

The Newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

APRIL 5, 2020

What is a Sabbath?

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE: CHAPTER 10, VERSES 38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

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My first experience of a sabbatical was last summer. A sabbatical is a time for one to rest, read, write, prepare, and ultimately to think about what matters most. A sabbatical is simply an extended sabbath.

I have been rotten with vacations, basically working from home for two weeks for most of my ordained life. The idea of ten weeks of uninterrupted rest was, frankly, intimidating. Arrangements were made for a trip, books were set aside to be read, projects were planned. Things seemed to be in good shape and then the time arrived last May.

After the initial trip, I read all the books, painted two rooms, and completed all the projects in a week. Then I cleaned my home office, reorganized files and books, rearranged my clothes, built a model, worked in the yard, wrote a couple of sermons, walked the dog a lot, and then suddenly ran out of things to do. There are only so many batteries to check, so many plants to pot, or so many things you can clean. For about a week, I was bored and slept too late every day. Then I reread this story of Martha and Mary from the Gospel of Luke. I have always known I am more of a "Martha" than a "Mary," but I am trying.

Jesus visited the home of these two sisters in the town of Bethany, about two miles from Jerusalem. Martha welcomed Jesus into their home and did what a good



Jewish host was supposed to do, offer hospitality. While she was preparing and serving food, doing all the work, her sister Mary sat with Jesus and listened to him. Martha then complained to Jesus about the situation. "Don't you care, tell her to help me." Jesus commended Mary for choosing the best path.

All throughout the Gospel of Luke, hospitality is a recurring theme. The Parable of the Good Samaritan, that immediately precedes this story, is precisely about offering hospitality and being a good neighbor. It sounds odd for Jesus to criticize Martha for offering what he had just said was important to do.

Martha was worried, annoyed, and distracted. The original Greek here suggests she was being pulled in many different directions trying to do too many things. What Mary did was offer the best hospitality. That is, she spent time being fully present and listening to her guest. Her guest, Jesus in this case, had her full attention.

That story helped me reconsider what it meant to take a sabbath. The idea of a sabbath comes from God and our Jewish roots. After creating the Heavens and the Earth God rested, as the story goes. The sabbath was also meant to be a time of rest as a gift from slavery in Egypt experienced by the Jewish people. On the sabbath, they neither work nor travel but focus on what matters most. The season of Lent has a similar theme.

Rather than a "Thou shalt not" this is a positive commandment as one of the Ten Commandments

—continued on page 2

SABBATH, from page 1

from Exodus 20:8. "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." This is meant to be a joyful, re-creational time.

A person said to me recently she wished we had a sabbath like our Jewish cousins. We do. We also call it the Sabbath, which is Sunday for us. Even in the season of Lent, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection. Our sabbath has the same roots and a similar meaning. The sabbath is a time, a day or a season, to give thanks to God for creating the Heavens and the Earth and everything in them including us. A sabbath is a dedicated time of reflection and rest that is a gift.

We have the potential to claim this gift right now.

In no way do I mean to make light of the serious health concerns our world is facing. Because of this, many have challenges, particularly with health and finances. Those are real. We now have a mandatory stay at home order, a forced time not to work or go out. This season can be one of boredom, stress, and anxiety.

How will you use this time? Consider how God can work through this to bring some good. Consider this as an extended sabbath, a sabbatical, that was unplanned. It is likely never to happen again in our lifetimes. There will be ample time to be busy again before long and be pulled in many directions all at once. That's Martha. Once you do all the necessary things like shopping, cleaning and fixing, what will you do? Mary gave Jesus her full attention because that mattered most and there would never be another opportunity. This is a time to be like Mary.

What do you value the most? Where do your time, money, energy, and attention go to support? What do you love? Why do you love and value them? Take this time and consider them more fully than you ever have.

Before long, this crisis will have passed. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to take stock of what matters most to you. Use it. Make this a sabbath.

The Original Stay at Home Order

Exodus 16:29 – "Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out."

—Jonathon

Plastic Recycling Continues

Thank you to the many people that are recycling plastic film to the Parish Hall collection boxes. We will continue our practice of recycling here at Calvary.





All services will be live streamed on Facebook, and available on YouTube after the service concludes. Visit our website for direct links.

Palm Sunday, April 5

Eucharist with the Blessing of Palms at 11 A.M.

Monday in Holy Week, April 6

Evening Prayer at 6 P.M.

Tuesday in Holy Week, April 7

Evening Prayer at 6 P.M.

Wednesday in Holy Week, April 8

Evening Prayer at 6 P.M.

Maundy Thursday, April 9

Eucharist with stripping of the Altar at 7:30 P.M.

Good Friday, April 10

Good Friday liturgy with sung Passion Gospel at 12 P.M.

Easter Sunday, April 12

Celebration of the Resurrection at 11 A.M.



Worship Services

While we cannot gather for corporate worship at this time, Calvary hosts a live-stream of a celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday at 11 a.m. We are trying to make this worship experience as "normal" as possible with three clergy, one or two cantors, Alan Lewis at the organ, and a full text bulletin. We will stream our worship each Sunday as long as we need to do so.

Thank you to Fred Roth for his excellent camera and sound work. Thank you to the Rev. Neil Raman for technological set up of the stream and creating a link on the Calvary Facebook page and the Calvary webpage to make online donations. Thank you to Ken Smith for compiling the video and posting it on YouTube. Thank you to Joe and Elizabeth Seamans for loaning us a professional tripod for the camera to make every transition cleaner. —Jonathon



Preschool has been a little unconventional since March 12 when our physical location temporarily closed while things settled in the world around us. In order to protect the health and safety of our students, families, teachers, and support personnel from the novel COVID-19 virus, we have found new ways to stay connected from a distance.

Ms. Susan, a teacher on our Orange Team, said she was thankful that we're at a point in the school year where we have already built great relationships with our families – it makes online learning with our young children possible and even personable. We are continuing with our themes and being more creative since our resources within the community are limited.

Our Yellow Team (2-year-olds) began their artist's unit on "Dance". Our teacher, Ms. Corinne, created a YouTube video for their online team time. She sang their morning song and read Barnyard Dance by Sandra Bouton. She and her son played an online game with the children called "Find the Missing Object" that included dance items such as a ballet slipper. Team time ended as they followed a homemade playdough recipe and mixed the ingredients together in their kitchen. This was just the start of all the exciting activities they have planned while working from home.

Our Orange Team (young 3-year-olds) began their "Shapes and Patterns in Nature" unit. Ms. Susan created a YouTube video with a modified version of team time that included exercises and songs that are familiar parts of her students' days. She provided song lyrics ahead of time so that parents could join in. Families are also sharing pictures and videos of their children doing basic household chores, baking cookies, dancing, riding scooters through the living room, and doing art projects at their kitchen table. The teachers will keep their students super busy this spring since there are shapes and patterns everywhere!

We've worked hard to develop a sense of community at Beginnings and we're doing our best to stay connected. A private Facebook account has been created for current Beginnings families and almost every family member has joined. To encourage ongoing child participation, we create a topic and game each day. An example: "I Spy Spring," a game where children and their parents go on a nature hunt, observe changes from winter, spy something that looks like spring, take a picture, and post it online. But it doesn't stop there! Parents are then asked to follow-up with their child to compare and discuss what they post versus what their peers post for a greater learning experience.

We celebrated World Down Syndrome Day online by posting pictures of our crazy sock to raise awareness and

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 (nraman@calvarypgh.org / 412.661.0120 ext. 112).

CYAM 2020 Spring Schedule

Thursday, March 26 at 5:45 p.m. Virtual Holy Happy Hour over Zoom

Thursday, April 2 at 5:45 p.m. Virtual Holy Happy Hour over Zoom

Wednesday, April 15 at 5:45 p.m. Virtual Holy Happy Hour over Zoom

Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. CYAM Bible Study over Zoom

Thursday, April 23 at 12:45 p.m.Virtual Holy Happy Hour over Zoom

Wednesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. CYAM Bible Study over Zoom ■

advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of children, teens, and adults with Down Syndrome. Many of our students remembered our Crazy Sock Day from last year and were excited to participate again this year.

Thanks to our Communications Director, Ken Smith, we now have email accounts for each of our teams. Our Orange Team account is OrangeTeam@calvarypgh.org. For our other team accounts, you can simply substitute the team color of Red, Yellow, Purple or Blue. Beginnings teams are using their accounts for online teaching during this time when our students are working and learning from home. Please feel free to email our teams to say hello.

Two of our upcoming events have been postponed: Our annual Bake Sale scheduled for April 5 (Palm Sunday), and Karaoke Night – a social event for Beginnings and Calvary parishioners, scheduled for April 24. We plan to reschedule these events and will inform you of the new dates and times as soon as possible.

Beginnings continues to accept applications for the 2020-21 school year. If you know of families with young children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years who would be interested in our preschool, please have them email Beginnings@calvarypgh.org.

Stay safe and healthy!

-Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

www.calvarypgh.org

The Spanish Flu Epidemic and Calvary Convalescent Hospital

In 1918, Calvary's Parish House was used as a hospital for soldiers recovering from the Spanish Flu. A resolution from a special meeting of the Vestry on October 29, 1918 offered the parish house for use after a request from the local commander of the army camps at Pitt and Carnegie Tech. The space was offered with the condition that after said use the building and its contents would be "...thoroughly and scientifically fumigated." The kitchen and gym were also offered but the Ladies' Parlor and Vestry Meeting Room were not.

The purpose was to move convalescing soldiers into this temporary hospital space, with sixty beds, "... in order that citizens and residents of the City may be properly cared for and accommodated" in Pittsburgh's hospitals.

There have been significant changes to the building since then. The parish house of 1918 is now the level of clergy and other offices. The kitchen of 1918 is now the Rectors' office. The gym of 1918 is now the choir room, also known as McClintic Hall. The Ladies' Parlor of 1918 is the same space but is now called the Evans Room.

In November 1918, the Rector (Edwin Jan Van Etten) and his Assistant sent a letter to the parish about the "Calvary Convalescent Hospital." Just over two years later on January 2, 1921, Van Etten would lead the first worship service in the world over the radio on KDKA. Livestreaming our services over the World Wide Web from Calvary is really nothing new. ■

CALVARY CHURCH

THE CALVARY CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL

A very unusual opportunity has come to Calvary Church, and the parish has risen to the opportunity in a very wonderful way. To meet the present emergency of our pandemic-stricken community, the Vestry has tendered the use of the Parish House to the United States Military authorities in charge of the army camps at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Carnegie Technical School. The rooms will be used as a convalescent hospital for the S. A. T. C. men. Every man cared for here, releases a bed in the city hospitals, where space is so urgently needed for the people of our city. We are thus giving the city a new hospital of sixty beds. Our parish house with kitchen, gymnasium and club rooms is now a well ordered comfortable hospital! We wish you might all see what attractive and cheerful "wards" the two great assembly halls make!

The Parish House is now under strict quarantine. But the church is quite free. The "Ladies' Parlor" and the corridor with Choir Room and Vestry Room have been reserved and locked. There is absolutely no connection between church and parish house. They are separated by some 50 feet of solid walls and buildings. When we are able to resume services in the church, there need be no possible apprehension of any contact or contagion with the Hospital. As houses are built in a city street, our church and our parish house are several doors apart!

The men sent to the Calvary Hospital are convalescents some days beyond the last fever of their sickness. As you know, the days of recovery are often the most trying and tiresome.

Contributions of current magazines, games, good books of stories, fruits, jellies, flowers, will be most welcome. They may best be sent to the Rectory. Perhaps some of you may care to send a month's subscription to newspapers. The men come from a wide area of country; Pittsburgh, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago papers will be welcome. Human nature is always the same and it is always good to have news from one's own "home town".

May we express our appreciation of the fine spirit of interest and support shown in this whole matter? Your Vestry has given the question very careful and thoughtful consideration. To change the parish rooms into an Hospital is no light undertaking or responsibility. The parish workers have given most wholehearted help in the rearrangement both of plans and of furniture! The whole parish is ready to make this temporary but very real sacrifice. I believe we are all glad and thankful that the opportunity for such immediate and direct war work community service has come to us!

EDWIN J. VAN ETTEN

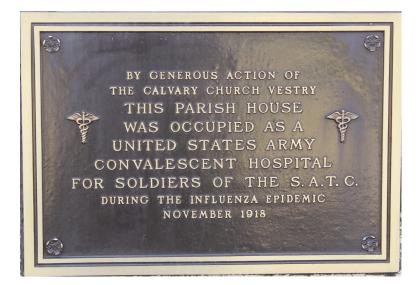
LEWIS B. WHITTEMORE







What is now the present day McClintic Hall was used as a hospital in 1918.



The plaque on the wall at the Parish House entrance.

During World War I, the United States created the Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) in an effort to encourage young men to receive both a college education and train for the military simultaneously. Those young men who did exceptionally well in the S.A.T.C. classes were recommended for classes in the ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps).

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



The times are so turbulent, with such frequent changes and developments in our communal strategy for preserving the public health, that I hesitate to say anything specific about them. But what becomes clear as these strange days pass is how valuable and, indeed, how essential music remains as a vehicle for our spiritual need to connect, both horizontally with other

singers and listeners, and vertically, realigning ourselves spiritually through its sounds.

Each of us probably already has at least a notional play-list for spiritual refreshment. The wonders of on-line musical availability are such that we can indulge almost any such yearning with a few mouse-clicks. But let me encourage you to make real time to do this, as you are able, not as mere entertainment, but as an essential piece of spiritual well-being in these times.

Easter will still come; our Lord is no less risen gloriously when heralded by our quiet, socially distanced Alleluias than by mighty fanfares and the joyous roar of a full congregation singing "Jesus Christ is risen today!" (And at least the springtime is doing its best to underscore the paschal message: "Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough, speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now.") And we shall surely gather again, to sing the joys and sorrows of the Christian year, and of our own lives.

But meanwhile, I hope that each of us can find strength and solace in the remembered music of times past, and through the recorded music offered to us by countless artists, striving to express the beauty of creation and Creator alike through a thousand idioms. (I hope in the coming days to compile a list of suggested starting-places for such listening on the Music page of the Calvary website, if that is of help to anyone.)

Please remember Calvary Church in your will.

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.

The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn Visit Delayed

Our guest preacher for Sunday, March 15 and the Lenten preaching series, The Rev. Canon Scott Gunn, was not able to come to Pittsburgh for his planned visit. He hopes to return to Pittsburgh in the summer or fall to be with us.



Holy Baptism

Dates for Holy Baptism will be determined when public worship resumes at Calvary. Please contact the Reverend Neil Raman (nraman@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 112) if you have any questions or if you, or someone you know, desires to partake in this sacrament.

Soup Group Update

The Soup Group will not be making soup together this month. We have a sufficient supply and people have made soup in their homes and put it in the freezer. Soup can still be delivered to fellow



parishioners, friends, and family members. Please call Calvary to check on the times that access is available to the kitchen and the soup. Because of "social distancing," I recommend that the soup be left outside the door of the recipient. Then call to let that person know the soup is there.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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

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 1 p.m. Below is a list of items particularly requested at this time. Thank you for your on-going support of this ministry.

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

Changes & Updates

Church Offices Open

The parish offices are scheduled to be open, on a limited basis, from Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Please ring the bell by the parking lot entrance. A handful of people have come each day to pray in the church, to drop off their pledge, plastic bags for recycling, or clothing donations.

Annual Parish Meeting

Nomination Sunday (Palm Sunday on April 5) and the Annual Parish Meeting (Sunday, May 10) will be rescheduled with ample notice on later dates. The current Vestry members will retain their responsibilities until the next Annual Meeting. Four new members will be elected at that time.

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Bishop's Visitation and Confirmation

Bishop Dorsey McConnell's planned visitation to Calvary on April 19, the Sunday of Easter, will be moved to a later date when scheduling and available dates become more clear.

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First Garden Service

We hope to keep the scheduled date of the first garden service at 9 a.m. on **Sunday, May 31: The Day of Pentecost.**

McNulty Interns

Our two new McNulty Interns, Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan and Jonathan Rosnick, will join us when we are able to have public, corporate worship again.

Pittsburgh Marathon

The City of Pittsburgh Maracthon has ben canceled on May 3. We will have a service that day at 11 a.m.



The Used Book Sale

It's time to start gathering your used books and donate them to The Bookstore at Calvary's Used Book Sale scheduled for Father's Day Weekend: **Saturday**, **June 20** and **Sunday**, **June 21**, **2020**.

Whatever the subject – bestseller, cookbook, hardcover, nonfiction, novel, paperback, softcover – save it for us! CDs, DVDs, video/audio tapes, and vinyl records too! You may drop off donations at the Church office Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Palms

We will bless the palms on Palm Sunday (April 5) and have them available in the church office and in front of the church after the service. Palms were abundant in ancient Israel. All four gospels include an account of



Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (the first part of the Palm Sunday service) and include waving of palm branches to welcome him. They appeared on coins in Jesus's time and on the doors of the Temple in Jerusalem. They were used on festive occasions as a sign of victory, often to welcome a hero.

While it would be ideal for everyone to have palms and walk in procession together, this is not feasible and does not encourage good health practices at the current time. However, we want to encourage the spirit of the idea to welcome Jesus. During the service, instead of palms please use something from your yard or garden to wave. Be creative. Palms themselves are not holy. They are tools and signs to help us welcome Jesus. You are encouraged to use what you have to welcome and make room for Jesus to enter your life and the world.

Communicating with the Church and Clergy

Each Friday, Calvary will send out an email with some brief announcements, a reflection, and a 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 Facebook page where the service will be streamed and another link to the Calvary YouTube page that has an archive of high resolution videos of services and older sermons. A direct link is far easier than typing the addresses below which also work.

Calvary Facebook Page

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

Calvary YouTube Page

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

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



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 The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, Rector Emeritus Dr. Alan Lewis, Director of Music Jon Tyillian, Assistant Organist Jamie McMahon, Senior Warden Sue DeWalt, Junior Warden Robert Eley, Treasurer Lynda Kennedy, Director of Finance Tammy Lewis, Director, Beginnings; Director of Children's Formation Kim Pieratt, Parish Administrator Louise Wells, Special Assistant to the Rector Kenneth Smith, Director of Communications Jim Gubash, Head Sexton Adam Augustine, Andy Dilts, Ron Johnston, James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, Sextons Sherry Bloom, Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary Robert Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, Archivists

Staying in Touch

Are you signed up to receive Calvary's weekly email of news and events? If not, visit our website at www.calvarypgh.org and click the button at the bottom of the page.

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday**, **May 1**, **2020**. 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. ■



Going Live

A Streaming Saga: Trying to Make Mass-Media Mass-Meaningful

Friday the Thirteenth of March – PM: This was expected to happen. "We will live-stream the service at

11 a.m. this Sunday. All three Clergy. Show the Sanctuary from the middle of the Choir. Organ music. Keep it simple but try to present the grand, yet intimate, experience of worship at Calvary. Make it so." "Oh, and we really don't want to do this on an iPhone."

Saturday - All Day: Reset balcony camera, a semi-pro documentary unit bought by the rector to use for weekly recording of sermons, in Choir; lament tripod being inadequate for this purpose; Break out audio system used for Summertime Garden Service; load streaming software on available laptop; work out Facebook Live routine; hook everything together and turn it all on. - Nada! Camera can't talk to the computer. Workaround? None found. Wrong adapters or cables? Only partially. (Target, .3 miles away, provides a needed one.) Special converter needed! Where to find the part at 4 in the afternoon? StudioME, of course. A production facility right here in East Liberty, .7 miles away. They know that they have one... if it can be found amongst all their stuff... if... if...and then... "Voila!", and it works! Internet Wi-Fi signal really weak in Church, though. Nearest Ethernet connection is 150 feet away. Mac laptop can't connect that way anyhow. Cables are very much in demand, but we'll try to order some for next week and use a different computer. Meanwhile stretch what we've got and...Pray.

Sunday Morning – 10:50 A.M.: "It's going out, but there's no sound!!" Software malfunction necessitates use of laptop microphone on air – distant and with keyboard taps included, but at least out there. Website recording perfect, though.

The Week Following: Recently upgraded PC-based church computer brought in. Ordered cables not deliverable due to intense demand. Home Depot, .5 miles distant, comes through. Much beloved parishioners (professionals in the field and only .8 miles away) lend production quality tripod and pan-head.

Sunday, March 22, 10:50 A.M.: Much improved quality overall. Perhaps, now, tech won't interfere with what it's all about. Watch, rest, and pray.

Lesson Confirmed: In time of need, trust your friends and neighbors. Bless them all.

Be Well -30- ■

Please recycle this newsletter when you have finished reading it.