

# On the Spiritual Side

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## Two priests found unsuitable for ministry due to credible sexual abuse allegations

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. has found two priests unsuitable for ministry, including one who served in Bucks County, due to substantiated allegations of sexual abuse, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia said in a press release issued Feb. 23.

Chaput deemed the Rev. James J. Collins, 75, not suitable for ministry following a substantiated allegation that he sexually abused a 17-year-old minor more than 40 years ago, the archdiocese said. He served at various parishes and schools in Philadelphia.

The archbishop also found the Rev. John P. Paul, 67, unsuitable for ministry following a substantiated allegation that he sexually abused a 17-year-old minor more than 40 years ago, according to the press release. Paul served at Archbishop Wood High School, Warminster (1997-2000); and Saint Andrew, Newton (1997-2000). He also has served at other parishes and schools in the Philadelphia area.

The Feb. 23 announcements are neither connected to one another nor to the cases of priests placed on administrative leave following the February 2011

grand jury report. Collins and Paul were both placed on administrative leave in 2013.

Following Archbishop Chaput's determinations of their unsuitability for ministry, neither Collins nor Paul will have public ministry in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

They have the right to appeal the decisions to the Holy See. If they do not appeal, or if an appeal is unsuccessful, they could be laicized (removed from the clerical state) or live a life of prayer and penance.

Announcements were made last weekend at the parishes

where they served, and counselors were made available for parishioners.

Consistent with the Archdiocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Young People, promulgated in October of 2012, the allegations against Collins and Paul first were reported to the appropriate local district attorney's office.

Upon declination of criminal charges by the district attorney, the Archdiocesan Office of Investigations began its investigation in each case. The results of this process were submitted to the Archdiocesan Professional

Responsibility Review Board (APRRB), which is comprised of 12 men and women, both Catholic and non-Catholic, with extensive professional backgrounds in the investigation and treatment of child sexual abuse.

It functions as a confidential advisory committee to the archbishop, which assesses allegations of sexual abuse as well as allegations of violations of the Standards of Ministerial Behavior and Boundaries. That body provided a recommendation regarding suitability for ministry to the archbishop, who made the final decisions.

## Caring for neighbors

As snow fell outside Newtown Presbyterian Church on Feb. 9, church members of all ages gathered inside to assemble special valentine care packages for local families living in transition along Route 1.

In addition to packing gift bags with donations of fresh fruit, toiletries, socks, books and valentines for children to hand out at school, youth-group members baked cookies and made valentine cards for each family.



Congregants decorate valentine cards.



Church volunteers display the valentine care packages.



Volunteers gather with their handiwork for a group photo.



A young church member decorates cookies.



Church members make valentine cookies.

## HAPPENINGS

### St. Philip's Episcopal observes Ash Wednesday

To reach as many people as possible, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, New Hope, will observe Ash Wednesday in traditional and innovative ways.

This year, the holy day falls on Wednesday, March 5.

The Rev. Michael Ruk, pastor of St. Philip's, will distribute ashes in two brief Masses at the church, at noon and 7 p.m.

During the morning rush hour and at other times during the day, Ruk will offer "ashes to go" at various locations in New Hope. He will also visit businesses and distribute ashes there, if business owners contact him.

For information about times and locations, or to arrange a custom visit, call Ruk at 215-862-5782, or e-mail Michael@stphilipsnewhope.org.

### Ascension Lutheran Church sets Ash Wednesday services

Ascension Lutheran Church, 900 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown, holds Ash Wednesday worship services with Holy Communion at noon and 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 5.

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. It is a time of simplicity, renewal and preparation in congregations, especially preparation for baptisms that will occur at the Easter Vigil.

For information, call 215-497-0447, or visit the church online.

### Philadelphia Archdiocese offers pilgrimage to Italy

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is sponsoring a nine-day pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for the canonization of Blessed Popes John XXIII and John Paul II.

Pope Francis will preside at the ceremonies at the Basilica of Saint Peter on Sunday, April 27.

The trip also features a general papal audience with the Holy Father, a tour of the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel and a walking tour of major Roman attractions, including the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain and other historic landmarks.

There will also be a full-day trip to Assisi, the birthplace of Saint Francis.

Pilgrims will leave Philadelphia on Monday, April 21 and return Tuesday, April 29. Registration is due as soon as possible. Visit archphila.org or call Select International Tours at 800-842-4842.

### West Swamp Mennonite lists Lenten services

West Swamp Mennonite Church, 2501 Allentown Road, Quakertown, invites the public on a 40-day Lenten journey.

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, an informal service will be held at 7 p.m.

The Six Sundays of Lent will be focused on the theme, "Encountering God - What We Have Witnessed." Sunday worship begins at 10:30 a.m., preceded by Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

West Swamp is located approximately 1.5 miles north of Route 663 and the village of Milford Square. For information, call 215-536-7468 or visit the church online.

### Saint Andrew's Episcopal holds Evensong service

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, York and Main streets, Lambertville, N.J., presents its monthly Evensong service at 4 p.m. March 2.

The service will celebrate the last Sunday after the Epiphany, the last celebratory Sunday before the beginning of Lent.

St Andrew's choir will sing music by J.S. Bach, Thomas Tallis, Robert Lehman, William Byrd, Charles Villiers Stanford and Randall Thompson.

Evensong is the Evening Prayer liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer set to chant tones and other music. It is one of the daily offices (pauses in work and study for communal prayer and reading) that Anglicanism has compiled from the nine daily offices found in traditional monastic practice.

For information, contact 609-

### Peer-led meditation benefit held

A peer-led meditation practice takes place every Wednesday from 8:30 to 9 a.m. through April at Jersey Community Acupuncture, 117 Broad St., Flemington, N.J., to benefit SAFE in Hunterdon. Donate \$1 to \$10.

The event is appropriate for those new to meditation or those looking for community support in their practice.

Call 908-237-1076 or visit Jersey Acupuncture online for information.

**Area Quakers invite you to Worship during the Week at any of the following:**

*Quakers*

Southampton Tuesdays - 7:30 pm  
Lehigh Valley Wednesdays - 5:00 pm  
Makefield Wednesdays - 7:00 am  
Middletown Thursdays - 7:00 pm

Contact Holly Olson  
215-860-9747  
hollybgc@verizon.net  
www.quakerbucks.org

**Worship Directory**

**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Sunday, March 2, 2014  
The Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey, Sr., Pastor  
9:30 am Worship / Communion / Sunday School  
10:30 am Fellowship / Refreshments  
Faith@5 - Engaging Contemporary Worship / Communion, Saturday at 5 pm  
Ash Wednesday Service / Communion March 5 at 7:30 pm  
186 E. Court St., Doylestown • www.DoylestownSalemUCC.org  
215.348.9860  
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