

JUNE 11, 2023

The Rector's Annual Report

The Rector's report was given at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Firstly, I offer my thanks for all who serve God and our neighbors in and through this community; the Vestry, Parish Council, staff, volunteers, partners in ministry, and all of you.

Calvary is far more than a magnificent building. It is, first of all, the people of God – the Body of Christ – the hands and feet of Jesus in this holy place. Calvary is all of us, past/present/future who learn, serve, worship, and live out our faith together. More than that, even, Calvary is a beautiful dream and ideal to which we aspire, one that takes flesh in each generation. Ours is a sacred trust to live up to the inheritance of our forebears and God, who have richly blessed us to live the Good News of the Kingdom of God, to learn what it means to love and serve God and our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you for being a part of that dream.

Secondly, my aim is to draw our attention to the next steps of what that love and service to God and our neighbors might look like... part of the next incarnation of the ideal of Calvary in our time.

Just over three years ago. I was standing in the Parish Hall. The whole room was bustling, vibrant. All sorts of people, with smiling faces, filled the room at coffee hour. Children were running around. There were life-long members, new people and guests. It was loud, mostly with laughter.

The Sunday coffee hour was a reflection of parish vitality in general. The building was well utilized virtually seven days per week morning until night. The space was filled with congregational ministries like classes and choir and pastoral care and those focused outwardly like the Calvary Bazaar, Soup Group, and the Bookstore sale. All of the programs and people pointed to a high-functioning parish.

The building was also filled with our partners and neighbors. The facilities are shared free of charge so complementary partners can do their ministry or do it more effectively. These are some forty different organizations; advocacy groups like Functional Ministry Literacy of Haiti and AA, educational groups

such as Education for Ministry or English as a Second Language, music like Chatham Baroque, and partners like Tree of Life synagogue and the Ethiopian congregation. That was the type of ministry one hopes for. Life was very good. As Jean Robinson once told me, "This is Calvary being Calvary."

That very week, we had signed an agreement with a consulting firm to help us launch a capital campaign. The last capital campaign was in 2005. The new one was to address multiple needs in the building so our congregation and our partners in ministry, our neighbors, could best utilize the building to make a more just city for all and live into the Kingdom of God. That was the plan, anyway. Then COVID hit two weeks later in March 2020. Suddenly, it was all eerily quiet. Like everywhere else, life seemed to go on hold. The pandemic was very hard on everyone and created the perfect storm to capsize any plans and dampen relationships. We temporarily forgot who and what we have been and are. We need not go into all the details.

Now, it is just over three years later. As a congregation, we are getting back, not to normal, but to parish life that is more recognizable and familiar. Many of the partners and ministries have come back and new ones have arisen. It is time for Calvary to be Calvary again.

A major step in loving and serving God and our neighbors is to relaunch a capital campaign. We are in the early stages of that now.

We are not seeking to build anything new but to Preserve, Sustain, and Share the rich blessings we have inherited. Preserve the building to sustain and share it. We seek to raise \$6 million.

\$3 million or half of that is an investment in the community and our neighbors for the building including a new parking lot (huge surprise), a resurfaced Swan Garden, a new boiler, repairs to stained glass and other windows, renovations to the pews and cushions, conversion to LED lighting in the church, and related projects.

Part of that is also to create three, new stained glass windows. We plan to place them at the office level to be

—continued on page 2

Report, continued from page 1

seen as one exits the parish hall and would continue our Pennsylvania theme. One window will be Absalom Jones, the first African-American priest (Philadelphia). Another will be the Philadelphia Eleven who were the first women ordained in the Episcopal Church in the 1970s (Philadelphia). The third window will be Fred Rogers (Pittsburgh). All three windows right in a row. All Pennsylvania and all religious themed.

We also want to help launch two new initiatives with financial and other support. The first is to continue working with Rabbi Aaron Bisno and others to engage in interfaith partnerships. The second initiative is to help launch a new Episcopal congregation in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We have started five congregations but it has been 90 years since the last one.

The other half or \$3 million is for an endowment, specifically for the buildings, to help preserve, sustain, and share them with the parish and with our neighbors.

Calvary is far more than this beautiful building alone. We are the people of God called out in this place to love and serve God and our neighbors preserving what we have inherited- the building, the people, the idea, to sustain and share it with the world.

It is time for Calvary to be Calvary again.

—The Rev. Jonathon W. Jensen, Rector ■

The Senior Warden's report given at the Annual Meeting has been reprinted in the on-line version of this issue.



Tree of Life Trial

As we enter the time of the trial for the worst Anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history, please remember our friends and neighbors at the Tree of Life synagogue down the street. I encourage you to write notes and cards of encouragement to Tree of Life and send them to the Calvary office, or email your message to Jonathon at jjensen@calvarypgh.org. We will share them with their congregation.

Our McNulty Intern, Deanna Briody

Deanna has been required by the Diocese to complete a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in a hospital or similar setting doing chaplaincy work in preparation for the

ordination program every Saturday and Sunday from September through December. Therefore, she will not be with us during that time but plans to return in January. Deanna has agreed to return once in the fall to preach and will write the sermon ahead of time.

To support Deanna while she is gone and in the ordination process, I encourage you to send her emails or letters of encouragement and support. We will also collect them all and share with the Diocese for the ordination process to show our support of her becoming a priest (the more letters the better). Send your message to the Calvary office, or to me at jjensen@calvarypgh.org. —Jonathon ■

The Annual Parish Election Results

At Calvary's Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, May 21, 2023, those elected to serve a 4-year term on the Vestry were John Allison, Elaine Effort, Ian Everhart, and Lisa Nevola. Elected to serve a 4-year term on Parish Council were Charles R. Altman, Diana Page, Ray Richter, and Anoo Verghis. At the organizational meeting of the Vestry held after the 11 o'clock service, David Jeong will continue as our Senior Warden, and Wendy Lomicka was elected Junior Warden.



John Allison



Elaine Effort



Ian Everhart



Lisa Nevola



Charles R. Altman



Diana Page



Ray Richter



Anoo Verghis

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members:

Jim Cassaro, Laura Everhart, Fred Roth, Laurie Tocci;

Recognition of Parish Council: John Allison, Lindsay Dragan, Adele Eley, Alison Wardrop. ■

Calvary Pilgrimage to Israel

The opportunity to travel to the Holy Land has been moved to the Spring of 2024. Details will be coming. Please contact Rabbi Aaron Bisno or the Rev. Jonathon Jensen if you have questions. ■



THE CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVE • SUSTAIN • SHARE

A Message from the Rev. Jonathon Jensen

Something I have come to learn in my time here as Rector was quite a revelation that I would like to share with you, but first a bit of context.

At Calvary, we have long had a commitment to serve our neighbors in our city. We do this in a variety of ways. Many of our members volunteer in hands-on ministries or on boards of non-profits. We serve in numerous, direct forms of outreach such as the Berry Project (Christmas gifts for local needy families) and the Holiday Bazaar through which more than \$20,000 is raised each year to benefit women and children in the East End of Pittsburgh. Outreach to our neighbors in the form of giving funds or volunteering are both appreciated and admirable. However, we have a form of outreach that is so obvious and powerful, it is easily overlooked.

The revelation was that our buildings are a profound form of outreach to the community.

Every church shares space with outside groups but not to the degree or frequency that Calvary offers. The sharing of our buildings allows other, complementary ministries and programs to improve life for the citizens in our city and beyond through direct service and advocacy, education, support groups, music, and other areas. Simply put, we provide space so their ministry can happen or happen more effectively to improve lives.

I am proud that we are able to serve our community in this way. I hope you will begin to see the sharing of space in our buildings as a significant and far-reaching form of outreach. Your generosity makes this possible. All of these outside groups are partners in ministry with us. We don't all do the same things, but work together to make Pittsburgh a more just and livable city for the benefit of all. This outreach is our calling, our mission, our vision.

Thank you. ■



Watch for the FALL PREVIEW ISSUE of *Agape*
coming in mid-August

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis

With the shift to the “summer mode” for services, the Choir has made its annual migration from the stalls to the South Transept, and with that move has gratefully laid aside its (woolen!) vestments for the warm season. We have shifted, as well, into our summer schedule, freed of mid-week rehearsals, and gathering in the Transept at 10 a.m. on Sundays to prepare music for that day's 11 o'clock service. This makes it a perfect time for singers who might want to dip a toe into the choral waters to give it a try, without the larger commitment of the regular September-through-May “season.” I'm happy to answer any questions about what to expect, but it's fine just to turn up and give it a try.

A new departure this summer will be congregational singing of the Psalm in the 11 a.m. service. Unison plainsong with simple refrains will be the order of the day, and I encourage all those in the pews to lend their voices to the effort. The Psalter is sometimes referred to as the “hymnal of the Second Temple,” and it represents the oldest body of spiritual texts for singing in the Judeo-Christian tradition. Early monasticism, codified in the Rule of St. Benedict in the early sixth century, looked to the Psalter to furnish the backbone of its highly-developed round of daily prayer; catholic Christianity in the West has remained deeply imbued with the language and rhythms of the Psalms.

Sadly, none of the musical content that originally belonged to these ancient texts has survived. Various methods have emerged over the centuries for rendering these texts musically – methods often closely linked with the languages in which the texts were being sung, and the musical idioms prevalent at a given time. The oldest and longest-lasting of these is what we generically call plainsong. As a musical language, plainsong is generally pure melody, without specific rhythm and without harmony. Its tunes range from the simple to the highly florid; the small subset of plainsong devoted to the singing of psalms – all 150 of which were sung through each week in the course of those monastic daily prayers – tends to be at the simpler end of this spectrum.

Each week, the assigned Psalm will be framed and punctuated by a refrain (the technical term, from the Greek, is antiphon); a cantor will introduce this short musical line, and we'll all repeat it, singing it again as the Psalm proceeds, and once more at the end. You may begin to notice a similarity amongst these refrains; all the Psalms for the summer will be sung to the formula known as Tone 8, and the refrains are meant to be consonant with this tone. (A few symbols inserted in the Psalm-text will guide us through the tone, and indicate where the melodic inflections occur; it will be far easier to absorb this by hearing and doing it, than to read about it and convert that into doing – but I'm happy to try a verbal explanation if anyone wants one!)

Wishing you a restful and restorative summer, and one punctuated with psalms, sung both in all our hearts and minds, and by our collective voices. ■



Congratulations to Bob Dilts and all those who faithfully care for the gardens and grounds at Calvary. The gardeners gather in community every Saturday during the season to plant, prune, and tend. In honor of more than forty years of service to Bob and in thanksgiving for him and all the gardeners, we dedicated a new shrub in their honor. It is located west of the WWI St. Michael's Cross between two Kousa Dogwoods. Thank you to Bob and the gardeners.

—Jonathon

A Note from Bob Dilts

Over the past forty plus years there have been so many people caring for the Calvary gardens, some even friends of members who just wanted to garden. I remember the faces of most but the names are gone or vice versa. They have moved out of state or just are no longer able to be active. We are fortunate to have our current crew of ten who give of their time and talents weekly from Palm Sunday through Thanksgiving.

The dedication and blessing of an osier dogwood shrub and plaque in "Thanksgiving for Bob Dilts and the gardeners" near the peace cross this 2023 Memorial Day weekend is indeed a thank you to all who have served this ministry. I personally thank them and thank Calvary for the appreciation and recognition.

Bob Dilts ■

Clergy Contact Information

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

Have you remembered
Calvary in your will?



The Calvary Bazaar is more than four months away, but the organizing committee has already begun to make plans for the event, which is set for Saturday, October 28.

Many of the Bazaar leaders have been involved for years, even decades. They have thoroughly enjoyed their volunteer work and appreciate the many benefits reaped from their efforts, particularly the friendships they have made and the funds they have raised for Pittsburgh-area agencies that support women and children. Each year, the Bazaar raises more than \$20,000 that is distributed in grants to local agencies.

But the committee is looking for new members who may be interested in helping to lead the Bazaar in years to come. Interested parishioners can begin to learn about how the Bazaar is put together as they work with current leaders in the planning process. They can volunteer for a table of their choice, such as Nature's Gifts, Baked Goods, etc., and discover all the work that is needed not just on Bazaar Day but in the weeks leading up to it.

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about the rewarding work in this important Calvary mission, please contact Kathy Farrington at farringtonk@me.com or Mary Ann Slater at slatersaur904@gmail.com.

Volunteers are needed to help Anoo Verghis and Michele Bender, co-chairs of Nature's Gifts for the Calvary Bazaar, pot flower bulbs and begin prep work (like tying bows and readying foils) for Bazaar Day sales on October 28. Much of this important work starts over the summer and Anoo and Michele would appreciate extra hands to help. If interested, contact Anoo at apverghis@gmail.com or Michele at mbbender@gmail.com ■



Summer Finances: A Reminder

The church's expenses continue apace in the summer, at a time when church attendance, and therefore offerings, are lower than usual. You are encouraged to make every effort to keep up with your pledge payments during this season. Some parishioners find it convenient to send their payments by mail if they are away for an extended period. Many thanks. ■

Weekly Offering Cards

Cards that say "My gift comes electronically or by mail" can serve as a visible sign of your gift. Look for the purple cards in a basket in the Narthex or by the North Transept door each week, take one, and place it in the offering plate. ■

Foyer: Fellowship, Friendship, Food

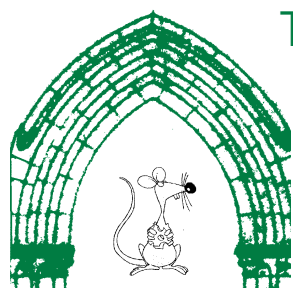
The past year's Foyer Group program was highly successful at Calvary with eighty participants, and we plan to start a new session in the fall. Here's how it works – groups of 8-10 Calvary folks meet together monthly for a shared meal at members' homes. The host family provides an entree, the guests supply an appetizer, salad, bread, dessert. We share a short litany at the start of the meal, but the conversations range broadly.



Our goal is to foster stronger community ties and encourage new friendships to develop. We try to mix it up within the groups, including couples and singles, diverse ages, newcomers and long-timers. Some people can host a meal, some cannot due to space limitations, which is no problem. And each fall, we intend to re-mix the groups to expand our circles of friends.

During the coming summer, we'll check in with previous participants regarding their continuing attendance. For people who haven't yet enjoyed a joyful foyer meal, please do send an email to kayres@chatham.edu to sign up. We'll make sure to include you in this most delightful and delicious ministry.

In peace, Kathy & Russ Ayres, Adam Halloway ■



The Church Mouse

Congratulations to Leyu A. Belachew as she graduated from Serra Catholic High School. She will be attending Carnegie Mellon University in the fall to study computer engineering. She was prom queen and high

honor student. Her mom is Alem Gebeyehu of the Ethiopian Church. ■

Plastic Recycling

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

www.calvarypgh.org

A Meditation

Our dog is lying in the sun,
Rolling onto his back,
His legs point to the sky.

“Thank you for touching me with your warmth.
Somehow, I lost my sight,
And so, the sun has only this one main property.
I feel it.”

We mailed you some used baby clothes.
I feel bad that we haven't been able to visit.
I miss you and your sister and the twins too.
All these moments pouring out---
Missing our empty cups.

There are those folks who will tell you,
That everything is going to be alright,
That, you'll be fine.
They are only saying that to relieve themselves,
To gain some personal security.

They haven't noticed,
The scarcity of birdsongs,
The blights on plants,
Or that some things
have disappeared altogether.

You can never really catch up,
Unless you notice that something is missing
Or moving out of reach.

When I was a little child,
I was not comfortable with being alone,
In the dark at bedtime.
It was tolerable if my parents,
Left the hall light on.

In the morning,
I rarely noticed,
It had been turned off.

—The Rev. Geoffrey Royce, May 7, 2023 ■

Beware of Email Scams!

Fake emails are again circulating to Calvary members. The email appears to come from the Rector, and requests “a favor” or gift cards. Don't respond to the email, simply delete it. Any email from Calvary always uses @calvarypgh.org, never gmail.com. ■



CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



Reminder: Nursery Care, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and Faith Formation are not offered during the summer months. *See you in September!*

The Growing Season

Great news! Our application to the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh for the maintenance of a vegetable garden has been approved. The Social Justice and Outreach (SJO) Committee has voted to award Calvary Episcopal Church the amount of \$500 to be used in the 2023 fiscal year. We are grateful for this gift which will enable us to continue learning and growing together. It will be exciting to watch our seedlings grow and produce vegetables to harvest in the fall!



"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope."

Wendell Berry

Faith Formation Highlights



Our Faith Formation classes embraced the joy and beauty of the Easter Season with great enthusiasm and creativity. We talked about the goodness of God in creation and discussed the life cycle of a butterfly. We were delighted to discover that the caterpillars we'd observed in the classroom had emerged as beautiful

Painted Lady butterflies! We spent time watching each one before releasing them into the Swan Garden.

We also celebrated the Liturgy of the Light. For those of you who have attended an Easter Vigil celebration, you may recall that the Liturgy of the Light is how the Vigil service begins: with the blessing and lighting of the new Paschal Candle, the proclamation of the Exultet, and lighting of individual candles from the Paschal Candle. The Liturgy of the Light with children allows them to fully participate in this beautiful celebration



in a way that is meaningful to them. After gathering for a brief discussion of the service, Father Neil lit the candle and led a procession from the classrooms into the Refectory. He chanted portions of the Exultet and then read a scripture account of the Resurrection. Each child was invited to light their individual candles from the Paschal candle. Together, we reflected on the gift of the Light of Christ for each of us.

We ended our programming year with a vibrant celebration of the Feast of Pentecost. We discussed the dramatic events of this day when Jesus fulfilled his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples and all who believe. After our lesson, we headed to the Swan Garden, where we released 3,000 bright red ladybugs, followed by a blessing of our garden. It was a wonderful way to conclude the Easter Season and a fantastic year of Faith Formation!



With Much Thanks

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone who made this year of Children's Faith Formation programming a success. We extend special thanks to Elsa Buehler, Andrea Casas, Laura Marchl, and Elizabeth Gassler for their invaluable contributions as catechists. We are also grateful for the exceptional care provided by our nursery workers, Leyu Belachew, Juliette Guillou, and CG Marchl. Your love for children and willingness to share your time and talents will have an eternal impact!



Life in the Vine

For more photos and updates, check out the Children's Faith Formation Blog here:

www.calvaryfaithformation.org ■

The Bookstore at Calvary

Calvary's Annual Used Book Sale 2023

Save trees by donating your books! The Bookstore is now accepting donations for the Annual Used Book Sale 2023. Gathering your unwanted books to donate along with CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records, however, please no encyclopedias, magazines, or textbooks. Save the date to be among the first to browse our huge collection of books at the Preview Party on **Friday, August 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.** with an admission donation of \$10. Hours of the Used Book Sale will be **Saturday, August 12 through Sunday, August 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** each day. All proceeds of the Used Book Sale benefit local educational and literacy organizations. Volunteers are needed to sort and organize the book donations prior to the sale. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Pat Standring at pstandring623@gmail.com or at 412.481.8613 for further details.

Spotlight: Making Sense of Christianity

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is the author of two books: *Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus* and *Songs My Grandma Sang*. *Crazy Christians* is a compilation of Bishop Curry's homilies and addresses to General Conventions. *Songs My Grandma Sang* discusses the daily singing of songs during Bishop Curry's youth which shaped his faith.

Beth Wickenberg Ely's *The Cup of Salvation: A Manual for Eucharistic Ministers* offers historical perspective on this ministry, a theological overview, practical tips, plus an invitation to engage in the spiritual dimensions of serving one's local congregation as a Eucharistic Minister.

Take a journey through *The Book of Common Prayer*, the Christian life, and basic beliefs of our faith, guided by two Episcopal priests – Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe in *Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs & Practices*. Move through the liturgical year, the sacraments of the church, habits of daily prayer, and the teachings of Anglican Christianity.

Faithful Generations by John R. Mabry provides a hopeful and helpful guide to the different adult generations alive today, discussing the events that formed them and the issues important to them. Most importantly, it describes their spiritual distinctions the particular needs, gifts and concerns that drive these different generations.

Martin L. Smith gives the theological and spiritual background of the sacrament of reconciliation in the *Book of Common Prayer* and offers practical suggestions for the practice of hearing and making a confession in *Reconciliation*.

Author, historian and keen cultural observer Phyllis Tickle invites us to join her in examining the changing face of Christianity and culture in *Embracing Emergence Christianity*. She surveys 2,000 years of Western history, identifying the great upheavals that occur in Western culture and Christianity every 500 years.

Rowan Williams explores four essential components of the Christian life: baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and prayer in *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*. Despite huge differences in Christian thinking and practice both today and in past centuries, he says, these four basic elements have remained constant and indispensable for the majority of those who call themselves Christians.

The Book Exchange

Outside the Bookstore you will find a cart with a selection of books you can borrow, read at your leisure, and then return. Parishioners can donate books to the Book Exchange so others can enjoy the same book for free. Please leave donations for the Book Exchange in the Bookstore or in the workroom (labeled for "Book Exchange") rather than on the Book Exchange cart. Thank you!

Indie Next: Find Your Next Great Read

Stop by the Bookstore to pick-up a free copy of the following fliers from the American Booksellers Association:

- **June 2023 Indie Next List:** this trifold provides inspired book recommendations from Indie Booksellers including the #1 pick for the month. Hardcover and paperback titles are listed along with a brief summary and release date.
- **Spring 2023 Reading Group Indie Next List:** includes books that are dazzling debuts, family and coming of age, historical fiction, nonfiction and memoir.

Each flier includes a brief synopsis of each book highlighted. Want a specific book but can't find it? The Bookstore can special order a requested title for you at no charge or order via www.bookshop.org (see below on how to order via Bookshop.org).

Support our independent Bookstore via Bookshop.org

You can support the Calvary Bookstore both in-person and online. Instead of using Amazon to find books that are of interested to you, please go to Bookshop.org, type zip code 15206 in the Bookstore Near Me box, click on Calvary Bookstore, then the red Support this Shop! box. You will be taken to the Calvary Bookstore homepage where you will find book suggestions. You can also use the search bar to find book titles. Come into the Bookstore for FREE bookmarkers to navigate to Bookshop.org.

Bookshop.org will ship your books directly to you, usually within 2-3 days. When you order books through the Calvary page on Bookshop.org, the Calvary Bookstore receives a portion of the profits that can then be used to help with literacy programs in our neighborhood. Help the Bookstore maintain its presence not only as an Episcopal bookstore, but also an independent bookstore with a share of direct-to-home online book sales.



The Bookstore is open on Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the week, contact the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or by email at bookstore@calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. ■

Fall Enrollment is Now Open!

What is EfM?

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a unique four-year theological education program that invites participants to explore their faith and deepen their understanding of Christian traditions. Through a combination of theological study, reflection, and group discussions, EfM fosters a vibrant learning community where individuals grow in their knowledge, spiritual growth, and ability to serve.

Who is EfM for?

EfM is for anyone seeking a deeper engagement with their faith, regardless of prior theological education or denominational affiliation. Whether you're a layperson, clergy, or considering a vocation in ministry, EfM offers a nurturing environment to explore your beliefs, ask questions, and discover new perspectives.

What does the program entail?

The EfM program spans four years, during which participants gather weekly in small, diverse groups led by trained mentors. Key elements of the program include:

1. **Theological Education:** Engage in thought-provoking readings covering various theological topics, biblical studies, church history, and ethics. Expand your knowledge and engage with the rich theological heritage of the Christian faith.
2. **Group Reflection:** Join fellow participants in stimulating group discussions that encourage deep reflection and meaningful conversations. Share insights, explore diverse viewpoints, and develop critical thinking skills.
3. **Spiritual Formation:** Deepen your personal relationship with God through prayer, worship, and spiritual practices. Experience personal growth and a strengthened connection with your faith community.
4. **Service and Outreach:** Explore ways to apply your learning and faith to real-world situations. Engage in acts of service, social justice initiatives, and community outreach, reflecting the values of compassion and justice.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need any prior theological knowledge to participate in EfM?
No prior theological education or knowledge is required. EfM welcomes individuals at all levels of understanding and experience.

What is the time commitment for EfM?

EfM involves a weekly meeting of approximately 2.5 to 3 hours during the academic year, with breaks during the summer months.

Is EfM affiliated with a specific denomination?

No. EfM is an inclusive program that welcomes participants from various Christian traditions. It is not tied to a specific denomination.

Can I join EfM if I'm not considering a vocation in ministry?

Absolutely! EfM is designed for anyone who desires a deeper exploration of their faith, regardless of vocational aspirations.

How can I get involved in EfM?

Calvary has enjoyed strong participation in this program over many years, and like other ministries, it has evolved with the times. Since the pandemic, EfM adapted to online programming, which for many people, is not just a workable path but a preferred way to study and be in the community.

There are two online options for EfM participation, beginning in September and concluding in May.

● Monday Evenings

Wendy Lomicak and Gaines Campbell will be co-mentoring the Monday evening group. Gaines is a long-standing EfM Mentor and an EfM mentor trainer. Wendy is a recent EfM graduate who completed her mentor training in 2022. For more information, contact Wendy at wenlom@gmail.com or call at 412.334.0981.

● Thursday Mornings

Barbara Brooks and Diane Santoriello will continue co-mentoring the Thursday morning group, which has enjoyed active participation over the past several years (photo from the recent graduation ceremony below). For more information, contact Barbara at tipark4me@aol.com or call/text 412-726-9811.

Don't miss this opportunity to embark on a transformative journey of faith and knowledge! Join Education for Ministry today and unlock the doors to a deeper understanding of your spirituality. ■



HAPPY *4th* of july

The Church and offices will be closed on
Tuesday, July 4.

Our friends at Petfinder have some great information on keeping your pets safe during the 4th of July holiday! The busiest day for shelters and animal control agencies across the country is July 4th.

- Exercise pets early in the day before celebrations begin
- Make sure guests do not feed pets scraps.
- Keep charcoal, sparklers, fireworks and other potential dangers away from pets
- Leave pets at home during fireworks exhibitions
- Be sure to read the signals of your pets.
- Many bite incidents happen on holidays. Why? People are not in tune to the stress level of their pets, visiting children's behavior around pets and pet's reaction to strangers in the home.
- If you see your pet is beginning to stress or tire, give them a break in a quiet place in the home away from guests and excitement.
- Bring pets indoors before the fireworks exhibitions begin. Cats can easily be frightened and run off. The dog that never leaves the yard can become disoriented and jump the fence or take off.
- If pets are frightened of loud noises and lights, close the curtains and leave gentle music or the television playing when you leave

We want you and your pets to have a safe and joyful 4th of July! ■

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. ■



Congratulations

April 29, 2023 wasn't just Arbor Day celebrated at Mellon Park. Mayor Ed Gainey also designated the day as Elizabeth Nadas Seamans and Mary Savage Days in the City of Pittsburgh, both for their stewardship of the environment. Elizabeth Seamans received her proclamation from City Councilmember Erika Strassburger. (Photo courtesy of East End PRINT Newspaper – www.eastendprint.com) ■



PENNSYLVANIA

- Nickname: The Keystone State
- Statehood: 1787; 2nd state
- Population (as of July 2023): estimated at 12,900,00
- State bird: ruffed grouse; State flower: mountain laurel

Archaeologists don't agree on when the first humans came to the area we now call Pennsylvania, but they've found artifacts that are at least 19,400 years old. Native American tribes including the Lenape, Susquehannocks, Erie, Seneca, and Oneida, lived on the land that's now Pennsylvania thousands of years later.

Pennsylvania is a combination of Latin words that together mean "Penn's woods." The name was created by William Penn to honor his father. Pennsylvania is officially a commonwealth, an old term that refers to the "common weal" or well-being of the public. ■

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, August 11, 2023**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it directly to the church office.

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

EECM Food Pantry

East End Cooperative Ministry operates the second largest food pantry in Pittsburgh. Donations can be dropped off at Calvary during office hours: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday mornings. Below is a list of items particularly requested at this time. **Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the EECM food cart.** Your support is greatly appreciated.

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

Holy Baptism

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



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. ■



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

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

The "Thrifty" Community Store on Penn Avenue Needs Donations

Besides clothing, the "Thrifty" Community Store has a list of items that are in great demand: kitchen utensils (large spoons, spatulas, ladles, and pots, pans, and skillets), plus towels and wash clothes, and bed linens. Some new area residents in the East End are setting up households for the first time, and these items are always in need. You may place any small household items in the clothes basket in the Parish Hall. Thank you! ■

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



Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh Volunteer Opportunities Join our team of Docents!

Become a vital part of Violins of Hope Greater Pittsburgh by joining our team of docents. Together, we will shed light and hope on an otherwise difficult and tragic story by underscoring the underlying courage and resourcefulness of humanity.

The Violins will be your guide as you take adults and students through the exhibition, sharing moments of serendipity, vision, resistance, irony, and – yes—heartbreak.

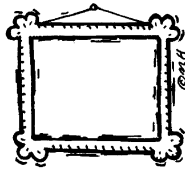
Preparation for your volunteer work will begin in September with docent training led by Linda Hurwitz, former Executive Director of the Holocaust Center and long-time OSHER faculty. Each volunteer will be given the book *Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust—Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour* by James A Grymes.

We ask that you commit only three hours once a week for six weeks beginning October 7, 2023. You might want to sign up with a partner so that you can study together and work as a team or stand in for one another should you need to do so.

Signing up is easy. Simply go to our website: violinsofhopepittsburgh.com and click on "VOLUNTEER."

We look forward to having you join us.

Sandy Rosen, Pat Siger and Lynn Zelenski



CALVARY PHOTOS



The Annual Meeting: May 21, 2023



The Brew Crew: Saturday, April 29



Beginnings End of School: May 25



Adele and Bob Eley at PNC Park. Go Bucs!



Easter Sunday Morning Flowers: April 9



The Finish Line Party: Saturday, May 20

Report of the Senior Warden,

Dearest fellow parishioners,

You have home at Calvary. You have a place at Calvary. This is my thought for you as I reflect and report on the astounding year that has been at our beautiful church. It is both an honor and a pleasure to address you as we commence with our 168th Annual Parish Meeting at Calvary Church. Every Sunday, we gather to worship God in this holy place, to be in communion with God and with one another. At the Annual Meeting, we come to hear about the state of both our church facility and church community, and to elect new lay leaders to help guide us through the journey ahead. This year, I'm excited for you to learn, in this report and those that follow, of an active and thriving Calvary congregation in the very midst of a joyfully noisy reemergence.

When I think of a lively family home, I think of a house buzzing with activity and engagement. As I'm sure you've noticed, Calvary is a busy and "happening" church home. On any given day of the week, you may drop in to see active committee meetings, children learning, adults praying and deepening faith together, musical rehearsals and performances, old and new programs in full swing and, of course, exquisite worship in progress. It may be hard to believe at times, but you are all a part of a true revival in both numbers and spiritual vitality at Calvary Church. Those numbers and that vitality come from both a returning and increasing physical presence of parishioners and inquirers at church, along with reinvigorated engagement of members, clergy, and staff in our parish life.

The record of this revival is remarkable. Highlights of our vibrant year include:

- Full and active regular worship that appears to grow in attendance by the week, including many new faces
- We welcomed a new Associate Rector, Cameron Soulis, who has hit the ground running and brought much to our communion table while quickly forming relationships throughout our Parish family
- A robust number of baptisms, confirmands, and new members
- The return of acolytes and chalice bearers to regular worship
- A reinvigorated Parish Council, which has worked diligently throughout the year to rebuild and create opportunities, such as Rally Day, Chili Fest, and the Finish Line Party, for parishioners to connect and enjoy fellowship together
- Growing numbers of children and youth involved in church life, through Christian formation, church activities, and enhanced engagement in Sunday worship
- Ongoing commitment to interfaith collaboration, through our established relationship with the Tree of Life congregation, "Priest and a Rabbi" classes, and interfaith partnership with Rabbi Aaron Bisno
- Another astoundingly successful and well-attended Calvary Bazaar, organized and run by the Women of Calvary

- Exquisite music, starting with services sung by our choir at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., and continuing throughout the year with typically impressive repertoire presented at services and special performances by both our choir and guest musicians. Let us not forget the full-throated return to health of our spectacular pipe organ
- Our various active groups and committees that serve both parish and community seven days a week, including the Pastoral Care Committee, Soup Group, Young Adult Group, Spiritual Reflection, Beloved Community groups, Parents of Little Ones, EFM, and others

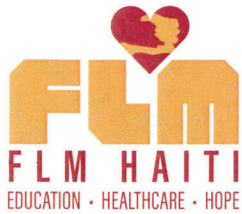
This list is impressive, and still does not paint the full picture of just how busy our church home has become in 2022 and 2023. We buck the national trend of churches shrinking by daring, instead, to be a church that is positioned for further growth.

I am proud, once again, to be a part of the work of our talented and dedicated Parish leadership bodies. Our clergy, led by the vision and commitment of our Rector Jonathon Jensen, heads this household with spiritual leadership in both inspiring worship and setting the compass for our future direction as a community. As I've noted, the Parish Council is to be commended for the work it has done this year, under the leadership of president Sue DeWalt, to begin reestablishing the long history of active and vibrant Calvary church life. Our Vestry, through its regular activity and the work of its committees, continues to diligently support the health of our finances and physical building and grounds. You will learn more from our Junior Warden's and Treasurer's reports, but your Vestry continues to diligently keep the state of our church strong and work to build on both our financial health and the beauty and accessibility of our historic building. I am indescribably grateful, and ask all of you to join me in appreciation, for the steadfast focus and love for Calvary that our amazing Vestry brings to the table every day.

I opened by saying that you have a place and a home at Calvary. I am not being sentimental in sharing that thought: I invite you, dear parishioners, to consider where your place is currently at Calvary, and reflect upon where further you can go. Whether it be joining a group or committee, attending a class, joining in festive events, nominating for leadership, inviting others seeking a spiritual home, or simply being here each Sunday to worship together with the community, your commitment to Calvary helps to build this home every day.

Yours, in Christ,

David leong
Calvary Senior Warden



40th Anniversary
Celebration

YOU'RE INVITED TO HOPE ON THE MOVE 5K.

Saturday, September 9, 2023 • 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM • In Highland Park



WALK

Location: Lake Point Shelter @ Highland Park Lake Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15206



RUN

Registration:

www.flmhaiti.org/walk

Only \$30.00

BIKE

Registration 9:00 AM EST

Warm Up 9:30 AM EST

Walk Start 10:00 AM EST



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Available!

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**THE BOOKSTORE AT CALVARY
2023**

**Save Trees!
Buy Used Books!**

**USED
BOOK
SALE**

Bestsellers, bibles, cookbooks, hardcovers, nonfiction

**Saturday, August 12
thru
Sunday, August 20
10 AM – 2 PM**

Novels, paperbacks, softcovers, CDs, DVDs, vinyl records

**SPECIAL
PREVIEW
NIGHT**

**Friday, August 11
5 – 7 PM**

**[Suggested Donation \$10]
Be among the first to see what we have
on sale this year!**

**Proceeds of the Used Book Sale benefit a broad spectrum
of literacy programs in our Community**


CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Ave. at Walnut St., East Liberty
www.calvarypggh.org — Off-street Parking

Agape

2023 DEADLINES

CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PITTSBURGH + PENNSYLVANIA

Deadline (Friday):

Publication Date (Sunday):

January 6 January 15
February 3 February 12 [Lenten Issue]
March 10 March 19 [Easter Issue]
April 7 April 16 [End of Program Year]
May 5 May 14

June 2 June 11 [Summer Issue]

August 11 August 20 [Beginning of Program Year]
September 8 September 17
October 6 October 15
November 3 November 12 [Advent Issue]
December 1 December 10

2023 CALENDAR

January Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	March Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	April Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
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