

## Green Burials

*Everyone needs beauty, as well as bread, a place to play, and a place to pray. –John Muir*

In July, I had the honor of officiating at the burial of faithful parishioner Roger Westman who was at Calvary for the last twenty-seven years. He was on the vestry and had a major part in creating our beautiful color guide book to the art and architecture at Calvary. In addition to the many ministries at church, Roger was also actively involved serving our neighbors in the city. A particular passion of his was the environment, including serving as Program Chief of the Air Quality Program of the Allegheny County Health Department. His faith was put into action in practical ways every day.

As part of this faith in action, Roger was an advocate of what is commonly called “Green” or “Natural” burial, one with minimal environmental impact.

A green burial is, in essence, how most people were buried in America until the late 19th century and today in much of the world. Others in attendance at the service noted how similar it was, in some ways, to Jewish or Muslim burials. There is no embalming of the body using the harsh chemicals involved in that process, especially formaldehyde. The person is covered in a shroud of natural material or a simple wooden casket without metal is used. There is no vault of concrete and steel which is a receptacle that houses the casket. A simple stone or wooden marker is used. The modern embalming process, most caskets, and the vault all take significant resources to create and can have an adverse impact on the environment.

I can attest that Roger’s burial was simple, beautiful, holy, and a deeply moving experience. It took place at the Penn Forest Natural Burial Park which is about a mile south of Oakmont. About forty people gathered in a verdant setting. The body was covered in a linen shroud, carried by four people, and had built-in straps to lower it into the grave.

After the service called the Committal, committing his body to its final resting place, each person placed a flower on the body. Then, led by his husband William, we each covered our friend’s body with earth from the



very pile accumulated from digging the grave. In almost every other burial I have attended, the earth is hidden from view and the body only lowered into the grave and covered once everyone is gone. The flowers and the covering with earth by each person were both ways of saying goodbye and acknowledging this part of Roger’s life is finished yet recognizing our hope in resurrection through Jesus Christ. They are also sacramental, using physical things to pray and connect the human with the divine.

Roger was part of a group to bring the option of green burial to Pittsburgh. This approach offers a simple yet elegant and environmentally friendly way to leave this world gently and with grace. It is also financially quite reasonable compared to “traditional” burials. I am not suggesting a green or natural burial is for everyone or that it is the best way but I am suggesting it may be a thoughtful alternative. My own plan, when the time comes, is to be cremated, without first being embalmed, and to rest in the columbarium at Calvary. If you would like more information about green burials, please see the website [www.pennforestcemetery.com](http://www.pennforestcemetery.com).

As we said goodbye and commended our friend Roger to God by committing him to the earth from which he came, I realized that moment was Roger’s final act of earthly worship. He died as he lived. In his final act of choosing to leave in this way, his earthly effect on the environment was slight, but the love and legacy he left behind were immense. ■

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Muir". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a personal and heartfelt style.

## When I go, I want to go – naturally

As a child I delighted in playing in the woods behind my Grandmother's home, and on the big rock in the clearing. As a young man I climbed mountains and hiked wilderness trails to some of the most wonderfully wild places on earth. As an older adult I delight in "playing in the dirt" in my garden and watching things grow. In between I spent my professional life working for a cleaner environment. I shudder to think of the resources I've consumed, the energy I've used, or caused to be used.

I'm trying to lessen the impact I have upon the planet. Now I recycle, I reuse, and I'm rethinking. I have a will, a living will, and plans for my funeral for sometime after I go. This is all so much about me. Fortunately I have loved others, and been loved in return, but in a generation or two from now there probably won't be any loved ones who want to visit my grave. So I've rethought how I want to go.

I hope the world would be better off for my living, and also for how I go. Make it simple; don't use much energy, and leave the big rock in the clearing, or in the quarry. Sometime in the future, if there can be a young child who delights in the woods over my grave, or a person who enjoys watching the birds, or discovering which plants grow there, then I too will enjoy my going – naturally. ■

*Written by Roger Westman, July 12, 2009. Roger died on July 4, 2016, and was buried on July 8, 2016 at Penn Forest Natural Memorial Park.*

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## The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore offers more than books we carry cards, cross necklaces, and t-shirts, among other things.

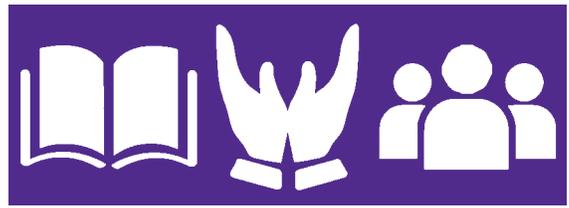
If you are already organizing for next year, the Bookstore has just received 2016-2017 Episcopal calendars (and Kalendars, for those with even more liturgical interests).

Other new items include coloring books and guided journals. Coloring books have become a popular pastime for all ages, and we have Sybil MacBeth's *Praying in Color* series. Journaling has many benefits including helping to preserve memories, increasing mindfulness, relieving stress, and fostering creativity. Guided journals provide quotations, prompts, and writing exercises focused on a particular subject to inspire writers. The Bookstore at Calvary has guided journals with wellness and travel themes as well as ones on deeply personal topics such as end of life planning.

Regular hours resume: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ■

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The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue of *Agape* is **Friday, October 7, 2016**. Please e-mail your text to [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto:calvary@calvarypgh.org) or deliver it directly to the church office. ■



## Calling all Group Leaders – An Exploration of Ministries at Calvary

**Sunday, October 16**, the Christian formation hour (10 a.m.) will be an opportunity for us to explore the many and diverse ways to be involved in our community's life and outreach. All of Calvary's groups and organizations are encouraged to participate and share their purpose and efforts with members of the parish. This is also an opportunity to invite those who are interested to sign up or participate. The event will take place throughout the Parish Hall and Refectory. Please call or email Susan Roth ([sroth@calvarypgh.org](mailto:sroth@calvarypgh.org), 412.661.0120 ext. 116) to be involved and to establish a contact person for your ministry. ■

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## The Book of **ACTS** The founding of the Christian Church and the spread of the Gospel

**Beginning on Sunday, September 18**, Calvary will offer a class on the Book of Acts. It will be similar in format to the Gospel of Luke class, will convene in McClintic Hall, and be led by the Rector and Mr. Chuck Esposito. The only text we will use is the actual book itself, which is 28 chapters.

The Book of Acts is a type of sequel to the Gospel of Luke, sharing an author. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus and the Good News of Salvation. Acts, meaning works or deeds of the early apostles, continues with the Resurrection of Jesus and tells the story of the spread of the Gospel and the Church from Jerusalem, symbolic of Jesus' own people the Jews, to Rome, symbolic of the whole world. It particularly focuses on the ministries of Peter and Paul. Acts is the only book in the Bible that tells the story of the Church immediately after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension.

The class will meet on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. in McClintic Hall from September through May with breaks. We will have class from September 18 through November 20 with the first break on November 27 for Thanksgiving.

All are welcome. ■

# CHRISTIAN FORMATION

## Sunday School

Sunday School is here again! Classes are open to all children and youth, Pre-K through 8th Grade, each Sunday at 10 a.m. A High School group meets in the Youth Room (through McClintic Hall on Level G) at the same time.

Registration forms are in the tract racks and on the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall and Refectory. Completed forms may be placed in the offering plate or in my mailbox – or, just show up to your grade’s room, and sign up there! Look for the sign in the main lobby for classroom locations.

–Susan Roth, Coordinator for Christian Formation  
412.661.0120 ext. 116, [sroth@calvarypgh.org](mailto:sroth@calvarypgh.org) ■



Sundays at 10 a.m.

The Adult Forum is an opportunity for us to deepen our knowledge and our understanding of Christian life, to learn how to love God and to serve our neighbors. A broad range of presentations invites us to reflect on topics such as prayer and spirituality, theology, social justice, worship and sacraments.

**Sunday, September 18 – An Introduction to a Study of the Book of Acts** (*in McClintic Hall*)

**Sunday, September 25 – Praying the Daily Office**

Ancient Christian tradition and practice gives us a way of marking time and framing each day with prayer. Come and learn about the forms of daily prayer found in the Episcopal Church’s Book of Common Prayer, and how we might incorporate them into our life of faith. Leslie Reimer will lead this forum.

**Sunday, October 2 – The Poetry of Richard St. John**

Local poet Richard St. John will read and discuss some of his works. Rick’s poems grow out of the lived experience of a progressive Christian faith. His newest book, *Each Perfected Name*, explores the beloved fragility we all carry with us, and the luminosity that marks us as well. *Presented by Poetry Out Loud*

**Sunday, October 9 – The Gifts of God for the People of God**  
Michelle and Mark Rust will provide a summary of this year’s Stewardship campaign, and the Rev. Jonathon Jensen will address Calvary’s current status and his vision for the future.

**Sunday, October 16 – Exploring Ministries at Calvary**

Calvary is home to a wealth of thriving groups and organizations, serving a variety of needs and interests in our

parish and in our local community. This time is an opportunity to explore the many and diverse ways to be involved in our community’s life and outreach. Members of these various organizations and displays with information about their purposes and efforts will be located throughout the Parish Hall and Refectory. All are invited to learn about and join in the opportunities for service, involvement, and community these ministries create and sustain.

**Sunday, October 23 – John Magee, the Episcopal Church, and the Nanjing Massacre**

The Rev. John Magee, a native son of Calvary, served as a missionary in China from 1912-1938 and was instrumental in saving 100,000 Chinese from death at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army. Amazingly, his story was lost to us until a Chinese documentary filmmaker visited Calvary last year. Learn more about Magee, his life, work, and witness from Calvary archivist Becky Randall and from Chinese historian Vanessa Sterling, who recently visited Nanjing to learn firsthand about Magee’s legacy.

**Sunday, October 30 – A New/Old Requiem**

The music for this year’s Commemoration of All Souls, on Friday, November 4, is a seldom-heard setting of the Requiem Mass by a seventeenth-century Austro-Bohemian composer, Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber. In this forum, Alan Lewis explores the lush and glorious music of this piece, and the Imperial context that inspired it, in preparation for the following Friday’s musical liturgy.

**Sunday, November 6 – Creating a Rule of Life**

Monastic wisdom had much to offer us in our efforts to lead balanced, spiritually grounded lives. Informed by the work of the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Leslie Reimer will look at how individuals can create and use a rule of life.

**Sunday, November 13 – Intercessory Prayer**

Bishop Rob O’Neill wrote these words on the significance of praying for the needs of others and of the world: “The greatest gift we have to offer one another is indeed our collective prayer – not merely kind wishes, not simply good intentions, but deep prayer – the ability to hold, tangibly and intentionally, others in that abundant love that flows freely and gracefully within us and among us.” Leslie Reimer will consider what it means to pray for others, and how we shape our intercessions here at Calvary Church.

**Sunday, November 20 – Paying Attention: Prayer and the Poems of Mary Oliver**

Poet Mary Oliver invites readers into the stillness of a careful encounter with nature, and into the depths of human experience. Leslie Reimer will explore the insights into prayer expressed in Oliver’s poems. No advance reading required. ■

Respectfully submitted by  
G. F. Roth, *Junior Warden*

## About the House

*Being a presentation for your perusal of those seemingly mundane housekeeping chores, repairs, modifications, and improvements which affect our worship and parish life experiences at Calvary.*

- The crumbling paving section of the Marchand Street entrance to the parking lot has now been restored and made safe to use.
- Previously reported upkeep of some of our drainage systems seems to have prevented basement water incursion which, sadly, we understand was experienced by some of our neighbors during the intense late August storm about which so much has been reported.
- Calvary did not entirely avoid storm damage, however, as a section of fencing at the rear of the playground was buckled by a falling tree limb during the onslaught, and...
- Organ section control woes were worsened as a result of lightning which accompanied the same storm. But...
- Considering the flooding of nearby Washington Boulevard and the numerous other very real catastrophes reported in the area, we got off lightly. Sorry to sound preachy, but...y'know.
- There is an old, yet new-to-our-view article of furniture in the Parish Hall. It once graced the same space before it was relegated to the undercroft during the renovation that included the construction of the ramp. At the Rector's request it has been resurrected and will soon house a small library of titles of interest to newcomers to the church.
- Under "Use of Space": With the seasonal return to multiple Sunday morning offerings, we are back to a regular indoor schedule of services, Sunday School is everywhere, the adult forum series has begun, and the Rector's "Acts of the Apostles" class has debuted in McClintic Hall. The weekday calendar of events is accelerating and, last but not least, Beginnings has begun, with freshly painted walls and a grand cleanup just completed.
- Finally, concerning the current Pokémon Go craze. Our first-ever-live-church-service-broadcast plaque at the west front appears to have been designated a "Pokéstop." Who knew? Recent curious visits seem to bear that out. The word is that the fad is waning. ■



Please remember  
Calvary Church  
in your will.



## The Rev. Becca Stevens

thistlefarms.org

Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women  
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Trinity Cathedral

Saturday, October 16, 2016

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Details to Come

Becca Stevens founded Thistle Farms, a residential community for women healing from prostitution, trafficking and addiction, who together built a million dollar business making bath and body care products. Hear stories of transformation in Becca's community and in our own.

## EECM "Off to College" Program

Many thanks to everyone who graciously provided supplies for college-bound students for the East End Cooperative Ministry's Children and Youth Program. Often, these students are the first in their families to go to college, and basic needs are a major expense. Because of the generosity of Calvary parishioners, we were able to support two students this year, one male, one female, with items and gift cards at the start of their college careers. ■

## Dedication of Cram Display

**On Sunday, October 2**, after the 11 o'clock service, we will dedicate the handsome Ralph Adams Cram history board that hangs in the entryway to the church offices. Cram was the architect of a number of prominent churches including Calvary, East Liberty Presbyterian, St. Thomas in New York, and the chapel of Princeton University. The board will be dedicated in honor of Roger Westman, who played a prominent role in its creation along with the members of the Architectural History Committee at Calvary. Please join us. ■

## "Howe Springs Eternal"

The East Liberty Valley Historical Society, of which Calvary is a member, presents the story of Pittsburgh's most esteemed natural spring as part of the 2016 Speaker Series. (The spring "house" is located on Fifth Avenue at Highland).

Free and open to the public, join us on **Friday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m.** in Room 234 at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

The presenter will be Matthew Falcone, president of Preservation Pittsburgh and commissioner, Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission. ■

# Pastoral Care

at Calvary Church



We are called to care for one another and to seek God's healing and peace as a Christian community. Pastoral Care at Calvary offers spiritual and practical support for our parishioners. Under the oversight of Leslie Reimer, the Pastoral Care Committee provides programs to serve the homebound, the elderly, the bereaved, and those in transition with difficult health issues. We also offer caregiver support and a list of community resources. Following are Calvary's Pastoral Care programs, and how to access services or volunteer to help:

- **Lay Eucharistic Ministers** – Eucharistic Visitors are members of the congregation who have completed a training program to deliver Holy Communion to those unable to attend regular services. Requests for a Eucharistic Visitor should be directed to Leslie Reimer ([lreimer@calvarypgh.org](mailto:lreimer@calvarypgh.org)).
- **Calvary Cares** – Members of the Calvary community experiencing a time of special need, and the loved ones caring for them, can take advantage of Calvary Cares. Such support might include transportation, assistance with shopping and meals, access to church services, plus other church activities. Service requests are e-mailed to our list of volunteers. Those who are available to help can do so as their schedules permit. To volunteer for Calvary Cares or request assistance, contact Michele Binder ([mbbender@gmail.com](mailto:mbbender@gmail.com)).
- **Community Resources** -- A list of community resources has been compiled and was recently updated. This is available on line in the Pastoral Care section of [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org).
- **Flower Delivery** – Each Sunday after the 11am service, the altar flowers are divided into smaller bouquets and delivered to parishioners who have had a special event occur that week. Illness, the birth of a child, marriage, or the death of a loved one are among reasons why someone is chosen to receive altar flowers. Persons interested in volunteering to participate in this special ministry are encouraged to contact Judie Compher ([kcompher@aol.com](mailto:kcompher@aol.com)) or Barbara Hicks ([barbleeh@verizon.net](mailto:barbleeh@verizon.net)), co-chairs of Altar Flower Delivery. To suggest a recipient, contact Louise Wells ([lwells@calvarypgh.org](mailto:lwells@calvarypgh.org)).
- **Calvary Cooks** – When extra help is needed by a member of the Calvary community due to a new baby, family crisis or illness, meals can be coordinated and delivered to members' homes or to the church to be picked up. If you are interested in helping to make or deliver meals, or know of someone who needs assistance, please contact Michele Bender, ([mbbender@gmail.com](mailto:mbbender@gmail.com)).
- **Soup Group** – Volunteers meet monthly in Calvary's kitchen to make soups for Calvary's freezer. The soup is available to be delivered to those who are sick or recuperating. For more information, contact Adele Eley ([adele.eley@gmail.com](mailto:adele.eley@gmail.com)).
- **Care for the Caregiver** – The Pastoral Care Committee recognizes the importance of providing support for those caring for loved ones. With this in mind, the Committee has created a Compendium for Caregivers which includes collects, Psalms and meditations to help caregivers find spiritual strength for their important work. This is available on line in the Pastoral Care section of [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org).

For further information, or to get involved with the Pastoral Care Committee, please contact Michele Bender, Chair, at [mbbender@gmail.com](mailto:mbbender@gmail.com) or Tracy Morris, Co-chair, at [tlmorris56@yahoo.com](mailto:tlmorris56@yahoo.com).

The Women of Calvary  
**2016 HOLIDAY BAZAAR**  
Saturday, November 12  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Life can get so busy, especially now that school has started and fall schedules are in full swing. Sometimes it seems hard to imagine adding even one more activity to already hectic schedules! With this in mind, members of the Holiday Bazaar Committee have come up with ideas for busy people to plan how they can contribute to the Holiday Bazaar. Watch for "Bazaar Ideas" each week in the Sunday Bulletin. In the meantime, here are messages from several committees as to what they do and do not need this year, along with contact information should you wish to discuss. We invite you to plan ahead, and join in the fellowship and fun of this year's Holiday Bazaar!

**\* Attic Treasures \***

The Attic Treasures Committee is already working on the Bazaar and hopes that you have been setting aside quality items that are no longer of use to your household. Thanks to the parishioners of Calvary Church and all those who shared their items and treasures and/or shopped last year, the total profit from Attic Treasures in 2015 was \$2,327.50! Your generosity will help us make 2016 successful as well. Specific items we would love to have include: Lamps, China, Silverware, Framed Art, Sporting Goods, Toys, Christmas Decorations, Small Appliances (in working order), Cloth Napkins, Placemats, Small Decorative Clocks, Table Coverings, Small Unique Garden Items, and Small Furniture. Unfortunately, we can't accept books, draperies or TV's. You can drop off your donations, marked "Attic Treasures," at the church Sunday, November 6 thru Noon, Thursday, November 10.

If you wish to donate larger items that we are unable to accommodate due to the confines of space at the church, we suggest that you take a photo of each item and supply your name, phone number and the asking price. We will post the items on our "**For Sale**" bulletin board located outside the Attic Treasures room. Interested parties can then contact you directly for purchase. If items advertised on the "**For Sale**" Board are purchased, the proceeds you receive can then be given to Attic Treasures.

To discuss, donate or volunteer, please contact Judy Wootten, Co-Chair, Attic Treasures at wootten@windstream.net or 724.733.1660) or Lyn Orr, Co-Chair, Attic Treasures (lynreedorr@gmail.com or 412.782.2957).

**\* New To You Room \***

This is the third year for the popular New To You Room, located in the Evans Room. Last year, the total profit from this sales area was \$2,574! Once again, we need donations of higher-quality items, as well as new items in their original

Volunteer Opportunities for  
**Attic Treasures** and the **New To You Room** Areas

Volunteers will be needed to help sort, display and price donated items November 7-11, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Also, the day of the Bazaar, volunteers will be needed to help customers find items, pack items and take money. Then, on November 13, from 1-3 pm, volunteers will be needed to pack up all the unsold items in Attic Treasures so they can be delivered to Goodwill. Helping with these sales areas is always fun and festive! It's amazing to see what items come in for sale and what treasures people buy!

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boxes or wrappings. You can drop off your donations at the church, marked "New To You Room," from Sunday, November 6 thru Noon, Thursday, November 10. To discuss, donate or volunteer, please contact Barbara Hicks, Chair, New To You Room, at 412.242.1469 (barbleeh@verizon.net).

**\* Nature's Gifts \***

The Nature's Gifts Committee is also hard at work merchandising this beautiful sales area for the Holiday Bazaar. We are looking for donations of garden ornaments, decorative containers for small plants, and garden-related items such as small scissors for deadheading, wind chimes, etc. This year we cannot accept garden books and magazines, or dried hydrangeas and other dried plant items. These did not sell last year. In addition to donations to Nature's Gifts, we would love to have you volunteer for a 2-hour shift to help us the day of the Bazaar at the sales tables. To discuss, donate or volunteer, please contact Diane Styles at either 412.780.1245 or 412.343.2067, or via email at dianestyles137@yahoo.com.

**\* Fine Linens \***

We are looking for donations of antique and fine linens. If you have fine quality lace, tablecloths, placemats, pillowcases, hand towels or handkerchiefs in good condition you would like to donate, please contact Margie Muldoon, Chair, Fine Linens, at 412.362.1780 or margiemuldoon@msn.com.

**\* Handmade Items \***

The Handmade Table would love to have your handmade items for this year's Bazaar! We are looking for handmade scarves, sweaters, gloves, and hats in both adult and children's sizes. Other hand-crafted items such as jewelry, purses, potholders, washcloths, placemats, basket liners and wooden items (puzzles and toys) are also good sellers. Anything related to the Steelers are always very popular. Please leave your donations in the mail room at the church marked "For Handmade Items/Nancy Carpenter" by as early as possible on Friday, November 11. Also, we will need 1-2 volunteers to help at our table during the Bazaar. To discuss, donate or volunteer to help, please contact Nancy Carpenter, Chair, Handmade Items, at 412.242.5958 or email her at ngcarpenter@hotmail.com.

*-continued on the next page*

✧ **Gourmet Foods** ✧

The Gourmet Foods Committee invites you to contribute your special homemade gourmet foods! Popular sellers include gourmet sauces, dried soup mixes, dips, jellies, jams, fudge, tapenades, herbs, marmalades, chutneys, compotes, pestos, spreads, gift baskets, spiced nuts, etc. Perishable items should be frozen and delivered, along with non-perishables, to the church by 5 p.m. Friday, November 11. Please mark donations, "For Gourmet Foods." If you would like to discuss or donate, please contact Maria Thomas Burgwin, Chair, Gourmet Foods Table, at 412.361.7277 (home), 412.721.9461 (cell), or via e-mail at maria.burgwin@gmail.com.

✧ **The Silent Auction** ✧

Its never too early to donate to the Silent Auction. Review your season tickets to sports events, theater, opera, etc. and see if you can spare some.

If you have an item that you wish to donate or time at a vacation home please contact Sandy Ekstrom at sandyeks@verizon.net or 412.721.9764.

**The Women of Calvary Holiday Bazaar Committee would like to thank you, in advance, for donating your creativity, time and talents to help make this year's Holiday Bazaar a great success! And, watch for our weekly features in the Sunday Bulletin with more news and updates. ■**



**Honoring  
St. Francis of Assisi**

# Blessing of the Animals

Please bring your furry and feathered friends and gather with the clergy of Calvary Episcopal Church in the Swan Garden on **Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 3 p.m.** for the annual Blessing of the Animals.

Human and animal treats will be served. For their happiness and safety, please keep your pets leashed or otherwise in your loving care. ■

Help us keep the church in full bloom by donating flowers in memory of, or in honor of, someone special. If you would like to place a memorial listing, please contact Marsha Morris in the church office at 412.661.0120, ext. 111. ■



Happy September! As usual at this time of year, there are many re-beginnings. Chief among these, in my orbit, are the resumption of midweek rehearsals for the choirs. If you or someone you know is interested in singing, now is a terrific time to jump in; please be in touch and we can talk about what's involved.

A beginning with no "re-" attached is the work of our new Organ Scholar, Zacchaeus Lock. Zacchaeus is a

third-year student at Franciscan University, in Steubenville, Ohio, and he joins us on the enthusiastic two-way recommendation of his teacher, Nicholas Will, who served here during his own college days. Welcome, Zacchaeus!

As you may have known, I spent much of the summer on "Part I" of a sabbatical leave. (Part II is scheduled for next summer.) This was an opportunity to step away from the ordinary run of things, and work (and rest) in a rather different way than usual. The time was itself divided into a couple of different phases. In the first, I took part in a choral-conducting workshop in New York City, and attended a conference of Episcopal musicians just north of there, in Stamford, Connecticut. "Phase II" was an extended opportunity to pursue a number of compositional projects, away from the distractions of reliable phone-service, or even plumbing—though thankfully in sight of abundant salt water, on an island just off the Maine coast. While some of these projects are still in the incubator, you'll hear a number of the completed ones across the coming months, with the Choir's help.

I'm very grateful to the Parish for this opportunity, to Jonathon for giving it his blessing, to Jeremy Jelinek, who filled in so admirably at the organ and with the choir during my absence, and to the Choir, who treated Michael and me to a most memorable meal at a wonderful Manhattan restaurant. I'm grateful most of all to be back in this wonderful place, and with all of you, and am very much looking forward to the season ahead. ■

## Coffee Hours

**Hosts are needed** for the coffee hour and social gathering after the 11 o'clock service. Consider hosting a Sunday to mark a special occasion, honoring a particular event or person or asking your group or organization. Please contact Judy Wootten at 724.733.1660 (wootten@windstream.net) to schedule a Sunday, or signup in the Parish Hall. ■

## Spiritual Reflection Meetings

Calvary is set to begin a new group! With input from our rector, Jonathon Jensen, several parishioners have designed a meeting format to allow discussion of issues and personal reflections on the intersection of daily life and our Christian faith. The mission statement is, "We seek to grow our faith and its daily expression by sharing how we seek or have been touched by God." Said differently, the purpose of the group is to foster personal growth in faith by considering how God enriches our lives, gives meaning, and offers direction. This may be achieved by discussion, reflection and prayer in a small group setting to allow each member to be known in a community for safe sharing. We believe that sharing our search for and encounters with God can nurture, guide and inspire personal spiritual growth, and thereby foster living out our faith each day.

Rotating topics will be used to guide each meeting's discussion. Examples include, "How do I listen to God?," "When recently have I felt furthest from, and closest to, God?," and "What would you like to change about yourself?"

The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 20 from 7-8 p.m. in the Evans Room. No RSVP needed. For the foreseeable future, meetings will follow on alternate Tuesdays (October 4 and 18, November 1, 15, and 29, December 13).

For further information, contact Matt Muldoon at [mattmuldoon@msn.com](mailto:mattmuldoon@msn.com) or Sondra Krimmel at [sskrimmel@gmail.com](mailto:sskrimmel@gmail.com). ■

## Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk

**Sunday, October 9, 2016**

**Starting at South Avenue United Methodist Church,  
Wilkesburg | Registration 1 p.m., Walk at 2 p.m.**

Hunger is an issue that is very important to me! I am walking in the Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk and am the captain for Team Calvary from our church. I am inviting you to walk with the team; envelopes for donations will be available at church from me, Susan Paczak or Mary Anne Slater. If you can't join the walk, please be generous and support any walker on our team through the team website listed below where you can make a secure online donation. Our donations will provide assistance for hungry people in our community and around the world by supporting Church World Service's life-saving programs. Join with me as we work together to solve this global challenge.

**You can make a BIG difference. Your gift can help save a life!** Thank you for your support! Sincerely, *Colleen Sari*

[www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburghpa/CalvaryCROPWalkTeam](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburghpa/CalvaryCROPWalkTeam)

**Join the Rector and the Calvary team  
as we walk to end hunger. ■**

## Remembering Vicar

A year ago, our beloved Doberman, Vicar, died. She had the canine version of congestive heart failure and left this world at five and a half years old. The news of her illness, and her death a few months later, was difficult for our family. Being an Episcopalian, I wished to mark the event ritually and liturgically. After a search, I found some resources were available but none were particularly helpful.

Time passed and the sting of death and loss faded to a dull ache when I saw something to remind me of her. After more time, I mostly remembered the happy events but we still had not celebrated her life ritually. It seemed as if a chapter had been left unfinished to honor her time with us.



In the late spring, we brought home our new puppy, a Vizsla. His formal name is "Saint Michael the Archangel, Protector of all Calvary" or "Misha" for short. Saint Michael is the patron saint of Calvary Church. Misha, who is six months old, has been a delight and has integrated into our lives seamlessly, but we still never said goodbye ritually to our last dog.

When a parishioner recently lost her dog of thirteen years, also to congestive heart failure, I decided it was time to create a new liturgy to mark the event of saying goodbye, giving thanks to God for what our pets mean to us, and what they can teach us. If it is helpful to you, as it was for me, please use the liturgy. I am also glad to help if needed, especially talking about the death of a pet with children.

One question I have been asked numerous times is, "Do dogs go to heaven?" The answer would have to be no. No because most dogs dwell in heaven their entire lives. That is, they live in the present moment connected to God and the rest of Creation all the time. They never left. Heaven or eternal life is not a place we go but the presence of a relationship that exists in life and death. In a sense, barring human mistreatment, dogs and cats and all the rest of the animal kingdom live exactly as they were created to live, in communion with the Creator and all the Creation. It is only humans that choose a life other than the one God hopes for us but that is part of what free will allows us to do. We believe all things are being made new or redeemed in Christ, not just individuals but all of humanity and all of Creation are in the process of being reunited to God.

Dogs don't need to go to heaven, because they are already there and can give us glimpses of that quality of eternal life. But if you have ever owned a dog, you already knew that.

—Jonathon ■

Enclosed with this issue of *Agape* is a copy of the liturgy *A Service of Thanksgiving for the Loss of a Pet*. Additional copies are available in the tract racks at Calvary, and online on our website at [www.calvarypgh.org/pet.htm](http://www.calvarypgh.org/pet.htm)

## Newcomer Library

You may have noticed the recent addition of a new piece of furniture in the Parish Hall. This piece had been sitting under the church for some years and has been reclaimed to serve as a lending library for newcomers and members. Welcoming and integrating new members into the life of Calvary Episcopal Church is a crucial part of our call as a parish and more fundamentally as disciples of Jesus Christ. We gather here Sunday after Sunday and week after week to deepen our foundation as Christians and Episcopalians. The contents of the library range from books that introduce the Episcopal Church and Christianity, to books by well-known Anglicans and Episcopalians such as C.S. Lewis and Madeleine L'Engle. Please check it out, so that when you meet a guest to our parish you can share with them some of the resources that we have here. ■

## CALVARY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**Tuesday, September 20 – 5:30 p.m. –**  
Holy Happy Hour at Hofbräuhaus Pittsburgh,  
2705 S Water St., Southside

**Sunday, October 2 – 12:45 p.m. –**  
Brunch at Social Bakery Square, 6425 Penn Ave.

**Tuesday, October 18 – 5:30 p.m. –**  
Holy Happy Hour at  
Industry Public House, 4305 Butler St.

**Sunday, October 30 – 12:45 p.m. –**  
Brunch at Mad Mex, 220 S Highland Ave.

**Wednesday, November 16 – 5:30 p.m. –**  
Holy Happy Hour at The Yard Gastropub, 736 Bellefonte

**Sunday, December 4 – 12:45 p.m. –**  
Brunch at Panera Bakery Square, 136 Bakery Square Blvd.

**Friday, December 16 – 7 p.m. –**  
Yule Ball, in the Refectory at Calvary

**Questions?** Please contact The Rev. T.J. Freeman  
at 412.661.0120 ext. 112, or [tjfreeman@calvarypgh.org](mailto:tjfreeman@calvarypgh.org) ■

## Soup Group Cook-a-Thons

In preparation for the Holiday Bazaar, the Soup Group will meet on **Friday, October 21** and **Friday, October 28** in Calvary's kitchen starting at 10 a.m. This will give us an opportunity to make several soups to sell at the Bazaar and still have enough soup for our ministry of deliveries to our parish family, friends and neighbors. New cooks and recipes are welcome at both cooking sessions. Any questions? Please contact Adele Eley at [adele.eley@gmail.com](mailto:adele.eley@gmail.com) or 412.371.6921. ■

## Sheldon Calvary Camp Worship in Pittsburgh



The Camp service at Calvary Church is held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. in the Refectory. We will be singing songs from the camp songbook. All are welcome – campers, families, staff, alumni, and friends. Please join us and spread the good news. Plan ahead for these dates in 2016:

**September 25 • October 23 • November 27**

We hope to see you at Calvary Church! ■

## Good Work!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to sexton **James Knight** who celebrated thirty-five years of employment at Calvary on September 13. ■



## E WASTE RECYCLING AND DATA DESTRUCTION

Saturday, October 15, 2016  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Easy drop-off in our Parking Lot

**ON-SITE HARD DRIVE  
AND CELL PHONE DESTRUCTION  
\$10 per item**

**Electronic Items Accepted:** Desktop PCs, Laptops, Tablets, Hard Drives, Keyboards, Mice, Power Supplies, Circuit Boards, Cables, Speakers, UPS Batteries and Backup Systems, LCD monitors, Routers, Switches, Phones, Phone Systems, Ink, Toner, AC Adapters, Projectors, Typewriters. *Sorry, tube TVs/AC units/large appliances not accepted.*

**A portion of the proceeds benefits Calvary Church.**

[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)



## The Calvary Calendar

### Tuesday, September 20, 2016

7:00 p.m. Spiritual Reflection

### Wednesday, September 21

4:30 p.m. Choristers' Rehearsal resumes

6:00 p.m. EfM resumes

### Thursday, September 22

6:00 p.m. Supper and movie night

### Friday, September 23

7:30 p.m. Organist Zacchaeus Lock in recital

### Sunday, September 25

3:00 p.m. A Calvary Camp Eucharist

### Monday, September 26

6:30 p.m. Vestry dinner and meeting\*

### Sunday, October 2

5:00 p.m. CandleMass resumes

### Saturday, October 8

8:00 p.m. Chatham Baroque in Concert

### Sunday, October 9

3:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals

### Tuesday, October 11

7:00 p.m. Coventry Circle

### Saturday, October 15

10:00 a.m. E-Waste Recycling Event

### Monday, October 17

6:30 p.m. A Sacred Conversation on Race

### Friday, October 21

10:00 a.m. Soup Group Cooking

### Saturday, October 22

8:00 p.m. Hereford Cathedral Choir in Concert

### Sunday, October 23

3:00 p.m. A Calvary Camp Eucharist

### Monday, October 24

6:30 p.m. Vestry dinner and meeting\*

\*To make reservations for starred events, for which a meal is being prepared, please telephone the church office, 412.661.0120, extension 140.

A complete calendar with all day to day events is available on the Calvary website: [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org) ■

[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

SUNDAYS AT 5 P.M.,  
RESUMING OCTOBER 2

# CANDLEMASS

*Worship God in the beauty of holiness*

All are welcome – Please join us

[www.CandleMass.org](http://www.CandleMass.org)

An expanded version  
of this issue of *Agape*,  
with color photos and additional content  
may be viewed on the Calvary website  
at [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)



315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206  
telephone: 412.661.0120 ■ facsimile: 412.661.6077  
email: [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto:calvary@calvarypgh.org) ■ [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*  
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Senior Associate Rector*  
The Reverend T.J. Freeman, *Associate Rector*  
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*  
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*  
Zacchaeus Lock, *Organ Scholar*  
Richard Shafer, *Senior Warden*  
G. Frederic Roth, *Junior Warden*  
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*  
Susan Roth, *Coordinator for Christian Formation*  
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*  
Ann Martino, *Director, Beginnings*  
Louise Wells, *Events Coordinator*  
Kenneth Smith, *Director of Communications*  
Jeff Rutkowski, *Head Sexton*  
Andrea Edwards, Dave Farren, Ron Johnston,  
James Knight, Tim Martin, *Sextons*  
Marsha Morris, *Parish Secretary*

The Book  
of

# ACTS

The founding of the Christian Church  
and the spread of the Gospel

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The Rev. Jonathon Jensen and Chuck Esposito  
will again lead a Rector's Forum,  
concentrating on the Book of Acts

The Acts of the Apostles, a sequel to the  
Gospel of Luke, tells the story of  
the early followers of Jesus, after his Ascension,  
and the growth of the faith among Jesus's own people  
in Jerusalem then throughout the known world

We will meet in McClintic Hall at 10 a.m.  
on Sunday mornings  
from September 18 through April 2  
with breaks for holidays



# SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Kickoff Conversation

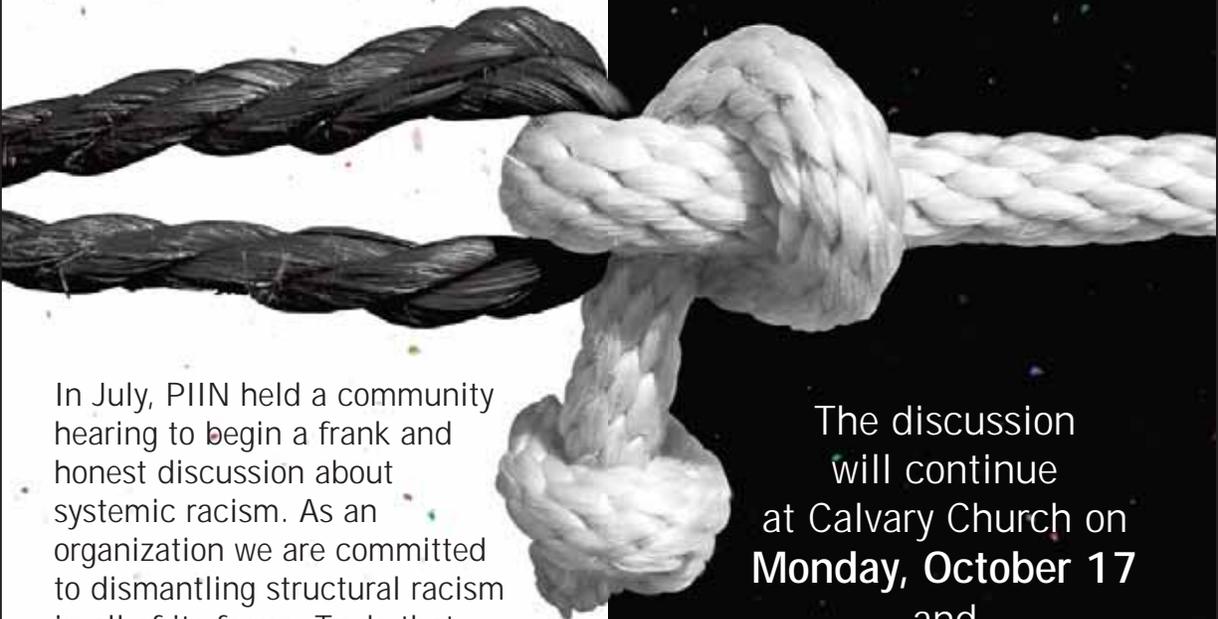
**October 1, 2016**

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



Join us as we take the  
first step toward  
dismantling structural racism  
through conversation and  
working for justice



In July, PIIN held a community hearing to begin a frank and honest discussion about systemic racism. As an organization we are committed to dismantling structural racism in all of its forms. To do that we must first fully understand how racism impacts us, our friends and family, and our congregations.

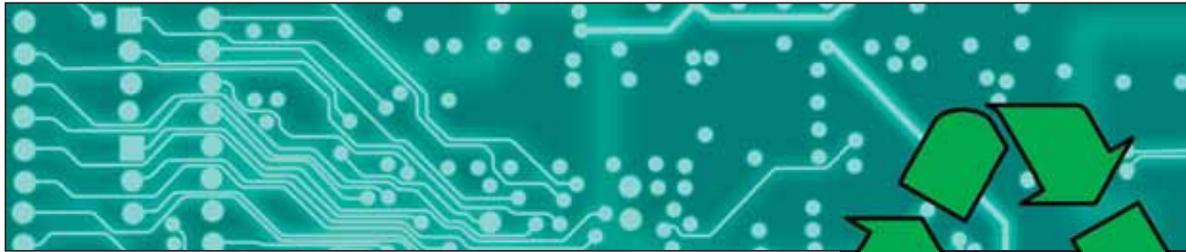
On October 1, PIIN will launch Sacred Conversations on Race – a series of congregation-based discussions designed to provide a safe space to discuss the race and racism in our country and in our communities. We will reflect on our experiences, challenge one another to expand our own levels of personal awareness, and ultimately, take action.

The discussion  
will continue  
at Calvary Church on  
**Monday, October 17**  
and  
**Monday, November 21**

A final culminating conversation  
with all the PIIN congregations  
will be held in January

For more information,  
please contact  
**Bob King**  
([rking52717@aol.com](mailto:rking52717@aol.com))  
or **Steve Shandor**  
([steve.shandor@gmail.com](mailto:steve.shandor@gmail.com))  
or visit

<http://bit.ly/SacredConvos>



# E WASTE RECYCLING AND DATA DESTRUCTION EVENT

Saturday, October 15, 2016  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ON-SITE HARD DRIVE  
AND CELL PHONE  
DESTRUCTION  
\$10 per item



## ELECTRONIC ITEMS ACCEPTED —

- Desktop, Laptops, Tablets, Hard Drives
- Keyboards, Mice, Power Supplies, Circuit Boards, Cables, Speakers,
- UPS Batteries & Backup Systems
- LCD monitors
- Routers, Switches, Wireless Routers
- Phones, Phone Systems, Ink, Toner, AC Adapters, Projectors, Typewriters

**Sorry, No tube TVs, AC units, or large appliances**

**A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**



**Calvary Episcopal Church**

315 Shady Avenue 15206 • [www.calvarypg.org](http://www.calvarypg.org)  
Easy drop-off in our Parking Lot

# RACE IN PITTSBURGH:

- **POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS**
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**
- **EDUCATIONAL EQUITY**

Please join us for 3 panel discussions around police-community relations, affordable housing, and educational equity in our community. Each dialogue will take place from 7-9 pm in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in the parish hall.

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016:** *David Harris, Professor at University of Pittsburgh Law School*, will address the relationships between police and the African American community in Pittsburgh. Professor Harris will be joined by Pittsburgh Police Chief Cameron McLay, Richard Garland, Assistant Professor in Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh, and Brandi Fisher, President of the Alliance for Police Accountability.

**Tuesday, December 6, 2016:** *R. Daniel Lavelle, City Councilman, District 6 & Co-Chair of Pittsburgh's Affordable Housing Task Force*, will be joined by Michael Polite, CEO, Ralph A. Falbo, Inc. and other panelists to discuss affordable housing and economic development in Pittsburgh.

**Tuesday, February 7, 2017:** *Fred Brown, President and CEO of Homewood Children's Village*, will be joined by Dr. Jamil Bey, director of The UrbanKind Institute, Pittsburgh, and other panelists to explore the topic of educational equity in Pittsburgh.



*No charge for admission, freewill donations graciously accepted.*

**GREAT ISSUES  
FORUM AT  
REDEEMER:  
WINTER 2016-17**

**October 4, 2016:  
Police-  
Community  
Relations**

**December 6,  
2016:  
Affordable  
Housing**

**February 7, 2017:  
Educational  
Equity**

**CHURCH OF THE  
REDEEMER,  
SQUIRREL HILL**

5700 Forbes Avenue,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412.422.7100  
[redeempittsburgh.org](http://redeempittsburgh.org)



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understanding and  
encourage action around  
justice issues.

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Baroque



LAUGH. LEARN.  
LISTEN. PLAY.

Informal concerts specially designed for pre-schoolers and their accompanying grown ups. A Fun, interactive, and educational introduction to Baroque music. Led by certified Kindermusik instructor, Lynda Wingerd

McClintic Hall  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
315 Shady Avenue, 15206



## PEANUT BUTTER & JAM SESSIONS PRESENTED BY CHATHAM BAROQUE

\$5 for children, \$8 for adults. Saturdays 10am and 11:30am

September 17 – May I have this Dance?

October 8 – The Continuing Adventures of Two Violins, Vi and Len

November 5 – Meet Miss Melody and Miss Harmony

December 17 – Sing we Noël (back by popular demand)

January 21 - I've Got Rhythm!

February 4 - Meet the Baroque Flute, the One-Keyed Wonder

March 4 - Piano and Forte

April 8 - The British are Coming, with music for violins, viols and theorbos

For more information: 412.687.1788 or [www.chathambaroque.org](http://www.chathambaroque.org)

## **A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of a Pet**

If your heart is clear with God, then every creature shall be to you a mirror of life and a book of holy doctrine, for there is no creature so little or so vile, that it does not represent the goodness of God.

–*Thomas a Kempis (1380-1471)*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Priest: Let us pray.

Merciful and generous God, Creator of all that is: We give you thanks for the gift of our beloved friend, (*Name of Pet*), who has been a companion on our way. Give us hope and peace as we commend (*Name of Pet*), to your loving care; that we may know [*he*] and we are always within your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Psalms {104: 24-30}**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Yonder is the sea, great and wide,  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.  
These all look to you to give them their food in due season;  
when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are filled with good things.  
When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to their dust.  
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the ground.

The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Let us pray.

For *(Name of Pet)* and all the pets we have loved and lost;

*We thank you Lord.*

For giving us companions to care for as they care for us,  
an expression of your holy love;

*We thank you Lord.*

For sharing life with them and with you, through which we  
are never alone;

*We thank you Lord.*

For reminding us always to live in the eternal moment;

*We thank you Lord.*

For teaching us to laugh and cry in a simple joy for life  
with no fear of death;

*We thank you Lord.*

For being willing to forgive and forget and live without regret;

*We thank you Lord.*

For seeing us at our best and worst and accepting us as we are  
without judgment;

*We thank you Lord.*

For showing us an example of love without conditions;

*We thank you Lord.*

**A Time to Share Stories about Your Pet**

### **The General Thanksgiving**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Priest: Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

## “Do dogs go to heaven?”

The answer would have to be no. No because most dogs dwell in heaven their entire lives. That is, they live in the present moment connected to God and the rest of Creation all the time. They never left. Heaven or eternal life is not a place we go but the presence of a relationship that exists in life and death. In a sense, barring human mistreatment, dogs and cats and all the rest of the animal kingdom live exactly as they were created to live, in communion with the Creator and all the Creation. It is only humans that choose a life other than the one God hopes for us but that is part of what free will allows us to do. We believe all things are being made new or redeemed in Christ, not just individuals but all of humanity and all of Creation are in the process of being reunited to God.

Dogs don't need to go to heaven, because they are already there and can give us glimpses of that quality of eternal life. But if you have ever owned a dog, you already knew that.



Alternative Scripture Readings:

Genesis 9:8-16, Revelation 21:1-5a, or Genesis 1:1-3; 19-25.

If there is a burial, it may take place before or after the General Thanksgiving or after the service.

All of the service may be led by anyone or a priest may officiate.



The Collect and litany were written by the Rev. Jonathon Jensen, Rector of Calvary Church in Pittsburgh in 2016. They were composed after the death of his Doberman, Vicar.

The General Thanksgiving is from *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 836. It was written for the 1979 *Prayer Book* by the Rev. Dr. Charles Price.

The final blessing is a traditional Gaelic one.

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## Calvary Episcopal Church

315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206  
[www.calvarypg.org](http://www.calvarypg.org)

September 18, 2016