



Agape

The Newsletter of
Calvary Episcopal Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

JANUARY 16, 2022

IN MEMORIAM

THE REV. DR. HAROLD THOMAS LEWIS, PRIEST

FEBRUARY 21, 1947 – DECEMBER 31, 2021

The Rev. Dr. Harold T. Lewis, was born on February 21, 1947, and passed away on December 31, 2021 at the age of 74. He served as rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from 1997 until his retirement in 2012. Upon his retirement, a member of the search committee reflected on Dr. Lewis's impact, "He has definitely strengthened the position of Calvary, not only in the diocese but in the national Episcopal Church and even in the Anglican Communion."

He was an active chronicler of the African American struggle in the Episcopal Church and has participated on numerous church and seminary boards including the Office of Black Ministries as director from 1983 to 1994. He has served on the Standing Commission on World Mission of the Episcopal Church where he pressed to have African American missionaries recognized and celebrated alongside white missionaries. Ordained in December 1971, Dr. Lewis has ministered to parishes in England, Washington, DC, New Haven, Connecticut, Brooklyn, New York, and Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and as a missionary in Honduras and Zaire. He served as headmaster of St. Mark's School in Brooklyn; adjunct professor at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary; and also taught at George Mercer School of Theology, New York Theological Seminary, and General Theological Seminary.

In Pittsburgh, Dr. Lewis served on the boards of the Urban League and the Metro-Urban Institute of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Nationally, he was a member of the Episcopal Church Foundations Fellows' Forum and served on the board of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. Dr. Lewis served on the Board of Trustees at Yale Divinity School and was instrumental in that institution's South African divestment. By appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury, he has chaired and served on the Advisory Council for the Anglican Observer to the United Nations.

Among Dr. Lewis's many publications are *Yet With a Steady Beat: the African American Struggle for Recognition in the Episcopal Church*; *Christian Social Witness*; *Elijah's Mantle: Pilgrimage, Politics and Proclamation*; the hymnal, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*; and *The Recent Unpleasantness*. He has

also contributed chapters to a number of books, written articles, hymns and poetry for a variety of publications.

In 2007 on behalf of Calvary, Dr. Lewis hosted Bishop Desmond Tutu during his Pittsburgh visit when he received an honorary degree jointly from The University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Lewis earned a BA at McGill University in Montreal, Canada; an MDiv at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University; and a Ph.D. at University of Birmingham, England. He also studied at St. John's College at Cambridge University in England, and earned numerous honorary degrees from various institutions. He was married to Claudette Richards Lewis, for more than 51 years; and they have one son, Justin Craig Lewis and a son-in-law, Roland Tactay. The funeral was held Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 11 a.m. in Calvary Episcopal Church. Arrangements were by John A. Freyvogel Sons, Inc. ■

The funeral service was livestreamed. You may watch a replay on our YouTube channel. A direct link is posted on our website.

Dr. Lewis' final sermon, preached at Calvary upon his retirement on November 25, 2012, has been posted to the online version of this issue of *Agape*.



Transition for the Director of Christian Formation

Tammy Lewis has been our wonderful Director of Christian Formation for the past several years. She has developed deep friendships with children and their parents and helped us navigate the complex time of the pandemic offering classes and pageants online and in person and adapting well. She has concurrently served as the Director of our Beginnings Pre-School.

This fall, the pre-school began to offer a five-day program in addition to a three-day program. That means Tammy has been in the office late almost every day of the week. While she has done a fantastic job, it has become too much work for one person. Tammy stepped down as Director of Christian Formation at the end of the year to focus on serving as Director of the Pre-School. She will no longer be leading the program but, thankfully, wants to help and stay involved with the children and families. Please thank Tammy for her superb leadership.

Our new Director of Christian Formation is Vicki Rispoli, who began work on January 1, 2022. Some of you may know her already as she helped with the Christmas pageant. She regularly attends the 8 a.m. service with her husband, Damian. They live in the neighborhood and can see the Calvary spire from their balcony.



Vicki brings a wealth of experience. She was graduated from the Air Force Academy and served as a researcher for years with the Air Force. Upon retirement from the armed forces, she became an educator and currently works part-time in a local Montessori school. She also has training in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based approach to Christian formation.

Vicki is highly intelligent, warm, engaging, and delighted to serve at Calvary building on our strong foundation. I am so pleased she will join us. Please welcome Vicki to the Calvary Church staff and more deeply into our community. ■



One of the Wise Men (Alan Hausman) with the camel just before the start of our Christmas Pageant

Priestly Succession



With Leslie's retirement at the end of February, some have begun to ask if we will have a third full-time priest on staff. Out of respect for Leslie and wanting to focus on her and her ministry with us, I had wanted to wait a bit to share information about this but certainly understand the concern.

Leslie is irreplaceable but we will call a capable, talented, and faithful priest to succeed her and began exploring this in the summer. We are also always mindful of the importance of calling the best person for us possible and having a priestly staff with women and men.

Because of the timing of her retirement and upcoming dates like Holy Week and Easter, the Bishop's visit (Sunday after Easter), and Marathon Sunday (first Sunday in May) we most likely will not have a new priest in place until the late spring or early summer. Please be assured we will have a full pastoral staff and will share this news as soon as we are able. ■

From our Friends at Tree of Life after the Christmas Pageant

We want to wish you, your entire staff, and the members of your congregation a Merry Christmas. May this time and the coming year bring only joy, safety, and good health. Merry Christmas. *—Irwin, Rose, and Samantha Harris*



Thanks for allowing me to participate, I had a great time. Stacey and I are humbled at the relationship we have developed with everyone at Calvary.

—Alan Hausman (Wise Man)



It was my honor and pleasure to participate. I appreciate that you crafted a role for me, especially since the chronology of Moses to Jesus is 1400 years. But if Moses was unsuccessful, Jesus might never have happened. Alan is clearly happy here (see photo in the left column), and I believe that if it was at all possible, despite his wife's protestations, he would want a camel to own. I wish you and your entire congregation a joyous Christmas and a New Year of good health and promise for a brighter future.

—Rabbi Jeffrey Myers (Moses) ■

Have you returned your
2022 Pledge Card?

Invisible Enemy

Sadness has become a tradition for some of us at Christmas. I suppose all of us have a reason to feel something is missing or that we have been disappointed. The season has some exaggerated gestures within its recognized practices. I often wonder if these gestures are not masking an abiding sense of loss.

I guess the most primal and generative shift rests on believing there is Santa Claus. That we as children see the necessity of a benefactor, generous beyond what is necessary, a benefactor who attends to special needs with special gifts. I don't remember ever arriving at a moment when I came to doubt the existence of Santa Claus. I do remember that I decided that it is necessary to harbor such a belief. Without it, it becomes almost impossible to understand the meaning of or to recognize the practice of generosity.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas many, both churching and unchurching do not recognize the season of Advent. Advent is a season of preparation for receiving a gift from God, a gift only God can give, God's self. Or as it is mutely remembered the "reason for the season". This avoids the witness of the Gospel of Luke or the prophet Isaiah. I imagine the devil smiling every time one of us manages to avoid actually naming the Christ Child, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, that the government shall be on his shoulder.

And still even though the shopping, partying and traffic drain every drop of goodwill from our holiday, somehow through the darkness gathering in our lives, the light sometimes breaks through. Someone you haven't heard from in a long time or even ever, sends you a card. A cousin sends you a text with a Bible verse cited. When you go for a walk, the dogs you meet being walked come over to you to say hello. A neighbor remarks how much they like your outdoor decorations. Or you decide to go out for just one more drive through another neighborhood to look at Christmas lights.

Sadly, the inflatable lawn figures have become the standard in recent years. There is something telling about the deflated puddle of a figure laying on the lawn. In the same way the inflated figure reminds me of the inflated consumerism. Christmas is for sale at inflated prices.

As a child, Christmas introduced me to my first experiences of self-examination. The question being asked about who has been naughty or nice. Would I, as the story goes only be worthy of ashes and coal in my stocking? Because I lived generally leaning towards actions that often resulted in my being punished, this question was a real concern. My Christmas mornings were always wonderful, but this question had a real influence and perhaps complicated matters to such an extent that I may have been drawn into lying at least to myself about my reputation. I did compose and mail letters to Santa. It never occurred to me that these

letters were how clever parents managed to find out what we wanted or how far off the mark we were or that we were maladjusted.

My life in religion has, of course, put some distance between me and the cultural Christmas. I still love it in all its cheap and garish glory. The over the topness of it all is in a curious way fitting to the scale of the facts derived from faith. As a senior citizen I have begun to see more clearly the actual possibilities for the shape of the rest of my life. That vision doesn't include using many possessions I currently own. So, it has been fun giving them away. I am also grateful for those who met me halfway in this project by accepting the things I have offered. I honestly don't know who is getting or giving the greater gift.

I have for most of my life, because my father was a radio astronomer, known that Christmas happens within days of the winter solstice. These are the darkest and shortest days of the year. Here in Pittsburgh, where sunshine can be hard to come by many recognize that the weather can influence one's mood. But there is probably nothing less constant than the weather, so one can know it won't always feel this way.

Some of us are affected by more persistent internal struggles of the mind and spirit. These difficulties are exacerbated by the distorted motives and practices behind the mask of the cultural Christmas. Here again what is needed is a spirit of generosity that exceeds the measure of the unengaged exchange, even beyond mere kindness. Listening the way God listens.

People are more cranked to find escape this year due to the myriad losses and sense of captivity brought on by the pandemic. This more driven approach is taking place when it is more dangerous to be out and about. It shows our unwillingness to recognize the fact that we don't always get to choose what will make us happy, what would be fulfilling. We could shape our choices to show the love that God shares in the Christ Child, a love destined to save us all rather than imagining that we can somehow escape the consequences of breathing the air that we all are breathing. There is no other air.

Jesus in resurrection is recognized by his wounds. He gives the Holy Spirit to the disciples by breathing on them because it is a universal way of conveying it. In the Creation story God's breath gives life to the man made from the dust. Our breath given in the emergency application of CPR can restore breathing in a victim of violence or an accident. And yet we move through our days without a conscious thought or effort given to breathing. It is so constant, so essential and yet we hardly give it a moment's notice. It connects all of us to one another and makes each of us the possible bearer of life-threatening illness. Wouldn't it be a great gift to be conscious on behalf of others of our current frailty before this invisible enemy and not allow ourselves to participate in its victory.

—Geoffrey Royce (groyce@calvarypgh.org) ■

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Calvary's Nursery: Orange Classroom, Level A. Open on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and for other church events as published.

Sunday School: 10 – 10:50 a.m., in person and on Zoom.

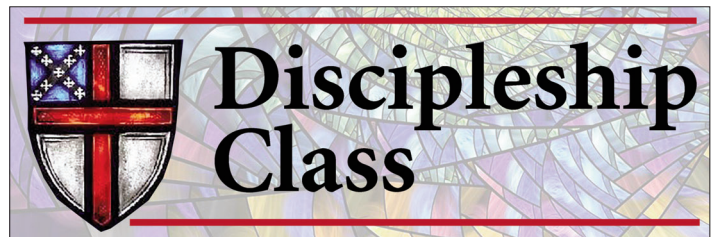
If you plan to attend via Zoom, please make sure you have the correct Meeting ID and Password for your child's class. Please contact Vicki Rispoli at vrисpoli@calvarypgh.org for details.

- Ages 3–4: Purple Classroom, led by Elsa Buehler.
- Grades K–3: Yellow Classroom, led by Tammy Lewis.
- Grades 4–5: Blue Classroom, led by Peter Lewis.
- Middle and High School: Gym, led by Vicki Rispoli



Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2021 Christmas Pageant such a success! We are grateful to the volunteers, our friends from Tree of Life and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, as well as the children and youth from Calvary and Beginnings. You all made this event so very special. Well done! In case you missed it, you can view the recorded version on Calvary's YouTube page. A direct link is on the Calvary website.

–Vicki Rispoli, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*,
vrисpoli@calvarypgh.org, 412.661.0120 ext. 116 ■



This winter, Calvary will be offering a Discipleship Class. The class is an opportunity to take a deeper dive into who we are as Episcopalians and even more fundamentally who we are as Christians. The class is also an opportunity for those who are newer to Calvary to connect with others and learn more about Calvary.

This class serves as preparation for those who are interested in confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church and the reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

The class will take place on Sunday mornings during the formation hour, 10-10:55 a.m. in the Refectory. and will run until Sunday, April 3.

Each session will include a short talk by a member of the clergy or a member of the parish, small group discussion, and an opportunity to ask questions. Over the course of the class, you can expect to hear about prayer, the sacraments, Calvary's buildings, Calvary's history and identity as a congregation, and get to know others who are new to Calvary.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions about the class or about Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows contact the Rev. Neil Raman (nraman@calvarypgh.org). ■

CALVARY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

If you are in your 20s or 30s and new to Pittsburgh, Calvary, or CYAM, welcome! For more information, or to be added to our email list, please contact The Rev. Neil Raman at nraman@calvarypgh.org / 412.661.0120 ext. 112.

CYAM January Schedule

Thursday, January 20, 5:45 p.m.

Holy Happy Hour at Calvary

Sunday, January 30, 12:45 p.m.

CYAM Brunch at Galley Bakery Square
145 Bakery Square Blvd., 15206 ■

Please remember Calvary Church
in your will.

The Bookstore at Calvary

Local Organizations Benefiting from the 2021 Used Book Sale

The Bookstore's mission statement is "to serve the parish and provide outreach to the wider community as we navigate our spiritual journeys and live out our faith". The Bookstore supports many worthy causes including being the sponsor of the 2021 Calvary Episcopal Church Used Book Sale netting \$6,500. The money raised from this fundraising event benefitted nine local organizations:

Kathy Garrison's Backpack Project
City of Asylum

Homeless Children's Education Fund's (HCEF)

Homewood Children's Village

Libraries: Braddock and Homestead

Literacy Pittsburgh

The Neighborhood Academy (*in honor of Phil Roberts*)

Pittsburgh Prison Book Project

(*name changed from Book 'Em*).

A description of the groups who received donations is available on the online version of this issue of *Agape*.



Remember the Reverend Canon Dr. Harold T. Lewis, Rector Emeritus of Calvary Episcopal Church

The Bookstore at Calvary has the written works of the Reverend Canon Dr. Harold T. Lewis, Rector Emeritus of Calvary Episcopal Church, including:

Surveying the social teachings of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church, presenting a broad historical overview of Anglicanism's vision of a righteous social order, including the challenges of the new millennium, is discussed in 2001's *Christian Social Witness*.

A Church for the Future: South Africa as the Crucible for Anglicanism in a New Century examines current issues facing the Anglican Communion through the prism of the history of the Southern African church and people. Through this combined narrative of the global and local church, it offers a remarkable story combining history, race, class and culture in Africa.

Over 15 sermons prior to January 1993 are available via *In Season, Out of Season: A Collection of Sermons*.

In this book of funeral sermons preached throughout his forty-year ministry, *It is Well with My Soul: Messages of Hope for the Bereaved*, offers Jesus' message of the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection – hope for the dead, hope for the church, and hope for the world in which we live, move, and have our being. Signed copies available.

In the wake of the 2003 General Convention approval of the consecration of Gene Robinson, an openly gay and partnered man, to be a bishop, the Convention of the Diocese of Pittsburgh took steps to secede from the

Episcopal Church. When it became clear that by rewriting and reinterpreting the canons, the Diocese deemed itself entitled to the assets of the Diocese, the Rector and Vestry of Calvary Church took the unprecedented, and as it turned out, successful action of challenging these actions in civil court, by suing the bishop and other officers of the Diocese. *The Recent Unpleasantness* tells the story of the circumstances in church and society that long predated Robinson's election, which set the stage for these developments, and discusses the ramifications of the lawsuit in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Episcopal Church, and throughout the Anglican Communion. Signed copies are available.

Yet with a Steady Beat: The African American Struggle for Recognition in the Episcopal Church is a comprehensive study of the history of black Episcopalians. This is an inspiring yet sobering analysis of the efforts of black Christians to find a spiritual home within the Episcopal Church.

How to access The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore is open on Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the week, contact the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or by email at bookstore@calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. In addition, we can arrange for contactless pick-up of your items. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® along with touch-free payments are accepted. ■

An expanded version of this issue of *Agape*, with additional content may be viewed on the Calvary website at www.calvarypgh.org

Beware of Email Scams!

During the pandemic, scams are on the rise. Fake emails are again circulating to Calvary members. The email appears to come from the Rector, and requests "a favor" or gift cards. Don't respond to the email, simply delete it. Any email from Calvary always uses @calvarypgh.org, never gmail.com. ■

Staying in Touch

Please contact Calvary's Parish Administrator Kim Pieratt at the Church office if you have any questions about flower memorials, prayer list additions, or scheduling of events. Kim can be contacted at 412.661.0120, ext. 111 or send an email to kpieratt@calvarypgh.org. We ask that you keep us informed if you have a home address, phone or email change. ■



Happy New Year from Beginnings!

Winter has definitely arrived and we are incorporating it into our curriculum at Beginnings!

Our Yellow and Red Teams are working on a Paper unit based on the Creative Curriculum with a deep dive into all things winter. They will build a child-size cave out of paper and role play to understand hibernating animals. Their class projects will include paper snowflakes and paper snowmen after an introduction of scissors. They will play with little plastic penguins and polar bears in the ice rinks they are making in their sensory tables.

The Purple Team is going to explore the Wonder of Water, also from the Creative Curriculum. What is water? Where can we find water? How is water used? How does water help the people of earth and how can it be preserved? Our students will answer these questions through exploration. Their classroom is filled with sponges, buckets, pipes, a garden hose, measuring cups, rafts, a plastic swimming pool, water tables, pretend snow and snowballs, and an ice fishing game. They're going to have a blast learning about water!

The Blue Team will explore why we have snow in winter and follow the flight and plight of a snowflake. They will also answer important questions such as: If I have feathers will I need a winter coat? Can I make a snowman in the summer? Their art projects will include making icicles from aluminum foil and snow from shaving cream and glue.

The Orange Team will combine Winter and Water. Through experimenting and play, they will learn that water takes different forms (ice, liquid, and vapor) and that water and weather are related (rain, snow, sleet, hail, and fog). We really hope it snows this month!

The last few weeks have been difficult because of the Omicron variant, but we will persevere. Our students are our first priority and we continue to follow strict COVID protocols to keep our children and their families safe. Thank you Calvary for your support.

—Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

Sunday In-person Worship

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II at
8, 9, 11 a.m.,
and Eventide (Rite I) at 5 p.m.

Calvary's Casseroles



The Soup Group and Pastoral Care Committee are planning to expand their ministry to include some frozen casseroles that could be shared. We are looking for folks that would like to help. This could be done by cooking in Calvary's kitchen, cooking at home, or making a donation to cover the cost of containers and ingredients. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, please contact Adele Eley or Michele Bender. Soup will still be available. Checks can be made out to Calvary Episcopal Church. Please out CASSEROLES in the memo line.

—Adele Eley – adele.eley@gmail.com

Michele Bender – mhbender@gmail.com ■

Volunteer Opportunity



Calvary is looking for a volunteer to deliver our donations to the East End Community Thrift (Thrifty) store located at 5123 Penn Avenue, one block from Aldi's. Our donations can be dropped off weekly or every other week. Thrifty is open Tuesday thru Saturday. Calvary has been collecting donations for over five years now, and the response has been wonderful. Thrifty is an all volunteer-run thrift shop, which provides quality, low-cost, used clothing and household goods, to the surrounding community. Since its inception in 1993, Thrifty has worked with over 100 charitable programs to offer their clients vouchers to shop free for items they need for themselves and their families.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kim Pieratt at 412.661.0120 ext. 111 or at kpieratt@calvarypg.org. Thank you. ■

EECM Food Pantry

East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry is still operating during the pandemic, with appropriate plans to protect those receiving food. Donations can be dropped off at Calvary during office hours: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday mornings. Below is a list of items particularly requested. **Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the EECM food cart.** Your support is greatly appreciated.

- Bottled Water
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned tomato sauce, vegetables, beans
- Spaghetti and macaroni pasta
- Canned soups
- Mac & Cheese boxes
- Oatmeal and whole grain cereals
- White and brown rice
- Sugar
- Salt
- Disposable utensils (fork, spoon, knife)
- Disposable plates
- Disposable bowls
- Ziploc bags, any size
- Napkins
- Paper Towels ■

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



My thanks to all the singers who brightened Advent and Christmas with their music-making, particularly in the Lessons and Carols services and on Christmas Eve itself. I am so grateful that they braved another viral surge to do what they do so well, and so faithfully, and what I know they missed so deeply during the dark months of pandemic-driven deprivation.

After a brief Christmas interruption, we return to our regular schedule of Eventide services, at 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. On the first and third Sundays of the month, that liturgy takes the form of choral evensong; on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays, it is a Eucharist in the idiom of Rite I, with singing led by our "Quarantet." It is a beautiful and intimate way to experience worship – and, for those concerned about large gatherings, it can provide some protective sense of space, as well. For those who prefer to connect with liturgies from home during this time, this month we are beginning to livestream this service, as well.

The concerts announced for January 15 by the instrumental ensemble Twelfth Night have been postponed by their presenter, Chatham Baroque, and it is hoped that it will be rescheduled soon.

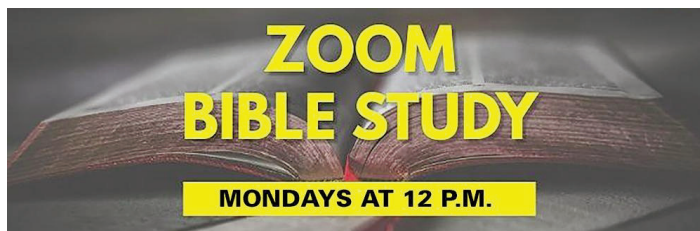
May the slowly lengthening days bring light to the darkness of these times, and brighten all our hearts. ■



Soup Group Sale **Sunday, February 13, 2022** **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

The Soup Group will be selling dry soup mixes and many of our frozen homemade soups. Pints of frozen soup will be available for \$5 and quarts for \$10. Small dry mixes of Split Pea are \$5 and large mixes of Bazaar Soup are \$10. Cash or checks made out to CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH will be accepted. These items will be available in the Parish Hall after all morning services. Proceeds will benefit the Beloved Community Initiative of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Masks and social distancing are required. Please contact me with any questions.

—Adele Eley, adele.eley@gmail.com,
412.719.9637 (cell) ■



Starting on January 31, 2022 **led by The Rev'd Geoffrey Royce Deacon**

Sign-up for receiving the Zoom coordinates by writing to groyce@calvary.org

You will need a computer/tablet/laptop/smartphone that has a microphone and a camera and is capable of running the Zoom app. You will also need a Bible.

This will be a discussion study. It will last one hour. The entire course of study will last between 10-15 weeks. You can miss sessions and still get something from this study.

We will start with the Book of Hosea. Hosea is an 8th century prophet, preaching in a period of religious conflict. The Canaanite religion of Baal has been assimilated into the Israelite culture. Confusion between the idea of a national god and local provider gods has led Israel to worship Baal which involves cultic sacramental prostitution. The books containing the prophecies of the 8th century prophets are among the hardest teachings in the Old Testament. We study these today because the moral teachings of these prophets led the way to laws protecting human rights and the broader field of ethics. There are no other examples of this kind of moral teaching in the ancient near east. ■



Russ Ayres will lead an in-person **Bible study class beginning** **Sunday, February 6, 2022** **at 10 a.m. in the Evans Room**

This powerful text, by an anonymous author to an unknown Jewish-Christian community, is one of the least-read and least-appreciated books of the New Testament. Filled from start to finish with Old Testament quotations in strikingly new contexts, and written in some of the most evocatively poetic language in all of Scripture, it illuminates for every age the foundational claims of Christian faith

All are welcome. Please join us. ■

CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Senior Associate Rector*
The Reverend Neil K. Raman, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Dr. Moni McIntyre, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Geoffrey Royce, *Deacon*
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*
David Jeong, *Senior Warden*
G. Frederic Roth, *Junior Warden*
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*
Tammy Lewis, *Director, Beginnings*;
Vicki Rispoli, *Director of Children's Formation*
Kim Pieratt, *Parish Administrator*
Louise Wells, *Special Assistant to the Rector*
Kenneth Smith, *Director of Communications*
Jim Gubash, *Head Sexton*
Adam Augustine, Ron Johnston,
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*
Sherry Bloom, *Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary*
Robert Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, February 4, 2022**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it directly to the church office.

Agape, the newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is published monthly (except July), and is mailed to active members and friends of the Parish. You may opt out of receiving a printed copy and read each issue online at www.calvarypgh.org. Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■



Please Wear a Mask
While You Are at Calvary Church



A Year and an Era Ended

An Ecumenical Pageant: Back in the Church after last year's on-line extravaganza, with a Rabbi in the previously unseen role of Moses, Ethiopian Community members as

Narrator and King 1, a Tree of Life leader as King 2, the Rector as King 3, and multi-national Beginnings children as Angels, annual Nativity drama shows a new diversity. Sheep, goats, donkey and camel return as themselves.

Followed by...

A Christmas Trifecta: Friday: Christmas Eve. Saturday: Christmas Day. Sunday: First Sunday after Christmas and back to "normal". Extremely busy three days for all concerned: Volunteers, Staff, and Clergy. God bless them, every one.

But then...

Two steps forward. One step back. Repeat: After a processing Choir, an Acolyte, and a Verger are re-introduced at 11 o'clock and for two services of Lessons and Carols, seasonal exhaustion and news-fueled pandemic precautions cause a brief return to essential, unescorted, Quarentet morning service. Now they're all back. Forth and back and forth, but all now refreshed and moving inexorably onward.

And lastly...

Joy and Loss: Notably with the passing of Desmond Tutu and Harold Lewis within one week, for both of whom we will be ever grateful, but who sadly no longer walk among us. Presiding Bishop pays second visit within as many months – on quite different notes: The consecration of new Bishop Ketlen Solak and the funeral commemoration for Calvary's Rector Emeritus whose service, incidentally, drew more on-line attendees than Christmas eve.

A Final Reminiscence...

A Righteous Rector and Religious Readership: Then Rector Harold Lewis, on hearing that Trinity Cathedral was to close their Diocesan Bookstore and lease the space to a hot dog shop (a highly respected hot dog shop, it should be noted), decreed "We need a bookstore here", as a continuing benefit to the Diocese. Thus, the design for the Parish House renovation, championed and recently begun by him, was modified to include same. Parishioner and experienced bookseller Sherry Bloom was recruited to run it – "Madam manageress" in his parlance. Opened fifteen years ago this month, with the aid of an all-volunteer staff, the rest is history.

Or just one more snippet of "his-story".



News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



A Gift Has Been Made In Your Honor

December 23, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is pleased to make a donation to the Haiti Micah Project (HMP) in honor of the people and parishes of the diocese. As is our practice, Christmas-tide donations are made in lieu of printing and mailing individual greetings throughout the diocese.

The mission of the HMP is to provide life-saving needs of a daily meal, clean water, healthcare, clothing, educational assistance, and vocational training for children and young adults living in Mirebalais, Haiti. These resources will help prepare over 500 impoverished and uneducated children for responsible and purposeful lives in their nation, community, and families.

In 2005, Mirebalais city leaders requested help from the Rev. Joseph Constant, a Haitian-American Episcopal priest living in Alexandria, Virginia. That year, Father Joseph founded the HMP.

In 2009, HMP opened its group home under the name of the Solidarite et Action pour Les Enfants de Sion (Solidarity and Action For The Children of Sion), or the SAES Home. After the 2010 earthquake, the number of children in the home grew exponentially.

The children attend several schools in Mirebalais. They receive 24-hour care by a staff of eight adults that includes an English tutor. The children thrive in their new environment and respond well to the loving care they receive. Many are at the top of their class and are learning to speak Haitian Creole, French, Spanish, and English.

The Covid pandemic has brought unimaginable pain and hardship for millions of Haitians and has significantly

impacted HMP's work. They have always had to contend with the burden of challenges posed by poverty, but the pandemic added substantially to those difficulties.

Adding to the challenges has been the recent civil unrest and the failure of government institutions to meet basic needs of the people.

Throughout it all, HMP continues to provide life-saving essentials and educational opportunities for the children they serve, and we are honored to be able to support them.

From the entire staff of the diocese, our best wishes for a blessed Christmas. ■



New 'cathedral' of digital worshippers emerges from online broadcasts

Members of a new "cathedral" of online worshippers formed since the first lockdown are to play a key role in the Church of England's 100th national online service that was broadcast last weekend.

Prayers were read by people who joined a regular digital worshipping community that grew through YouTube and Facebook broadcasts of national online services. The first national online service was broadcast from the crypt chapel at Lambeth Palace on Mothering Sunday 2020 as the nation went into lockdown. Since then a service has been broadcast every Sunday – with additional services broadcast over Easter, Advent and Christmas.

The broadcast, marking the milestone of the 100th service, was led by the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields Dr Sam Wells, with a sermon from Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, who oversees the Church of England's national online services.

Dr Hamley, who took part in the first online service broadcast in March 2020 from the Crypt chapel of Lambeth Palace, will pay tribute to the work of both the national and local churches in providing online services during the pandemic.

She describes the "bittersweet" milestone of the 100th service after the "grief, pain and anxiety" suffered because of the pandemic. The success of the online broadcasts has highlighted the number of people who were previously excluded from in-person worship, she will say.

"We now know there is a regular worshipping community online, alongside many others, who meet as a community and pray for each other," she said.

—continued on the back

“This is something that is new and has taken us by surprise
“This was never something we set out to do but a truly diverse and international community has formed in the comment section while watching the services.

“It’s a bit like an online cathedral – we have a solid core of worshippers and lots of visitors who stream a service occasionally.”

Those saying prayers in the service included Chris Atkinson-Price, based in Bavaria, who was confirmed in 2012 in Bingley, Yorkshire, but went to Lutheran services near her rural home in Germany.

The first lockdown prompted her to search for online services in English.

She said: “There were two things I liked – one was the services themselves and the other was the community chat that went along with it. I’ve met new people and we’ve become friends.

“I’ve got one new friend based in Japan and another in India and we’re talking all the time on Facebook Messenger now. We support each other and we’ve set up a Bible reading group – we’ve got a reading plan which we discuss each day.”

Natalie Rispin, a financial administrator, from Baldock, Herts, and a member of the online worshipping community, also says a prayer during the service.

“The online service is a fantastic resource, it brings together people from all over the world. Before the service, there is a live chat page that is opened and everyone goes in there early and checks up on each other, making sure that each other is okay. It’s a really lovely group of people.

“When the service is on, people sometimes type ‘Amen’ or ‘Thanks be to God’; so we feel like we are worshipping together. A Facebook group has been formed when we discuss the service afterwards.”

At the start of the service, Dr Sam Wells says: “As God is with us in Christ and the Holy Spirit, so we are glad to be with God and one another through the gift of the internet.

“With the imagination and creativity of God’s people and the power of the Holy Spirit, these 22 months since church buildings closed their doors have seen ways of worshipping, we’d never thought possible springing up.

The Church of England website has received more than 92,000 page views for its blogs to help church leaders with live streaming and online services since these were launched in March 2020. Half of the 20 most read blogs on the website are on livestreaming and video skills. ■

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

January 16: St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Brentwood, and the Reverend Canon Dr. Jay Geisler.

January 23: Church of the Atonement, Carnegie, and the Reverend Ben Wright; and St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carnegie, and the Reverend Sara Irwin.

January 30: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, North Side, and the Reverend Don Youse, Jr., M.D.

February 6: Non-parochial clergy, including the Reverend Simon Barnes, the Reverend Mabel Fanguy, and the Reverend Daniel Hall, M.D.

February 13: The Disciplinary Board; the Committee on Constitution & Canons; Andrew Roman, Chancellor; and Suzanne DeWalt, Vice Chancellor. ■

Bishop’s Visitation Schedule

January 16: St. Peter’s, Brentwood

January 23: Atonement, Carnegie

January 31: Emmanuel, North Side

February 6: No Visitation

February 13: College for Bishops ■



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info@episcopalpgh.org.

Please be sure to include your complete contact information with any submission. ■

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**SERMON PREACHED BY THE REVEREND DR. HAROLD T. LEWIS, RECTOR
CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
ON THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
25 NOVEMBER 2012**

[Jesus said to Pilate] “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36)

Ralph Adams Cram, as everyone at Calvary knows, is the architectural genius responsible for this magnificent house of worship, which has been the spiritual home to members of this parish for more than one hundred years. What parishioners may not know, however, is that there was one detail --- one important detail in the architect’s plan --- that was never realized. Dr. Cram, an unabashed Anglo-Catholic (my hero!) envisioned that there would be a life-size crucifix, a figure of a suffering Christ, atop the Rood Screen. But the Wardens and Vestrymen of Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church would have none of it! They could not imagine how they would explain to their Presbyterian friends why they would allow within the precincts of their church a symbol of what was considered an example of Romish idolatry! So Dr. Cram relented, and the Vestry commissioned instead a comparatively innocuous depiction of the Lamb of God and the Four Gospels.

Some years later, Edwin Van Etten, Calvary’s eighth rector, had a brilliant idea. In the spirit of Anglican compromise, he wrote to Dr. Cram and suggested that instead of the Suffering Christ, there should be a Reigning Christ, which he maintained was a more ancient and venerable tradition than the mediaeval Crucifix! Everybody agreed, the sculptor was commissioned, and the triumphant figure of Christ the King has dominated Calvary’s nave ever since. You were dying to know!

Today is the Feast of Christ the King, and it might strike us as odd that the Gospel chosen for today is part of the story of Jesus’ trial before Pilate. The supreme irony in this drama is that even as a prisoner, even as the accused criminal, even as the one who has been mocked by the soldiers, even as one who would suffer the indignation of bearing his own Cross, Jesus reigns.

Jesus’ dialogue with Pilate is fascinating. What becomes immediately apparent is a role reversal. Jesus emerges as the Supreme Authority, while Pilate stands as the accused. As the conversation proceeds, Pilate looks like both a tragic and almost comic figure who shuttles back and forth between the crowd outside the Praetorium and Jesus inside, while Jesus maintains his cool. While Pilate tries to assert his authority, he performs in confusion and fear, giving in to petty politics and prejudice. He is a political chameleon, trying to appease the crowd while at the same time making sure that he holds onto his cushy job! But Jesus remains resolute throughout, speaking in words that sail right over Pilate’s head!

Jesus’ statement to Pilate, “My kingdom is not of this world” is often misunderstood. People wrongly take it to mean that Jesus’ kingdom is otherworldly and heavenly, even ethereal, having nothing to do with the flesh-and-blood world which we inhabit. *Au contraire!* Jesus tries to convey to Pilate that his Kingdom is not determined by or grounded in the

values of this world. Jesus explains to Pilate that he is not the sort of king who must resort to violence to establish his reign, because when all is said and done, he relies on the truth. He tries to explain to the obtuse Governor that his kingdom derives its authority from God, and from God alone. So when Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king, Jesus can concede that he is, but not because of any power on earth. He is a king, he is the King of Kings, but he tells Pilate in effect that because human hands did not place the crown on his head, human hands cannot remove it! It is in this very moment of his trial that Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom, the Kingdom of which he has spoken repeatedly throughout his ministry. It's here that the rubber hits the road.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, I have, on more than one occasion, quoted in this pulpit the words of a 19th century French philosopher, Alfred Loisy, who said, "Jesus a annonce le Royaume, mais c'est l'Eglise qui est venue" (Jesus announced the Kingdom, but the Church happened instead)! My prayer this morning, or, if you like, my valedictory charge, is that you continue to be a community dedicated to ushering in, building up and proclaiming Christ's Kingdom!

Now I am admittedly churchy. If you look up "sacristy rat" in the dictionary, you will find my photograph staring back at you! I know all about obscure canons, long forgotten rubrics and of course ancient and venerable traditions that no one cares about any more. I know how many times the priest should kiss the altar during mass (seven, for the record) how much incense the celebrant should receive (three double swings) and I can properly sing a proper preface. I think that the church's polity is sound, and I grew up believing that bishops are just a little lower than the angels! With all due respects to Gilbert and Sullivan, "I am the very model of a high Episcopalian!"

I love the church! But in the fullness of time we must put our trust in the Kingdom, not in the church. The church can be a faint-hearted place where comfortable (read: platitudinous) words are preached to those in their comfortable pews, a church which ignores the prophet Ezekiel and preaches what the people want to hear, and not what they need to hear. The church can be a fickle institution co-opted by the society in which it ministers, and which marches along, not with the Cross of Jesus going on before, but the Cross of Jesus bringing up the rear! The church can be a disingenuous organization that goes through the motions of religion, but remains indifferent to the plight of those on the other side of opaque panes of stained glass who are clamoring for the saving health of the Gospel. As Martin Luther King put it, any church "that professes to be concerned with the souls of men and is not concerned with the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them, and the social conditions that cripple them [preaches] a dry-as-dust religion."

We have always been a Kingdom people at Calvary Church. In the mid-19th century, Mathilda Dallas Wilkins believed Jesus when he said that the Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which though infinitesimal in size, grows up to become a great bush. She had a tiny idea, that there be an Episcopal parish in East Liberty --- and when the bishop of Pennsylvania turned down her request, she convened a dozen of her closest friends and founded Calvary Church anyhow. (Imagine that this gentlewoman and mother foundress of Calvary actually defied her bishop!) And now, more than a century and a half later, we are flourishing as the greatest of all bushes, providing a place for many in our branches.

In recent years, our vision of the Kingdom was like that described in the parable of the pearl of great price. The pearl, to us, was the beauty and integrity of the church herself. The pearl is a beautiful, single entity, formed through suffering in the heart of the oyster. It brings to mind what Mr. Stone said of the church in his great hymn: "With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died." Now there is a difference between a pearl and a gem like a diamond or ruby. Unlike precious stones which must be cut and polished to reveal their clarity and beauty, the pearl is perfect as it comes from the oyster. It is, as St Paul describes the church to the Ephesians, "without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing." This pearl was threatened by those who would destroy it and then sell it for a mess of pottage of rather dubious nutritional value. Like the merchant who sold all that he had to acquire that pearl, Calvary, intent on proclaiming Christ's Kingdom, put her fortune, her reputation and her honor on the line, and rescued the church in this diocese from those who attempted to plunder it.

But Calvary is perhaps most like the Kingdom of Heaven as Jesus describes it in the parable of the dragnet. One of the fruits of Calvary's evangelism is that we attract "fish of every kind," which the Prayer Book translated into the phrase, "all sorts and conditions of men." Unlike fishing with bait and lures designed to attract only certain kinds of fish --- a skill at which Episcopalians have been especially adept --- the dragnet is indiscriminate. Everybody who responds to the call is welcome, and makes his or her home cheek to jowl -- - or should I say gill to fin --- with fellow net-dwellers. And Jesus makes it abundantly clear that the separation of the good fish from the bad, the acceptable from the unacceptable, is not our job. That belongs to the angels at the end of time!

At a time when the AIDS pandemic was considered by many in the church to be a scourge against gays, Calvary was the first Christian community to inaugurate a ministry to people living with AIDS. At a time when people gave lip service to women's ordination while secretly saying, "Not in my backyard," Calvary called Beryl Choi to be the first woman priest employed in this Diocese. And in the face of some who said "it's a nice idea but we may not be quite ready," Calvary broke the mold when it came to the deployment of clergy when it called its fifteenth rector.

Calvary, then, is a place where old and young, women and men, straight and gay, black and white, the well-heeled and those down at the heel can find a happy home. Because we take seriously welcoming all in the name of Christ, it means that those steeped in the faith as well as those grappling with it; those in a former generation whose families paid handsomely for their reserved pews as well as those who found us on the Internet or Facebook yesterday, and yes, even those rite-of-passage folk who come only to be hatched, matched and dispatched ---- are all greeted with the news that the Faith is a journey and not a destination, and that all of God's people, regardless of where they find themselves in their spiritual pilgrimage are welcome here. We welcome them with the words of the great Negro spiritual, "Plenty good room, plenty good room, plenty good room in my Father's Kingdom!"

Jesus said "My kingdom is not of this world." He meant that his kingdom is not bound by the changes and chances of this mortal life. But guess what? This is the only world we know; this is the world in which we move, live, breathe and have our being. This is the world in which we must, in ways large and small, proclaim Christ's Kingdom.

We have had experiences in Kingdom-building, I think, over the past sixteen years, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for affording me the high privilege of ministering to you, as well as for all you have done in ministering to me, during this period.. Each time I held a baby in my arms in the sacrament of Baptism ---Christian Mazur was the first such child and now I must crane my neck to look up to him --- each time I have pronounced the nuptial blessing over a couple, each time I have traced the sign of the cross on a coffin, we have proclaimed the Kingdom. Each time we have shared in the Body and Blood of Christ, we have had a foretaste of that Kingdom. But Kingdom-building is not just sacramental. It has happened in vestry meetings, in adult forums, in the helter-skelter of the bazaar, and over the myriad occasions when we have shared libations and collations. Thanks for everything you have taught me, and the ways you have helped me grow --- no pun intended --- as a person and as a priest. In this regard, I express my heartfelt appreciation to Claudette and Justin for their support and comfort, but mostly their providing frequent and needed reality checks.

I want to share with you one more kingdom-building vignette. As we process down the aisle after the service, I see the congregation singing, and when I get about two-thirds of the way down, I look to the Gospel side of the church, and there is Nevin Woodside, tracing his index finger over the page of the hymnal, so that his daughters, Lowrie and Sarah can follow the words, helping them to cope with what must be for a child the counter-intuitive exercise of reading and singing a hymn. This scenario speaks volumes, about “training up a child,” about parenthood, about encouragement, instilling confidence, and, of course, ensuring that there will be another generation of Calvaryites! Thanks be to God!

And now for Stan Nevola’s sake, I must end with a Brooklyn story. At our music school’s annual recital, one of the pieces on the repertoire of the budding divas was “Consider the lilies,” which set to music a well-known portion of Luke’s Gospel. You know the story: “Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They toil not, neither do they spin, and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed like one of these...” And so on. It is the climax of that song, introduced with both thunderous chords and delicate arpeggios, which is my prayer for you this morning: As you go from strength to strength in our Lord’s service, as you preach the word, in season and out of season, as you remember that our Lord came not to be served but to serve, and as you continue to be both beacon and oasis to those who seek refuge in this place, remember the words of our Lord Jesus: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.”

Let us pray:

*Cure Thy children’s warring madness,
Bend our pride to Thy control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss Thy Kingdom’s goal.
The Hymnal 1982, 594.*

Local Organizations Benefiting from the 2021 Used Book Sale

The Bookstore's mission statement is "to serve the parish and provide outreach to the wider community as we navigate our spiritual journeys and live out our faith". The Bookstore supports many worthy causes including being the sponsor of the 2021 Calvary Episcopal Church Used Book Sale netting \$6,500. The money raised from this fundraising event benefitted nine local organizations:

Kathy Garrison's Backpack Project focuses on the children of women in POWER: Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery. Kathy personalizes each child's backpack with fun and educational materials that she collects on a child's interest, whatever it is, from dinosaurs or pandas to Louisa May Alcott or baseball. She fills the backpack with personalized notepaper, word searches, books and puzzles, on the child's topic, as well as school supplies like colored markers and Kleenex®. Further information is available at www.power-recovery.com.

City of Asylum builds a just community by protecting and celebrating creative free expression. They provide sanctuary to endangered literary writers, so that the writers can continue to write, and their voices are not silenced. They offer a broad range of free literary, arts, and humanities programs in a community setting to build social equity through cultural exchange. And by transforming blighted properties into homes for our programs, they anchor neighborhood economic development. More information is available at www.cityofasylum.org.

Homeless Children's Education Fund's (HCEF) mission is to advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness, guiding them to be productive, empowered citizens. As a national model for addressing the educational needs of unstably-housed children and youth, HCEF leads a collaborative effort among regional partners by providing educational programs and services in Allegheny County and advocating for policy and system improvement. To learn more, please go to www.homelessfund.org.

Homewood Children's Village has their own signature initiatives and with the help of partner organizations they are building a strong village of support for every child from cradle to career. Together they are working towards a future where all of our youth graduate from high school ready to thrive in college, career, and life. To learn more, go to www.hcvgpgh.org.

Libraries: Braddock and Homestead: These libraries uplift and improve the lives of youth, families and the elderly, by serving as a community activities center for residents with Homestead serving the Mon Valley and Braddock serving Turtle Creek, East Pittsburgh, Braddock, North Braddock, and Chalfant.

Literacy Pittsburgh (formerly known as Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Association) offers literacy programs for adult and families in Allegheny and Beaver County. Free classes and tutoring move students from learning to earning and help them succeed as workers, parents, and neighbors. For more information, please go to www.literacypittsburgh.org.

The Neighborhood Academy (in honor of Phil Roberts) exists to provide a holistic college-prep education for students in grades 6-12 who come from families who demonstrate financial need. The Academy is dedicated to developing the minds, bodies and spirits of students so that they might become fully productive members of society. By so doing students will break the cycle of generational poverty that has held them captive and deprived society of the full value of their lives. For further information, please go to www.theneighborhoodacademy.org.

Pittsburgh Prison Book Project (name changed from Book 'Em) is an all-volunteer project of the Thomas Merton Center which sends free books to prisoners in Pennsylvania. The Bookstore's monetary donation is used primarily for mailing costs. To learn more about the Pittsburgh Prison Book Project, please visit www.pghprisonbookproject.org.

Deadline (Friday):	Publication Date (Sunday):
January 7	January 16
February 4	February 13 [Lenten Issue]
March 4	March 13 [Easter Issue]
April 1	April 10
May 6	May 15
June 3	June 12 [Summer Issue]
August 12	August 21
September 9	September 18
October 7	October 16
November 4	November 13 [Advent Issue]
December 2	December 11

2022 CALENDAR

January Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	March Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	April Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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