

JANUARY 19, 2020

The Process to Call the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh

Our Bishop, The Right Reverend Dorsey W. M. McConnell, announced his retirement date for April 24, 2021. Dorsey has been the right bishop for the right time in Pittsburgh.

Under his leadership, we have stabilized and have begun to experience resurrection with several new diocesan initiatives and a few congregations returning. The diocesan finances are sound and in good order. We have begun to reimagine our structure, through Project Creed, to match our mission and ministry better. While we still have work to do, we are continuing to experience resurrection through much of the hurt, lack of trust, and fatigue after the split. A signature achievement is the amicable resolution to the lawsuit with nine of the breakaway congregations. We recognize each other as Christians and are free to move forward in ministry. The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh also receives a fair annual income from these congregations. The Pittsburgh resolution is a model for the whole Church.

What happens next?

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pittsburgh has given its consent to the Bishop's call for an election. In December, the Standing Committee (four lay and four clerical members) began to pray and work to design the process for the call of our next Bishop of Pittsburgh.

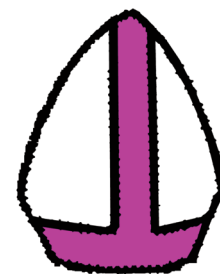
We expect to have the special diocesan convention to elect the next Bishop of Pittsburgh on January 23, 2021 with the ordination of the new bishop on June 5 or 12, 2021. A "snow date" for the election is set for February 13, 2021.

The steps to elect our next bishop

There is no official procedure that is required for the calling of a new bishop. However, there are a set of best practices from much experience. About ten similar elections occur each year in the Episcopal Church. What follows is a standard process for an election of a bishop. The one in Pittsburgh has not been set, as of this writing, but should be similar. Note: Mr. Russ Ayres, a Calvary member, is the President of the Standing Committee. The Rector is also a member.

*Bishop McConnell called for a successor on December 4, 2019. See the letter here: <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/a-letter-to-the-diocese-from-the-bishop/>

*Standing Committee and Bishop meet with consultant. In December, the Standing Committee learned about some best practices in a bishop search, what to expect, and what their role will be. By canon or Church law, the Standing Committee is responsible for oversight of the search leading to the election. Judy Stark, who was the consultant for Project Creed, is serving as consultant to the Standing Committee for the search.



*Nominating and Transition Committees. The Standing Committee convened in early January to begin forming the timeline and tasks and soon will work on the appointment of the Nominating and Transition Committees.

Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, sometimes called a Search Committee, will oversee production of a narrative profile of the diocese, read candidate nomination submissions and interview candidates, recommend a slate, and complete related duties. We expect they will be meeting once or twice per month through the end of 2020. Members should love Jesus, be a communicant in good standing, be discerning, represent the whole diocese, be well organized, be able to keep confidences, and love Pittsburgh.

An application and position description to serve as a member of the Nominating Committee will soon be available on the diocesan webpage.

Transition Committee. The Transition Committee will help the newly elected bishop and spouse (if there is one) make the move to Pittsburgh and welcome them to the diocese with planned events. The Transition Committee has a much more hospitality focused ministry than the Nominating Committee. The types of ways you welcomed me to Pittsburgh (amazingly

–continued on page 2

–BISHOP, continued from page 1

already six years ago) is similar to the role of this committee. The Transition Committee will also plan a farewell for Dorsey and Betsy McConnell.

*Listening Sessions. In several locations around the diocese, members and clergy will have opportunities, likely in addition to an online survey, to share their aspirations for our diocese and our next bishop.

*Diocesan Profile. The Nominating Committee will produce a narrative profile describing the diocese to prospective candidates and the type of bishop we are seeking, shares our aspirations, names our challenges, and highlights our gifts as a community. This profile also shares information about our ministries, history, and finances. In sum, the profile describes who we are and who we believe God is calling us to be as a Church together.

*Nominations. The period to receive names for candidates usually lasts 4-6 weeks. Most of this is now done electronically. This will occur after the profile has been completed.

*Nominating Committee reviews candidates. As submissions are received, the Nominating Committee will review documents and enter discernment with candidates.

*Retreat for semi-finalists in Pittsburgh. This is a relatively new practice. Rather than visit candidates in their home church, we invite a group of 6-8 candidates and spouses to Pittsburgh for a retreat to spend time in prayerful reflection, to learn about our region and diocese, and give the Nominating Committee a chance to learn about them.

*Background checks. Significant background checks are completed before an announcement of the final slate. Note: This is done in every diocesan election.

*Slate of candidates announced. The Nominating Committee makes recommendations for a slate of (usually) 3-5 people to announce as candidates for bishop. Note: This is the first time any names will be public. Biographies and responses to questions in the process will be made available online. Typical questions include, “What draws you to offer yourself as a candidate for Bishop of Pittsburgh?” or “Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ.” or “Tell us about a ministry in which you failed and what you learned from it.”

*Nominations by petition. There will be a period to allow for nominations by petition. Note: The diocesan rules of order no longer allow for nominations from the floor of the electing convention.

*Diocesan “Walk-Abouts.” About two weeks before the electing convention, there will be opportunities for everyone to meet the candidates, usually in each region of a diocese. Ordinarily, there is a time for each candidate to offer a brief presentation and then time for questions.

*Electing Convention. We expect to have the special diocesan convention to elect the next Bishop of Pittsburgh



Bishop Dorsey McConnell preaching at Calvary Church

on January 23, 2021 with a snow date of February 13. The ordination of the new bishop is planned for June 5 or 12, 2021. This will give us about two more months than the originally announced plan.

Note: The deputies from each congregation at diocesan convention on October 16-17, 2020 will be the same deputies who vote at the electing convention. Clergy and laity vote “by orders” when electing a bishop. A candidate must have a majority of clergy and a majority of lay deputy votes to be elected Bishop Diocesan.

*Consents of Standing Committees. A majority of Standing Committees of the dioceses across the Episcopal Church must consent to the election for any bishop, including the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This is a reminder that a bishop, although having jurisdiction and ministry in a particular place and community we call a diocese, is a bishop for the whole Church.

*Celebration of their ministry and giving thanks for the Rt. Rev. Dorsey W. M. McConnell and Betsy McConnell.

*Ordination of new bishop. Currently set for June 5 or 12, 2021. The ordination will take place somewhere in Pittsburgh. Bishop McConnell was ordained at Calvary Church because the building is big enough to accommodate the event.

Standing Committee members are Russ Ayres 2020 (President), The Rev. Eric McIntosh 2020, The Rev. Noah Evans 2021, Bob Johnston 2021, Lisa Brown 2022, The Rev. Annis Rogers 2022, The Rev. Steve Stagnita 2023, and The Rev. Jonathon Jensen 2023. Note: The date signifies the year each member completes his or her term.

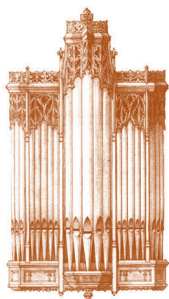
Please consult the website for the Diocese of Pittsburgh at www.episcopalpgh.org and the diocesan electronic newsletter, *Grace Happens*, for news about the process to call our next Bishop of Pittsburgh.

Please hold Bishop McConnell, the Standing Committee, and the whole Diocese of Pittsburgh in your prayers as we take these next steps of faith together.

January 23, 2021 Electing Convention
February 13, 2021 Electing Convention Snow Date
June 5 or 12, 2021 Ordination of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh

–Jonathon ■

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



A belated happy New Year to all. With this issue of *Agape*, you have received a brochure outlining musical events across the coming months; I hope you will find yourself able to attend them and enjoy the music-making that we are privileged to engage in in this wonderful place.

Please note, first, that the First-Sunday-of-the-Month pattern for Evensong is suspended for the month of February; experience has shown a certain annual sporting event associated with that date to be an unfortunate pairing with Evensong, and we are regretfully bowing to reality. (There is a rumor of possible changes to the NFL schedule in future years, but only time will tell...) Evensong will resume with March 1, which is also the First Sunday of Lent, when an additional form of devotion might be welcome. (I'll say more about that occasion next month.)

Speaking of evening services, if you've never attended CandleMass, I'd encourage you to give it a try on the Second Sunday of some month soon. It is a Eucharist, held at the High Altar, with the congregation seated inside the rood-screen and *parclose* (the carved side screens that extend the rood-screen to enclose the eastern end of the church). The feel of that space is very familiar to choir-members, but if you've not sat there, you will likely find it an utterly different environment for corporate prayer: intimate, especially compared with the huge expanse of our Nave, and even more richly beautiful than the larger, more public spaces of the Nave and Transepts.

The service always begins with chant, and includes both choral and congregational singing; we all sing the Creed and the responses to the Prayers, as well as hymns, while choral items are presented in the course of the liturgy by a schola – a small choir, some of whom are regular members of the Calvary Choir, while others are able only to join us for this monthly occasion. The sound of this small ensemble, heard at relatively close range, is beautiful, nicely scaled to the space, and far more direct and immediate than the sound of the full choir is ever able to be, across the distance from their stalls to the Nave. CandleMass lasts just an hour, and a reception follows, for fellowship and conversation. Please consider giving it a try; the remaining dates this “season” are February 9, March 8, and May 10.

Lastly, on Sunday, February 16, the Organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Simon Johnson, will play a recital at Calvary at 4 p.m. You may have heard him play a splendid program here back in 2014; I'm excited to welcome him back to our bench as the McVay recitalist for 2020. As of this writing, I don't yet have details on his program, but they will be posted on the Calvary website when they become

available. Whatever he decides to play, it will be a treat to hear him, and I'd encourage you to share the occasion with music-loving friends. ■



The Nominating Committee of the Vestry will receive nominations in the parlor for Vestry and Parish Council members on **Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020** after all services

The 165th Annual Parish Meeting of Calvary Church will be held Sunday, May 10, 2020 at 10 a.m., in the Parish Hall

Election of members of the Vestry and Parish Council will take place and reports from the Wardens, Treasurer and others will be given. Please make every effort to attend. ■

The Bookstore at Calvary

One of the most popular items at the Bookstore is the Cross for Comfort. Made in Bethlehem, in the West Bank, it is crafted of smooth olive wood making each cross unique in appearance. It measures 3.5" L x 2" W. In addition, the Bookstore now has the Standing Cross for Comfort, which can be removed from the magnetic base and held by hand. Consider purchasing for a friend or family member in need of comfort or as a gift for you.

Love to read, but are on a budget? The Bookstore has a large selection of gently used books starting as low as \$1! There is also an assortment of sales merchandise including bookmarkers, gift items, notepads, and wooden crosses.

The Bookstore is an all-volunteer project of outreach to the parish and the community. The Bookstore is open Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® are accepted. ■

Please remember Calvary Church in your will.



Happy New Year!

After two weeks off to celebrate the holidays, travel, and/or spend time with family and friends, our students seemed eager to return to school. Many had unique adventures and couldn't wait to share their experiences with their teammates.

After getting settled, we began our January unit called "Winter Wonderland." Our students are learning how people and animals adapt to the change of season. Most days, our teams spend time playing outdoors, bundling up if necessary. We go on winter walks and make observations about what we see and feel. On especially wintry days, it's even fun to draw pictures and write words in the snow. Indoors, we are conducting science experiments to learn how water freezes and melts, and using magnifying glasses to see the shapes, sizes, and patterns of snowflakes. On the creative side, our younger students are making snowmen using a golf ball painting technique while our older students are building igloos out of paper plates and sugar cubes. Our teachers are playing games like "Snowman Says," singing songs such as "Snowball," and reading the books *Let it Snow* by Maryann Cocca-Leffler, *The First Day of Winter* by Denise Fleming and *Snow* by P.D. Eastman. We want our students to not only learn about winter, but also to instill in them that winter is fun! We can sled, build snowmen, throw snowballs, make pinecone bird feeders, and drink hot cocoa – all to enjoy the cold winter months.

Ms. Verna from Creative Environmental Education will visit Beginnings this month to present her unit on Hibernation. With small animals and artifacts, this will be a very "hands-on" learning experience for all our students.

Last month, Mad Science came to Beginnings and presented their show, "The Case for Santa Clause." The many experiments were fascinating to the children and teachers alike. An example is their egg experiment that proved it is scientifically possible for Santa to get down a chimney, even though the chimney top is much smaller than his large-sized body. If you take a flask, remove all of the air from the inside, and place a hard-boiled egg on top, the egg will easily slip through the small opening and fall to the bottom. Removing the air involves lighting a piece of paper towel on fire with a lighter and placing it into the flask (similar to a fire in a fireplace.) The key is for the scientist and Santa not to get burned. Our children were warned not to try this experiment at home without an adult's assistance.

We had a great turnout for our Holiday Program, which was held in the Nave again this year. We decorated the platform with our children's artwork from their Love and Celebrations Unit – specifically Christmas Trees, Menorahs,

and Kinaras. Our special music was provided by our Music and Blue Team Teacher, Ms. Sharon Peters (keyboard), Ms. Elizabeth Gassler, a teacher from our Yellow Team (Cello), and Lindsay Dragan, an Orange Team parent (guitar). With many parents joining in, each team sang, danced, and/or played a variety of musical instruments. Red and Yellow Teams: Jingle Bells, Orange Team: Santa Shark, Purple Team: Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and Blue Team: My Favorite Things, and an African song, Funga Alafia. Everyone sang Santa Claus Is Coming to Town just as Santa and one of his Elves made an appearance. We moved into the Parish Hall for our potluck luncheon. Our families brought in special dishes, some a cultural favorite. For instance, one of our Korean families made Jabchae, a Korean "party" dish with beef, cellophane noodles, and vegetables. It was delicious! Families took pictures with Santa and his Elf prior to leaving for winter break.

Several of our Beginnings families attended Calvary's Christmas Pageant and the Tree of Life's Hanukkah Party. Baby Jesus was a sibling of a student on our Orange Team this year. Other Beginnings families who are also Calvary parishioners participated in the pageant as sheep, cows, angels, shepherds, helpers, and Magi. It was wonderful celebrating the holidays together.

Beginnings is continuing to take measures to keep our teachers, students, and families as safe as possible. Many of our teachers attended Calvary's recent Stop the Bleed Training so that we are fully prepared for any life-threatening situation. We are also in the process of putting a keypad entrance lock with an easy exit push button on the main door leading into Beginnings. It will be tied into our fire alarm system.

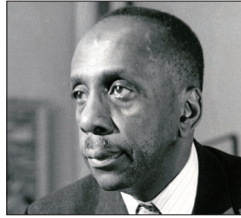
Beginnings is getting ready for our annual Valentine's Dance-a-thon Fundraiser to be held on Thursday, February 13. Every year, Beginnings relies on fundraising efforts to not only provide scholarships to families but to also make improvements to our preschool. Last year we raised over \$4,000 that went toward scholarships and playground surface upgrades. We ask for your help again this year, so please be on the lookout for more detailed information. You will also receive a donation request in the mail. With your support, Beginnings can provide a very safe, clean, exceptional learning environment for young children in our community. We thank you for helping us reach our fundraising goals each year. –Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

Please recycle this newsletter
when you have finished reading it.

www.calvarypgh.org

Spiritual Reflection – Howard Thurman

Adult spiritual formation may be described as the step-by-step discovery of God's presence in our lives and our personal transformation along the way. Calvary's Spiritual Reflection meetings continue to be a regular and familiar forum for small group peer ministry. We share, reflect upon and discuss inspirational ideas that develop and deepen our personal relationships with God and with one another. Meetings are group-led, and no preparation is required. Our interactions follow the Principals for Contemplative Dialogue of the Merton Institute for Contemplative Living.



Each quarter we use as a guide the writings of a different writer. At each meeting, a short reading or poem will serve as a catalyst for reflection upon, and discussion of, God in our daily lives.

For the Winter term we will use the writing of Howard Thurman. Known as one of the most influential religious leaders of the 20th century, Howard Washington Thurman (1899 – 1981) was born Florida and profoundly influenced by his maternal grandmother, Nancy Ambrose, who had been enslaved on a plantation. He graduated as valedictorian from Rochester Theological Seminary. In 1944, Thurman cofounded The Church for he Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco (<http://fellowshipsf.org/>), the first interracial pastored, intercultural church in the United States. Later he became the first black Dean of Chapel at a majority-white university or college in the United States (Boston University). Finally, Thurman was a prolific author, writing twenty books on theology, religion, and philosophy, and a spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr, and other members of the civil rights movement. We will use two compilations of his meditations and teachings, *Meditations of the Heart* (1953) and *The Centering Moment* (1969).

Meetings are held 7-8 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday evening of each month. The meetings this quarter are scheduled for February 4 and 18, and March 3 and 17. Email Matt Muldoon (mattmuldoon@msn.com) or Sondra Krimmel (sskrimmel@gmail.com) for information or to be added to the email list. Please feel welcome to join at any time. ■



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An Alliterative Agglomeration

The Neb

Recalcitrant Camel Causes Comical Chaos during Calvary Christmas Charade: Second only to Christ Child, immovable beast becomes centerpiece of Pageant – and Rector's Christmas Eve

sermon on faithful acceptance in vying with vicissitudes of life.

Cheerful Concurrent Chanukah Caper Confirms Caring Coalescence with Tree of Life Congregation: Mazel tov.

Septuagenarian Server Substitutes for the Few, the Faithful, the Far Away: Small corps of youthful Acolytes take well-deserved break after demanding Christmas schedule. Following Sunday rota left wanting until Altar Guild Director fills in.

Solution: More Acolytes.

Resolution (suggested) for the New Year: Volunteer yourself or someone you love.

Wreaths Removed. Crèche Crated. Costumes Closeted. Poinsettias Parceled Out: Seasonal adornments stored following Epiphany. Christmas accounted a glorious celebration. Kudos to contributors.

Parish Administrator Absence Ably Accommodated: Wells in for Pieratt. Kim doing fine following elective surgery. Weezie returns from semi-retirement as the face and voice of Calvary until February. Change in accent notable.

Fora and Formation Classes Commence: Mark's Gospel monopolizes McClintic as Discipleship dominates in Refectory. Sundays at 10! Be there!

Recent Recruits Recognized: Bulletin-board photos help identify new members. Parish hall placement provides opportunity to view, then say hello to, Calvary's freshest faces.

Diocese' Newest Deacon Dressed at Cathedral Ceremony: Geoffrey Royce resplendent in red stole. A faith-filled and fun event to celebrate ordination of one of Calvary's own. Congratulations are well in order.

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Holy Baptism



The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11, 2020.

If you, or someone you know, desires to partake in this sacrament, please contact the Reverend Neil Raman (nraman@calvaryph.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 112) as soon as possible, so that the appropriate preparation and arrangements can be made. ■



Saint Michael's Society "The Heart of Calvary's Future"

The Beauty of Calvary Church

We attended the December funeral of Charlotte Dickerson and were taken by the beauty of the Eucharist and love of friendship expressed. The cellist added a special touch, but most notable was the devoted remembrance paid by Pamela Abdalla to Charlotte. She spoke about Charlotte's tremendous capacity for kindness, always on display, while helping Pamela when her children were young. Such a depth of love developed between Charlotte and Pamela's children, that on Charlotte's nightstand before she died was a gift given to her years ago from one of Pamela's children.

In addition, both Pamela in her remembrance and Leslie Reimer in her homily shared that because of a multitude of health issues, many Calvary parishioners assisted Charlotte over the years. Without these kind members, Charlotte's life would have been much, much more difficult. We were inspired to write this article because her funeral made us realize that Calvary Church offers much beauty in countless ways. Its Pastoral Care Committee is the absolute best in supporting our church members with health issues. We also learned that Charlotte was grateful for the delicious soups made by Calvary's Soup Group, a ministry focused on providing soup to our homebound members, friends, and neighbors.

We pray that Calvary Church will be available many decades from now to help the future Charlotte Dickersons and offer its "Ministry of Space" to our East End neighbors, like the Tree of Life. These are some of the reasons why we have included Calvary in our wills and invite you to join us.

—Judie Compher and Deborah Kelly

If you are interested in exploring a possible estate gift to Calvary Church, please contact Deborah Kelly at dc1kelly@gmail.com or 412-688-9299. Please know that all planned gifts, whether \$1,000 or \$100,000, contribute to Calvary's fiscal health and become an important part of your legacy. ■

Plastic Film Packaging Recycling in 2020

Thank you to everyone who has created new habits of recycling plastic film packaging through our Trex program at Calvary Church. Through your efforts in 2019, we successfully earned a Trex bench for our courtyard and contributed to a second one that was earned for Sheldon



Calvary Camp. Film collected through our church collection site and other contributions have been in excess of 1,000 pounds. Our efforts are supported by others in the community including one of our facility suppliers and a Calvary family member that regularly contributes about 30 pounds/drop off from a Big Lots! store.

Beginning in January, we are eligible to start a second collection drive for Calvary Church. By collecting 500 pounds in the first six months of the year, we will earn that second bench for the garden while also giving the plastic film a post-use new life and diverting it from landfill/environment.

We are looking for volunteers willing to 1) move bags from the boxes into the storage room, 2) weigh and record them and/or 3) drop off a bag or two at a Giant Eagle location. Support with any one of these tasks will be helpful. To volunteer, contact Wendy Lomicka at wenlom@gmail.com or call at 412.334.0981.

To learn more about Trex recycling visit their website at www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/. Please recycle your grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, ziplock and other re-sealable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue. ■

2019 EECM Holiday "Berry" Project Follow-up

This Christmas, Calvary parishioners provided gifts to 75 participants of East End Cooperative Ministry housing programs, by donating three requested items per person: something wanted, something needed, and a book or calendar. These gifts relieve the financial burden on many East End families at Christmas, provide essential household goods and clothing, and brighten the holidays.

In addition, Calvary parishioners contributed 68 \$25 Giant Eagle gift cards for distribution to EECM food pantry participants. These gift cards are particularly appreciated this time of year as children are off from school for two weeks and parents can use the gift cards to stretch their December food supplies.

Thanks to all of you who chose berries and brought in your wrapped gifts on time for Christmas delivery to the recipients! Thanks also to the volunteers who helped to sort and bag the gifts, and deliver the seven car loads of gifts to the EECM Community Center for distribution to the participating families. And special thanks to Calvary clergy and staff for their strong support of this project. ■

2019 Women of Calvary Bazaar Grant Recipients

Last year's Bazaar was held on November 2 and the proceeds are being tallied. But, last year's bazaar proceeds have been awarded to many deserving organizations. As is our tradition, we try to prioritize those organizations which help women and children in the East End, and Pittsburgh in general. Here is the listing of the grant recipients for 2019. Thank you to everyone who contributed time and talent and treasure to the bazaar, to help these organizations.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Allegheny County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) train community volunteers who work with the complex child welfare system to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children. WOC's grant of \$2,000 provides the funds to support the costs of advocacy for two children for one year.

Casa San Jose

Originally begun by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Casa San Jose provides support to recently arrived Latinos who are immigrants or refugees. WOC's grant of \$1,000 will provide funds for emergency needs such as doctor appointments, shoes, DACA renewal, etc.

Calvary Lincoln After School Program (CLASP)

Throughout the year, Calvary participates with the Lincoln School to enrich the lives of students through art and culture. During the summer months, many CLASP students attend Calvary Camp. WOC's grant of \$2,400 supports the scholarships for these Lincoln students.

Diocesan Garden Grant Program

The Diocese supports Episcopal parishes that create or sustain functioning vegetable gardens to supply locally grown produce for our neighbors who have limited access to fresh produce and healthy food supplies. WOC's grant of \$500 will support one new parish sponsored garden .

Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF)

The HCEF is a non-profit agency solely dedicated to providing educational opportunities and experiences for children and youth residing in 27 of Allegheny County's homeless shelters. WOC's grant of \$1,500 supports the Building Blocks after school program for tutoring/mentoring.

Jubilee Association

Originally begun as the Jubilee Soup Kitchen, for over 30 years the Jubilee Association serves countless homeless and near-homeless with meals, medical clinic, pantry services and assistance in social services such as housing, healthcare and early child development. WOC's grant of \$2,000 provides needed resources to the John Heinz Child Development Center Scholarship Fund. In addition this year, we contributed \$150 in memory of the departed Sr. Ligouri Rossner, the founder of Jubilee Kitchen.

Off the Floor Pittsburgh

Off the Floor is a local Christian ministry dedicated to supporting families who cannot afford basic furniture for their homes. They delivered needed furniture to over 400 households this year, including over 1,800 children, with a waiting list of 78 families. WOC's grant of \$2,500 provides funds to assist at least 10 families on the waiting list.

Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI)

The Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute is Western Pennsylvania's oldest interfaith counseling center providing mental health services to over 1000 persons annually. The WOC grant of \$2,000 supports the Client Aid Fund, which provides funds for over 100 sessions for women who need PPI's counseling services, but who cannot afford the fee.

Pittsburgh Weil School

Pittsburgh Weil Elementary School is a Pre-K to 5th grade school located in Pittsburgh's Hill District. Many families do not have the financial resources to provide their children with gifts for the school's annual Christmas Fun Night. WOC's grant of \$1,000 supplements the Weil Christmas Fund to provide a gift and a holiday meal for each of the 200 students.

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship

Shepherd's Heart provides multiple services for veterans and others who are homeless, providing temporary shelter, drop-in center, food pantry, community gathering and worship center. WOC's grant of \$1,000 supports the chaplain for the Shepherd's Heart Veterans Home for spiritual counseling, prayer, mentoring and encouragement.

Shepherd Wellness Community

Shepherd Wellness Community is the only HIV/AIDS community in Western Pennsylvania, offering a safe, compassionate community accepting and empowering people affected by HIV/AIDS to live with dignity. WOC's grant of \$2,000 will support the Wellness Dinners and support groups sponsored for members and their families.

Trinity Cathedral Walk-In Ministry

Trinity Cathedral hosts a walk-in ministry that provides food, toiletries, clothing, and referral services to the homeless, disabled, and impoverished. It is staffed wholly by volunteers from parishes across the region. WOC's grant of \$1,500 will enable the program to purchase some of these necessities.

Calvary Clergy Discretionary Fund

Throughout the year, our clergy minister to and counsel many people, and support a myriad of pastoral needs. As the Women of Calvary have done for many years, the annual grant of \$3,000 provides monetary support to the clergy for the unanticipated needs of those who come to them for solace and support. ■

Children's Christian Formation

Happy New Year!

December was an exciting month for the children and youth of Calvary. On Saturday, December 14, two of our Christian Formation classes held their first Annual Christmas Cookie Extravaganza at Michael, Kelly, Carter and Preston Glass's home. Everyone brought their own special cookie dough. We then baked and decorated dozens of cookies, ate snacks, and drank hot chocolate. The snowy afternoon helped put us in the holiday spirit. The big surprise at the end of our event happened when Santa, who was circling the neighborhood in a local Fire Truck, stopped by to wish us a Merry Christmas. We shared our cookies with Santa and his helpers. We then shared our cookies with each other and parishioners during Coffee Hour the following morning.

We were very pleased with the turnout for our Christmas Pageant on December 22. Thanks to all the many families who participated this year! We also thank Barnyard Petting Zoo for bringing the goats, donkey, and camel. Young children and youth from Calvary, Beginnings, and our community along with parents, volunteers, and live animals together helped us create the most beautiful, meaningful Christmas Story for all who attended – including members of the Tree of Life/Or L'Simcha Congregation. Pageant participants hosted Coffee Hour afterward while members of the synagogue set up for their Hanukkah Party. The events after the service were very child friendly as we sang the Dreidel Song with their Rabbi in the Parish Hall and made both Hanukkah and Christmas crafts in the Refectory. The latkes and jam-filled donuts were enjoyed by all.

The new church year has begun, and we continue to use Living the Good News as our guide as we follow the liturgical calendar each Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

During the four weeks of January, our children and youth through grade 7 are learning about following Jesus and being a part of God's family, with specific focus on the following:

2nd Sunday after Christmas/Epiphany: Wise Men Visit. Jesus shines as light for our world.

1st Sunday after the Epiphany: Jesus is baptized. We explore the meaning of Baptism.

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany: Jesus is the Lamb of God. Like the first disciples, we too follow Jesus.

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany – Jesus calls four Fishers. We are invited to follow Jesus.

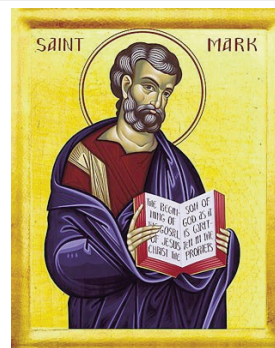
Our Confirmation Class continues for grades 8 and 9, and they are using Faith Confirmed: Preparing for Confirmation.

We are searching for volunteers to help us build a strong program for our older youth in High School. Most have been Confirmed and are involved to some degree in our Church community. This is a critical-age group who need our extra

support and guidance as they are preparing to encounter all the many challenges adult life has to offer. Please contact me if you are interested.

Our Polo group (Parents of Little Ones) will be meeting for lunch after Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 26. Nursery care will be provided so that they can focus their attention on getting to know other parents at Calvary. Additional information will be sent to our parents via email. Please also look for details in our Sunday bulletin.

–Tammy Lewis, Director of Children's Christian Formation
tlewis@calvarypgh.org, 412.661.0120 ext. 116 ■

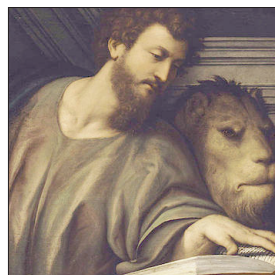


Gospel of Mark Class

Sundays at 10 a.m. in McClintic Hall, the Rector leads a class on the Gospel of Mark. We will meet through April or until the class concludes.

The Gospel of Mark is the oldest and briefest of our recorded Gospels, sixteen short chapters. The narrative opens with a prophecy from Isaiah and leads straight into John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord Jesus. This Gospel is filled with healing stories and a dramatic trial and crucifixion all pointing to the Kingdom of God. A motif that occurs is the “Messianic Secret” in which Jesus is portrayed as telling his followers not to tell others about who he really is. Oddly, the Gospel has two endings.

Please join us as we explore the Gospel of Mark together. Resources are available in the Calvary Bookstore.



Mark the Evangelist by
Il Pordenone
(c. 1484 – 1539)

Mark the Evangelist is most often depicted writing or holding his gospel. In Christian tradition, he is symbolized by a lion. Mark the Evangelist attributes are the lion in the desert; he can be depicted as a bishop on a throne decorated with lions; as a man helping Venetian sailors. He is often depicted holding a book with *pax tibi Marce* written on it or holding a palm and book. Other depictions of Mark show him as a man with a book or scroll, accompanied by a winged lion. The lion might also be associated with Jesus' Resurrection because lions were believed to sleep with open eyes, thus a comparison with Christ in his tomb, and Christ as king. ■

Emails purporting to come from Bishop McConnell, the Rector, or Other Staff Members

There are reports from several members of the diocese who have received emails purporting to be from Bishop McConnell, the Rector of Calvary, and other Rectors of congregations. The first is a general greeting, and then once the individual responds, the second asks recipients to purchase gift cards for a friend of one of the clergy.

This is a phishing or spoofing scheme. These are NOT from Bishop McConnell or other clergy and are not originating from their email accounts, so rest assured that his account has not been hacked. Someone IS using their names, after creating an email address that looks close enough to one that MIGHT be his that some may be fooled.

Delete any such emails, and then delete them from your deleted folder. Some email services, like Gmail, Outlook and Yahoo, allow you to report a suspected phishing scheme. Check the help section of your email service.

If you want to see the address from which an email originates, always check the address in the "From" area of your email. If it doesn't automatically show up, you can hover your cursor over the name, and the email address will appear.

This type of deception is called "phishing" because the sender is casting out a wide net to see if someone will bite on their request. When it involves the executive of an organization, it's known as "whaling" – using the biggest "phish" the sender can find.

If you want to learn more about this kind of nefarious activity, information provided on the Episcopal Diocese of Newark website may be helpful: www.dioceseofnewark.org/geeks/whaling-email-attacks-how-foil-them

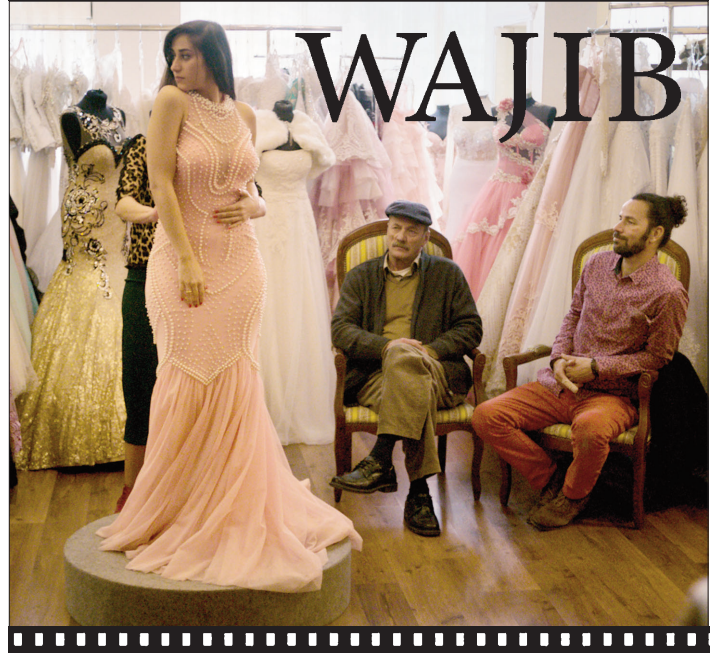
And as always, if you receive a suspicious email from anyone on the diocesan staff, please check with the diocesan office at 412.721.0853 or the Calvary office at 412.661.0120. ■

Souper Sale

Thanks to everyone that supported the Soup Group sale on Sunday, January 12. We made over \$700 that day. This money will defray the cost of moving a freezer from Tree of Life to Calvary. Preparing, packaging, labeling, cleaning up, selling and sampling were all important to the success of this sale. Many hands make light work! Apologies to those that did not have the opportunity to buy frozen soups. With a new freezer we will be able to have a bigger space to store our soup and have more frozen soup available for our next sale.

We still have soup in our freezer for our ongoing ministry. Please feel free to give soup to our friends, family and fellow parishioners. **We will have our next cooking session on Friday, February 14 at 9 a.m. in Calvary's kitchen.** All are welcome! We hope our new freezer will be ready for us by then. —Adele Eley, adele.eley@gmail.com, 412.371.6921 ■

Calvary Movie Night Thursday, January 30, 2020



WAJIB (The Wedding)

Against a backdrop of the ongoing Israeli occupation of the West Bank of Palestine, a Palestinian father Abu and son Shadi organize a wedding for Abu's daughter Amal. They are Christians and there will be a Christmas wedding.

The father and son are an "odd couple" reminiscent of Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. This is a comedy drama and the father-son bickerings are both hilarious and poignant. The father-son actors are really father and son.

In the film, Abu is played by Mohammad Bakri, Shadi is played by Saleh Bakri, Abu's daughter is played by Maria Zreik. Directed by Annemarie Jacir (2018). The location is a very steep Nazareth.

Please bring a friend or spouse and a salad for two in the Refectory at 6 p.m. The film (with English subtitles) begins promptly at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall to be followed by a brief discussion led by Clint Van Dusen.

Please make a reservation at 412.660.2297 or email Clint at apax4cmvd@msn.com by **Sunday, January 26, 2020.**

—Coming Attractions—

Thursday, March 5:

Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston, and Nicole Kidman in
"The Upside"

Thursday, April 2:

Joseph Fiennes in
"Risen"

Thursday, May 7:

The Gospel According to Today –
"Godspell" ■

CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
email: calvary@calvarypg.org ■ www.calvarypg.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*
The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*
Jamie McMahon, *Senior Warden*
Sue DeWalt, *Junior Warden*
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*
Tammy Lewis, *Director, Beginnings;*
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, Andy Dilts, Ron Johnston,
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*
Sherry Bloom, *Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary*
Robert Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

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

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, February 7, 2020**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypg.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.calvarypg.org. Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■



SHELDON CALVARY CAMP HOLY EUCHARIST at CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sheldon Calvary Camp service, an informal celebration of the Holy Eucharist, will meet in the Refectory at 3 p.m. on **Sundays, January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26, and May 24**. Then we will be at camp for the summer. The Rev. Leslie Reimer is the celebrant, and we use music from the Camp songbook. Mark your calendars and join us when you can. ■



Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for a fun evening of fellowship, Calvary's 17th Annual Chili Fest on **Saturday, January 25, 2020**. Plan to chill out with some chili, cornbread, salads and other "fixins" and celebrate the start of a new year.

Signup sheets are now available in the Parish Hall on Sundays and across from the Reception desk during the week. One sheet is for attendance and food/beverage contributions; the other is for volunteers. **We will begin serving at 6 p.m., so please plan to arrive at 5:30.**

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer now to be part of the planning, please contact Sarah Wilson at 412.586.4636 or e-mail sarahw@scw52.com. Thank you. ■

Coffee Hours

We encourage individuals who would like to contribute baked goods for the coffee hour after the 11 o'clock service to contact Judy Wootten. We will coordinate you with other individuals on a specific Sunday. Groups and organizations at Calvary could consider hosting a Sunday to mark a special occasion or honoring a particular event or person. Please sign up on the display in the Parish Hall or contact Judy Wootten at 724.733.1660 or by email jcwootten@comcast.net to schedule a Sunday. **Thank you to those who have already signed up!** ■



News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



St. Paul's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, will be participating in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Pittsburgh on January 26, 2021 and returning via Tel Aviv on February 6, 2021.

The tour will be guided by Qumri Pilgrimages, operated by Iyad Qumri, former Canon to the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Mr. Qumri has guided tours in the Holy Land, where he was born, and where he has raised his family, for 20 years. For a sample itinerary and more, visit www.iyadqumripilgrimages.com. A group from St. Paul's toured with Qumri Pilgrimages in February 2019.

The cost of the trip is estimated at \$4,000 for people sleeping two per room and there are single occupancy rooms available at a slightly higher rate. This includes tours, lodging, meals while there, tip to tour agency, airfare and travel insurance. We will be staying at hotels in Jerusalem and Nazareth during this pilgrimage.

We will begin meeting as a group in the months before the pilgrimage to build community and prepare for the experience.

If you are interested in going, please contact the Rev. Noah Evans at noah@stpaulspgh.org, Rector, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. The deadline is February 1, 2020. ■

ECW Fall 2019 Grants Awarded

Grants for the following organizations were approved at the November 23, 2019, meeting of the Episcopal Church Women:

- Bishop's Discretionary Fund
- The Chapel at UPMC St. Margaret, Aspinwall
- Church of the Advent, Brookline, for community Christmas dinner
- Grateful Hearts Purse Project, St. Francis-in-the-Field, Somerset
- Wilkesburg Sanctuary Project for Peace - Art and Talent Show, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill
- Church of the Atonement, Carnegie, Christmas Open House
- Episcopal Relief and Development

—Janet Stephenson, *ECW Finance Committee Chair* ■



Puerto Rico earthquakes severely damage churches

By Egan Millard, posted January 8, 2020

Several churches in the Diocese of Puerto Rico have suffered severe damage from the series of earthquakes that have struck the island in recent days, killing at least one person and injuring at least eight.

Hundreds of minor earthquakes have hit Puerto Rico's southwest coast since December 28, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, but a 5.8-magnitude quake on January 6 and a 6.4-magnitude one on January 7 destroyed buildings and shut down the island's power grid, leading to a state of emergency declaration.

Two of the diocese's churches – Santa Cecilia in Guánica and San Juan Apóstol in Yauco – appear to be in danger of collapsing, according to the Very Rev. Mario Rodríguez, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in San Juan and

—continues on the back

the diocese's canon to the ordinary. Santo Nombre in Ponce and the Quinta Tranquila retreat center in Yauco also suffered major structural damage, Rodríguez told Episcopal News Service. Other church buildings had minor damage.

“We have been monitoring the situation closely and tomorrow (Wednesday) a team from the Diocesan Center, including a structural engineer, will go to the affected areas to carry out a formal damage assessment and to coordinate relief efforts,” Rodríguez said by email. “Today, local teams began to distribute water and meals in affected areas. These efforts will be reinforced tomorrow by the team from the Diocesan Center.”

Puerto Rico has endured a string of crises in recent years, from the devastation of Hurricane Maria in 2017 to a massive political scandal in 2019.

“Today our Puerto Rico faces again the challenge of keeping calm and moving forward with faith and hope,” Rodríguez posted on the cathedral's Facebook page. “Certainly, we are not newbies in this, but yes, vulnerable sons and daughters of God. We face with faith this expression of our nature and trust in the God who loves us and who we call father.” ■

Lambeth Conference

[Anglican Communion News Service] Preparations are well underway for this year's Lambeth Conference in Canterbury. This gathering, to which all active bishops of the Anglican Communion's member churches are invited, takes place approximately every 10 years and will run from July 23 – August 2. The Anglican Consultative Council, Anglican Alliance and Lambeth Conference Company are all part of the Anglican Communion Office in London. Read the full article at www.anglicannews.org. ■

Son of El Salvador bishop detained by ICE in Ohio, denied asylum

By Egan Millard, Posted January 10, 2020

The son of the Anglican bishop of El Salvador, who fled to the United States after being kidnapped and threatened in his home country, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in November, his father says. Now, with his request for asylum denied, he is in jail in Ohio awaiting potential deportation. Bishop David Alvarado of the Diocese of El Salvador, which is part of the Anglican Church of Central America, said his 34-year-old son Josue Alvarado Guerra had to flee El Salvador because his life was in danger. He had been working as a taxi driver in Colón, just northwest of San Salvador, one of the most dangerous cities in the country with the world's highest homicide rate.

The Rev. Aaron Gerlach, rector of Old Trinity Episcopal Church in Tiffin, Ohio, has been visiting Alvarado Guerra in jail – where he is not allowed to receive phone calls – to provide pastoral and logistical support, along with members of his congregation. ■

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

January 19: St. James Episcopal Church, Penn Hills, and the Rev. Eric McIntosh

January 26: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Monongahela, and the Rev. Charles Schaller (ELCA)

February 2: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Brentwood, the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler, and the Rev. Howard Gillette

February 9: All Souls Episcopal Church, North Versailles, and the Rev. Dr. Terry Hunt

February 16: Emmanuel Episcopal Church, North Side, and the Rev. Don Youse, Jr., M.D. ■

Bishop's Visitation Schedule

January 19 St. James, Penn Hills

January 26 St. Paul's, Monongahela

February 2 *No Visitation*

February 9 All Souls, North Versailles

February 16 Emmanuel, North Side ■



www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh

Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at

www.episcopalpgh.org

Submissions for publication on the diocesan web site, calendar, and the *Grace Happens* weekly e-newsletter should be sent electronically to

info@episcopalpgh.org.

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

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh mailing address:

325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-721-0853 | info@episcopalpgh.org

The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, Bishop

412-721-0853 ext. 252 | dmccConnell@episcopalpgh.org

Andy Muhl, Executive Assistant

412-721-0853 ext. 251 | amuhl@episcopalpgh.org ■



RAINBOW READING GROUP



LGBTQIA + Book Discussion Group



Fourth Thursday of the month | 6:30 pm

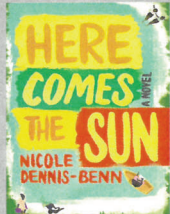
CLP – Main, Director’s Conference Room, First Floor

Discuss contemporary and classic LGBTQIA+ fiction and nonfiction

January 23, 2020

Spinning by Tillie Walden

A graphic memoir recounts the years Walden spent competitively figure skating, before her developing love of art and first girlfriend causes her to question the insular world of figure skating.



February 27, 2020

Here Comes the Sun by Nicole Dennis-Benn

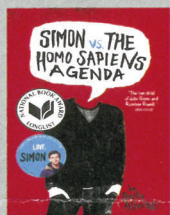
Working as a prostitute near the pristine beaches and turquoise seas of Jamaica to pay for a younger sister's education, Margot hopes that a new hotel that is reshaping her home will grant her financial independence and allow her to pursue a forbidden affair with another woman.



March 26, 2020

Mostly Dead Things by Kristen Arnett

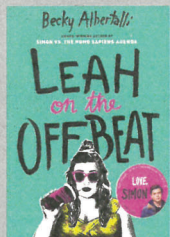
Taking over her family's failing taxidermy shop in the wake of her father's suicide, a grief-stricken woman pursues less-than-legal ways of generating income while struggling to figure out her place among her eccentric loved ones.



April 23, 2020

Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

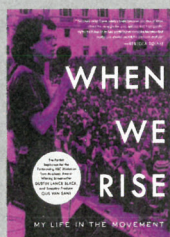
Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now change-averse Simon must find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out—without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met.



May 28, 2020

Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli

With prom and graduation around the corner, senior Leah Burke struggles when her group of friends start fighting.



June 25, 2020

When We Rise: My Life in the Movement by Cleve Jones

The partial inspiration for a forthcoming ABC television miniseries from Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, longtime LGBTQ and AIDS activist Cleve Jones' memoir is a sweeping, profoundly moving account of his life from sexually liberated 1970s San Francisco, through the AIDS crisis and up to his present-day involvement with the marriage equality battle.

Some book descriptions taken from NovelList. © 2019 EBSCO Publishing

More information can be found on the library's website carnegielibrary.org and at <https://www.rainbowreadinggroup.org/>.



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Calvary Movie Night: Thursday, January 30, 2020

Parish Hall
apax4cmvd

WAJIB UM CONVITE DE CASAMENTO

واجب

de ANNEMARIE JACIR



SELEÇÃO OFICIAL

tiff
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2017



FESTIVAL DE LOCARNO
PRÊMIO DON QUIXOTE E PRÊMIO DO JÚRI JOVEM

NOMINADO
AOS PRÊMIOS DE
MELHOR ATOR/ELI
ASIAN PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS

MELHOR FILME E
MELHOR ATOR
FESTIVAL INTL. DE
MAR DEL PLATA

MELHOR FILME E
MELHOR ATOR
FESTIVAL INTL.
DE DUBAI

PRÊMIO DO JÚRI
BFI FILM FESTIVAL
LONDRES

PRÊMIO DO JÚRI
MED FILM ROMA

MELHOR FILME E
PRÊMIO DO PÚBLICO
AMIENS
FILM FESTIVAL

MELHOR FILME
FESTIVAL INTL.
KERALA

OSSAMA BAWARDI APRESENTA UMA PRODUÇÃO DE PHILISTINE FILMS UM FILME DE ANNEMARIE JACIR COM MOHAMMAD BAKRI E SALEH BAKRI
CO-PRODUZIDA POR METAFORA PRODUCTIONS, JBA PRODUCTION, KLINKFILM, CIUDAD LUNAR, APEGBJORN, SNOWGLOBE FILM, SHORTCUT FILMS
EM ASSOCIAÇÃO COM CACTUS WWDORL FILMS DIREÇÃO DE FOTOGRAFIA ANTOINE HEBERLE MÚSICA DE FUNDO NAEL KAND EDITORA JACQUES COMETS TÍTULO ORIGINAL HAMADA ATALLAH
COM CARLOS GARCÍA E KOSTAS VARYMPOIOTIS PRODUZIDO POR OSSAMA BAWARDI CENÁRIO E DIREÇÃO POR ANNEMARIE JACIR

Come for a salad supper (prepare for 2) in the Refectory (at 6 p.m.)
Film starts promptly at 7 p.m. followed by a brief discussion
led by Clint Van Dusen, in the Parish Hall

Please RSVP to Clint by Sunday, January 26
at apax4cmvd@msn.com or 412.660.2297