

# Agape

The Newsletter of  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

MARCH 14, 2021

**Sermon Preached by**  
**The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, Rector**  
**Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**on the Third Sunday in Lent, Year B**  
**March 7, 2021**

*Exodus 20:1-17*

A couple of weeks after my heart attack, I started cardiac rehab at Shadyside Hospital. Three times per week for one and half hours for 36 visits. For me, that means walking on a treadmill and lifting weights while monitored by staff.

The rehab center looks like any modern gym full of equipment. Everyone there has a heart condition of some kind and is older and, often, heavier than in a college gym. There is no spandex there, thanks be to God, but there is bad music blasting the whole time. That is mitigated by the fantastic panorama of Bloomfield and Lawrenceville from the fifth-floor wall of windows looking northwest. The view of Children's Hospital and the neighborhoods is glorious with sun, snow, or winter gray.

By the second visit, I absolutely detested going and wanted to quit. The idea is to get the patient in better shape to allow him to continue exercising with confidence once he leaves. I didn't quit because it is good for me and like seeing things through until they are complete. More importantly, I wanted to figure out what it was that made me want to quit. I was angry, frustrated, resentful, and feeling a bit sorry for myself.

Staff members are excellent. The equipment and facilities are good. The overly loud music can be tuned out with headphones. There are a lot of nice people there. The hospital is five minutes from my house with sessions at a convenient time. Everything is paid for by insurance so it doesn't even cost anything. I was literally taking my medicine, exercising on my own, and doing everything the physicians told me but could not stand being there at cardiac rehab. So, what was the problem?

After hours and hours on the treadmill without much to do other than think, I was reflecting on the readings for this sermon. The Ten Commandments and the story around them was gnawing at me. The reason for my disgust hit me all at once and made me start laughing loudly which did cause some looks of concern. I had a heart attack but am not crazy. I was violating one

of the Ten Commandments and replicating, in my own way, what the Israelites did in the wilderness. The answer may as well have been written on tablets of stone from the Almighty.

You shall not murder. Nope. Thinking about doing it doesn't count. You shall not commit adultery or steal. Also, no. The first nine, not bad. It was the tenth commandment that was giving me problems. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. I was coveting, envious of, the good health of my neighbors. Being in that place reminded me of something I did not have that I deeply wanted.

I was younger than everyone else in the gym and appeared healthier. I was nostalgic for the time, not long ago, when I thought I was healthy and wanted to go back to that. Back to normal, the way things were when they made at least some sense. The problem was me. That should always be the first place to look.

In the reading today, the people and Moses heard the Ten Commandments spoken directly by God from the midst of a cloud on Mt Sinai. The voice was accompanied by thunder, lighting and smoke which caused the people to stay back and tremble in fear. They told Moses to speak to them himself because God's presence was too terrifying. The Lord saw right through them. We all know when we are afraid it is almost impossible to think clearly, remember accurately, or make good decisions.

The story continues with an extended conversation between God and Moses with God doing the talking and Moses doing the listening. God listed all sorts of further commandments about people and property, religion, and ritual purity. God took the initiative and delivered them from slavery in Egypt and was leading them to the Promised Land to be a free people. The Ten Commandments and the other laws, 613 total, are the grateful response of the liberated people that helped remind them who they are and to whom they belonged. God wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone for Moses to take to the people.

That was the plan... but it rarely works out how we want. Moses was on the mountain in conversation with God for forty days. That means, in Bible terms, not

*-continued on page 2*

literally forty days but awhile. A month or so. Long enough for the people to start to worry or wonder or wander. All three happened.

Moses had only been gone forty days when the people asked his brother Aaron, who was in charge, to make a god for them to worship. The people claimed not to know what happened to Moses although they knew full-well he was on the mountain with God.

They gathered all their gold and melted it down into the form of a golden calf. A bull or calf was one of the gods (Apis) of Egypt. The Lord had brought ten plagues on Egypt causing the pharaoh to release the Israelites, led by Moses across the Red Sea on dry ground, destroyed the pursuing Egyptian army, and was leading them to the Promised Land. It was to be their new home flowing with milk and honey. It would have everything they would need.

When the leader was gone, the people acted out of fear. Maybe it was also, in a mood of nostalgia, to make an idol of a god they had known while in slavery to give a sense of safety or security. They had a big feast, made sacrifices to the idol, and were singing and dancing around it. The Bible says they were "running wild" ... like 12 year-olds on Halloween night on a sugar high about to crash.

When Moses came down the mountain and saw it, he got so mad he threw down the tablets on the ground and shattered them... symbolic of the people breaking the covenant relationship. Aaron blamed the people and said he simply threw the gold into the fire and out came this golden calf as if by magic. It's not my fault! The people blamed Aaron and each other.

Moses then took the golden calf, ground it into powder, put it in water, and made all the people drink the bitter tea. If you run wild like that, you have to eat all the candy, every last piece so you remember and never do that again. Eventually, Moses received a new set of stone tablets with the Ten Commandments. It was a sign of the covenant renewed.

The people wandered in the desert for forty years seeking the Promised Land in a desert that is not that big – a few hundred miles. It should have taken a few months rather than forty years to reach their destination. Why? Why did it take so long?

They weren't ready. The Israelites had to spend forty years wandering to stop thinking like slaves. You're not in Egypt anymore. Stop acting like it. The world has changed and while not perfect was going to be much better. They had to go through the wilderness, for forty years, to mold them into the people ready to enter the Promised Land. The journey, and what they learned and did along the way, made them the covenant people of God.

This year in the pandemic is a type of formative journey in the wilderness. It has only been one year this week since we suspended worship in person but seems like a lot longer.

We have lost a lot as individuals, as a country, and as a church community... things we all share and things known only to you.

I urge you not to waste this year because this journey, as unpleasant as it is, can help mold us into the people God needs us to be to bring good news and hope into a world craving that message. We all have to go through it. We may have problems but we have a purpose.

In our lives, in our church, and in our country... What do we need to let go of... leave behind in Egypt so to speak... to help us be the people God is calling us to be? What is your golden calf? What do we need to keep and strengthen that reminds us who we are and who we are called to serve?

This is not a time to give lots of advice or ideas for other people to do. Look first to yourself. No one else has your answers but you. Who are you called to be and how will you use this time to help find your way there? A tool to help might be the Ten Commandments and this story, or at least it was for me. They do not exhaust our moral imperative but are a good resource for reflection, a mirror for our souls. You may covet something that belongs to a neighbor. It could be obvious ones like health or wealth, looks or love, friends or fame.

The Israelites had to accept the new reality they were no longer slaves, stuck in Egypt, but human beings with agency who could choose to honor their covenant relationship with God and one another wherever they were. It took them forty years to figure out the answer to one question, "Who are we?" Will we be slaves or free people?

I also had to accept the new reality. Not as a sick person or victim or pretending it never happened... but as one with agency who needs healing and is willing to take the steps necessary to receive it. The anger, frustration, and feeling sorry for myself disappeared immediately with this realization that I had the same question before me as the Israelites... Who am I? Something had been lost but much more had been gained. I am alive and have a purpose and there is no going back even if I wanted to.

Who are you? Are you stuck in Egypt or heading to the Promised Land?

**Notes:**

Exodus Chapter 32 has the story of the golden calf.

The Ten Commandments also appear in Deuteronomy Chapter 5, verses 6-21.

The Ten Commandments are sometimes called "The Decalogue" which is Greek. "Deca" for ten and "logos" for words. The "ten words."

The Ten Commandments are referred to as the Decalogue in the *Book of Common Prayer*. They may be offered as part of the penitential order (usually in Lent) at the beginning of the Eucharist. See page 317 or 350 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. ■



## The Church Mouse



Thank You! Good Neighbors

“And the Lord gave this commandment to Moses, ... you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said to the man asking about eternal life: “You must love your neighbor as yourself.” The Charter of the United Nations states: “...live together in peace with one another as good neighbors.”

**Neighbors.** Since the first week of February, Jeanne and I have been receiving birthday and wedding anniversary cards from our Good Neighbors at Calvary Church. The lovely cards kept coming – one or three per day, and continued throughout the month. What a joy. What a lovely way to be a Neighbor!

Many people who sent cards wrote personal messages, or included small notes, even photographs. A few names were familiar, others were strangers, *but strangers no more*. All have been accepted into our hearts and minds.

Jeanne and I will begin *a new day* ... a new year ... a new century, and as the days dwindle down to a precious few we shall remember those who sent beautiful cards or even held us in their thoughts as we reached my 100th birthday and Jeanne and I our sixty-ninth year of married life. It has been a remarkable journey and the many cards from our Calvary Church neighbors have added so much joy to the festive day for both of us.

To all our wonderful Neighbors at Calvary Church, we send our most sincere “**Thanks!**”

—Jeanne and Philip Sunderman ■

## Beware of Email Scams!



Spam emails are again being sent to Calvary parishioners and friends from someone impersonating the Rector and asking for gift cards. DO NOT reply, simply delete the message. If you check

the return address from the sender and it is any address other than calvarypgh.org, it isn't from Calvary. We do not use Gmail or any other provider.

Never give ANYONE your personal information, by email or phone. No legitimate company asks for that. If you think it really is your bank calling or emailing, call your bank directly. Don't reply to the email with a message to stop. Your address will then be confirmed as legitimate and will be sent on to other spammers. Just delete the message. ■

## CALVARY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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

**Wednesday, March 10 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, March 18 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour over Zoom

**Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday**

**Wednesday, April 14 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, April 15 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour at TBA

**Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, April 29 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour at TBA ■

## Keeping “in touch” at a distance



With many people practicing social distancing to help stop the spread of COVID-19, we wrestle with a very rare challenge: how do we remain together and united while physically apart? The spiritual “habit of meeting together” is an ancient one, and we're not sure how long public health recommendations will disrupt these traditions. Please consider staying in touch with your friends by giving them a call. You could also send a greeting card or a handwritten note. Some people are very isolated at this time, and a short call will help to brighten their day. ■

Please recycle this newsletter  
when you have finished reading it.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

[www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch)

## St. Michael's Society

We are fortunate to live near Calvary Church. In good weather, when services are open, we walk to Shady and Walnut on Sunday mornings. During the present constraints, we are grateful to be able to attend services in our beautiful building via complex technology and the grace-filled efforts of priests, musicians, and techies. These days, on Sunday mornings, we hook up our computer to the television to watch in wide screen. At the same time, however, we often find ourselves glancing out the window to another Calvary vision – the steeple. It reminds us that our faith, and our parish, were here long before we were and – if we all do our part – will be here long after we've departed this world.

The St. Michael's Society encourages people to plan ahead regarding the disposition of assets in their estates, to include Calvary Church as a beneficiary. Our beautiful building is a tangible reminder, in details large and small, that we are part of a communion of saints that goes back centuries and stretches forward into the future. Our clergy, staff and congregants are ongoing members of a great cloud of witnesses who bring the Good News to our community every day. Making soup, teaching young children, hosting support groups, preaching sermons, celebrating the liturgies, reading and arguing the Scriptures, making a joyful noise in song, and on and on without end.

We believe that it is our responsibility as the present generation to preserve and enhance both the building and the programs of the Church for the next generation. Please consider joining the St. Michael's Society.

In peace,  
*Russ and Kathy Ayres*

Will your legacy help to make Calvary Church and this world a better place? Please consider joining the Ayres and many other families who have generously included Calvary Church in their estate plans. For information about how to join the St. Michael's Society, contact Deborah Kelly at 412.688.9299 or [dc1kelly@gmail.com](mailto:dc1kelly@gmail.com) ■

## 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. ■



## The Neb



## Then and Now

**Then:** Indecision, confusion, and misinformation about the effects of Coronavirus abounded. **YET** common sense started to prevail. A lockdown ensued – then a brief foray into limited attendance at services and back again.

**Now:** Vaccines proliferate. From “I’m on a list, but...” to “I got mine” are comments more frequently heard these days amongst staff, necessary volunteers, and families. Optimism is in the air.

**Then:** Masks? No masks? Why? **YET**, again, common sense prevailed.

**Now:** Masks on everyone – all the time – no questions. Even the singers.

**Then:** One year ago, this weekend, in less than three days, Calvary prepared for its first ever webcast. One camera, a signal converter, a laptop, and a steep learning curve. **YET** all went even better than hoped and the effort was well received.

**Now:** A weekly streamed service is the norm. There are multiple remotely operated cameras, sophisticated software, a control center, and continuing human attempts to make services as near the real experience as possible. Inconspicuous to a congregation, the practice is foreseen to continue for the long term.

**Then:** A duet and a music director. **YET** beautifully rendered music and, in some ways, more intimate than from behind the distant Rood Screen.

**Now:** A regular vocal quartet plus an additional organist, occasional instrumental soloists, and, for our Good Friday concert, Chatham Baroque swelling the forces.

**Then:** Buildings that had been constantly bustling with the daily activities of the church and those welcomed by our ministry of space were suddenly emptied. **YET** new ways of accommodating the most needed functions were created. Zoom was discovered. The Soup Group worked from home.

**Now:** Most meetings and classes are still held online. Some meetings are in person, but severely restricted in size and distancing. No events yet and Bookstore sales are by appointment only. Down time has been work time for the sextons. Facilities are extremely clean and well-maintained, and just waiting for our return.

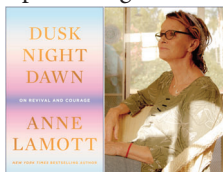
**In the Interim:** We have lost some beautiful people and have so far been unable to properly honor them. Jobs have been lost and new paths found. Friends have moved away. New members have joined the church. The Rector suffered a heart episode and mercifully recovered. Beginnings students are being taught. The rains, snows, and cold have wrought minor, now repaired, havoc on the infrastructure. **YET** life has gone on in spite of everything.

**Now:** Hope. Spring. Easter.

## The Bookstore at Calvary

### Save the Date: Zoom Conversation with Anne Lamott

The Episcopal Booksellers Association will be presenting a Zoom conversation with Anne Lamott about her book, *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage*, who communicates her faith both in her writing and in person, writes with honesty and compassion. She doesn't try to sugar-coat the sadness, frustration and disappointment as she tells her stories with a pureness of voice. She lifts us, comforts us, and inspires us, all the while keeping us laughing. The event will be on Thursday April 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. EST. The Bookstore is offering a 20% discount to all purchasers of the book. This is a free event with registration required. Visit the Bookstore website for the ZOOM link.



### 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 leather bound 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 leather bound 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:

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, documentation 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.

Sara Miles, Director of Ministry at St. Gregory Nyssa Church City of God in San Francisco, tells her story of taking to the streets to administer ashes on Ash Wednesday in *City of God: Faith in the Streets*. A fascinating account of a devout but unorthodox Episcopal minister who believes that one can find God everywhere.

Mark Oakley reveals George Herbert as a fine companion with whom to examine the journey of the soul in *My Sweet-Sour Days: George Herbert and the Journey of the Soul*. It contains forty well-chosen poems by George Herbert (widely considered the greatest devotional poet in the English language), each of which is followed by a short but profound reflection and personal meditation by Oakley.

*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 or praying with the Bible.

### And Also With Yinz Hoodies

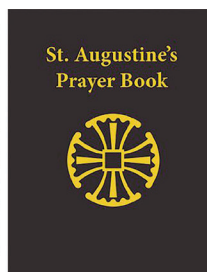
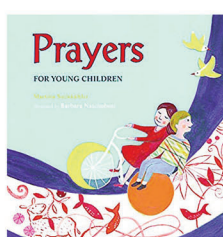
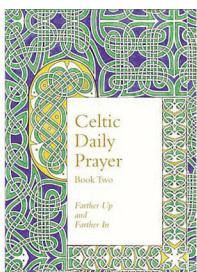
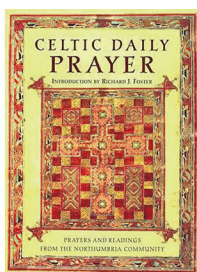
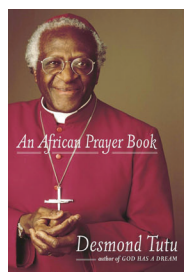
With more of us our working and spending more time at home due to the pandemic, the "And Also With Yinz" hoodies can be both a warm and fashionable addition to your wardrobe. Also available as a short sleeve tee shirt and both available in size small to XXL. A portion of the proceeds from all 'yinz' 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](http://www.calvarycamp.org).

### Calvary website link to The Bookstore at Calvary

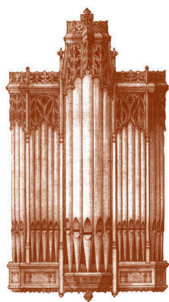
Go to [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org) and click on The Bookstore at Calvary located in the upper right corner, or go directly to the site at [www.calvarypgh.org/the-bookstore-at-calvary](http://www.calvarypgh.org/the-bookstore-at-calvary). You will find a monthly newsletter along with pictures of a featured items available as well as 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](mailto: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



The signs of spring are few but heartening: snowdrops and other hardy early bloomers piercing the frigid ground as harbingers of a warmer time ahead after this particularly frigid and lonely winter.

This issue of *Agape* coincides (as it happens) with the anniversary of our shift into “lockdown” a year ago, with the transformation of so much that was familiar in our

lives into a new and different mode. That, obviously, included our patterns of corporate worship, which shifted essentially overnight from the way we had always experienced church into an on-screen, “streamed” liturgy, whose congregation was widely dispersed geographically, but united virtually for the “brief, bright hour of fellowship” (as one hymn calls it).

We have made the best we could of that reality, thanks particularly to the generosity of the congregation, whose gifts made possible the acquisition of equipment able to convey the liturgical experience more fully to those at home. Fred Roth, Adam Augustine, and Neil Raman have made it work more seamlessly than I could have imagined. And I will always be deeply grateful to the “quarantet” of singers, who have done everything they can to lend some semblance of normality to something that has been so strange.

Amazingly, we now approach a second “virtual” Holy Week and Easter. Its general shape will be like that of last year; the Holy Week services are enumerated elsewhere in this issue. But there are two additions to last year’s pattern that I want particularly to highlight. First, we will resume the long-standing pattern of offering a devotional concert on Good Friday evening (April 2, at 8 p.m.). Our wonderful ensemble-in-residence, Chatham Baroque, will take part, along with our singers, to offer a program including seasonally fitting vocal music by Thomas Tallis, François Couperin, and others, and instrumental music by Heinrich Biber and Dietrich Buxtehude. It will be live-streamed, and also archived for later viewing.

The second “usual” event that we missed out on in last year’s Holy Week observance was the Great Vigil of Easter. Our video capacity last year seemed to us simply unequal to the task of conveying that experience successfully. We are hopeful that this year, fitted as we are with our new array of cameras, the virtual congregation will be able to engage with that ancient and beautiful liturgy in a meaningful way, from the Lighting of the Paschal Candle and Exsultet, to the Readings and Psalms of the Vigil, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the First Eucharist of Easter. Please join us for that via livestream at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, or find it later in the archive.

May our journey through Holy Week to Easter – a journey we take together even though separated – be meaning-filled for us all, and may it help sustain us through what remains of Covid-tide, and into the life whose return we look for beyond its end. ■



## Holy Week and Easter

All services will be live streamed on Facebook and YouTube, and available on YouTube after the service concludes.

### Palm Sunday, March 28

Eucharist with the Blessing of Palms at 11 a.m.

### Monday in Holy Week, March 29

Evening Prayer at 6 p.m.

### Tuesday in Holy Week, March 30

Evening Prayer at 6 p.m.

### Wednesday in Holy Week, March 31

Evening Prayer at 6 p.m.

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

Eucharist with stripping of the Altar at 7:30 p.m.

### Good Friday, April 2

Good Friday liturgy with sung Passion Gospel at 12 p.m.

Good Friday Concert: *Music for Passiontide* at 8 p.m.

### Saturday, April 3 – The Great Vigil of Easter

Lighting of the Paschal Candle, Scriptural Prophecies, and the First Eucharist of Easter at 8 p.m.

### Easter Sunday, April 4

Celebration of the Resurrection at 11 a.m. ■

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## 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 ■





# News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

**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

**April 4:** Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, the Reverend Aidan Smith, and the Reverend Dr. Wesley Hill, the Cathedral Chapter; and the Walk-In Ministry at Trinity Cathedral

**April 11:** Non-parochial clergy, including the Reverend Kathryn LaLonde, the Reverend William Miller, the Reverend Thomas Prichard, and the Reverend Charles Fischer

**April 18:** Leadership of the diocese, including the Standing Committee, the Board of Trustees, and Diocesan Council; and Episcopal Relief & Development ■

## Bishop's Visitation Schedule

**March 14:** St. James, Penn Hills

**March 21:** St. Barnabas, Brackenridge

**March 28:** St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg

**April 4:** Trinity Cathedral (*Easter*)

**April 11:** *No visitation*

**April 18:** *No visitation* ■

## 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...

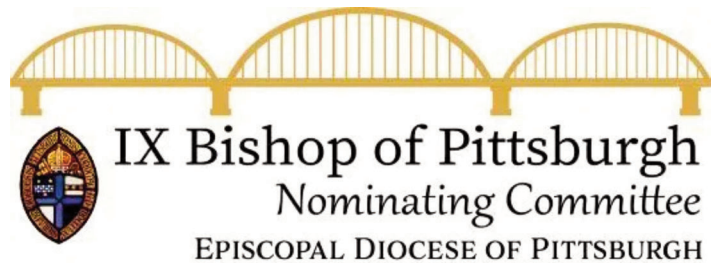
### First, learn about The Beloved Community Initiative:

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.episcopalpg.org](http://www.episcopalpg.org).

**Responses are being accepted until March 19. ■**



Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

–A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop, *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 818

As Bishop McConnell stated, the Standing Committee has consented to his request to change the date for the election of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh.

In doing so, we are hopeful as well that this will give our Nominating Committee the opportunity to meet with our excellent pool of potential candidates in person during their discernment process, and may allow us to have Public Candidate Visits take place in some form of in-person gatherings. The revised timetable is as follows:

- Announcement of slate and petition period begins – early May
- Tentative Public Candidate Visits – mid-June
- Election of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh – Saturday, June 26
- Retirement of Bishop Dorsey McConnell – Saturday, Sept. 11
- Consecration of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh – Saturday, Nov. 13

We are aware that this revised timetable results in a two-month period between the retirement of Bishop Dorsey and the consecration of our new bishop. Following the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Standing Committee will serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese during that

–continues on the back

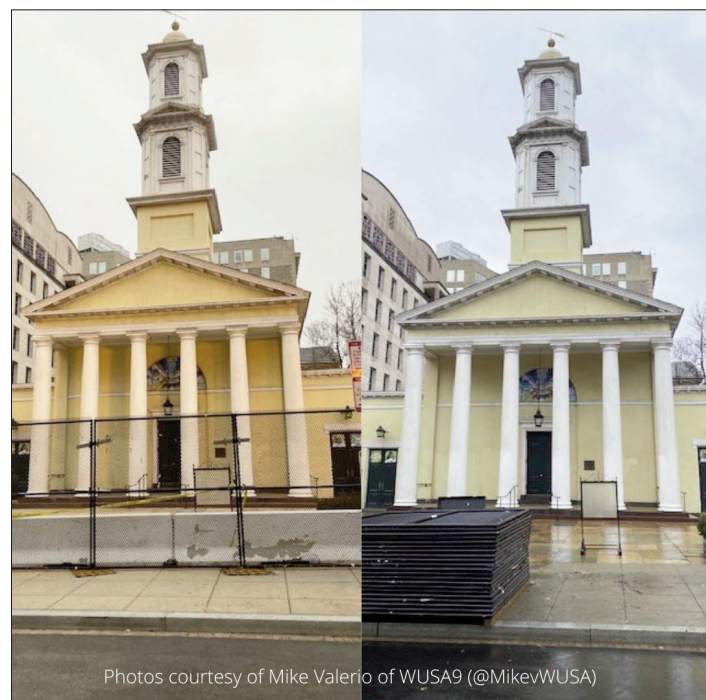
short period of time; most likely our bishop-elect will also be in residence and work in the diocese for some or all of that period.

The Standing Committee continues to join with the Nominating Committee in their optimism about the quality of the potential candidates. Please join us in prayer for their work, for this period of transition for our diocese and in thanksgiving for Bishop Dorsey and Betsy McConnell's ministry with us.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Peace,

The Rev. Noah H. Evans, *President*, Lisa Brown, *Secretary*,  
Kathy Baird, The Rev. Neil Raman, Robert Johnston,  
The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, The Rev. Annis Rogers,  
Steve Stagnitta ■



Photos courtesy of Mike Valerio of WUSA9 (@MikevWUSA)

## Fencing around St. John's Church in DC removed

The security fencing around St. John's Church in Washington, D.C., across from the White House, that was erected last summer after repeated acts of vandalism, has been removed.

The Rev. Robert Fisher, rector, announced the news in a parish email on March 1. The parish had accepted the city's offer to put up fencing around the property in June after the historic church was tagged with graffiti and damaged by fire

during the protests in response to the police killing of George Floyd.

"While the fencing did provide a measure of security, I have never grown used to seeing a fence around St. John's," Fisher wrote, adding that the church is working with an architectural firm to "enhance safety while also making the physical presence of St. John's reflect a spirit of welcome and service."

"As the fence comes down, we will be thinking of ways to both attend to the security of the church's campus in thoughtful ways while also making our space even more useful and inviting," Fisher wrote.

"It is a great day for St. John's and for the District to have the fencing come down around the church," Washington Bishop Mariann Budde wrote in a statement to local news outlet DCist. "St. John's is a vibrant city church, deeply committed racial equity and peaceful civic engagement for the common good. There is no fence around our hearts, and we are relieved to have the physical barriers removed at last."

The timing and reason for the fence's removal, and which government agency did it, was not immediately clear, DCist reported.

Fisher said the plywood boards covering the church's stained glass windows, featuring faith- and justice-themed murals by local artists, will soon be removed as well, and many will be donated to the Smithsonian. ■



## Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at

[www.episcopalpgh.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)

### The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, *Bishop*

412.721.0853 ext. 252 | [dmccconnell@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:dmccconnell@episcopalpgh.org)

### Andy Muhl, *Executive Assistant*

412.721.0853 ext. 251 | [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:amuhl@episcopalpgh.org) ■





## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

**Age 3 - K:** Children in this age group are encouraged to join our Sunday School 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 9:50 – 10:50 a.m. **We will have Sunday School on Easter Day, April 4.** (*Meeting ID: 878 8224 3941, Passcode: 116060.*) Led by Tammy Lewis.

**Confirmation Class (Youth):** Sunday Zoom sessions, 10 – 10:45 a.m., through April. **The class will NOT meet on Easter Day, April 4.** Our upcoming focus will be the sacraments, prayer, and worship. (*Meeting ID: 812 6517 4553, Passcode: 839660.*) Led by Laura Marchl.

**Journey Group:** (middle and high school age) Lenten series based on *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. Sunday Zoom sessions, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., through May. **We will meet on Easter, April 4.** (*Meeting ID: 831 2778 2973, Passcode: 035864*) Participants will receive all 7 books in the series. It's not too late to sign up! Please email Tammy Lewis at the address below. Friday Movie Nights are also being held once a month in the Parish Hall, following COVID safety protocols. Led by Tammy Lewis and Katie Riordan.

- 3/14 *The Magician's Nephew*
- 3/21 *The Horse and His Boy*
- 4/04 *Prince Caspian*
- 4/09 Friday Movie Night 6:30 – 9 p.m.  
*Prince Caspian*
- 4/18 *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- 5/02 *The Silver Chair*
- 5/07 Friday Movie Night 6:30 – 9 p.m.  
*The Voyage of the Dawn Treader/The Silver Chair*
- 5/16 *The Last Battle*

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

Who is ready for a new Beginnings? Starting this summer, Beginnings will offer two summer camps at Calvary. Our two-week Music Camp will start the end of May (just after the Beginnings' school year ends) and Art Camp will be held mid-June, also for two weeks. Full and half-day options will be available. This will give the children an opportunity to be outside, to be with other children in a safe environment, and to learn about music and art. Even more exciting, these camps will be available to children from Beginnings, Calvary, and the community. We're really excited about this expansion of the Beginnings program. Details will follow.

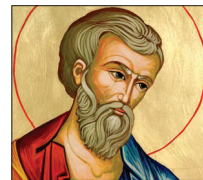
March has been math and science month at Beginnings. Our Blue Team has been focusing on science, learning how to observe, predict, experiment, and conclude. They are learning about molecules and magnets and comparing science and magic. The students will use themselves as the atoms to form different molecules. They will make rainbow jars to see that not everything mixes. The Green Team is focusing more on science to learn how science affects our world, conducting chemistry and biology experiments. The Orange Team is starting with the basics of math, learning different shapes and creating shape mobiles in different patterns to hang from the ceiling.

The Purple Team has gone in a completely different direction this month. Each day has been "dedicated" to one of the students on the team. The student chooses the topic, and the class makes that the focus of learning for the day. For example, so far this month they have studied sharks, puppies, kittens, dinosaurs, and the arctic world. One student, Mina, brought her stuffed cat named "Mew Mew" to class. The children discussed animal shelters and why it is important to adopt pets from shelters whenever possible. They also collected food, toys, litter, and blankets to donate to the East Liberty Humane Society. In addition to the supplies, they made pictures for the Humane Society to hang on their wall. Purple Team parents have expressed their child's excitement while at home preparing for their turn.

All in all, it has been an exciting month so far, and we have two more to go before the school year ends in May.

We will be closed March 30-31 and April 1 for Spring Break. Stay safe and see you next month!

–Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■



## GOSPEL OF MATTHEW CLASS

The Rector leads a 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](http://www.calvarypgh.org). ■

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](mailto:nraman@calvarypgh.org) or 412.661.0120, ext. 112). ■

Blue Team Purple Team Green Team Orange Team

## 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, March 28, 2021.**

Name (as you would like it to appear):

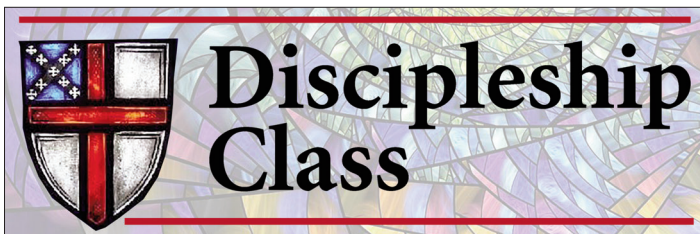
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Donor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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



This winter, Calvary is 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 is held on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. The class takes place over Zoom and uses breakout rooms for small group discussions. This is the Zoom link for the class: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87350371507?pwd=NVPZCs4UE9nd1VwZDIxQS8rQ1o5Zz09>. Sessions will continue through Sunday, April 25.

Each session includes 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](mailto:nraman@calvarypgh.org) ■

## 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](mailto: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. ■

## 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](mailto:kpieratt@calvarypgh.org). We ask that you keep us informed if you have a home address, phone or email change. ■

## Souper Sale



Thanks to everyone that supported the Soup Group sale on Sunday, February 7. We made almost \$900 that day. This money will be donated to Calvary's Beginnings Preschool and Hello Neighbor. Many people prepared, packaged and delivered soup to Calvary that was made in their homes. Thank you!

Thanks to the sales staff that day – Mary Ann Slater, Doug and Diane Styles, and Bob Eley.

We still have soup in our freezer for our ongoing ministry. Please feel free to give soup to our friends, family and fellow parishioners.

Adele Eley, [adele.eley@gmail.com](mailto:adele.eley@gmail.com), 412.371.6921 ■

## Treasurer's Report

Summarized below is the Calvary Episcopal Church Operations Fund Financial Results for the twelve (12) months ending December 31, 2020, as presented by Treasurer Bob Eley and approved by the Vestry at its February 22, 2021 meeting.

Calvary Episcopal Church  
Operations Fund – Consolidated  
Financial Results For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Pledge Income	\$816,800	\$928,000
Non-Pledge Contributions	114,300	110,000
Gifts & Grants for Operations	192,000	205,800
Loose Plate Offerings	24,000	10,200
Special Offerings	24,000	13,600
Endowment Fund	277,700	278,900
Trust Income	22,200	22,200
Beginnings - reimbursement to Calvary	15,600	15,600
Payroll Protection Program (PPP)	164,000	0
All Other	41,100	40,400
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,691,700</u>	<u>1,624,700</u>

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Personnel:		
Salaries	628,300	631,900
Benefits	396,000	384,200
Diocesan Assessment	157,000	157,000
Christian Formation & Pastoral Support	5,600	13,900
Hospitality/Parish Life/Outreach	23,100	40,000
Music	8,300	23,000
Maintenance and Operations of Buildings:		
Utilities & Maintenance	108,300	116,000
Supplies and Repairs	29,700	32,000
Landscaping and Snow Removal	17,500	22,000
Office and Administration:		
Supplies and General Office	13,700	16,800
Equipment Rentals & Maintenance	47,100	36,000
Telephone	9,200	7,000
All Other	4,700	6,000
Finance:		
Professional Services	17,600	17,000
Various Bank and Investment Fees	7,000	6,300
All Other	14,100	15,700
Insurance and Taxes	108,300	108,000
Capital Expenses (A)	37,700	38,400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>1,633,200</u>	<u>1,671,200</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenses</b>	<u>58,500</u>	<u>(46,500)</u>

A) 2020 Actual results include \$36,700 of qualified expenses capitalized at year-end by reclassing them to the appropriate fixed asset account on the Balance Sheet. ■

## Treasurer's Report–2021 Budget

Summarized below is the Calvary Episcopal Church Operations Fund Budget for fiscal year 2021, as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Vestry on February 22, 2021.

Calvary Episcopal Church  
Operations Fund – Consolidated  
For Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2021

<u>Income</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
Pledge Income	\$877,500
Non-Pledge Contributions	115,000
Gifts & Grants for Operations	200,000
Endowment Fund	284,700
Other Outreach & Capital Receipts	34,000
Trust Income	22,200
Loose Plate Offerings	15,000
Special Offerings	15,000
Beginnings - reimbursement to Calvary	15,900
All Other	21,100
Prior Year Carryforward	58,500
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,658,900</u>

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>
Personnel:	
Salaries	627,000
Benefits	398,200
Diocesan Assessment	164,600
Christian Formation & Pastoral Support	13,500
Hospitality/Parish Life/Outreach	41,000
Music	16,500
Maintenance and Operations of Buildings:	
Utilities & Maintenance	109,000
Supplies and Repairs	29,000
Landscaping and Snow Removal	20,000
Office and Administration:	
Supplies and General Office	14,500
Equipment Rentals & Maintenance	39,000
Telephone	9,000
All Other	6,300
Finance:	
Professional Services	18,000
Various Bank and Investment Fees	10,100
All Other	11,900
Insurance and Taxes	108,000
Capital Expenses	55,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>1,690,600</u>
<b>Net (Expenses) over Income</b>	<u>(31,700)</u>

Submitted by: Robert Eley, Treasurer ■

[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

## 2021 Holidays and Observances

Saturday, March 20: **The First Day of Spring**

Sunday, March 28: **Palm Sunday**

Thursday, April 1: **Maundy Thursday**

Friday, April 2: **Good Friday**

Sunday, April 4: **Easter Day**

Wednesday, May 5: **Cinco de Mayo**

Sunday, May 9: **Mother's Day**

Monday, May 31: **Memorial Day** [Federal Holiday] ■

## 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. ■

## 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](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](mailto:jjensen@calvarypgh.org)
- The Rev. Leslie Reimer, [lreimer@calvarypgh.org](mailto:lreimer@calvarypgh.org)
- The Rev. Neil Raman, [nraman@calvarypgh.org](mailto:nraman@calvarypgh.org)
- Deacon Geoffrey Royce, [groyce@calvarypgh.org](mailto:groyce@calvarypgh.org) ■

[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

# CALVARY

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

email: [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto:calvary@calvarypgh.org) ■ [www.calvarypgh.org](http://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*  
The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*  
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*  
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*  
Jamie McMahan, *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 Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

## Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, April 9, 2021**. Please e-mail your text to [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto: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](http://www.calvarypgh.org). Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■

## Plastic Recycling

Thank you to the many people that are recycling plastic film and bags to the box located in the Parish



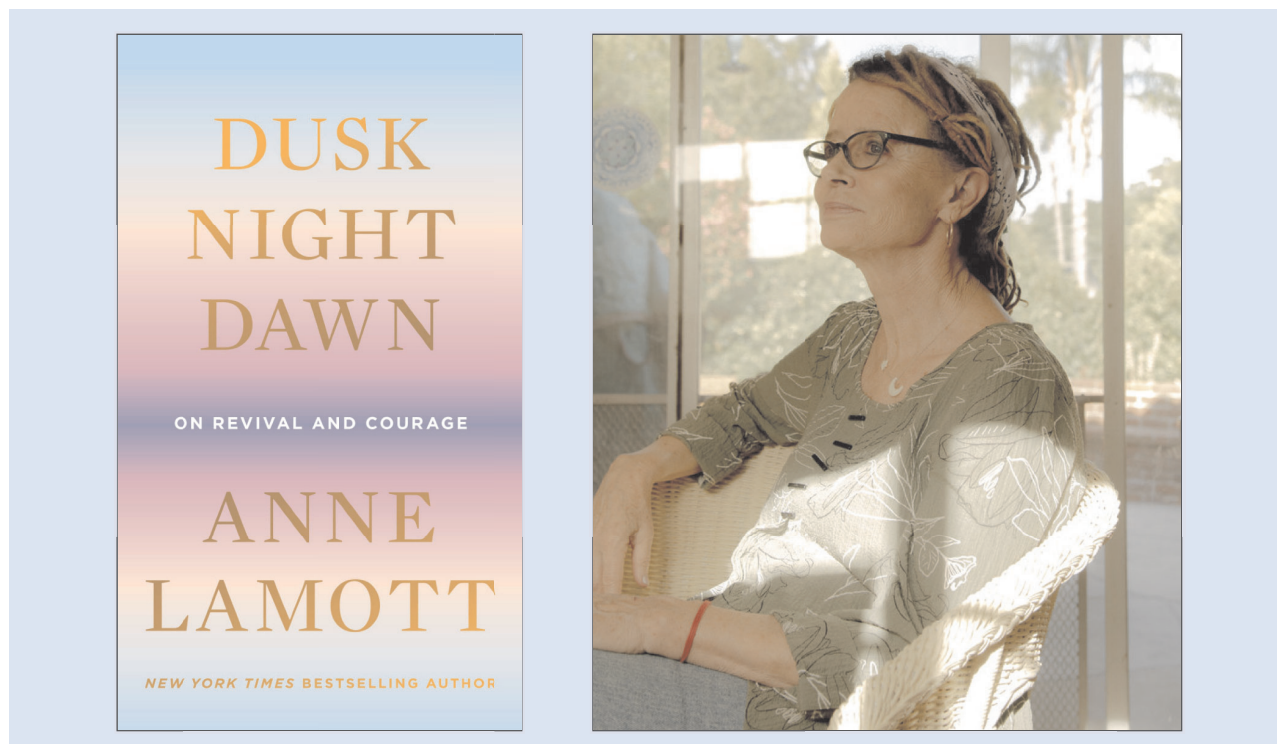
House lobby across from the reception desk. We will continue our practice of recycling here at Calvary. You are helping to keep thousands of pounds of waste out of landfills. (And, Yes, bubble wrap is recyclable!) ■

# THE **BOOKSTORE** AT **CALVARY**

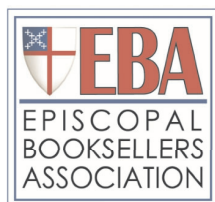
The Bookstore at Calvary, as a member of the Episcopal Booksellers Association, is hosting a series of **Zoom Conversations with Authors** in 2021.

Join the next Live Zoom Conversation on  
**Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. EST**  
with New York Times bestselling author  
**Anne Lamott**

Your purchase of the book from the Bookstore at Calvary helps to support our ministry.



– Registration for the Zoom Conversations is open to all –  
**Follow the link on the Bookstore at Calvary’s webpage at**  
**[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)**



**CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
315 Shady Ave. at Walnut St. | East Liberty 15206  
412.661.0120 ext. 133 | [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

