

Becoming Beloved Community (BBC)



PRIDE IS COMING: JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

Here are a few of the opportunities in which you can share in the celebration this June!

PRIDE EUCHARISTS:

- * Sunday, June 2 – 10:30 AM worship at Christ Church, a Rainbow Reception is planned (location TBA)
- * Sunday, June 23 – 7:00 PM worship at Christ Church, a Rainbow Reception will follow in the Parish Hall
Preacher: The Rev. Gail Goldsmith, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Lynchburg
Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Jan Fuller, Priest Associate, Christ Church, Roanoke and Co-Director of MA in Chaplaincy, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace
Deacon: Linda Ricker

“SIDE BY SIDE” CONVERSATIONS: WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

**Wednesdays, June 5, 12 & 19, 6:00—7:30 PM
at Christ Church Parish Hall, M. Todd Null, leader**

Inspired by the life and legacy of Legal Scholar, Episcopal Priest, and Queer Saint, Pauli Murray, we invite you to join us for these three Pride Month Conversations. A light supper will be served.



- * June 5 - *Queering Our Bodies* - a conversation about sex and gender. Where does our understanding of sex and gender come from? And how might St. Pauli's lived experience invite us to broaden our understanding of human diversity?
- * June 12 - *Queering Our Culture* - a conversation about cultural humility. How does our culture limit and harm us? And how might St. Pauli's pursuit of legal equity and social justice inspire us to respond?
- * June 19 - *Queering Our Theology* - a conversation about religious faith and practice. How does our theology define our perception of the Divine? And how might St. Pauli's ordination and sainthood encourage us to expand our experience of God?

PAULI MURRAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE DURHAM, NC AREA

Saturday & Sunday, June 15 - 16 / Tentative Schedule:

- ~ Saturday, June 15, 8:30 AM: meet at Christ Church, caravan to Durham! Carpooling available (and preferred).
- ~ Saturday afternoon: visit the Pauli Murray Center for History and Social Justice; learn more about this extraordinary human followed by visiting the LGBTQ Center of Durham.
- ~ Saturday evening: plans are evolving, but dinner together and discussions of the day are definite.
- ~ Sunday morning: worship together at Chapel of the Cross where

Pauli Murray's enslaved grandmother was baptized and Murray celebrated their first Eucharist. (We also have a video recording of their first sermon as priest.)

~ Finally, lunch and debrief before returning home.

Watch our Christ Church email updates or reach out to Kristin Tadlock-Bell or Todd Null for more information.

The life and work of Pauli Murray encompasses so many different spaces – author, poet, lawyer, civil rights activist, Black, Christian, Queer, priest. As early as the 1940s, Murray—a civil rights and feminist activist and the first Black (perceived) woman ordained an Episcopal priest—challenged segregation, sex discrimination, and gender norms. Murray was educated at Hunter College after being denied admittance to Columbia University in NY because of race. After graduation from Hunter, Murray shortened their name to “Pauli” to embrace a more androgynous identity. From there, Murry went on to study law at Howard University, where they were the only woman and graduated first in the class of 1944. Murray was the first African American to earn a doctor of the science of laws from Yale University Law School. They were a co-founder of the National Organization for Women and the Congress of Racial Equity. Former NAACP President and future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall called Murray's book, “States' Laws on Race and Color,” the bible of the civil rights movement. In 1973 Murray left their tenured position at Brandeis University to become a candidate for ordination at General Theological Seminary. In 1977, Pauli Murray became the first Black person perceived as a woman in the U.S. to become an Episcopal priest. Murray died of cancer in Pittsburg on July 1, 1985.

“Liberating God, we thank you for the steadfast courage of your servant Pauli Murray, who fought long and well: Unshackle us from the chains of prejudice and fear, that we may show forth the reconciling love and true freedom which you revealed in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

(<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary/pauli-murray>)

