

Agape

The Newsletter of
Calvary Episcopal Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 12, 2023

**Sermon Preached by
The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, Rector
on the Retirement of James Knight, Sexton,
on January 29, 2023**

I Corinthians 1:18-31

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

41 years is a very long time to work in one place in one community. That's longer than the Israelites wandered in the desert looking for the Promised Land. 40 years was how long the biblical kings Saul, David, and Solomon each ruled Israel. 40 years, in the Bible, is considered a generation. That means a new group rose up, lived, and then died off. It signifies a time of transition from one era or generation to the next. James Knight, our sexton, has worked here longer than that, a generation and a year.

For years and years he was the first person to open Calvary alone in the dark many mornings... fighting with obstinate boilers, making coffee so it was ready when others arrived, and standing watch at church and the Beginnings pre-school that started less than a year after he arrived.

James saw things and knows things and did things that few else ever have or will. The Sunday he was first out, we realized the hymn board had not been changed. There were some doors locked and lights not on. The candles didn't burn right because they had no oil. James simply tended to the place in ways seldom noticed unless one is not there. Love is in the details.

Each summer we do a deep clean. James polished every floor so it would sparkle. He took great pride in it as he should. During the pandemic we cleaned even more. James took apart the whole kitchen and scoured everything. He lovingly and patiently cared for the things we see and will never see but rely on to be there when we need them.

James has also known as many people at Calvary as any member. There is a wonderful video interview recently recorded of him. The raw footage is over an hour of James recalling one thing after another. We have a six minute version available on our website. His first story is telling how he arrived at Calvary. It was to be a part-time job for six months while another sexton was away. He came for six months and stayed for good. He recalled each person working at Calvary 41 years ago by name and what they did. He is a living repository of history. Love is in the details.

My fondest memories of James are standing in the parish hall, towering over his two moms, Jean Robinson and Barbara Hicks, smiling and telling stories about Calvary. James (and Weezie Wells) taught me as much about Calvary as anyone. Not just history and facts or things that happened. When James held court it felt like your favorite uncle at a family reunion telling stories about where we come from and why that matters touched.

Now James is not perfect. No saint is perfect, just forgiven and loved. How many times did we hear, "James, can you move that table?" "No, we can't do that," followed by a huge sigh or "Oh, my God." A few

—continued on page 2

Sermon, continued from page 1

seconds later it was, “Where do you want the table?” What emerges clearly, more than anything, is deep love and loyalty to the people and place of Calvary Church. We celebrate who he is and what he shared with us all these years.

I want to frame the witness he shared with the Letter to the Corinthians, our epistle reading for today. James Knight embodied what the Apostle Paul is teaching. Knowing him can help us better understand the point Paul is making and comprehend the core of our faith in Jesus.

Paul had founded this community in the city of Corinth several years before. He received word there were some problems there. He addressed them in the epistle. Think of this as a love letter to a community he holds dear who have lost their way. Come back to the faith you received.

In the first part of the letter, he calls for unity among the people. The point is elaborated, in numerous ways, throughout. The section we read today is why there is unity and its basis, the Cross of Jesus. This is what matters. When Paul says the Cross, it is shorthand for the Incarnation, Crucifixion and Resurrection through which God redeems the world in Jesus. This is the core of our faith the world cannot understand but energizes and directs all we do and are.

For Paul, the Gospel is not one competing claim to truth or a plan for better living, one more alternative lifestyle. The crucifixion and resurrection form the announcement of a divine intervention in the world to redeem it and make it whole again starting with you.

This divine intervention, in which God becomes incarnate in Christ, sets up a contrast... those who live from the Cross and those who chase the world. It proclaims a reversal of status... the theme in the Beatitudes from the Gospel reading. Living from the Cross transforms the world and makes sense of everything. You have forgotten that people of Corinth. Why are you chasing after these other things the world values rather than what matters most?

To make his argument, Paul utilizes several quotes from the Old Testament woven throughout. In his place and time, three examples contrasted to the Cross of Christ stood out; the Greek philosophers, the Torah scholars, and the orators.

The knowledge of the Greeks failed to grasp the wisdom of God. They expected a wise teacher of truth logically proclaimed in a tidy system. Instead, Jesus came healing and telling stories proclaiming the arrival of the reign of God and what that looks like. The Torah scholars expected Messiah to be a religious, political, and military leader demonstrating signs of power. Instead, Jesus came as a servant, associating with people of low and high standing, offering his life and claiming no kingdom but of heaven. The great orators of that time were esteemed as highly as

movie and sports stars of today. Instead, Jesus did not write down anything and offered his life as his great Word to the world.

Paul continues by reminding his brothers and sisters in Corinth that they are not wise or powerful or esteemed by worldly standards. This is not Davos or the UN, a gathering of the elite, but ordinary people. Some were rich or powerful but most were not. It is striking how diverse the early Christian community was socioeconomically with men and women, slave and free, rich and poor, and different races gathered in unity in Christ Jesus. His point is that God chose to work through ordinary people in ordinary ways. The elite may think they are saving the world but God already has in the most unexpected way. And we are invited to join the way through the Cross.

To drive the point home, he quotes a portion of the Song of Hannah from the Book of Samuel. It is like hearing a familiar chorus that immediately calls to mind the whole song. It is Hannah’s song in thanksgiving for the birth of her son, Samuel. It is strikingly similar to the Magnificat from Mary. She gives thanks to God for the reversal of fortunes when the LORD is present.

“Let not the wise boast in wisdom, nor let the mighty boast in strength, and let not the rich boast in wealth; but let the one that boasts boast in this, to understand and know the Lord, and to execute judgement and justice in the midst of the earth.” Song of Hannah from the Septuagint version of I Samuel 2

God’s way of the Cross upends the way of the world that greatness is found in wealth or power or fame. Instead, God’s joy and peace, the Cross of Jesus, are found in the subtle and small of giving oneself to God and our neighbors. The Incarnation is manifested in those details.

James Knight, St. James, embodied that for 41 years at Calvary. He had the skill to be an architect but chose to live out his vocation in less glamorous but no less important ways. He grasped the wisdom of the Cross. Crafting candles while hoping he did not burn down the building. Unlocking doors, turning on lights, and making coffee so everyone felt welcome. Standing a head above everyone telling stories and laughing. Working behind the scenes to make Calvary the Calvary we cherish enough to share. 41 years of doing the little things that become one, long love letter over time.

Each of us cultivates a life over time. We can chase wealth and power and fame, or find the Cross in the subtle and small of the ordinary. For this love is in the details. What letter will you write with your life? ■

Overheard from an out-of-town guest at Chili Fest: “This is how church used to be. This is how a church family ought to be.” ■

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER AT CALVARY 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY: *February 22*

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, will be celebrated at
7 A.M., Noon, and 7:30 P.M.
Imposition of Ashes at all services

Ashes To Go will be available in the
front driveway circle at
12:15 P.M. and 6 P.M.



SUNDAYS IN LENT

February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
will be celebrated at 8 A.M., 9 A.M., 11 A.M.
*The Great Litany in Procession
on February 26 at 11 A.M.*



WEEKDAYS IN LENT

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated
in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays at Noon

Evening Prayer will be offered
in the Lady Chapel on
Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 6 P.M.

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated
in the Lady Chapel on Thursdays at 6 P.M.



LENTEN QUIET DAY

Saturday, March 4 at 9 A.M.
We will begin in the Lady Chapel



CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday, March 5, at 5 P.M.

Palm Sunday, April 2

Liturgy of the Palms,
Holy Eucharist and Sermon
at 8, 9 & 11 A.M.

Musical Meditation on the Passion of the Christ
at 5 P.M.

Monday in Holy Week, April 3

The Holy Eucharist, in the Lady Chapel, 6 P.M.

Tuesday in Holy Week, April 4

The Holy Eucharist, in the Lady Chapel, 6 P.M.

Wednesday in Holy Week, April 5

The Holy Eucharist, in the Lady Chapel,
at Noon and 6 P.M.

Maundy Thursday, April 6

The Holy Eucharist in the Lady Chapel, at 12 Noon;
The Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar,
7:30 P.M.

Good Friday, April 7

Good Friday Liturgy, 12 Noon;
*Following the service, the Church will remain open
for meditation from 1:30 until 3 P.M.*
Good Friday Liturgy, 7:30 P.M.

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 8, 8 P.M.

Lighting of the Paschal Candle, Scriptural Prophecies,
Baptisms, and the First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day, April 9

Holy Eucharist and Homily at 8 A.M.
Festal Holy Eucharist and Sermon at 9 & 11 A.M.
Easter Egg Hunt, 10:15 A.M.



James Knight's Farewell

On January 28 and 29 we said farewell to our beloved sexton of 41 years, James Knight. On Saturday, we had a wonderful Chili Fest organized by the Parish Council, Vestry, and many volunteers. Thank you to all who helped, brought food and participated. We had an overflowing parish hall with people glad to be together.



James was presented with a generous check collected from the whole parish and over-sized thank you cards. Members of the Tree of Life Synagogue also presented him with a card and check in thanksgiving for his help with that community.

On Sunday, we had a festive reception to honor James and his ministry with us. Thank you to Barbara Hicks, Judy Wooten, and many volunteers. The beautiful silver serving sets were brought out for the first time in three years. The Ethiopian community and teachers from the Beginnings Preschool also came to celebrate James. His family presented James with a plaque to honor his vocation.

Well done, James, and thank you from all of us at Calvary Church.
—Jonathon ■



Gospel and Breakfast

Sundays, 10–10:45 a.m.
Now extended through Lent!

This class is an opportunity for all parents of young children and all young adults to meet for fellowship, light breakfast, and a discussion of the Gospel passage appointed for the day. We will gather in the Evans Room on Sundays during the Christian Formation hour (10–10:45 a.m.). The nursery will be open at that time, or you can bring your little one(s) along if you prefer.

If you are a young adult and/or the parent of young children, please join us! Questions? Please contact Cameron at csoulis@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 123. ■

Daily Prayer in Lent

Calvary will be offering additional weekday liturgies during the season of Lent. **Evening Prayer** will be offered in the Lady Chapel at 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday each week of Lent. **Holy Eucharist** will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel at 6 p.m. each Thursday in Lent.

We invite you to join us at any or all of these liturgies as part of your Lenten observance. ■



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21, 2023
from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

\$10 per person / \$20 per family

Please make reservations with Kim
at 412.661.0120 ext.111
or kpieratt@calvarypgh.org

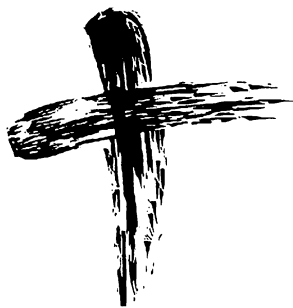


Lenten Quiet Day

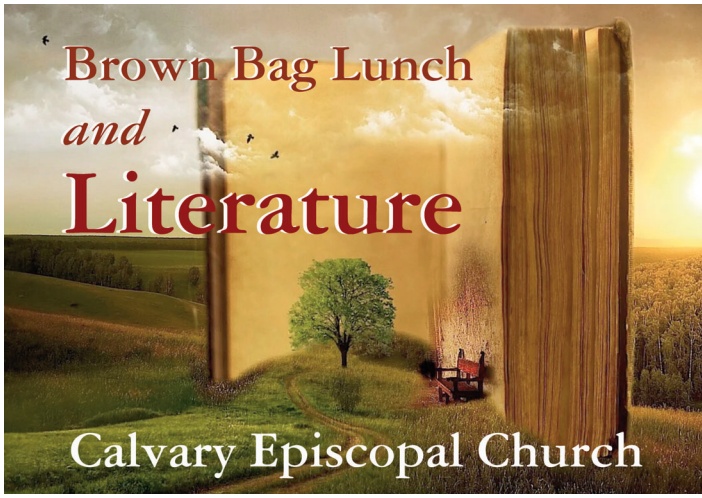
Saturday, March 4th, 9 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Adults of all ages are invited to our Lenten Quiet Day, an opportunity to slow down, be quiet, spend time with God and refresh your spirit. The morning will include worship, meditations on the theme, and periods of silence, during which participants can choose to pray, read, draw, or journal on their own. We will end our time together with a Eucharist in the Lady Chapel. The theme for this Lenten Quiet Day is “Slow Down,” when we’ll consider how adding more sabbath to our days can make for a richer spiritual life.

Look for more information and a sign-up in the coming weeks. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Rev. Cameron Soulis (csoulis@calvarypgh.org). ■



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 22



Tuesdays at Noon, in the Nave

In many retreat settings, at mealtime literature of various kinds is read to those eating their meal in silence. Join us at noon every Tuesday for the public reading of selections from great literature.

Unplug and relax in the beauty of one of Pittsburgh’s architectural gems while your imagination is nourished by wonderful readings.

February 14 – Selections from Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon*.

February 21 – Selections from Zora Neale Hurston’s *Moses, Man of the Mountain*.

February 28 – Selections from Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*.

Contact The Rev. Geoffrey Royce at groyce@calvarypgh.org for more information ■

CHILI FEST THANK YOU!

For anyone who hoped for irrefutable evidence that “We’re baaaack!”, it was provided Saturday, January 28, at Calvary’s annual-except-when-there’s-a-pandemic Chili Fest. With its primary focus on celebrating our beloved sexton, James Knight, on the occasion of his retirement after 41 years at Calvary, the 18th annual Chili Fest was a resounding success.

A crowd of 150 people, adults and children included, gathered in the over-flowing Parish Hall to choose from, and enjoy, 30 varieties of chili, 23 different kinds of cornbread, and 15 salads. Ample contributions of beer, wine, and soft drinks, and LOTS of water, quenched the thirsts caused by some very spicy chilis. Returning after a long hiatus, an informal polling took place for the chilis, with some creative and amusing categories. Clearly, everyone won, simply by being at the event.

The evening provided a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends and to get to know fellow parishioners for the first time. The evening’s highlights, however, were a video of James talking about his early years at Calvary – amazingly, he remembers the names, and positions, of all the people with whom he first worked – and the singing of a song for James, “Lead Me to Calvary” with specially crafted lyrics by Stan Nevola.

Many thanks to everyone who participated, especially the many volunteers who helped with decorations, set-up, registration, food distribution, and clean-up. Special shout-out to our indefatigable sextons, and to the staff, who always step up to ensure Chili Fest’s success.

Mark your calendars now for the 19th annual Chili Fest, on January 27, 2024. See you then! ■

It’s a Baby Shower!

for Elizabeth Gassler and Neil Raman

Please join us on Sunday, February 26, 2023, for a festive coffee hour in the Parish Hall after the 11 o’clock service



If you would like to give a gift card to Elizabeth and Neil, you may drop it off at the Reception Desk, mail it to the church office, or bring it to the February 26 coffee hour.

We suggest a card from



Elizabeth and Neil are also registered at www.babylist.com/baby-elizabeth-gassler

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We are asking for donations of savory foods (small sandwiches, olives, grapes, cheese and crackers, or other nibbles) for the Baby Shower for Neil and Elizabeth. Please leave any donations early on that Sunday so our team can plate and arrange. Any questions, please contact Kathy Farrington at farringtonk@me.com. Thanks!

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MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



Lent will soon be upon us. By as early as the fourth century, Christians set aside for special observance the forty days that precede Easter (excluding Sundays), using this time particularly as a period of preparation for Holy Baptism, to be administered at the Easter Vigil.

The English word for this season probably comes from the German word *Lenz*, meaning *spring*. As the Prayer Book “Invitation to a Holy Lent” reminds us, this season has traditionally been a period of “prayer, fasting, and self-denial,” a time in which to reaffirm our commitment to living a Christian life.

Liturgically, the season is marked by the suppression of our most joyful liturgical expressions, and by a somewhat starker liturgical and musical environment. This prevails even on the Sundays that punctuate Lent (Sundays that are said to be *in*, but not *of* Lent), when the *Gloria in excelsis* and the word “Alleluia” are expunged from our liturgies, both to return in the jubilation of the Easter Vigil. The color of hangings changes to purple, a color traditionally associated with penitence. Some of the liturgical changes during this season include the opening of the 11 o’clock service on the First Sunday of Lent with the Great Litany, and a shift to Eucharistic Prayer A and the less-often-used post-Communion prayer printed on page 366.

Both the 9 and 11 o’clock services will see the season marked by some musical changes from “normal” use: at 9, the Song of Praise each week will employ stanzas of the familiar hymn, *Lord, who throughout these forty days*, and the *Santus* will change to Robert Powell’s very singable, but still minor-key setting (S129); at 11, the service-music for this season comes from the Church’s heritage of plainsong (often called “Gregorian Chant,” after the sixth-century pope who regularized much of the liturgical music of his time). These include a mildly florid but highly repetitive setting of the Greek form of the *Kyrie* (S84), and rather stark settings of the *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei* coming from the traditional Requiem Mass; we will also replace the usual Doxology at the Offertory with two stanzas of a hymn attributed to St. Gregory (set to Samuel Sebastian Wesley’s beautiful hymn-tune, *Hereford*).

At Evensong on March 5, the Choir will turn to the music of William Byrd, the greatest composer of the Elizabethan age, and Russ Ayres will complement this with a program of harpsichord music by Byrd following the service. Please join us that Sunday at 5 p.m. And on Saturday, March 18, the Westminster Choir, from Westminster Choir College, in New Jersey, will visit Calvary and present a concert at 2 o’clock in the afternoon, entitled *Serenity of Soul*; the following morning, the women of the choir will also join us to enhance the 11 o’clock service. I hope you can be with us to hear them. ■



A Priest and a Rabbi Walk into a Classroom

Rabbi Aaron Bisno and the Rev. Jonathon Jensen will continue to teach a class together on the parables of Jesus. We will learn together from Jewish and Christian perspectives and how we all might benefit from this wisdom. The classes will be in person in McClintic Hall, also known as the choir room, on **Sundays starting at 10 a.m.** Sessions are recorded and available on Calvary’s YouTube page with a link in the Friday email. All are welcome to attend.

For class titles, please visit the Calvary website at www.calvarypgh.org, or check the Friday email blast. ■

CLASP Update

Two of the CLASP (Calvary Lincoln After School Program) students had a great time participating in the Penguins hockey program at the Hunt Armory.

The school was so appreciative of our donations of Pack-to-School supplies, and the CLASP committee would really like to help out with donations to their school “store” (see suggestions below if you’re interested in helping). The store is a program which creates incentives for constructive behavior by awarding school “bucks” which can be redeemed at the store. Also the students learn how to save and budget their “money” in order to plan their purchases.

Needed store inventory

Footballs
Soccer Balls
Basketballs
Kinetic Sand
Yo-Yos
Fidget Spinners
Squish Balls
Box of Chips
Candy Snacks
Juice Boxes/Capri Sun



(Kids that don’t bring a snack to lunch love having snacks to buy at the store to have at lunch.)

If you have any questions, please contact Kitsy McNulty at kitsymc@gmail.com. ■

www.calvarypgh.org

The Bookstore at Calvary

Book Titles for the Season of Lent

During the holy season of Lent, the Bookstore has a variety of devotional books to read during this time including **An African Prayer Book** by Desmond Tutu, who shares the simple but profound secrets of his extraordinary spiritual strength by unveiling his very own prayer book. **The Book of Common Prayer** (available in leatherbound and soft cover) contains the liturgies, prayers, and theological documents of the Episcopal Church and much more. **Celtic Daily Prayer** is prayers and readings from the Northumbria Community in northern England. This collection of liturgies, prayers, and meditations inspired by traditional Celtic Christianity brings the power of an ancient tradition to life for seekers today. Building on the foundation set down in the first volume, **Celtic Daily Prayer Book Two: Farther Up and Farther In**, takes one deeper into spirituality of the Northumbria Community, offering resources that have emerged out of real-life experiences of seeking God in many differing contexts throughout the world. Assembled by a commission of church liturgists, lay people, and clergy in New Zealand, **A New Zealand Prayer Book** offers services and prayers for holy days as well as for weekly services and personal mediation. **Prayers for Young Children** by Martina Steinkühler is a thoughtful collection of prayers providing children ways of approaching God in a variety of circumstances. **Saint Augustine's Prayer Book** (available in leatherbound and soft cover) is a book of prayer and practice – with disciplines, habits, and patterns for building a Christian spiritual life.

Additional titles for consideration during Lent:

Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing by Gayle Boss, with art by David G. Klein, provides beautiful woodcut-type pictures of twenty-five endangered animals vanishing at a faster rate than at any other time in Earth's history. Their stories thaw our stiff hearts and wake in us a wild hope that from all this death and ruin, something new could rise. The promise of Lent is that something new will rise.

John Dominic Crossan and Sarah Sexton Crossan explore the intersection of the theology around the resurrection of Christ and how it has manifested in Christian iconography in **Resurrecting Easter: How the West Lost and the East Kept the Original Easter Vision**. The Crossans painstakingly traveled throughout the ancient Eastern church, documenting through text and image a completely different model for understanding Easter's resurrection story, one that provides promise and hope for us today.

Let Me Go There: The Spirit of Lent by bestselling author Paula Gooder is a daily companion for the six weeks of Lent which leads readers deeper into the spirit of the season and opening up the scriptures that are read in churches during this period.

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis takes the form of a series of letters from senior demon Screwtape to his nephew Wormwood, a Junior Tempter. The uncle's mentorship pertains to the nephew's responsibility in securing the damnation of a British man known only as "the Patient".

Donnel O'Flynn explores the deep-rooted traditions of the Cross as Life-Giving Tree through Christian history, complete with images of the Cross from across the Christian world, inviting readers to see the Cross as healer of division and a symbol of life rather than death in **Holy Cross, Life-Giving Tree**.

A Season for the Spirit: Readings for the Days of Lent by Martin L. Smith draws from a wide variety of sources, both scriptural and classical, each day's Lent readings consist of a theological reflection, a prayer to the Holy Spirit to bring us deeper into prayer, and a suggestion for further mediation: a passage of scripture, a quotation from Christian literature, or a spiritual exercise. It also contains guidelines for praying with the Bible.

Finally, for the younger reader, **What We Do in Lent: A Child's Activity Book** by Anna E. Kitchen and illustrated by Dorothy Thompson Perez is filled with interactive puzzles, color-by-number pages, word finds, mazes, and more. This fun-filled activity book can help children ages 4 to 7 grow to a deeper understanding of the true meaning of the holy season of Lent. With more than forty activities, a glossary, and a guide filled with tips and suggestions, this is a great resource for parenting in the pews. Laura Alary invites children ages 8 to 12 to wonder about the Lenten story, to encounter Lent with all their senses, and to experience activities in Lent as part of a life of discipleship in **Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter**.

The Bookstore and Bookshop.org

You can support the Bookstore both in-person and now online. Instead of going online through Amazon to find books about the holy season of Lent, please turn to Bookshop.org and choose Calvary Bookstore in zip code 15206. There you will find suggestions that will help you focus your readings during Lent and Easter.

If you order a book through the Calvary page on Bookshop.org, our Bookstore at Calvary will receive a portion of the profits that can then be used to help with literacy programs in our neighborhood.

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 – 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. ■





A Reflection from the Reverend Geoffrey Royce

Once broken, some things can't be repaired. Delicate things like trust when compromised sometimes have to be left like a fallow field to rest, with no yield expected. Perhaps the shards should be cleared away, allowing memory to search other paths, recalling better moments, better connections.

Best to untie the knot that keeps you tethered, letting go of the stories and the feelings surrounding what is broken. If repair was possible, still, the first steps would involve taking apart some section of what is broken.

What comes to mind are broken utility poles that have been snapped off as the result of a motor vehicle accident or heavy ice storm. The temporary fix is to lash the broken off section wires and all to a new pole erected next to it. The splintered remainder of the old pole is still there. The evidence of the force it took to break the pole is still present. In some cases, it will stay at that level of repair for a long time, if not permanently. Somehow that never seems adequate or complete. The splintered pole points to how frail our systems are.

The violation of human relations through violence or betrayal can cause irreparable damage. It is stunning how much human energy is spent on such pointless destruction and harm. We are to be pitied. Instead of clinging to the threads of what comfort is left to us we could be trying to strengthen all the bonds of affiliation available to us.

Jesus allies himself with those who have lost or been denied vital connection and unity with their larger group. Dispossession is a constant theme throughout the Bible. In most cases God has to intervene, making a way for the blameless victim to go.

So, it is in our lives when damaged beyond repair. Only God can put some things right. No therapy or process conceived by human means will succeed. "All the kings horses and all the kings men could not put Humpty together again." ■

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. ■

Spiritual Reflection—Joan Chittister



Every few months, we choose as a guide the writings of a different author. At each meeting, a short reading serves as a catalyst for reflection upon, and discussion of, God in our daily lives.

For this term we use the writings of Joan Chittister (www.joanchittister.org). Chittister is a religious and social leader advocating for peace, human rights, women's issues, and monastic and church renewal. She has long resided in her community of Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA. Our group will use *The Breath of the Soul*. This book attends to what we human beings are most inclined to forget, preparing for and engaging in prayer. It is an examination of what we ourselves must bring to the discipline of prayer – whatever form it takes—to make prayer authentic and real, a deep and profound part of our lives.

Meetings are held in the Evans Room from 7-8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. The meetings are hybrid, allowing "in person" conversation while using Zoom so others can join remotely. Upcoming meetings will occur on February 21, March 7 and 21, and April 4 and 18. 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 us at any time. ■

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, March 10, 2023**. 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. ■

Holy Baptism

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



The Gospel in Erie

Sometime during the night of December 23, a thirty-foot tree limb snapped from ice and wind. The limb bounced off my car and landed blocking the driveway. Neither the tree nor the car fared well from the encounter. The branch was cut up and used for firewood while the car was totaled. The tree has now been removed to make way for a native species.

I had that model car for 13 years and planned to keep it as long as possible. It has now been over a month of walking everywhere which I generally enjoy. So far, seven different times either a private seller (3) or dealer (4) has tried to scam me with a car representing it as something other than what it was, hiding major issues, changing prices, applying pressure, or outright lying. That's what car salesmen seem to do. Matthew 10:16, "... be wise as serpents and innocent as doves," is sound advice when dealing with them.

It is always good to put things in perspective. If finding another car is among the worst of my problems, life is pretty good. I have people who love me, a roof over my head, a great job with equally great people and colleagues, and enough money to be able to decide what car to buy.

While it is far from the worst thing having your car crushed and totaled, dealing with insurance, needing to sort the branch blocking the driveway and finding new wheels is annoying and unbelievably time-consuming.

The greatest revelation in this whole experience, however, came from a most unexpected source. When I called the insurance company and explained the situation, with photographic evidence, I expected to encounter a maze of phone options finally to reach someone from far away who would claim it was my fault and then work diligently to deny a claim or at least lowball it. That's what insurance companies seem to do.

Instead, a woman from Pittsburgh answered, called me by name, and heard my story. Then she said, "Mr. Jensen, I am so sorry this has happened to you. Are you okay? How can we help?" She said someone would be at my house the next day to assess the damage and then asked if I needed a rental car. It was all set up for me simply to show my ID and pick up the car. Was your house or any other property damaged? Was there anything else I needed? "No, I'm good," I said, as I hung up the phone, a bit confused.

Polite. Nice. Helpful. Caring. Considerate. Those are not words one normally associates with an insurance company and never were before this experience.

The next day the assessor (Gary) showed up, on time, and somehow made it easy, almost enjoyable. We talked about the Steelers and the car and the storm that caused the damage. After running the numbers, he said the car was a



total loss and the company could pay me immediately. It was 50% more than the highest settlement I thought possible.

I said to Gary, "I have never seen an insurance company act remotely like this. How do you make money?" He told me that everyone in the company is expected to treat a customer like they would want to be treated when something terrible happened to them or their family. They treat their customers well so they want to come back. The very next day, someone from the company called to see how I was doing and asked if I had any questions.

That is all, quite simply, the Golden Rule that figures, in some form, in all major religions. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," from Matthew 7:12, is the Christian expression of that.

Gary told me he had worked for other insurance companies for many years and then found "the one" and said he would never work for anyone else because of how employees and customers are treated. The sense of loyalty and pride was evident. The company is not perfect but they are trying to be the best at their job in their chosen field.

He told me the company never advertises and does not have to do that. They don't waste money on mascots, jingles, and countless ads. Customers tell others about their experience. That was, in fact, precisely how we heard about them. A friend in the park told us his experience, when the subject arose, soon after we moved to the city. That is why we chose that insurance firm, in addition to being a better deal with better coverage than any other we researched.

When I told a few people about my experience, they immediately guessed the company because they had similar encounters. There is an almost missionary zeal to how customers talk about them when the subject arises.

Erie Insurance, based in Erie, PA, is the company that somehow seems to embody these principles and make money at the same time. I am not advocating anyone choose them but can say I am a customer for life because of how my family was treated. I have never written or talked about a

—continued on the next page

–Erie, continued

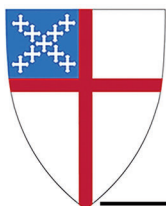
for-profit business in this way because nothing like this has ever happened before to warrant it.

In an unexpected way, that company seems to embody some of the ideals that I hold like fairness, honesty, generosity, responsiveness, and doing unto others as you would have them do unto you. Just as importantly, when I needed them they were present and helpful far beyond expectations. That is from an insurance company! They seem to defy all expectations about how an insurance company operates like take care of its customers in a time of need, enjoy doing that together as a team, and make a living in the process.

The experience made me wonder how a for-profit business can behave that way in today's world and what the Church might learn from them. When someone new or someone who has been at church for ages or someone in the community shows up through our doors and has a great need, how do we respond?

Do we meet the minimal expectations most have of Christians these days or are they surprised by joy with what and who they find?

By this everyone will know you are my (Jesus) disciples if you love one another. John 13:35 –Jonathon ■



ADULT INQUIRERS CLASS

Confirmation for adults will be offered on Sunday, April 16 at 11 a.m. during Bishop Ketlen Solak's annual visitation. Confirmation is the sacramental affirmation of one's Christian faith in the presence of a bishop. Preparation for adults interested in confirmation consists of a class that will continue to meet from 6:30 – 8 p.m. on February 16, 23, March 2, 9, and 16. The class will explore what it means to be a Christian in the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican tradition.

If you are new to Calvary or the Episcopal Church, you are particularly welcome to attend these classes. If you're not particularly new to Calvary or the Episcopal Church but are interested in deepening your understanding you are welcome as well. The class will begin with some food and fellowship in the Parish Hall followed by a talk by a member of the clergy and small group discussion.

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 at nraman@calvarypgh.org. ■

Chalicians truly serve God and their neighbors.



Do you aspire to this ministry?

Please contact Fred Roth at

lcb@calvarypgh.org

To inquire.

To learn.

- and -

To share the Sacrament.

East End Cooperative Ministry Shelter Dinner Volunteer Request

Are you looking for a concrete way to help your neighbors in the East End? Do you enjoy preparing simple meals? Would you like to meet other "Calvaryites" while doing something specific for those in need?



If you answered affirmatively to any of the above questions, please consider becoming an EECM Shelter Dinner volunteer. One of the things it encompasses is a homeless shelter that accommodates 50 residents. Those living there are expected to look for employment and more permanent shelter with the assistance of EECM staff.

Calvary is responsible for providing dinner on the 2nd Saturday of every month. As mentioned above, simple main dishes with 2 vegetable sides comprise the simple meals prepared each month. In addition to providing the meals, we also serve the meals, cafeteria-style. New volunteers are paired with experienced volunteers to assist in meal planning, preparation, and serving.

Please know that this is a worthy and crucial ministry.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Louise Kay (Weez Kay) Woodside at weezkay27@gmail.com. My phone numbers are 412.242.9830 (home) and 412.478.2087 (cell).

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. ■

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. ■

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

Parish Register

Baptisms

Emmet Marie O'Brien, April 16, 2022
James Edward Crossley, June 18, 2022
Thomas Angelo DeGory, June 18, 2022
Katherine McKeen Henderson, July 10, 2022
John David Little, July 10, 2022
Avery Rose Henderson, July 10, 2022
Raeynnah Sundjee Clerfé, July 17, 2022
Christian Kaiser Andrew Hayanga, July 17, 2022
Margaret "Greta" Frances Bauerle, July 23, 2022
Elliott John Dixon-Ernst, November 6, 2022
Lucia Rose Mirizio, December 30, 2022
Elias Charbel Francis, January 14, 2023

Marriages

Sarah Michelle Bobby and William Owen Russell,
April 23, 2022
Kara Leigh Peters and Alexander John Borofski,
June 18, 2022
Kiley Ann Bradbury and Joseph John Malone,
December 16, 2022

Burials

Thomas L. Denney, April 14, 2022
Allison Shipley, April 30, 2022
Judith Custer, May 21, 2022
Kathleen Short, May 28, 2022
Henry C. "Tim" Flood, June 4, 2022
Brian Mullins, June 4, 2022
Patricia A. McKissick, July 23, 2022
Donald T. MacLeod, Sr., August 30, 2022
Hazel Dixon, September 17, 2022
Martin X. Crimmins, October 1, 2022
John P. Davis, Jr., November 26, 2022
Lawrence Marshall Knapp, January 7, 2023
Mary Murtland Wurts Berger, February 3, 2023

Transferred In

Arthur and Phyllis Bianculli, May 4, 2022
from St. Andrew's, Pittsburgh, PA
Michael and Shannon O'Brien, May 4, 2022
from Good Shepherd Episcopal, Raleigh, NC
Mary Anne Marchl, July 19, 2022
from St. Andrew's, Pittsburgh, PA
Jim and Jana Callan, July 27, 2022
from Grace Episcopal, Alvin, TX ■

CALVARY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The Gospel and Breakfast (GAB) class on Sunday mornings, co-sponsored by the Young Adult Ministry and the Parents of Young Ones is continuing through the season of Lent. See the accompanying article for details.

The next Holy Happy Hour is on **February 15** at 5:45 p.m. at Lorelei (124 S. Highland Ave., 15206). Please join us!

If you have any questions or want to be added to the Young Adult Ministry email list, feel free to contact the Rev. Cameron Soulis. She can be reached at csoulis@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120 ext. 123.

Sunday, February 12, 10-10:45 a.m.

Gospel and Breakfast in the Evans Room at Calvary

Wednesday, February 15, 5:45 p.m.

Holy Happy Hour at Lorelei (124 S. Highland Ave., 15206)

Sunday, February 19, 10-10:45 a.m.

Gospel and Breakfast in the Evans Room at Calvary

Sunday, February 26, 10-10:45 a.m.

Gospel and Breakfast in the Evans Room at Calvary

Sunday, March 5, 10-10:45 a.m.

Gospel and Breakfast in the Evans Room at Calvary

Sunday, March 12, 10-10:45 a.m.

Gospel and Breakfast in the Evans Room at Calvary

Sunday, March 19, 10-10:45 a.m.

Gospel and Breakfast in the Evans Room at Calvary ■

EASTER DAY MEMORIALS

If you would like to have your loved ones remembered in the Easter Day bulletin, please fill out this form and return it, with your donation, **no later than Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.**

Name (as you would like it to appear):

Donor's name: _____

Donor's telephone: (____) _____

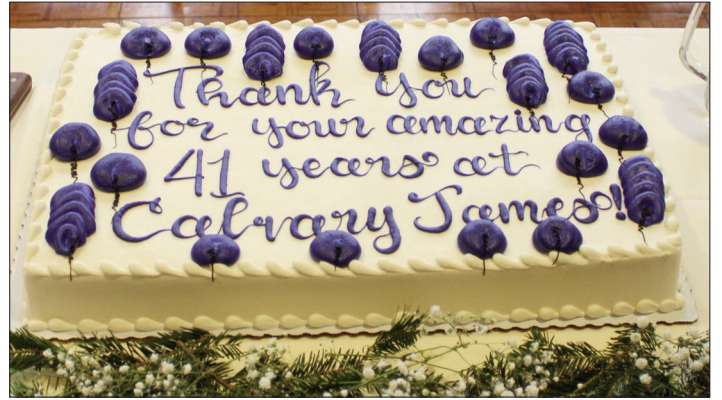
Please mail to: Lynda Kennedy
Calvary Episcopal Church
315 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4388

Chili Fest: Saturday, January 28



Bishop Ketlen and her husband Scott attended Chili Fest. In the background are Sextons Mary Ann Packer and Ron Johnston who suggested to the Bishop that she attend as our guest

James Knight's Retirement: Sunday, January 29



Pastoral CARE

Ministry Spotlight on the Pastoral Care Committee: Calvary Cares

Are you aware of the many ministries done by members of Calvary's Pastoral Care Committee? The Pastoral Care Committee is co-chaired by Michele Bender and Tracy Morris, and the work of this committee is done by more than 50 parishioners. The committee's mission is to provide both spiritual and practical support by extending Calvary's ministry through services to those in life transitions, including the homebound, elderly, sick and bereaved. Much of this ministry is done quietly and behind the scenes. We want to shine a light on the important work of this committee. In the next few *Agape* issues, we'll have short articles highlighting some of the programs of the Pastoral Care Committee.

One such program is **Calvary Cares**, a resource to support members of the Calvary community who are experiencing a time of special need and to support the loved ones who are caring for them. Such support might include transportation, assistance with shopping and meals, and access to church services and other church activities. The committee also serves as a source of information regarding other community organizations that may be helpful. Persons interested in volunteering to help or individuals who wish to request assistance for themselves or another member of the Calvary community should contact Michele Bender (mbbender@gmail.com) or the Reverend Cameron Soulis (csoulis@calvarypgh.org). ■

What to do when you need pastoral care

If you are in need of pastoral care, call the church office 412.661.0120 to speak to one of the clergy. All members of the Calvary clergy are available to deal with pastoral care issues.

Your clergy at Calvary want you to call us when you need us. You are not a burden. This is why we became priests. We are honored when you share your life stories. Call us when something terrible happens or when something good happens. We want to walk alongside you as you go through it.

Of course, life happens at all times of day. In the case of illness or death outside of office hours, call the church office and press 2. Your call will be forwarded to an emergency

phone where you can leave a message. Please be sure to leave your name and a callback number in the message. A Calvary clergy person will then return your call.

Finally, a reminder that because of privacy laws, hospitals, health care facilities, and health care workers are not permitted to tell us that you are a patient. Please let us know if you or a loved one are in the hospital. ■



We will return to Daylight Saving Time at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12. When setting your clocks ahead, it is a good time to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at home. ■

2023 Lenten Meditations

From Episcopal Relief & Development: "This Lenten Season, ERD invites you to join us as we meditate on the commandment to love our neighbor and consider the meaning of this fundamental instruction in our daily lives." Visit www.episcopalrelief.org and click the "Church in Action" button to view the meditations booklet or to subscribe to daily emails. ■



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11 o'clock Service



Good News

Children's Liturgy of the Word is now offered during the 11 o'clock service. This is a special time for children to gather to pray, ask questions, and hear the good news of God's love. The Sunday scripture readings are proclaimed and explained on a level appropriate to children ages 5-9. Any child in this age group may participate – no registration is necessary. Children are invited to gather with adult leaders after the Opening Prayer and process to the Refectory. They return to their families at the time of the Peace. If you are running a little late and miss the beginning of the service, no worries! Drop in and join us in the Refectory.



Nursery

Attention Parents of Little Ones! In addition to the normal Sunday hours, the nursery will be OPEN during the Evensong Service on Sunday, March 5, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. for children ages two weeks – 4 years old.

This a great opportunity to experience the beauty of this special service while your little ones are cared for.

What is Evensong?

Evensong, also known as evening prayer, is remarkable both for the centuries-old liturgical tradition it represents and for the atmosphere of contemplative devotion that enables it to remain deeply meaningful for worshipers today. The service traces its origins to the daily cycle of services of the medieval church. Evensong has been said or sung regularly in its current form since the sixteenth century. All the words have been shaped and refined by long use and by renewed attempts to express the mysteries of God.

For some people, it is music, not words, that carries them into the presence of God, and for others it is silence. Most of

us need all three – words, music, and silence – to lead us into the spirit of worship. So this service provides a liturgical, architectural, and musical space into which one may gather the preoccupations and anxieties of life and hold them together with a recollection of God's presence and work in and among us. Many find that through participation by silent attention – while ministers and choir speak and sing biblical texts – they make the words and music their own. Once you have quietly released those preoccupations which may be cluttering your mind, you are free to go on to offer to God all that you are. It is then that this service is experienced for what it is - an act of worship in the Spirit, expressing our thanksgiving and hopes to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What to expect at Evensong

- Choral Evensong usually lasts about forty-five minutes.
- The Prayers, Psalm, and Canticles are sung or chanted by the Choir; the congregation joins in singing the Hymns and the Creed.
- By tradition, Evensong always includes a setting of the Magnificat (Mary's song) and Nunc Dimittis (Simeon's song). These biblical songs (or canticles), both from the Gospel of St. Luke, provide a consistent anchor for the service.
- There are usually at least two hymns in which the congregation is invited to participate.
- Very little of the service is spoken. Usually, Scripture is read, and there are a few spoken prayers.
- There is no traditional sermon – the service is entirely based on scripture, and the worshiper is given space in which to contemplate as the Spirit leads.

Who might enjoy attending Evensong?

- Everyone and anyone who desires a short service that is strikingly different from daily life.
- Pre-teens through the elderly – anyone who longs for a contemplative encounter with God.
- Evensong has been extremely well-received by college-age people when they have the chance to discover it.
- Members of any church or any faith – anyone who wants to be part of this kind of worship environment.
- The evensong service is highly structured and liturgical, but this by no means suggests that one has to dress any particular way or meet any superficial criteria. Dress as you feel comfortable. Come as you are. Bring whomever you wish. We join together humbly as God's children, each equal in God's sight. Hope to see you there!

Guest Speaker

Please join us on **Monday, February 27, 7–8 p.m.** as author Sophronia Scott, discusses her book, *This Child of Faith: Raising a Spiritual Child in a Secular World*. This will be a great opportunity to ask questions and learn more about her parenting journey and life as a writer. More about Sophronia at www.sophronia.com. This event is FREE and open to ALL. Register here for reminders and Zoom link: <https://forms.gle/cJTJiKxqwcLcVket9>

–Faith Formation is continued on the next page

Faith Formation Highlights

Students began the new year by discussing the meaning of Epiphany and reflected on some key points of this special event. The Level I students listened to a story about the magi, and then each beautifully decorated a wooden star shape. The older students enjoyed seeing real Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh and then prepared Epiphany Blessing Kits complete with chalk to take home.

Later in the month, we reflected on the Baptism of Jesus and discussed the role of John the Baptist in announcing that the person he baptized in the River Jordan was the long-expected Messiah, a light to the nations. We took a close look at Calvary’s beautiful baptismal font and briefly introduced the sacramental rite of Baptism, which will be explored more in-depth in the coming spring. Students also discussed the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his vision for peace and light for all mankind. Making candles from sheets of beeswax was a fun and meaningful way to conclude the lesson.

Recently, we took a close look at the life of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an example of how each one of us can do our part to bring positive changes in the world. We also made prayer blankets that will be donated to a local shelter.



Last week, the students in Miss Elsa’s class celebrated the Presentation in the Temple, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to be consecrated to God as was the Jewish custom at the time. Simeon and Anna had waited a very long time and recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies through the power of the Holy Spirit. Their openness to God’s plan offers a model for all who desire the fullness of God’s life. The students had fun making turtle doves from clay to take home as a reminder of this special event in the life of Christ.



The older students explored the Parable of the True Vine and reflected on the relationship we have with Jesus and, through Jesus, with the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. The parable calls us to “remain” and “bear fruit” for the glory of God. We considered our closeness to all the branches of the True Vine and the remarkable connectedness we all share. Students examined actual grape vines of various varieties and then planted them in containers that were placed in the sunlit area on the top floor. We are excited to see how they grow!



Bringing Nature into the Classroom

We have a new addition to our classroom space in the Shoemaker Room! Students in Levels II and III have been watching the progress of our fish tank installation. This 29-gallon freshwater aquarium is now home to several colorful Neocaridina shrimp, some golden moon (aka Mickey Mouse) platys as well as a variety of live plants and rocks from the Allegheny River. We’re excited to add more to the tank as the ecosystem normalizes and look forward to observing their growth and interaction as time progresses. It’s amazing to encounter the awe-inspiring work of our Creator and see firsthand how everything is charged with the Glory of God, even in the midst of a cold, gray Pittsburgh winter! ■

CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
 412.661.0120 | email: calvary@calvarypg.org | www.calvarypg.org
 Office Hours – 9 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday

CALVARY'S CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Jonathon W. Jensen, <i>Rector</i>	Vicki Rispoli, <i>Director of Children's Formation</i>
The Rev. Neil K. Raman, <i>Senior Associate Rector</i>	Kenneth Smith, <i>Director of Communications</i>
The Rev. Cameron J. Soulis, <i>Associate Rector</i>	Kim Pieratt, <i>Parish Administrator</i>
The Rev. Ruth Bosch Becker, <i>Assisting Pastor</i>	Jim Gubash, <i>Head Sexton</i>
The Rev. Carol Henley, <i>Assisting Priest</i>	Adam Augustine, Ron Johnston,
The Rev. Geoffrey S. Royce, <i>Deacon</i>	Mary Ann Packer, Eric Walker, <i>Sextons</i>
Rabbi Aaron Bisno, <i>Rabbi-in-Residence</i>	Vivian Rispoli, <i>A/V Technician</i>
Ms. Deanna Briody, <i>McNulty Intern</i>	David Jeong, <i>Senior Warden</i>
Dr. Alan Lewis, <i>Director of Music</i>	G. Frederic Roth, <i>Junior Warden</i>
Jon Tyillian, <i>Assistant Organist</i>	Lauren Ernst, <i>Treasurer</i>
Lynda Kennedy, <i>Director of Finance</i>	Daniel Geroni, <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Tammy Lewis, <i>Director, Beginnings</i>	

– The Vestry –

2023	2024	2025	2026
James Cassaro	Jennifer De Rosa	Adam Bailey	Michael Kennedy
Laura Everhart	David Jeong	Kate Burroughs	Wendy Lomicka
G. Frederic Roth	Donald MacLeod, Jr.	Lucy Douglas	James Manning
Laurie Tocci	Laura Marchl	Peter Lewis	Vanessa Sterling
	Sarah Wilson, <i>secretary</i>		

– The Parish Council –

2023	2024	2025	2026
John Allison	Jonathan Callard	Ann Augustine	Michele Bender
Lindsay Dragan	Jean Carr	Mary Jane Bent	Sue DeWalt, <i>President</i>
Adele Eley	Emma Schauf	Jeannine Farina	Stanley Nevola
Alison Wardrop	Jonathan Warner	Barbara Hicks	David Riehl

Clergy Contact Information

Please feel free to contact any of our clergy. We are ready to help.

- The Rev. Jonathon Jensen, jjensen@calvarypg.org
- The Rev. Neil Raman, nraman@calvarypg.org
- The Rev. Cameron Soulis, csoulis@calvarypg.org
- Deacon Geoffrey Royce, groyce@calvarypg.org
 - Rabbi Aaron Bisno, rabbi@calvarypg.org
 - Deanna Briody, dbriody@calvarypg.org

There should be a hotline you can call where you can safely pronounce words you've only ever read out loud for the first time, and they say, "Oh, Sweetie" and kindly explain how it's correctly pronounced. ■



Shrove Tuesday, February 21 –
Calvary's Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 22 –
Ash Wednesday

Sunday, February 26 –
First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April 2 –
Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9 –
Easter Day

Sunday, April 16 –
Bishop's Visitation;
Vestry and Parish Council
Nominating Sunday

Sunday, May 7 –
City of Pittsburgh Marathon;
Election Slate to be announced

Sunday, May 21 –
Annual Parish Meeting ■

Calvary Movie Nights

*Third Thursdays in the Parish Hall
at 7 p.m.*

February 16: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close. A son loses his father (Tom Hanks) in the World Trade Centers bombing on 9/11.

March 16: To Kill a Mockingbird Harper Lee's classic novel becomes a film starring Gregory Peck as a defense attorney who defends a black farmer.

April 20: Dead Man Walking. Susan Sarandon stars as Sister Helene Prejean still fighting capital punishment from Louisiana. Sean Penn plays the felon.

May 18: WAJIB. An Arab Christian father and son handle one another with cranky bickering as the daughter-sister prepares for her wedding. ■

WEB VERSION
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



Making candles from sheets of beeswax



Students examined actual grape vines of various varieties and then planted them in containers that were placed in the sunlit area on the top floor. We are excited to see how they grow!

On-Going at Calvary

EECM Food Pantry

East End Cooperative Ministry operates the second largest food pantry in Pittsburgh. 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 at this time. **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
- Disposable utensils (fork, spoon, knife)
- Disposable plates
- Disposable bowls
- Ziploc bags, any size
- Napkins
- Paper Towels
- Sugar
- Salt ■

Plastic Recycling

Thank you to the many people who are recycling plastic film and bags to the box located in the Parish House lobby across from the reception desk. We will continue our practice of recycling here at Calvary. You are helping to keep thousands of pounds of waste out of landfills. (And, yes, bubble wrap is recyclable!) ■

Altar Flowers

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

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

Andy Muhl, Executive Assistant

412.721.0853 ext. 251 | amuhl@episcopalpgh.org ■



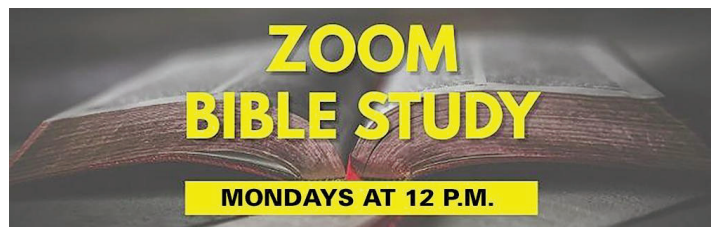
The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) will continue to run Sacred Ground sessions throughout this coming program year in various locations with additional accommodations for those wanting to participate.

Through April 6, 2023:

Thursdays at 6 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Oakmont (Leader is Guy Brown with the assistance of Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger);

Trinity Cathedral, Downtown lunch time or evening times to be determined based on requests. (Leader Rev. David Boyd with the assistance of Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger);

Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Carnegie Library, East Liberty, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Leader Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger). ■



Led by The Rev. Geoffrey Royce, Deacon

Sign-up for receiving the Zoom link by writing to groyce@calvarypgh.org

This will be a discussion study lasting about one hour.

We are reading The Letter of James. ■

Pittsburgh Episcopal Creation Care Network

This is a place for parish members from throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to share information about energy saving and clean-up projects; share resources and ideas; ask questions and state concerns; and post information about environmental events. All Calvary members are welcome to join and contribute whenever they wish. Visit www.facebook.com/groups/1252049508868224 ■

Please remember Calvary Church
in your will.

Women of Calvary Grant Recipients

Our bazaar is over, 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 2022. A more complete listing, with short descriptions of the organizations will be printed in the next issue of *Agape*. Thank you to everyone who contributed time and talent and treasure to the bazaar, to help these organizations.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) – \$2,500

Casa San Jose – \$2,000

Homeless Children's Education Fund (HCEF) – \$2,000

Jubilee Association – \$2,000

Off the Floor Pittsburgh – \$3,500

Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI) – \$2,000

Shepherd's Heart Fellowship – \$500

Shepherd Wellness Community – \$2,000

Sojourner House – \$1,500

Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank – \$3,000

YMCA Homewood – \$2,000

Salayish Abo Church, Ethiopia – \$250

Calvary Clergy Discretionary Fund – \$3,750

Deadline (Friday):

Publication Date (Sunday):

January 6	January 15
February 3	February 12 [Lenten Issue]
March 10	March 19 [Easter Issue]
April 7	April 16 [End of Program Year]
May 5	May 14
June 2	June 11 [Summer Issue]
August 11	August 20 [Beginning of Program Year]
September 8	September 17
October 6	October 15
November 3	November 12 [Advent Issue]
December 1	December 10

2023 CALENDAR

January	February	March	April																																																																																																																																																																																						
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