

FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Ash Wednesday and the Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday, on February 17 this year, is the beginning of the Church's season of Lent (forty days plus Sundays) that is a time of penitence, fasting, and prayer to prepare for the celebration of Easter.

The date of Ash Wednesday is a moveable fast because it is based on the date of Easter, a moveable feast, that falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Easter is April 4 in 2021.

One of the most beloved and moving traditions of Ash Wednesday is the imposition of ashes. That is, a sign of the cross is drawn on the person's forehead with ashes. They are a sign of our mortality and penitence that is also connected to the sealing of a person at baptism. Penitence is our desire to turn from sinful or selfish ways and turn again to God.

This imposition of ashes has traditionally been offered as part of our main service. Over the last few years, we have offered another opportunity with a brief service called "Ashes to Go." This has been done on the steps of the church and other locations to take the Church out into the world. This has become increasingly popular for those who are unable to attend a full, evening service with some fifty people or more coming each year to make confession and receive an absolution and ashes.

This year, we will provide two opportunities using the Ashes to Go liturgy and two options how to receive them, mindful of the global pandemic.

When to receive ashes

From 12 p.m. until 1 p.m., we will offer ashes at the west doors of the church. One may also stop in the circular drive. The priests will not be on roller skates but will walk over to serve you at your car or on the curb.

From 6 p.m. until 6:50 p.m., we will offer ashes at the circular drive. One may remain in the car or stand on the curb.

At both 12 p.m. and 6 p.m., we will use the Ashes to Go liturgy that is quite brief but includes prayers, confession, absolution, and imposition. A pamphlet, with the liturgy, will be provided to each person.

At 7 p.m., we will offer a streamed service of the "proper" or special liturgy for Ash Wednesday with music and a sermon. There will be a bulletin available



on the Calvary website. The liturgy is also found in the *Book of Common Prayer* on page 267. We will not offer the Imposition of Ashes at 7 p.m. as they are optional.

How to receive ashes

The first method one may receive ashes is the "traditional" way, meaning the one we all know, by the priest making the sign of the cross on the person's forehead. A second method that will be offered is for the priest to sprinkle ashes on top of the person's head. This is, in fact, the older way and what is still done in Rome. It calls to mind the biblical practice of donning sackcloth and putting ashes on one's head as a sign of mourning and/or penitence. The second method involves no physical touching which is the reason we are offering it. Simply tell the priest which option you prefer. Please note the clergy will be wearing masks and each will sanitize his or her hands after each person. We ask all who come to Calvary to wear a mask.

Our hope is that as many as possible will receive ashes at 12 p.m. or 6 p.m. and worship online together at 7 p.m. The Rector, God willing, will be present for the Imposition of Ashes and the proper liturgy as we enter this holy season of Lent in preparation for the great Easter feast.

Ash Wednesday Services

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes at the west doors of the church

6 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

Imposition of Ashes at the circular drive

7 p.m.

The Proper Liturgy for Ash Wednesday
livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. ■



Winter Weekday Walkabout

Exterior: Sun shining brightly on both tower and snow today. Upper story plywood inserts in choir room windows indicate restored leaded glass not yet ready for re-installation.

Entrance: Plastic footprints, handprints, arrows, and cones

to keep people in line and distanced indicate Beginnings in session. Forehead thermometers and sanitizer at door confirm.

Lobby: Multi-masked, multi-tasking Kim monitors front desk while attending the business of the day. Also assists bookstore for pre-sales and a few fervent focused buyers. Lengthy browsing not noticed. Sherry Bloom ensconced in mail room ordering more titles for same. Also reconciling ... "the books."

Offices: No Lynda – financials from home these days. Lights on in Leslie's and Neil's offices – doors closed. Consultations and zoom classes are assumed.

Kitchen: Home prepared Soup Group offerings being organized in freezer by Adele Eley for Sunday Super Bowl benefit sale from lobby to drive-up supporters. Laundry person Mary Ann not in evidence just yet – still teaching below stairs.

Vesting Room: Head sexton Jim working to restore broad water-stained and warped windowsill – the result of years of open windows and potted plant displays in spite of orchid provider Bob Dilts' best efforts.

Church: Alan pausing organ practice to play noon hymns on tower bells as he has done most every day since lockdowns started last March. Sexton James polishing woodwork and floors (they do shine) – no people to finger or tread so no hand prints or scuff marks, but dust still settles. Tiny blue lights on robotic cameras indicate video system active – sexton Adam in control room programming next Sunday's net-cast service.

Crypt: Repair of Prie Dieu (from position beneath Lectern) in progress in woodshop. A/V control center newly and helpfully lit by LED strip mounted behind playfully repurposed filigree wood panel.

Boiler Room: Old "Lula Jane", the boiler, keeps chugging along, keeping the place comfortable.

Evening Hours: Sexton Ron reported returning, having tested negative, after Covid related confinement.

Furthermore

Rector's Vascular Vicissitudes Vanquished: Pulpit perorations having been paused at physician's prompting, he pursues post-meridian P.T. neighborhood perambulations. Surreptitious sanctuary sightings reported. Appearance suggests full recovery and energetic return before long.

You just can't keep good people down.



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

The Discipleship Class also serves as preparation for those who are interested in the rites of confirmation, reception, or the reaffirmation of baptismal vows in the Episcopal Church. The class will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. The class will take place over Zoom and use breakout rooms for small group discussions. This is the Zoom link for the class: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87350371507?pwd=NVFPZCs4UE9nd1VwZDIxQS8rQ1o5Zz09>. Sessions will continue through Sunday, April 25.

Each session will include a short talk by a member of the clergy or a member of the parish, small group discussion, and an opportunity to ask questions. Over the course of the class you can expect to hear about prayer, the sacraments, Calvary's buildings, Calvary's history and identity as a congregation, and get to know others who are new to Calvary. If you are interested in attending or have any questions about the class or about confirmation, reception, or the reaffirmation of baptismal vows contact the Rev. Neil Raman at nraman@calvarypgh.org ■

Staying in Touch

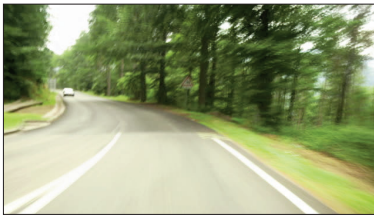


Please contact Calvary's Parish Administrator Kim Pieratt at the Church office if you have any questions about flower memorials, prayer list additions, or scheduling of events. Kim can be contacted at 412.661.0120, ext. 111 or send an email to kpieratt@calvarypgh.org. We ask that you keep us informed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

Home Communion

If you would like to have Communion (bread) brought to your home, the clergy are happy to do so. It will be prepared and placed in a sealed plastic bag and brought to your door. Please contact the clergy or the church office to make arrangements. ■





His eye is on the sparrow

Assisting Pastor Ruth Bosch Becker shared the following reflection on Psalm 139, prompted by its appearance in the Lectionary a few weeks ago.

When I was in Seminary I often rode from Narberth to Mt. Airy with my neighbor, Virginia Thomas, in her Audi. We studied there together for two years. She graduated two years before I did.

One day I walked around the corner to go with her to the morning chapel service. A friend was preaching. Virginia's car was in the driveway; it usually was parked in the garage. But her friend Norman had borrowed the car and returned it. Virginia jumped in, fastened the seat belt and turned the key. I jumped in, fastened the seat belt and off we went.

Immediately I realized that, since the sun roof had been left open and it had rained, the seat was wet and so was my tush. But we were in a hurry; we kept going. In less than half an hour we arrived at Seminary, parked the car and got out. Virginia was wearing a trench coat. I was wearing a short jacket. I realized that I not only FELT wet, I LOOKED wet. I took off the jacket and tied the sleeves around my waist to form a backwards apron to cover the wet spot.

We walked into the chapel where we found two empty seats in the front row. As is my custom, I sat down, lowered the kneeler and knelt, waiting for a scripture verse to enter my heart and head. It came immediately:

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up. (Ps. 139, 1-2.)

I was bowled over by the pertinence of the lines. God knows more about me and my doings than I know about myself and my actions. So be it. I got the giggles. My shoulders were shaking. How dumb can I be?

After the service a friend asked if I had been crying. No way. I was laughing in relief and in recognition of my limitations and the lesson I had just been taught by omniscient God... whose eye is on the sparrow ...and on me. ■

Staying Safe on your Computer

If you download a "PDF" file, or hover your mouse over a link and you see it ends in ".exe," delete it or don't click! It's a virus and not a PDF file. ■



Daylight Saving Time Reminder

On Sunday, March 14 at 2 a.m. we will return to Daylight Saving Time (DST). Set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed. This is a perfect time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon dioxide (CO₂) detectors.

DST was passed in 1918 to conserve fuel which was needed to make electricity during WWI. This act established the different time zones in the US. The concept was very unpopular after the war, and was repealed in 1919 with President Wilson's veto. During WWII, President Roosevelt started "War Time," which was year-round daylight saving. From 1945–1966 there was no federal law in effect, so states could choose when it began and ended. In 1974, President Nixon established February–October as DST. In 1986 this was changed to the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October. In 2005, the Energy Policy Act was passed, establishing DST to the second Sunday in March until the first Sunday in November. No wonder we are a little confused. ■



The Church Mouse



On Tuesday, February 23, 2021, **Jeanne and Philip Sunderman** will celebrate their **69th wedding anniversary**, having been married by Phil's uncle, the Rev. Philip Gittings, at the James Street Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg, PA. On the same day, Jeanne and Philip's second son, **Steven**, will celebrate his **66th birthday**. And, Phil Sunderman will celebrate his **100th birthday** on that same February 23, having been born on February 23, 1921, the year Calvary Church broadcast the first radio church service. February 23 has been a very 'magical day' for Phil and Jeanne Sunderman. ■

www.calvarypgh.org

Whom Shall I Send, and Who Will Go for Us? Then Said I, "Here Am I, Send Me"

by Phil Hallen



So went the anthem, "In the Year that King Uzziah Died," by David McKay Williams, on a cold Sunday in January 1961, my first visit to Calvary. I had just moved to Pittsburgh from Boston and was seeking a musical parish that would satisfy my urgent choral needs. Boy chorister and choral junkie. I sang my way from Buffalo to Syracuse to New Haven to Boston and found what I was looking for in Pittsburgh as soon as I walked through Calvary's narthex that Sunday morning. It's now 56 years later, five Rectors, countless assistants, curates, associates, interims, 40 years in the choir stalls, two sentences on the Vestry, too many committees to recall, and now I'm just a pew warmer, reading from the large print hymnal. But, the impact of that first Sunday and the anthem's message to serve remain until this day.

After that kind of intense involvement in parish life, how does one keep on giving? Or, if one is a relative newcomer to the life of Calvary, how can you fulfill the urge to be a working partner in our remarkable parish? It's clear, as I discovered, there are hundreds of ways to be involved in Calvary's work in the community, the parish, the diocese, and the world.

Beyond these gestures, of course, is the ministry of giving one's own treasure. After all, that's what makes possible these opportunities for service. The conventional way of sharing the financial needs of the parish is of course the pledge, which Calvary members increasingly understand, respond to and excel at. (Do consider endowing your pledge!)

Calvary, for the past several years, has taken serious steps to add a simple and effective instrument to our fiscal health plan: The St. Michael's Society. Through this legacy society, giving can be as simple as a bequest in your will. By taking that action, you can contribute to Calvary's future health. Most Planned Giving opportunities require only a commitment to develop a plan; there is no immediate financial commitment. The reward of knowing you are joining a movement to insure the fiscal health of the parish for new generations is uplifting.

Fifty-nine Calvary members have already signed on to the movement. It works for old duffs like me and it can be a wonderful way for those of bright and future promise to add to the pyramid of support for our future time together.

Calvary is the most inclusive parish on the planet! That means everyone. Look around you. Think what you can do. I left Boston for Pittsburgh on the day of John F. Kennedy's inauguration. There was a little farewell lunch

and the television was tuned to the address. So, I literally walked in the door of Calvary with his words, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country" ringing in my ears. Make "country" parish and then you have it all. Being a part of the St. Michael's Society will help Calvary continue its mission of service and giving.

Note: This article was reprinted from 2017 because **Phil's words of wisdom continue to ring true, especially during this pandemic, regarding asking what you can do for others.**

For information about how to join the St. Michael's Society, contact Deborah Kelly at 412.688.9299 or dc1kelly@gmail.com ■

EECM Food Pantry

East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry is still operating during the pandemic, with appropriate plans to protect those receiving food. Donations can be dropped off at Calvary during office hours: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. until Noon. 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 ■



Holy Baptism

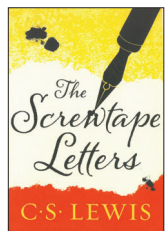
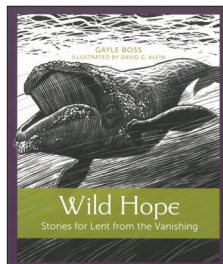
Dates for public celebrations of Holy Baptism will be determined when public worship resumes at Calvary. Private celebrations of the Sacrament can be scheduled by contacting The Reverend Neil Raman (nraman@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 112). ■



The Bookstore at Calvary

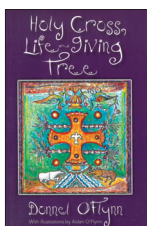
During the holy season of Lent, the Bookstore has a variety of books to read during this time and here is a sampling:

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.



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."

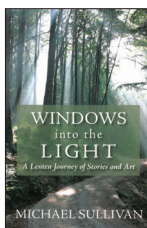
Donnel O'Flynn explores the deep-rooted traditions of the Cross as Life-Giving Tree through Christian history, complete with images of the Cross from across the Christian world, inviting readers to see the Cross as healer of division and a symbol of life rather than death in **Holy Cross, Life-Giving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

It also contains guidelines for praying with the Bible.

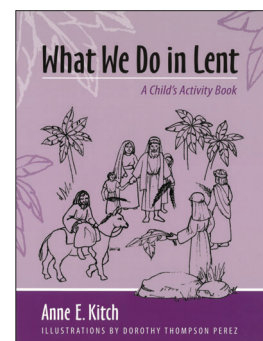
Walk with author Michael Sullivan on a Lenten journey in **Windows into the Light: A Lenten Journey of Stories and Art**. Organized around holy days and Sundays in Lent, chapters begin with a prayer or poetic excerpt, followed by scripture for the day or week. A narrative then expands on the themes introduced by the prayer and scripture.



For centuries Lent has been a season when Christians stop and take stock of their lives. This stocktaking takes many forms. During Lent we revisit the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and in reading them anew, focus on our own sinfulness and the need to repent. We set aside luxuries and make sure that others have what they need. Christopher L. Webber's **A Time**

to Turn: Anglican Readings for Lent and Easter Week provides a reading for each day of Lent, Holy Week, and the first week of Easter, and explores these themes using the best sermons, books, poems, and hymns of Anglican writers throughout the centuries.

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, and at home.



And Also with Yinz Hoodies

With more of us working and spending more time at home due to the pandemic, the "And Also with Yinz" hoodies can be both a warm and fashionable addition to your wardrobe. Also available as a long sleeve tee shirt and both available in size small to XXL. A portion of the proceeds from all 'yinz' related items available at the Bookstore are donated to Sheldon Calvary Camp located in Conneaut, OH. Established in 1936, Harry E. Sheldon Calvary Camp is a camping ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. To learn more about the camp, please go to www.calvarycamp.org.



alibris

Alibris is an online store that sells new books, used books, out-of-print books, rare books, and other media through an online network of independent booksellers since 1997. Calvary has over 200 mostly out of print, donated books available online at <http://hymnal82.alibrisstore.com>. The collection of offerings includes art, bibles, children's fiction, comics, and graphic novels, fiction, history, literary collections, literary criticism, nature, poetry, and travel to name just a few. Each title listing includes the edition, binding, publisher, date published, description, and condition. Checkout the unique offerings that are reasonably priced.

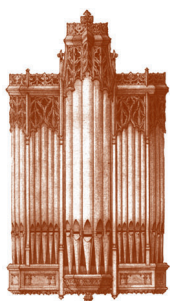
Calvary website link to The Bookstore at Calvary

Go to <https://www.calvarypgh.org> and click on The Bookstore at Calvary located in the upper right corner or go directly to the site at <https://www.calvarypgh.org/the-bookstore-at-calvary>. You will find a monthly newsletter along with pictures of a featured items available along with information on upcoming Zoom Conversations with Authors. Be sure to mark the website as one of your favorites!

How to access The Bookstore at Calvary

This is a reminder that the Bookstore is still available to meet your needs. If you are interested in obtaining any items, 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. ■

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



With Ash Wednesday just around the corner, a few words on Lenten music may be in order. As is our custom, we will shift to a musical diet more rooted in plainsong for this season of penitence; both the service music (Kyrie, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) and the psalms will represent this idiom.

There will be a service of Evensong on Sunday afternoon, March 7, livestreamed at 5 p.m., and viewable in the archive thereafter. In keeping with both Lenten austerity and Covid-tide restraint, it will be sung by our regular cast of singers, unaugmented, but it should still be beautiful, and I hope you can join us, virtually. The music will include the so-called “Dorian” service of Thomas Tallis, a rather austere setting for unaccompanied voices. (We will also be offering a concert of Passion-themed music on Good Friday evening at 8 p.m., with our singers joined by the musicians of Chatham Baroque. More on that occasion in the next *Agape*.)

Speaking of Tallis, that great Tudor composer, along with his younger colleague William Byrd, is the subject of a very engaging and approachable series of three talks recently given by Dr. Kerry McCarthy for Trinity Cathedral, Portland, Oregon. Dr. McCarthy is the author of recent books on both these composers, but wears her erudition very lightly. She does a really fine job of situating the music in its cultural environment, with some great slides and nice musical illustrations, and no specialized musical knowledge or experience is required for enjoyment. The sessions can be viewed on YouTube; the first is at the following link: tinyurl.com/dvueaeb

Finally, the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, usually a regular feature of the local musical landscape, is on Covidian hiatus this year. In place of those live events, video recitals are being offered by local organists (at least, there are two so far, with more in the pipeline). A brief organ-recital by Jon Tyillian and me is now available for viewing at the series’ website, <https://organseries.com/> ■

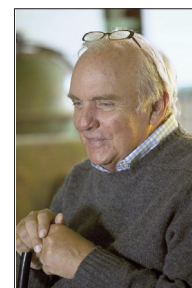


Soup Group

Although we are not yet cooking as a group, there is an ample supply available in the Calvary freezer. Soup can still be delivered to fellow parishioners, friends, and family members. Please call the Church office to check on the times that access is available to the kitchen. Contact me if you have any questions.

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

Spiritual Reflection – Frederick Buechner



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.

Every few months, we chose 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 the Winter term we will continue using the writings of Frederick Buechner. Now 94 years old, Buechner is an author of fiction, sermons, daily reflections and memoirs, and recipient of several literature awards and honorary degrees. He is an ordained Presbyterian Minister who established a theology department at the Exeter before devoting himself to writing and raising a family. Buechner’s writings on Christianity and spirituality are particularly rich and, according to biographer Dale Brown, encompass these themes: faith despite doubt, hope through grace, searching for meaning, our shared story, meaning of “Christian,” and sinners as saints. We have purchased for the group his book, *Listening to Your Life*, which is comprised excerpts of his writings presented as daily meditations.

Meetings are held using Zoom from 7–8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. Upcoming meetings will take place on February 2 and 16, and March 2 and 16. 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. ■



Please Wear a Mask!



**Happy Valentine's Day,
with love from Beginnings!**

It's hard to believe that we're already into the second half of our school year, but as we have done all year, we try to fill each day with learning and fun. One minute we're building snowmen on the playground, the next minute we're observing the morning sky with a giant telescope, and the next minute we're making paper mache planets. With these different kinds of activities, it's no surprise that our teachers greet each day with the same level of enthusiasm as our students.

One of our new teachers is a member of Pittsburgh's Amateur Astronomer's Club and brings with her a great deal of knowledge and experience about space. She has helped launch our Purple and Green Team students into orbit this month so they can explore our solar system. To prepare for their travels, they made rockets, space ships, Mars rovers and astronaut suits from recycled items brought from home. They've learned about gravity by conducting experiments using eggs, balloons, and paper napkin parachutes. They've practiced walking on balance beams wearing heavy boots and pretend oxygen tanks and using walkie talkies to communicate. They've played spinning games to mimic the orbiting planets around the moon. To get a feeling of what the terrain may be like on the moon and Mars, we filled our sensory tables with white and red sand and then added a variety of space toys for discovery and play. Our teams have been dancing to "Fly Me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra, which is also a love song that ties in with Valentine's Day.

Our Blue Team has been transforming their classroom into a big blue sea. A gigantic octopus and several plastic jelly fish have been hung from the ceiling and are currently hovering over their circle time rug. The unit began with a make-believe snorkeling trip through a coral reef. They explored the bottom of the sea seeking pearl-filled oysters. To learn more about the diversity of life in the ocean, they'll continue their voyage and run into a very large shark, rainbow fish, sea horses, and star fish. After studying these creatures and determining the roles they play, the students will create models of each using different art media for display. They'll also conduct an oil spill experiment to better understand the importance of ocean conservation.

The Orange Team is spending their time under the sea as well, exploring the ocean's depths in a submarine and learning the names of the creatures they encounter. For their crafts, they are making seahorses and exotic fish. Maybe they will encounter the Blue Team during their exploration!

Because of our continued safe practices during the pandemic, we've decided it wouldn't be much fun for our



students, their families, and Calvary parishioners to have a virtual Valentine's Day Dance-a-thon this year. We'll let you know if we plan other fundraisers during the school year.

We hope you stay safe, healthy, and warm this winter!

—Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Age 3 - K: Children in this age group are welcome to join our Sunday morning Zoom sessions with Grades 1 – 6 from 9:50 – 10:50 a.m. (*Meeting IDs are listed below.*)

Grades 1-6: Sunday school Zoom sessions will be held from 9:50 – 10:50 a.m. until further notice. (*Meeting ID: 878 8224 3941, Passcode: 116060*). Led by Tammy Lewis.

Please join us for a Shrove Tuesday session on February 16 at 6:00 p.m. (*Meeting ID: 873 4470 3765, Passcode: 208369*)

Confirmation Class: Zoom sessions will be held each Sunday from 10 – 10:45 a.m., January – April. (*Meeting ID: 812 6517 4553, Passcode: 839660*). Led by Laura Marchl.

Journey Group: Zoom sessions will be held each Sunday from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. during Lent. (*Meeting ID: 831 2778 2973, Passcode: 035864*). Led by Tammy Lewis and Katie Riordan.

Journey Group: Please join us for an introductory session on Shrove Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m. (*Meeting ID: 830 7531 0424, Passcode: 335856*).

POLO Group: Virtual Happy Hour on Shrove Tuesday, February 16 at 8 p.m. (*Meeting ID: 882 7226 3436, Passcode: 680977*).

—Tammy Lewis, *Director of Children's Christian Formation*,
tlewis@calvarypg.org, 412.661.0120 ext. 116 ■

Valentine's Day is February 14

Valentine's Day, also called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

There are a number of martyrdom stories associated with various Valentines connected to February 14, including an account of the imprisonment of Saint Valentine of Rome for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the third century. Numerous later additions to the legend have better related it to the theme of love: an 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution; another says that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry.

Valentine of Rome was a priest in Rome who was martyred in 269 and was added to the calendar of saints by Pope Gelasius I in 496 to be celebrated on February 14, who died on that date in AD 269. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have given way to mass-produced greeting cards.

Saint Valentine's Day is not a public holiday in any country, although it is an official feast day in the Anglican Communion and the Lutheran Church. ■



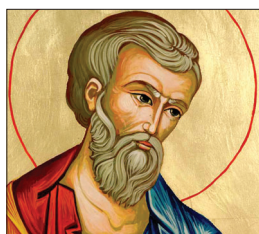
Have you completed and returned your 2021 Annual Appeal Pledge Card?

If you need a pledge card, please visit the Calvary website or contact Kim Pieratt in the Church office at 412.661.0120 extension 111 or email her at kpieratt@calvarypgh.org

Stewardship of All Our Gifts

Thank you to all who have made a commitment to support Calvary in this upcoming year. Giving from parishioners constitutes the majority of our income. We appreciate your generosity and commitment during these difficult times.

Twenty-three families have made new pledges this year. About 30% of those who have pledged have raised their commitment from last year. If you are able, please join us and make a pledge to support Calvary's mission and ministry. ■



GOSPEL OF MATTHEW CLASS

The Rector leads a weekly class on the Gospel of Matthew on Sundays at 10 a.m. which are recorded and posted to the Calvary website and YouTube. The Calvary bookstore has resources available. Follow the link from the Calvary website: www.calvarypgh.org. ■

Church Finances: A Reminder

You are encouraged to make every effort to keep up with your pledge payments during this time of the Church not holding public worship. Our expenses continue apace. Every staff member is paid during this time. They are all busy at Calvary in different ways than usual. You may send payments by mail or electronically. The Church office receives mail delivery daily. Many thanks. ■

Please recycle this newsletter when you have finished reading it.



Find us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch

Plastic Recycling

Thank you to the many people that are recycling plastic film to the collection 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. ■

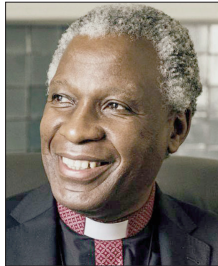


‘We can name the evil that is racism’: A conversation with Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

By Matt Gardner | February 1, 2021

The struggle against anti-Black racism is a common thread in the history of North America and South Africa. During the apartheid era, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa played a major role in supporting the movement to end the official system of racial discrimination. While apartheid officially ended three decades ago, racism continues to plague South Africa today alongside persistent economic and social inequality.

In 2007, Thabo Makgoba became archbishop of Cape Town, occupying the position once held by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. As a student in the 1970s and '80s, Makgoba actively participated in the movement against apartheid. In his subsequent ministry as an Anglican priest, rector, archdeacon, bishop and archbishop, he continued to challenge inequality, injustice and corruption. In the last years of Nelson Mandela's life, he provided pastoral care and presence to the former South African president and icon of the anti-apartheid movement.



The Anglican Journal spoke to Archbishop Makgoba to learn more about his memories of apartheid, the church's ongoing role confronting injustices in South Africa, and his thoughts on the Black Lives Matter movement in North America. The interview which follows has been edited for length and clarity.

I read your memoir Faith and Courage: Praying with Mandela in preparation for this interview and was wondering if you could expand on your own experience of apartheid and its aftermath.

In my memoir, I tried to spell out briefly my family history and my history growing up as a Black child in South Africa. I think what remains unresolved even by the democratic government is the whole issue of land, where land was taken by force. Even in the township where we lived, we were removed forcibly to another township by the Afrikaans government then, by the “Peri-Urban” [police on the outskirts of South African cities].

Land tenure and disputes around land still remain an issue, and dare I say, a racial issue, because those that were forcibly removed are mainly Blacks or Africans, Indians, the Coloureds [a multiracial ethnic group].... Those are the sad terms that we use in South Africa.

Besides [my family's] forced removals, when I tried to apply

In Memoriam

Anne M. Muhl

Anne, 85, died peacefully at her home in Mt. Lebanon on Monday, January 18, 2021.

Anne devoted her life to Sheldon Calvary Camp, on the shores of Lake Erie, for 40 years, in many positions as registrar, administrator and director. She impacted the lives of countless campers and staff, where she was affectionately known as “Mom” to all who worked with her.

A memorial service and reception will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather in person. ■



to one of the best universities in the country, Wits University, I was denied, initially, entry because it was mainly a white university. In those days, we as Black people had to prove to the minister that we were academically capable, but [also] to say the course we want to do is not available at a [Black] African university. Most of them are far away from Johannesburg.... I was denied a ministerial approval at the personal level. That was really based on racial terms. And I was detained a couple of times for the pass laws [requiring Black South Africans to carry an internal passport].

The role of the church in fighting apartheid was a major influence in your deciding to pursue the priesthood. How did the Anglican Church in South Africa respond to anti-Black racism during and after apartheid?

During apartheid, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa had powerful archbishops from this office that challenged the Bantu education that sought to put Black people into Black schools and not allow them to meet. There was vociferous challenging of apartheid.

We have the best-known advocate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was elected dean of Johannesburg. The challenge then was, if you let a Black dean to be in Johannesburg, where was he going to stay? Because the rectory was in a white suburb. Desmond Tutu was given really a heartache in terms of that. [Later] we have the Anglican Church again electing Desmond Tutu as the first Black archbishop. Now he has to come and stay here in [the wealthy Cape Town suburb] Bishopscourt, when we were segregated racially and Blacks had to stay in certain places and whites had to stay in certain places.

In terms of residential formation, the Anglican Church had Black and white theological colleges. We started sending Black students to St. Paul's, which was a white elite theological college, to say we will not be ruled by apartheid. Archbishop Desmond Tutu challenged the international community to impose sanctions against [South] Africa as a passive means, a non-violent stance, to bring about a change. ■

Read more at www.anglicanjournal.com

2021 Holidays and Observances

Tuesday, February 16: **Shrove Tuesday**

Wednesday, February 17: **Ash Wednesday**

Sunday, February 21: **The First Sunday in Lent**

Sunday, March 28: **Palm Sunday**

Thursday, April 1: **Maundy Thursday**

Friday, April 2: **Good Friday**

Sunday, April 4: **Easter Day** ■

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

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. ■

Communicating with the Church and Clergy

Each Friday, Calvary will send out an email with some brief announcements and a link to the full-text bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service. The email will have a direct link (one to click on to take you to the page) to the Calvary website and Calvary YouTube and Facebook pages where the service will be streamed. The Calvary YouTube page has an archive of high resolution videos of past services, sermons, and classes. A direct link is far easier than typing the addresses below which also work.

Calvary YouTube Page

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAsWoq8c-yqHDFay_hWtkyQ

Calvary Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch/>

Clergy Contact Information

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

- The Rev. Jonathon Jensen, jjensen@calvarypgh.org
- The Rev. Leslie Reimer, lreimer@calvarypgh.org
- The Rev. Neil Raman, nraman@calvarypgh.org
- Deacon Geoffrey Royce, groyce@calvarypgh.org ■

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, March 5, 2021**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it directly to the church office.

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

Please remember Calvary Church
in your will.



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

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Senior Associate Rector*
The Reverend Neil K. Raman, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Dr. Moni McIntyre, *Assisting Priest*
The Reverend Geoffrey Royce, *Deacon*
Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan, *McNulty Intern*
The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*
Jamie McMahon, *Senior Warden*
G. Frederic Roth, *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, Ron Johnston,
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*
Sherry Bloom, *Manager*; The Bookstore at Calvary
Robert Diltz, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

www.calvarypgh.org



News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

Bishop's Visitation Schedule

- February 14:** Emmanuel, North Side
February 21: Atonement, Carnegie
February 28: St. David's, Peters Township
March 7: St. Thomas, Canonsburg
March 14: St. James, Penn Hills ■

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- February 14:** Emmanuel Episcopal Church, North Side, and the Reverend Don Youse, Jr., M.D.
February 21: Church of the Atonement, Carnegie, and the Reverend Ben Wright; and St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Carnegie, and the Reverend Sara Irwin
February 28: St. David's Episcopal Church, Peters Township, and the Reverend Kristian Opat
March 7: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Canonsburg, and the Reverend Canon Dr. Catherine Brall
March 14: St. James Episcopal Church, Penn Hills, and the Reverend Canon Eric McIntosh; and the Beloved Community Initiative ■

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 ■

By the Grace of God

The Right Reverend
Dorsey W. M. McConnell
Bishop of Pittsburgh

will ordain

Brandon Pearce Cooper
and
Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan

to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's one holy catholic
and apostolic Church

Saturday, March 6, 2021
at ten o'clock in the morning

Trinity Cathedral
328 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

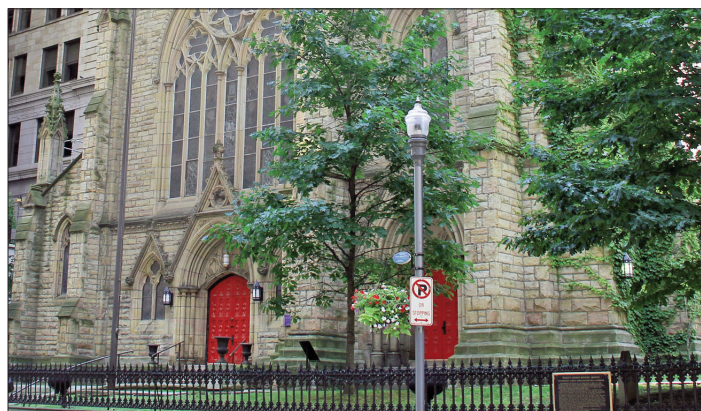
Your prayers are requested

*The service will be live-streamed on
Trinity Cathedral's Facebook page*

In-person attendance is by invitation only

2021 Constitutions and Canons Available

The 2021 updated Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh are now available. This version incorporates the many changes made at diocesan convention last year. These documents, along with many others, are available on the diocesan website at www.episcopalpgh.org. ■



Trinity Cathedral, Downtown Pittsburgh

An Invitation to Help Share Awareness of the Beloved Community Initiative (BCI)

As the saying goes, we want to hear from you. It's true!

As the Diocese of Pittsburgh continues this new collaborative effort of establishing a Beloved Community, an important step is for you to provide us your thoughts on the BCI – what you already know or need to learn; what you are doing or where you might need help; who is involved and how we might share our experiences with one another.



In the process, we will learn from you. By completing the survey on our website, you will begin a dialogue that will lay the foundation for future conversations and activities, whether among individuals, as a parish, across the diocese, or involving our neighbors. So, let's begin...

First, learn about The Beloved Community Initiative:

Our mission:

The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) seeks to promote the liberating and reconciling love of Jesus Christ, particularly as it relates to racial justice and reconciliation. The BCI will serve specifically to develop strategies for this work that are informed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, our Baptismal Covenant and our diocesan mission.

Next, visit the Diocesan website for more information about the BCI and complete the survey at www.episcopalpgh.org. ■

ECW Spring 2021 Scholarships Available

In 1927, The Episcopal Church Women established the Memorial Membership Fund to provide missionary training scholarships. In the 94 years of its existence, the scope of the fund has widened to include nursing, theology and other humanitarian fields of study.

Funds are raised through gifts from individuals or groups in memory of a loved one or friend. This money is invested and the interest used for the grants.

Each applicant must:

- be an Episcopalian in good standing (active) in a parish in the Diocese of Pittsburgh,
- have completed one year of college or the equivalent,
- be pursuing education in either church or humanitarian related fields,
- submit an application, including a letter stating goals and need, and
- submit a reference letter from their parish priest.

—continued in the next column

The Memorial Membership Committee will consider each request based on individual need and circumstances. Scholarships are completely unencumbered and may be used as needed to aid the recipient in achieving their educational goals. Each eligible applicant is able to apply once a year for three years.

The applications must be received by Sunday, March 21, 2021. The application form with submission instructions is available at www.episcopalpgh.org.

For additional information please contact Betty Duckstein at ducksteine@yahoo.com. ■

ECW Spring 2020 Grant Applications Available

The Diocese of Pittsburgh's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will be making outreach grants in the Spring.

The ECW particularly seeks to support hands-on ministries that help children, adults and families in need of assistance with food, nutrition, health care, housing, education and counseling.

The grants are primarily designed for ministries within the diocese and with the goal of even distribution across all districts. It is hoped that these small grants will enable the continuation of existing ministries on the local level. However, the ECW will continue its policy of also awarding grants to some national and international ministries such as Episcopal Relief & Development.

Applications for the Spring 2021 grants must be submitted before Sunday, March 21, 2021. The grant application and submission instructions are available on the diocesan website at www.episcopalpgh.org. ■

Reminder: Annual Reports Due Following Annual Meetings

In order for the diocesan office to continue to have up-to-date information, please complete the Annual Meeting Report Form in PDF or Word at your earliest convenience following your parish's annual meeting. ■

Garden Grants Available This Spring

Once again in 2021, the diocesan Social Justice and Outreach (SJO) Committee will offer grants to fund church garden initiatives. For the last seven years, the diocesan SJO Committee has offered a few (4-8) small grants to support the efforts of creating and sustaining parish-based vegetable gardens. More information and a Garden Grant application with submission instructions is available on the diocesan website. **The deadline for submissions is March 16, 2021.** ■



For a future without senior poverty.

SCSEP helps people age 55+ find work, develop new skills, and build their financial security.

Through SCSEP, 55+ job candidates like you:

- Receive up to 20 hours/week of paid training and work experience
- Gain valuable skills and experience, and build self-confidence
- Use their skills and talents to improve the community by training in a wide variety of locations, including offices, hospitals, daycare centers, senior centers and other community organizations

Wondering if you might qualify? Answer the following questions:

- Are you 55 years of age or older?
- Are you unemployed?
- Do you earn a low or no income?
- Do you wish to work in your community?
- Do you want to be paid to learn new skills through on-the-job training?

If you answered "yes" to the above questions, you may be eligible.

Apply Now - <https://www.scsep.org/OnlineApplication/>

Call AARP Foundation at 412-271-1580

MARCH 2021

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Sunday, March 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

Pray for Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Sunday, March 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Pray for Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Sunday, March 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Pray for The Church of England

Sunday, March 28 – The Sunday of the Passion: PALM SUNDAY

Pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

March 7: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Canonsburg, and the Reverend Canon Dr. Catherine Brall

March 14: St. James Episcopal Church, Penn Hills, and the Reverend Canon Eric McIntosh; and the Beloved Community Initiative

March 21: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Brackenridge, and the Reverend Dr. Frank Yesko

March 28: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg and the Reverend Charles Esposito; and St. Mary Magdalene Lutheran Episcopal Church and the Reverend Canon Natalie Hall

The Bishop's Visitation Schedule

March 7: St. Thomas, Canonsburg

March 14: St. James, Penn Hills

March 21: St. Barnabas, Brackenridge

March 28: St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg



**Watch Calvary's
Services, Sermons,
and Classes on**



**We also offer classes and
group meetings via**



**Visit our website for
details and direct links
www.calvarypgh.org**