

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Our commitment to Jewish-Christian Relations

This weekend, I will be in Florida to co-preside at a Christian Jewish wedding ceremony. This will be the second time in all of my ministry this has happened. It is a great honor to be asked to preside at anyone's wedding and it cheers my heart to see young couples stepping out to heal the deep and tragic divisions between Jews and Christians.

This particular family is from Millbrook, New York (my former congregation) and asked me to preside at their wedding over a year ago, so Mile and I will be there for the Friday wedding and return on Sunday. Carroll Sheppard will be assisting Dan on Sunday and I look forward to reporting back to you all on this wonderful moment and hope you keep Will and Meredith in your thoughts and prayers this weekend.

St. Paul's church also shares a deep and long commitment to Jewish Christian relations, particularly through the **Christian Jewish Allies of Greater Philadelphia** (or **CJALLIES**). I met with some of their Board -- including Judith Beck, their Co-Convenor --and she expressed her deep appreciation that St. Paul's is their home base. I was impressed that Fr. Cliff saw this great opportunity to share in the many ministries here and how this local organization has blossomed into a major force for good and a significant producer of educational materials for schools across the country. Their expanded curriculum is very impressive and few of our parishioners know that this is all going on under the CHUPPA of St Paul's!!

"The chuppah represents a Jewish home symbolized by the cloth canopy and the four poles. Just as a chuppah is open on all four sides, so was the tent of Abraham open for hospitality."

In a world where anti-semitism is once more on the rise, we stand in solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters, in gratitude for the heritage we share and in repentance for the suffering our fellow Christians caused over the centuries.

St. Paul would have never called himself a Christian (the term had not yet been created) so our patron saint would be happy as a mystical Jew and universalist to see this work going on by a congregation emboldened by his principles. The couple in Florida have asked me to preach on his

letter to the Corinthians and his famous "Hymn to Love."

You can learn more about this ministry by connecting with their website or come to the next meeting on the 29th March from 3-5 p.m in Dixon Hall.

