



A G A P E

A Publication of Calvary Episcopal Church
DECEMBER, 2015

Advent: Meeting God in the Twilight

Advent is a season of four weeks of preparation before Christmas. It is a season of expectation in the twilight during which we actively look for God to become incarnate, to bring holy light into the world. Advent is a reminder to find God breaking through at all times and places, even when we least expect it.

Some years ago at a church I served, something unexpected happened one Sunday morning. It was unwelcome at first but then turned out to be a blessing. At 6:45, I arrived to find an open church, dark with no lights. It was strange because the streetlights were on. The utility company assured us that we had power- except we didn't. We later learned there was a line down.

So, we had church by candlelight. They were all over. That's why there are candles in church. It is for beauty, symbolism, and so people could see long before there were electric lights.

Everyone took the experience in stride. Numerous people jokingly asked if we had remembered to pay our light bill. We had- but it was a good reminder to turn in your pledge card for next year. There are pledge cards at the entrance to the church and in the office.

We carried on by candlelight all through the early service and most of the later one. We sang a capella or with the piano. It was helpful that I have most of the service memorized because I blew out my own candle accidentally in the middle of a prayer. About two-thirds of the way through, something else unexpected happened. At the start of the consecration of the bread and wine for communion, the priest stood at the Altar and offered the familiar prayer.

"It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life."

Right then, the lights came on at the words- "For you are the source of light and life." We couldn't have planned it any better. The familiar prayer revealed a more immediate meaning. The light on the statue of Jesus behind the Altar came on first, then the pulpit, then all the lights. We completed the rest of the service without incident.

Most of the comments afterwards were similar to my own reaction and experience of the day. Several said we were a part of something special that was happening. In worship in the near darkness by candlelight, the church seemed more intimate yet also felt more spacious. It took on an otherworldly quality we don't experience day to day. It drew us into something larger than ourselves, more mysterious, transcendent. It was positively medieval in the best sense.

Our experience of worship in this place in the twilight reveals something. We notice things in a different light not normally seen- that are always there. We see each other differently. This is one of the reasons we have Candlemass in the choir stalls in this way.

A student from the local university visited that Sunday and the week before as part of a study on politics and religion. Ours was one of five congregations chosen, from among four hundred, from the county. The young man said the church was the most welcoming of the congregations he visited. The student experienced All Saints' Sunday with a baptism and the reading of the prayers for those who have died and the unexpected Sunday with church by candlelight.

At lunch, the young man told me he considered himself an agnostic. He didn't refute the existence of God but had written off the need for God and church a long time ago. "How can you believe in God with all the wars, shootings, degradation of the environment, and all the rest?" he said.

After experiencing both worship services and receptions with the congregation, he told me, "I came here to do a job, to collect surveys. But somewhere in the twilight, I felt something I didn't know existed or had forgotten about. Thank you for helping me have that experience. God can and will bring light into the darkness through us. That's the point. I'm open to God again and never expected it."

Where will you find the holy light being born into your life this season?

—The Rev. Jonathon Jensen

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The last day of Christian Formation classes for this calendar year will be Sunday, December 13. Classes will resume January 10, 2016.

Calvary Christmas Pageant

Thank you to everyone that has signed up to participate in the Christmas Pageant! Please remember that we will have a rehearsal/walk-through (without costumes) on Saturday, December 19. Those with speaking roles, please arrive at 10 a.m.; all others, please arrive at 11 a.m. We will finish by noon.

It is never too late to join in the fun of the Christmas Pageant. If you would like to participate in a non-speaking role, please contact me and I will add your name to the cast list. If you cannot come to rehearsal on Saturday, December 19, just make your way to the Refectory on Sunday morning, December 20, at 10:30 a.m. and I will help you get in line with the rest of the cast members. More information can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Parish Hall. Please contact me with any questions

—Susan Roth, Coordinator for Christian Formation
412.661.0120 ext. 116, sroth@calvaryppgh.org ■

Adult Forum

Sunday, January 10, 2016:

The Fundamentals of Good Mission

Mission, both in the sense of spreading the Gospel and trying to make the world a better place, is a fundamental tenant of our Christian Faith. Yet despite with best of intentions, many of our missionary experiences, whether foreign or domestic, meet with poor results and track records that leave the communities we had hoped to help little better off than when we found them. This forum will explore the fundamental aspects of successful mission and service learning endeavors such that visiting groups experience a deeper sense of accomplishment and appreciation for their hosts while the hosting community comes away with a newly empowered sense of self-worth and agency. The background for this forum will stem from The Rev. Zach Drennen's 7 years of experience living and working as a missionary in Western Kenya and making all of the aforementioned mistakes—so you don't have to!

Sunday, January 17

Looking at Prayer with a Thomistic Lens: *Beauty*

Thomas Aquinas has made significant contributions to Christian theological understanding in the areas of "natural reason" and "speculative theology." This session will consider Beauty (one of three "transcendental properties of being") as a means to ground one's personal prayer with meditation on the "big picture" as it might inspire acts of charity and justice toward one's goal of making progress in the Christian universal call to holiness. This session is part 3 of a 3-part series. ■



Out with the turkeys, in with the flying (or construction paper reindeer)! Christmastime is here! Glitter is **everywhere** on Level A at Calvary Church. The students are having fun preparing for the holidays and learning how children in other cultures celebrate. Valentina Monferini, one of our assistant teachers in Class Older 2s will do a presentation on La Befana, the Italian gift giver, for all classes on December 9. Weather permitting, our 3 and 4 year classes will walk over to see the Ellis School production of *The Lion King Kids*.

Again this year, our families are pairing with the Little People Day Care Center in Clairton to help provide holiday gifts for children in that program. Mrs. Norma Hairston, the center director and the parents of her students are most grateful for this project. Gifts are due by December 10.

The Christmas break will begin after our Holiday Program and Pot Luck Luncheon on Wednesday, December 16, at 11:30 a.m. Teachers report back to school on January 5, 2016 for an optional prep day. Classes for all students will resume on Wednesday, January 6. English as a Second Language classes will begin again on Wednesday, January 6. We always welcome new students to ESL!

On behalf of the board, the staff, the students and families of Beginnings, I wish everyone in our Calvary parish family a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

—Peggy Morycz, Director ■



Please save the date of **Saturday, January 30, 2016!** (Plan to arrive around 5:30 p.m., we begin serving at 6.) This is a family friendly event, so bring the children. You are invited to bring your favorite chili recipe, 10 to 12 servings, or a salad or cornbread. The sign up sheet will be posted soon. You can add to the fun by also signing up to be a helper, decorate the parish hall, to monitor the serving and beverage table, or to transport the food from the registration table to the serving tables. We also need ideas and people for a short entertainment. If you are willing to help, please contact Lyn Orr, at 412.782.2957 or email lynreedorr@gmail.com. ■



stewardship

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a stewardship pledge?

A pledge is a promise or intention to support Calvary's mission and ministry financially. An annual pledge is a commitment to support Calvary for one calendar year. The church's budget follows the calendar year.

Why do we pledge?

To give thanks to God for our life and blessings, to cultivate a spirit of generosity, to support Calvary's mission and ministry, to plan the annual parish budget, and to help make the city a more just community for all.

How do I pledge?

Complete a signed pledge card, available at most of the entrances to church and in the office, and give it to a priest or drop it in the offertory plates on Sunday.

How is the money from pledges utilized?

The vestry (board) of Calvary sets a budget, of about \$1.5 million, they and staff do their best to follow. The budget is simply a plan for us to carry out our mission as a community that anticipates revenues and expenses including outreach, music, staff compensation, and care of the building, everything from the heat bill to sending a child to Calvary Camp.

What are Calvary's sources of income?

About 66% comes from pledges of all sizes. Each gift matters. About 17% comes from our endowment income. The remaining 17% comes from special contributions, gifts in the offertory plates, and income from the Beginnings Pre-School program. Almost every dollar from the pre-school goes directly back into the school.

How many families pledge to support Calvary?

About 350 families have completed a signed pledge card. Others give regularly when they are at church. A family is one or more persons in the same household.

To become a member do I have to pledge or do you assess a fee like a club?

No. A pledge is not required to be a member but most people choose to support Calvary, at the level they can, because Calvary and our ministry are important to them.

How much should I pledge?

The biblical model is to share the first ten percent as a reminder all our gifts come from God. The rector's family tithes or gives away ten percent of their income (after taxes) to charity with the majority of that going to Calvary. There is no minimum amount but it is important to give what you are able.

Is a pledge legally binding? What happens if I cannot fulfill it?

No. Sometimes circumstances change. A loss of a job or move out of town or an unexpected change in income may make you decide to raise or lower the pledge. It may be adjusted during the year.

How do we pay our pledge? Weekly, monthly, all at once, or another way?

Some pay all at once at the beginning or end of year by check or gift of stock but most pay weekly or monthly by check. An increasing number of people have an automatic bank withdrawal for convenience. This is also very helpful to the church so income remains steady throughout the year. Many people, like the rector's family, like to put a portion of their annual gift in the offertory plate when they are at church. There are envelopes provided for this.

Is the amount I pledge kept confidential?

Yes. The amounts pledged and given are kept confidential but we do publish a list, without amounts, of those who have supported the church for this year. Only the rector, treasurer, stewardship committee chair, and the director of finance have access to the pledge records.

Are the annual appeal, the stewardship campaign, the stewardship drive, and the pledge campaign the same or different things?

These terms are often used interchangeably to refer to Calvary's annual fundraising efforts to create and support our budget. The Journey to Generosity is the name given to the theme for this year's annual stewardship campaign.

Are my gifts to Calvary tax deductible?

Yes. The Director of Finance on Calvary's staff, Lynda Kennedy, provides giving statements for tax purposes and can address any questions you may have about your pledge or giving at Calvary. She may be contacted at 412.661.0120 or lkennedy@calvarypgh.org.

Is stewardship just about money?

No. In the fullest sense, stewardship is about caring for or being good stewards of all our resources and gifts. All of us are called to offer our time, talent, and treasure to help us deepen our mission to serve God and our neighbors in our community.

What is the Saint Michael's Society?

This is the planned giving ministry at Calvary. Its purpose is to provide support for the long-term future of Calvary's mission. One becomes a member of the St. Michael's Society by notifying the church, in writing, that Calvary is a beneficiary of one's estate plans. We host several informational events throughout the year. About forty families are members of the St. Michael's Society or have named Calvary as a beneficiary in their will. ■

Theology Matters

“Again, Again, and Again God Calls Us To Return”

Eucharistic Prayer C

The Rev. John J. Fetterman

Theologian in Residence

To talk about God as “Being” seems to place God in a remote and unattractive category. The opposite is the truth of it. It places God as the fountain and source of life in all beings and as the reason for everything to exist. It gets us back to a beginning point that is beyond measure by science, and places us in a realm that is overflowing with potential (consider the universe of all existing things) and allows us to assert that God is love. The reason for anything and everything to exist is that God loves it into existence. When we can begin to appreciate the vastness and diversity of the universe, we can learn a great lesson in how God loves.

The heavens, observable by all peoples, proclaim the existence of God. Even without knowing his name, primitive peoples could begin to see and understand the great sign of “God” which the heavens present. Under the inspiration of God, The psalmist could write the beautiful words of Ps. 19: vv1, 3, 4 –

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
There is no speech, nor are there words:
Their voice is not heard:
Yet their voice goes through all the earth,
and their word to the end of the earth.

St. Augustine in his amazing testimonial after his conversion writes about the interior atmosphere of the soul when he says: “You awaken us to delight in your praises; for you made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in you” (*The Confessions, Bk 1, at the beginning*).

We can learn even more by reflecting on how we express love. By reason of the principle of the Analogy of Being (see November’s article) we can infer how God loves by understanding how we express love.

Love wants to extend itself and to seek what is good for the other. The other may be a marriage partner, or a suddenly appearing “neighbor,” or an enemy or even a future unknown. Love moves us to listen attentively to the words of others so that we hear the meaning beyond the words. Love expresses itself in every encounter with another person when we are wholeheartedly “present” to that person. Love is at its finest when it undertakes the tasks of healing the brokenness and separation that is endemic in our society. If we have a heart to do these things, how much more can we attribute to God?

In the profound mythology of Genesis (Gen. 3:22-24) the story of humanity’s alienation from God is revealed. Genesis should not be read as science or history but as the revelation of an extraordinary truth in story form. It is a wondrous story and needs poetry and myth to express it. This is divine mythology. The author is not reporting in written form anything for which there is external evidence but rather the truth of our life story as experienced. We see God in stars, and burning bushes, and the goodness of others; nonetheless, we exercise our option to choose false gods in the place where the true God should be enthroned. God’s response to this misplaced allegiance is to call to us again, and again to seek him “while he may be found”. (Is. 55:6)

As you write the story of your life by your free choices and your choices of responses to things you cannot change, take note of where you find God in the realities of your life. Preserve your notes in a safe place for future reading and you will have a way of tracking growth in the life of the Spirit. God tutors us with our lives and the “changes and chances” of our lives are a very good place to encounter God. ■

Recycling Results

The electronic recycling event held at Calvary on October 17, 2015 collected 5,625 pounds of e-waste. We will be scheduling another recycling event in the Spring of 2016. Thanks go out to all who made the effort to keep this material out of landfills. ■

Off-The-Floor Pittsburgh: Volunteers Needed

Off-the-Floor Pittsburgh is a local Christian volunteer ministry which, since 2004, has provided basic used furniture to disadvantaged families who lack these items. A team of 4-5 men or young adults are needed on a Saturday morning to load furniture and make deliveries to 3-4 needy Pittsburgh area families. The next date for the Calvary team is **Saturday, December 19**. Volunteers are needed. If you want to add your name to the list of available volunteers please contact either Matt Muldoon at 412.362.1780 or mattmuldoon@msn.com. or Gary Abbs at 412.963.8124 or gary_abbs@comcast.net. If you are a regular volunteer already, please let Matt or Gary know of your availability.

You can learn more about Off-the-Floor Pittsburgh by visiting their website at www.offthefloorpgh.org. Remember that Off-the-Floor Pittsburgh accepts donations of used furniture. You can arrange pick-up by calling 412.926.5053. ■



CHRISTMASTIDE *at* CALVARY

Sunday, December 20, in the 11 o'clock service – Christmas Pageant

The children of the Sunday School, assisted by a live menagerie of sheep, goats, a donkey, and a camel, re-enact the story of Jesus' birth.

Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24, at 4 p.m. & 11 p.m.

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *preacher*

Music with choirs, brass, & organ, beginning at 3:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Childcare will be provided during the 4 p.m. service

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist, with Homily & Hymns

Parish Office Closing Dates

Calvary's offices will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23 and re-open on Monday, December 28 at 9 a.m.

We will close again at 1 p.m. on Thursday, December 31 and re-open on Monday, January 4, 2016.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206 | 412.661.0120 | www.calvarypgh.org

The Calvary Calendar: December 13, 2015 – January 17, 2016

Sunday December 13, 2015

The Third Sunday of Advent
7:30 A.M. Coffee
8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. Bible Study
9:00 A.M. Choristers' Warm-Up
10:00 A.M. Adult Forum
10:00 A.M. Christian Formation Classes
10:00 A.M. Adult Choir Warm-Up
11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
12:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour in honor of The Rev. Leslie G. Reimer
5:00 P.M. CandleMass
6:00 P.M. Supper

Monday December 14, 2015

Juan de la Cruz (John of the Cross), Mystic, 1591
5:30 P.M. Bookstore Committee
6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
6:00 P.M. Community Meeting about Neighborhood Parking Permits
6:30 P.M. Parish Council Dinner and Meeting*
7:00 P.M. Centering Prayer
7:00 P.M. St. Augustine's Fellowship

Tuesday December 15, 2015

John Horden, Bishop and Missionary in Canada, 1893; Robert McDonald, Priest, 1913
8:30 A.M. Beginnings
11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
1:00 P.M. Beginnings Extended Day Program
5:30 P.M. Calvary's PIIN Team
7:00 P.M. AA

Wednesday December 16, 2015

Ralph Adams Cram, 1942, and Richard Upjohn, 1878, Architects, and John LaFarge, Artist, 1910
7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
8:30 A.M. Beginnings
9:30 A.M. ESL
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
11:00 A.M. Beginnings Holiday Lunch
2:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist (at Sherwood Oaks)
3:00 P.M. CLASP
4:00 P.M. Choristers' Rehearsal
6:00 P.M. EfM

Thursday December 17, 2015

William Lloyd Garrison and Maria Stewart, 1879, Prophetic Witnesses
9:30 A.M. EfM
1:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist (at Longwood)
7:30 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal
7:30 P.M. Welcome! Committee

Friday December 18, 2015

7:00 P.M. Calvary Young Adult Ministry Yule Ball

Saturday December 19, 2015

Lillian Trasher, Missionary in Egypt, 1961
9:00 A.M. Off the Floor
10:00 A.M. Pageant Rehearsal
10:00 A.M. Centering Prayer for Peace
10:00 A.M. Peanut Butter & Jam Concert
11:30 A.M. Peanut Butter & Jam Concert
8:00 P.M. Chatham Baroque in Concert

Sunday December 20, 2015

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:30 A.M. Coffee
8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. Bible Study
11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist and Christmas Pageant
12:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour
2:30 P.M. Chatham Baroque in Concert
5:00 P.M. CandleMass
6:00 P.M. Supper

Monday December 21, 2015

Saint Thomas the Apostle
6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
7:00 P.M. Centering Prayer
7:00 P.M. St. Augustine's Fellowship

Tuesday December 22, 2015

Henry Budd, Priest, 1875; Charlotte Digges (Lottie) Moon, Missionary in China, 1912
11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
7:00 P.M. AA

Wednesday December 23, 2015

7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
4:00 P.M. Choristers' Rehearsal
6:00 P.M. Choristers' Christmas Party

Thursday December 24, 2015

The Eve of the Nativity
The Church offices will be closed this day.
2:30 P.M. Choir Call
4:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
9:30 P.M. Choir Call
11:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist

Friday December 25, 2015

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ: CHRISTMAS DAY
The Church offices will be closed this day.
9:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist

Saturday December 26, 2015

Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Sunday December 27, 2015

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist (The First Sunday after Christmas Day)
7:30 A.M. Coffee
8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
9:00 A.M. Bible Study
10:00 A.M. Adult Choir Warm-Up
11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
12:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour
3:00 P.M. A Calvary Camp Eucharist
4:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour

Monday December 28, 2015

The Holy Innocents
6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
7:00 P.M. Centering Prayer
7:00 P.M. St. Augustine's Fellowship

Tuesday December 29, 2015

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1170
11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
7:00 P.M. AA

Wednesday December 30, 2015*Frances Joseph-Gaudet, Educator and Prison Reformer, 1934*

- 7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 11:30 A.M. Calvary Camp Staff Reunion

Thursday December 31, 2015*Samuel Ajayi Crowther, Bishop in the Niger Territories, 1891***The Church and offices will close at 1 p.m.****Friday** January 1, 2016*The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ***The Church and offices will be closed this day.****Saturday** January 2, 2016*Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, First Indian Anglican Bishop, Dornakal, 1945*

- 10:00 A.M. Centering Prayer

Sunday January 3, 2016*The Second Sunday after Christmas Day*

- 7:30 A.M. Coffee
- 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 A.M. Bible Study
- 10:00 A.M. Choir Warm-Up
- 11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour

Monday January 4, 2016*Elizabeth Seton, Founder of the American Sisters of Charity, 1821*

- 6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
- 6:30 P.M. Vestry Meeting*
- 7:00 P.M. Centering Prayer
- 7:00 P.M. St. Augustine's Fellowship

Tuesday January 5, 2016

- 8:30 A.M. Beginnings Staff Work Day
- 11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 P.M. Coventry Circle
- 7:00 P.M. AA
- 7:30 P.M. Architectural History Committee

Wednesday January 6, 2016*The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

- 7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 8:30 A.M. Beginnings
- 9:30 A.M. ESL
- 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 3:00 P.M. CLASP
- 6:00 P.M. EfM

Thursday January 7, 2016

- 8:30 A.M. Beginnings
- 9:30 A.M. ESL
- 9:30 A.M. EfM
- 7:30 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday January 8, 2016*Harriet Bedell, Deaconess and Missionary, 1969*

- 10:00 A.M. Soup Group

Saturday January 9, 2016*Julia Chester Emery, Missionary, 1922*

- 9:00 A.M. FLMH
- 5:30 P.M. Shelter Dinner Preparation (at Community House)

Sunday January 10, 2016*The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

- 7:30 A.M. Coffee
- 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 A.M. Bible Study
- 9:00 A.M. Choristers' Warm-Up
- 10:00 A.M. Adult Forum
- 10:00 A.M. Christian Formation Classes
- 10:00 A.M. Adult Choir Warm-Up
- 11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism
- 12:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour
- 5:00 P.M. CandleMass
- 6:00 P.M. Supper

Monday January 11, 2016

- 6:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist
- 7:00 P.M. St. Augustine's Fellowship
- 7:00 P.M. Centering Prayer

Tuesday January 12, 2016*Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167*

- 8:30 A.M. Beginnings
- 11:00 A.M. Staff Meeting
- 7:00 P.M. Coventry Circle
- 7:00 P.M. AA Meeting

Wednesday January 13, 2016*Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, 367*

- 7:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 8:30 A.M. Beginnings
- 9:45 A.M. ESL
- 10:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 3:00 P.M. CLASP
- 4:30 P.M. Choristers Rehearsal
- 6:00 P.M. EfM

Thursday January 14, 2016

- 8:30 A.M. Beginnings
- 9:30 A.M. EfM
- 9:45 A.M. ESL
- 7:00 P.M. PIIN Meeting
- 7:30 P.M. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday January 16, 2016*Richard Meux Benson, Religious, 1915, and Charles Gore, Bishop of Worcester, of Birmingham, and of Oxford, 1932*

- 10:00 A.M. Centering Prayer for Peace
- 10:00 A.M. Peanut Butter & Jam Concert
- 11:30 A.M. Peanut Butter & Jam Concert

Sunday January 17, 2016*The Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

- 7:30 A.M. Coffee
- 8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 9:00 A.M. Bible Study
- 9:00 A.M. Choristers' Warm-Up
- 10:00 A.M. Christian Formation Classes
- 10:00 A.M. Adult Forum
- 10:00 A.M. Adult Choir Warm-Up
- 11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 P.M. Hospitality Hour
- 5:00 P.M. CandleMass
- 6:00 P.M. Supper

AA: Alcoholics Anonymous
CLASP: Calvary-Lincoln After School Program
EfM: Education for Ministry
ESL: English as a Second Language
FLMH: Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti
PIIN: Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network

To check for late breaking changes or additions to the calendar, visit our website at www.calvarypgh.org.

MUSICAL NOTES

by Alan Lewis



As we round the corner into the “home stretch” of Advent, I want to offer my thanks to all the singers whose labors, in this season and throughout the year, add so much to our experience of worship in the 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday services. I realize they sing because they love to do it, but the hours of rehearsal that make things like Lessons and Carols and *Messiah* possible come at no little expense to their schedules, and I am very grateful

for their dedication and generosity with their talents.

I want to mark this occasion, when we celebrate the anniversary of Leslie Reimer’s ordination to the priesthood, by offering word of personal appreciation for her friendship, professional and personal, over the nearly-eighteen years we have worked together here at Calvary. I have worked with many clergy over the years, and a number of them have become dearly treasured friends. But the dedication and attention that she brings to her ministry are, as we all have come to know, singular. She is a constant source of encouragement and support to me, and to the rest of the staff, in our work here. The grace with which she stepped in as Calvary’s Interim Rector, three years ago, and then, when Jonathon came among us, stepped back into an assisting role, seems to me emblematic of her approach to ministry, and to life (after all, what is the difference?): to do what needs to be done, without regard for self-promotion or public praise, but for the greater glory of God and the building up of the Church and the Kingdom. I’m so grateful to Calvary for throwing us together for these many years, and for what I hope may be many more to come.

Next weekend, December 19 and 20, our ensemble-in-residence, Chatham Baroque, will offer two performances of their “Christmas” Concert, entitled Paris in Pittsburgh. (This was planned months before the violence that catapulted Paris into the world’s thoughts and prayers last month.) Additional string players, soprano Sara Botkin, and I will join the trio for this program, offered on Saturday evening at 8 p.m., and again Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m., in the Calvary nave. Tickets are available for purchase at their website, www.chathambaroque.org. There are also two Christmas-oriented Peanut Butter & Jam sessions, for preschoolers and their parents, on the Saturday morning at 10 and 11:30. (Tickets available at the website, as well; children are \$5, and their adults are \$8.) It’s very easy to take Chatham Baroque for granted, since they have become a familiar part of the musical mosaic at Calvary – but they are, though local, truly international in quality, and we are enormously fortunate to have them with us so frequently.

Finally, my annual reminder of the Christmas Eve broadcast of the service of Lessons and Carols from King’s College, Cambridge. It begins at 10 a.m. EST, and can be streamed on the web, or heard on WQED-FM, 89.3. This year’s musical line-up has yet to be released, but the service is always beautiful, and a lovely way to suspend the frenzy that so often descends at this time of year.

A blessed Christmas to all. ■

Sheldon Calvary Camp Worship in Pittsburgh



The Camp service at Calvary Church is held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Refectory. **Join us on December 27** and continuing into 2016 on January 24. We will be singing songs from the camp songbook. All are welcome. ■

January Soup Group



“Oh, the weather outside is frightful,” but it will be a great day to make soup. Please come to Calvary’s kitchen on **Friday, January 8, 2016 at 10 a.m.** if you would like to cook with us. New recipes and chefs are always welcome. Email me if you have a good recipe and I will buy the ingredients. If you are unable to cook (or don’t like to cook!) please consider taking soup to a friend, neighbor, family member that would enjoy warm bowl of soup.

—Adele Eley, 412.371.6921, adele.eley@gmail.com ■

Holy Baptism

On January 10, 2016, The Baptism of our Lord, we will be offering the sacrament of Holy Baptism at the 11 o’clock service. If you or someone you know desires to partake in this sacrament please contact the Reverend T.J. Freeman (tjfreeman@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120 ext. 112) by January 1, 2016, so that the appropriate preparation and arrangements can be made. ■

Please remember Calvary Church
in your will

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.

- Our narthex history windows are due to be reinstalled on the 15th of this month. Kelly Art Glass, our restorers, have graciously provided a concise visual display to give a sense of what they have been doing to those lights over these past few months. You've probably seen that board in the Parish Hall. Donations to cover our half of the grant are still welcome, though. It's so close... 3K would more than do it.
- Windows part deux: In January, the above referenced Kelly, John by name, will be giving an adult forum presentation about Charles Connick, who created those windows, and an overview of the restoration process.
- In the interest of maintaining our "open door" policy year-round, research is ongoing into adding glass doors to the great west entry, thus providing both an inviting view to those outside and comfort to those inside.
- Due to the serendipitous coincidence of (1) a suggestion for alleviating the parking-in problems in the gravel lot extension involving bi-directional means of egress and; (2) accidental damage to the gate between the lot and the neighboring driveway, most of that fence barrier has now been removed. Questions about some kind of lot demarcation, dumpster location, and vehicular speed control remain to be addressed.
- All of our hearing assist devices seem to have gone away. And now, owing to a generous parishioner's good graces, four new ones have been purchased. These may be checked out from an usher before services in the North Transept. OBTW: If, by chance, you should find one of the original units hiding, forgotten, in a coat pocket, its return would be greatly appreciated.
- And speaking of coat pockets, please accept this gentle reminder to empty yours of valuables before hanging up that garment. From time to time things do seem to disappear. While this is our house, it is still a very public place. Just sayin'...
- On a brighter note: The advent wreaths, resplendent with their purple ribbons, have gone up in the spirit of hope and anticipation of a joyous Christmas season. Peace. ■

Visit the Calvary website at

www.calvarypgh.org

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. I do realize that many people support these coffee hours on multiple occasions since they are active in many different groups and your help is greatly appreciated. The coffee hour is enjoyed but its success depends on volunteers. Please contact Judy Wootten at 724.327.7907 (wootten@windstream.net) to schedule a Sunday. ■

Deadlines for Publications

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue of *Agape* is **Friday, January 8, 2016**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it to directly to the church office. Notices for the Sunday service bulletin must be received by the end of the day on Wednesday each week. ■



315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
telephone: 412.661.0120 ■ facsimile: 412.661.6077
email: calvary@calvarypgh.org ■ www.calvarypgh.org

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend T.J. Freeman, *Curate*
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*
The Reverend John J. Fetterman, *Theologian-in-Residence*
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*
Bill Gesin, *Assistant Organist*
Catherine Davidson, *Senior Warden*
G. Frederic Roth, *Junior Warden*
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*
Susan Roth, *Coordinator for Christian Formation*
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*
Peggy Morycz, *Director, Beginnings*
Louise Wells, *Events Coordinator*
Kenneth Smith, *Director of Communications*
Jeff Rutkowski, *Head Sexton*
Justin Dilts, Andrea Edwards, Dave Farren, Ron Johnston,
James Knight, Tim Martin, *Sextons*
Marsha Morris, *Parish Secretary*