Executive Director, Melanie Merkle Atha – 312-922-8628 – epfactnow@gmail.com

Chairperson of the National Executive Committee, Rev. Bob Davidson, frbobdav@msn.com

**Episcopal Peace Fellowship PO Box 15, Claysburg, PA 16625
www.epfnational.org // 312-922-8628 // epf@epfnational.org**



Welcome to EPF Membership as a Peace Partner Congregation!

Thank you for making the connection to EPF. We're so glad that you're supporting the nonviolence work of EPF in the Church and in the world. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship's Peace Partner Network consists of individuals and institutions, such as congregations, dioceses, and seminaries, who are seeking to grow their peace and justice ministries with the support of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

Member services director Shannon Berndt will be sending you your Peace Partner Congregation certificate (suitable for framing) and the Paul Jones Icon poster. We hope that these two symbols will become familiar in your parish and that you will benefit from your association with EPF.

As a Peace Partner Congregation, you will receive the following member benefits:

- A listing in **EPF's Online Peace Partner Congregation Directory**.
- Access to the EPF Constant Contact account to send attractive emails to large groups.
- Consultation time with EPF's Creative Peacemaking Team on your congregation's peace and justice work.
- A beautiful poster of the Bishop Paul Jones icon, a piece created by the Rev. Robert Two Bulls for the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.
- A certificate identifying your congregation as a Peace Partner Congregation.
- A visit from our Executive Director when she is in your neighborhood.

We will be featuring each Peace Partner Congregation periodically in our weekly mass e-mail, *Peace Out*, and on our EPF Facebook page.

WELCOME, from the National Executive Council of EPF and our entire membership, WELCOME!

Melanie Merkle Atha, Executive Director
(205) 807-0343
epfactnow@gmail.com

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What EPF Chapters Have Been Doing

- Holding Peace Vigils in their parish, with interfaith groups, on the street, in the community
- Hosting speakers for their parish or community regarding different issues of interest
- Cornering for Peace – Holding Peace Signs on the street sending a message for Peace
- Holding informational meetings for their diocese, in their community
- Sending out EPF brochures and *Cross Before Flags* to every church in their diocese
- Having guest speakers on Nuclear Proliferation, Gun Violence Prevention, Palestine-Israel justice, the Iraq war, Death Penalty Abolition, Borderland ministry to refugees, Anti-Drone & Care for Creation
- Celebrating EPF's 80th anniversary with special action events
- Inviting persons from other faiths into dialogue
- Sponsoring Nonviolence Workshops and Retreats
- Tabling at conferences, meetings, parishes and diocesan conventions
- Drafting resolutions, introducing them at the diocesan convention and promoting for passage
- Attending peace rallies & marches in their cities and in Washington, D.C.
- Writing, calling, e-mailing elected officials regarding human rights foreign policies and issues of social justice
- Posting on Facebook, tweeting, and sending e-mails concerning issues to their friends, parishioners, and family
- Speaking at other parishes about EPF
- Getting endorsements for the Urgent Call (to end nuclear proliferation)
- Working with other peace and justice organizations to promote nonviolent conflict resolution