



Agape

The Newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 10, 2019

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

–1 Chronicles 24:14.

We sing or say those words at every service of Communion as we present the gifts at the Altar. The money we give is a symbol of offering ourselves to God and service to others.

Stewardship, at its heart, is not about money. It is about our relationship with God and our neighbors. Stewardship is a way to practice becoming a more intentional follower of Jesus Christ and deepen one's spiritual life. Practiced together, stewardship enables us to build up the whole Body of Christ and serve our neighbors better.

Giving of oneself in time, talent, and money is a way to discover freedom by trusting in God. That sounds counterintuitive. Our culture is very good at reinforcing that we are consumers, not givers, and that freedom and success are found in having money and things, not by giving them away. Through the practice of stewardship as discipleship in Christ we learn that real freedom is found in giving of ourselves to God who gives us the whole divine self in Christ.

Jesus talked more about money than anything else other than the Kingdom of God. He told stories about how finances and our spiritual lives affect one another such as the widow's mite and the rich young ruler.

One of the best ways that I have deepened my spiritual life is through the gift of the tithe. Tithing is the practice of giving away 10% of one's income. It helps remind us that all we have comes from and belongs to God. We are caretakers or stewards of holy gifts entrusted to us. All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

Stewardship, at its heart,
is not about money.

I took several years to work up to a tithe. My first reaction to a tithe was – 10%?! That's a lot of money, and I had very little then. After several years of wrestling with it each fall, I grew to realize that, for a variety of reasons, I was afraid of money. It had some power over me. There was never enough and never would be enough.

After that understanding, I knew I had to do something about it. As a young person I had a fear of heights, which may have come from falling off the high dive and landing on my face. In college, I decided to meet that fear head on so I would climb up into the church bell tower at the Cathedral in Lexington, KY. There was an old iron wrung ladder in the back of the choir loft that led all the way up next to the bell where one could see the whole city. I climbed there week after week and sat until I was no longer afraid and started to like it. There was a sense of great freedom in that experience. It also offered a new view of the world previously closed off to me. A source of fear became a source of freedom.

Working up to the tithe, giving away 10% of our income, became a way for me to conquer the fear of control of money. Now that I have tithed for many years, my practice of stewardship as a way to be deeper disciples of Jesus has brought new-found freedom.

First, tithing allowed us to pray and reflect on our own finances and ask what I valued and how did my money match those values.

Second, tithing brings the freedom to speak openly about money especially as it affects our spiritual lives as individuals and as a community. Money and our use of it is a spiritual matter. Stewardship is as much about a church's need to receive as it is the disciple's need to give back to God.

If you are ready to try tithing, please do. If you are ready to consider some percentage of what you receive as a way to return some of God's blessings, please do. Give what you are able. Pray about it. Climb up the figurative ladder a few steps to encounter a new spiritual view.

–Jonathon ■

Connecting to the Source

As the holiday season approaches, our culture begins to turn toward the most essential blessing of our lives, food. Food is conveyed by love.



We prepare food for gatherings of family and friends. Caterers are operating in a higher gear, hiring extra help and extending themselves in a way that is often fueled by love. There are other motives but they all boil down to making the lives of others memorable.

It is no wonder then when we study the Bible, we discover throughout the Old and New Testaments the many occasions where food is a significant image. God intervenes throughout salvation history with food and practices surrounding food and the harvest.

Agriculture, beginning with the gift of the land is also important in the economy of God. Time was measured by the Hebrew culture in terms of agricultural periods. It was required that the land should rest every seven years. So, all agriculture would cease in that year. This of course required generating a surplus. The poor were supported by the practice of gleaning. Farmers were to leave at the edges of their fields a portion of the crop unharvested so the poor could sustain themselves and maintain a level of dignity.

Further, the farmer recognizes her complete dependence on the elements all of which are creatures of God. The wind was used in threshing grain, throwing it into the air to separate it. The rains and the light of the sun are also necessary to growth.

Our prayers are annually focused on the reality of agriculture during Rogation Days. Every April or later in Eastertide we ask God to bless the fields where crops will grow or livestock will graze. The ceremony involves a procession to the four corners of the field or parish. As these processions developed in the British Isles they are part of our heritage.

Dependence is a relation that enfolds all prayer. The fact that we even know our own desire is a gift from God. This evidence of God's goodness and our personal and corporate response are the fundament of all worship. As we enter this holiday season, perhaps we could notice and acknowledge the many things upon which we depend. And before we consummate (effectively closing off), or finalize that awareness with the expression of gratitude, we might just pause and dwell in that awareness. We could chew on it for a while. This might deepen our understanding of how dear and sweet that dependence is. —*Geoffrey Royce* ■

Please recycle this newsletter
when you have finished reading it.

Get Involved with the Soup Group

- The Soup Group will meet again on November 22 at 10 a.m. in Calvary's kitchen. Come cook with us!
- Deliver soup to a fellow parishioner, friend, neighbor or relative. Our soup is made to be shared and not restricted to members of Calvary. Find it in the freezer in the pantry.
- Share your favorite soup recipes.
- Donate money that can be used for ingredients or containers. Checks should be made out to Calvary Episcopal Church with Soup Group on the memo line.

Any questions? Please contact me.

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

Holy Baptism



The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered at the 11 o'clock service on the Sunday after the Epiphany, January 12, 2020.

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

Plastic Recycling Continues

Thank you to the many people that recycled plastic film in the Parish Hall collection boxes. We will continue our practice of recycling, now on behalf of **Sheldon Calvary Camp.** ■



greet & gather at
Coffee Hour
after the 11 o'clock service

Would you or your group be a host for Coffee Hour? Consider hosting a Sunday to mark a special occasion, honoring a particular event or person or asking your group or organization. Please sign up on the display in the Parish Hall or contact Judy Wootten at 724.733.1660 or by email – jcwootten@comcast.net – to schedule a Sunday. Thank you! ■

www.calvarypg.org



October was a very fun-filled month for Beginnings!

Our two youngest teams (Red and Yellow) have been learning about the change of seasons with their unit “Autumn leaves are Fall-ing down!” Their students took wagon rides through leaves in the Swan Garden while singing “Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf” by Lois Ehlert. They collected leaves to make leaf monsters using glue and googly eyes and twigs to make small trees using glue and feathers. They also had an “Apples” week where they tasted apples of different colors and made a chart to see which apples were liked the most.

Our Blue Team explored a variety of books during their *Wonder of a Story* unit. They read “Fletcher and the Falling Leaves,” by Julia Rawlinson, “Good Night Moon,” by Margaret Wise Brown, “Miss Spider’s Tea Party,” by David Kirk, and “The Legend of Spookley, the Square Pumpkin,” by Joe Troiano. They learned about authors and illustrators, parts of a book, story sequencing, characters, and themes. They had fun with rhyming words and letter sounds. They sang and danced to “Dem Bones” and wrapped up their unit by concocting an icky witches brew.

Our “Bring Your Parent to School Night” on October 17 had a record-breaking turnout at almost 100%. Families spent time in their child’s classroom before heading into the gym for spooky themed snacks and crafts. It seemed to be a fun time for all!

On the rainy day of October 31, Beginnings teachers and students (and a few parents) dressed in costume paraded indoors through our “Trail of Treats” in The Nave. Fun, non-scary songs such as “Scooby Doo,” “The Monster Mash,” “Purple People Eater,” and “Ghostbuster,” were played, and some even danced their way down the aisles to collect candy being handed out by family members, Calvary staff, parishioners, and friends. The timing was actually perfect, because the Bazaar set-up was taking place and the crowd was much larger than anticipated. Weather aside, it was an exciting time to be at Calvary.

On Saturday, November 2, Beginnings participated in the Women of Calvary’s Annual Fall Bazaar by selling infant items, blankets, books, toys, games, puzzles, and décor in our Purple Classroom. We had a great turnout of shoppers and sold almost everything donated. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped make the event successful – to include those who donated items, volunteered, and shopped. We were thankful to be a part of this fundraising event to help raise money for charitable organizations in the East End benefiting women and children.

Beginnings will be closed the week of Thanksgiving.

–Tammy Lewis, Director ■

THANK YOU!

Our 2019 Calvary Bazaar was a great success this year, but it wouldn’t have happened without the help of many people in the Church.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of our Table Chairs, volunteers, as well as Calvary staff who helped out. I know it is a very busy week, but the proceeds will be important to the grant holders.

It is so good to see how everyone works together in a truly Christian way to make this event successful. In addition to being a wonderful fundraiser, it is also a chance for fellowship.

Many thanks also to all of you who donated seed money. That effort was very successful as well, and any money that is not used for expenses will be added to the grant funds.

Blessings to all!

–Kathleen Farrington, *Calvary Bazaar Chair* ■

Advent and Christmas at Calvary

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Calvary Young Adult Ministry Advent Quiet Day, 9 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent – December 1

The Holy Eucharist, at 8, 9 & 11 a.m.

- *A Class on the Book of Genesis, 10 a.m.*
- *Lessons and Carols for Advent, 5 p.m.*

Friday, December 6

Calvary Young Adult Ministry Yule Ball, 7 p.m.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 8

The Holy Eucharist, at 8, 9 & 11 a.m.

- *A Class on the Book of Genesis, 10 a.m.*
- *A Service of CandleMass, 5 p.m.*

Third Sunday of Advent – December 15

The Holy Eucharist, at 8, 9 & 11 a.m.

- *A Class on the Book of Genesis, 10 a.m.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22

The Holy Eucharist, at 8, 9 & 11 a.m.

Christmas Pageant during the 11 o’clock service
No Christian Formation classes or Genesis class on this day.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

The Holy Eucharist, at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Holy Eucharist and Sermon, with carols and special music for choir, brass, and organ.

Music begins 30 minutes before each service.

Childcare will be provided during the 4 p.m. service.

Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25,

The Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist with sermon and Christmas carols.

Children's Christian Formation

On October 27, a small group of teens from J-Teen Leadership in New York (a Jewish organization for high school students, part of the UJA - Federation of NY) came to Pittsburgh to participate in the "Remember. Repair. Together." events commemorating the one-year anniversary of the Tree of Life tragedy. Their teens came to Calvary and joined our teens in the Evans Room during the Christian Formation hour to discuss interfaith efforts and share stories of how this tragedy affected each of us personally. They joined us in the 11 a.m. service prior to attending other events within the community. If you wish to be inspired, follow their link www.jteenleadership.org.



A new ministry called POLO (Parents of Little Ones) is being organized as we begin the holiday season. The goal is to build a sense of community among our families with children by providing a means for social and spiritual connections to be made. After the 11 a.m. service on November 17, Calvary will be providing childcare for parents who wish to have lunch together at a local restaurant. We hope to begin a topical series of interest for the POLO group during the Christian Formation hour starting in January. We invite you to join us for "lunch out" so that we can get to know each other better and brainstorm ideas for the series. Lunch will be provided for your children and activities will be planned for all ages.

The Christmas Pageant is right around the corner!

As we approach Advent, a season of anticipating and preparing, it's time to start thinking ahead to our annual Christmas Pageant! Our children and youth will present this year's pageant on Sunday, December 22, during the 11 a.m. service. With costumes, carols, and a camel, the pageant is Calvary's own retelling of the days surrounding Christ's birth.

We encourage all children and youth to participate, as there are roles for everyone. Infants and toddlers play sheep and cows at the manger (as well as baby Jesus and John the Baptist), younger children play angels, middle schoolers are shepherds, and older kids and youth play a variety of speaking and non-speaking parts including prophets,

angels, narrators, shepherds, Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, and Magi.

We will have one walk-through rehearsal the morning of Saturday, December 21 (more details to follow).

We need adult assistants during the rehearsal and pageant. There are sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall for children and adults. If you have any questions or wish to sign up online, please email me at the address listed below.

Please invite friends, family members, and others to join us for this incredible story and festive Calvary tradition!

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

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



"Advent is coming." This is true in two ways: first, because Advent is all about the approach of something long-awaited, and second, because that season is now just around the corner.

To mark the season, the Choir will offer its annual service of Lessons and Music on Sunday afternoon, December 1, at 5, with a reception following. As they have often done before, our ensemble-in-residence, Chatham Baroque, will join us in music reflecting on the series of prophetic and narrative scriptures that make up the "Lessons" portion of the occasion. The composers represented will include Gibbons, Telemann, Gerre Hancock, and Roland Martin; I hope you can join us.

And on Friday, December 13, Calvary reprises Handel's best-known oratorio, *Messiah*. With its related almost entirely through scriptural prophecies, the libretto is a masterpiece of story-telling by allusion, and Handel's realization of that libretto contains both a wealth of instantly familiar tunes, and a goodly number of less-well-known gems. Calvary's performance is the only complete presentation of the piece in the Pittsburgh area, and the only one with period instruments, anchored by Chatham Baroque. And while we've done the piece a number of times since 2003 when we first presented it, it never fails to thrill the Choir and me (and, I dare hope, the audience!) Please join us!

Please also consider share these occasions with your music-loving friends and neighbors. Since Lessons and Carols is not a Communion service, it can be a less threatening-feeling occasion to share with music-loving friends who might not (somehow!) be Episcopalians. And doesn't everyone love *Messiah*? Please, share word of these occasions with your friends, either by letting them know about them (social media, anyone?) or by actually inviting them along with you! ■

A Reflection by Adam Bailey

A thank you note to Tree of Life and a reflection on the Jewish High Holidays from an Episcopalian

Episcopalians are people of the book. But I don't mean that book.

The old joke goes that an Episcopalian grandmother decided to read the Bible cover-to-cover for the first time. When she finished, she pulled the rector aside and confided, "I really enjoyed reading the Bible, but I was surprised how much it quotes the Book of Common Prayer!"

We are people of common prayer. We are people of *the book* of common prayer. In one thousand pages, the BCP (for short) efficiently arranges scripture into our personal and public prayers for the entire year. Maybe it's because I'm a lifelong bookworm and an English teacher, but page turning is something like praying for me. My first encounter with the prayers, and even the books of the Jewish high holidays, has inspired me in unexpected ways. For that, I want to thank you.

When I slunk into the back row of Tree of Life Rosh Hashanah services last week, I was there partly out of curiosity, but mostly as a silent witness of support, offering my own prayerful presence in solidarity with neighbors. As I entered, I was handed kippah and prayer book as token and guide.

The melding of sacred and personal immediately struck me. As the sounds of quiet prayers began to rise from the prayer desk, so too did the muffled greetings between loved ones in the pews. "I know it's too hot to wear a jacket in here, but you could have at least worn a tie," one nearby grandmother chided her son and grandson to their resistance and laughter. Our lack of air conditioning at Calvary is truly gothic, indeed. Whispers and laughs swirled with chants and prayers into one united spirit before the eternal light above the tabernacle. Your soft words of affection among family were so welcomed among the hard stones of a foreign building.

As your voices lifted to sing in Hebrew and bodies swayed in worship, my curiosity turned naturally to the prayer book. As I have since I was a distracted child, my fingers flipped through the book at hand, except this time the pages were from the Mahzor Hadash prayer book, 894 pages for only a week and a half of holy days. It turns out the Bible quotes this prayer book a lot, too.

Orienting myself to the right-to-left bilingual texts, my own prayers mingled with yours as I read:

A man had been wandering about in a forest for several days, unable to find the way out.

Finally, upon seeing someone approaching in the distance, the wanderer, with a joyous heart thought: "Now I shall surely find out which is the right way out of this forest."

When they neared each other, the wanderer asked the

stranger: "Will you please tell me the way out of the forest? I have been wandering about here for several days, and I am unable to find my way out."

The other replied, "I am sorry, but I do not know the way out either, for I too have been wandering about here for many days. But this much I can tell you. Do not go the way I have gone, for I know that this is not the way. Now come, Let us search for the way out together."

Our teacher added: "So it is with us. The one thing that each of us knows is that the way we have been going until now is not the way. Now come, let us join hands and look for the way together."

Could there be more fitting words among people of faith as we muddle our way through life endeavoring to remake the world from its stains of violence, discord, and confusion?

These weren't the first words from your congregation that stirred me. Earlier in this year's sweltering September, Rabbi Myers spoke to us at Calvary about your high holiday plans. I don't know what I expected, but I imagined a recount of violence and hatred to weigh heavy on his words. I was wrong. My eyes held back tears as he spoke instead about forgiveness. Rabbi Myers recounted just how many times you pray to forgive and be forgiven on Yom Kippur, following millenia of alphabetical praying and re-praying. I was shocked. Who is this man, these people, who instead of responding to pain and terror with anger and revenge, open their hearts with atonement and forgiveness?

Thank you for exemplifying grace within the walls of Calvary Church.

In Genesis, Abraham helps three strangers to escape the heat by offering them water, food, and hospitality. In both our traditions, the visitors have been variously interpreted as angels or as an expression of God's own self. Christian scripture reminds us of this story, saying, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Only after Abraham's hospitality do the strangers give him the divine message that he and Sarah will have a child in their old age, famously to Sarah's laughter. Hospitality became the surprising pathway of miracles. Who gave who the greater gift? Abraham's offer of food and water, or the presence of the Divine given to him? Hospitality yields reciprocity – giver and recipient are bonded in mutuality.

This year, it has been Calvary's honor to offer you a space to commemorate the high holidays. But it is you who have offered the presence of God to us. Thank you for your grace. Thank you for your presence. Thank you for sharing your prayers, laughs, tears, and even your prayer book within the walls of Calvary. Thank you for showing us that there is a way out of the forest together.

—Adam Bailey has been a member of Calvary since 2015 and reflected on the Jewish high holiday services in this thank-note to Tree of Life. ■

Stewardship

Frequently Asked Questions

[Updated]

What is a stewardship pledge?

A pledge is a promise or intention to support Calvary's mission and ministry financially. An annual pledge is a commitment to support Calvary for one calendar year. The church's budget follows the calendar year.

Why do we pledge?

To give thanks to God for our life and blessings, to cultivate a spirit of generosity, to support Calvary's mission and ministry, to plan the annual parish budget, and to serve our neighbors.

How do I pledge?

Complete a signed pledge card, available at most of the entrances to church and in the office, and give it to a priest or drop it in the offertory plates on Sunday.

How is the money from pledges utilized?

The vestry (board) of Calvary sets a budget, of about \$1.6 million. The budget is simply a plan for us to carry out our mission as a community that anticipates revenues and expenses including outreach, music, staff compensation, and care of the building, everything from the heat bill to sending a child to Calvary Camp.

What are Calvary's sources of income?

About 66% comes from pledges of all sizes. Each gift matters. About 17% comes from our endowment income. The remaining 17% comes from special contributions, gifts in the offertory plates, and income from the Beginnings Pre-School program. Almost every dollar from the pre-school goes directly back into the school.

How many families pledge to support Calvary?

About 325 families have completed a signed pledge card. Others give regularly when they are at church. A family is one or more persons in the same household.

To become a member do I have to pledge or do you assess a fee like a club?

No. A pledge is not required to be a member but most people choose to support Calvary, at the level they can, because Calvary and our ministry are important to them.

How much should I pledge?

The biblical model is to share the first ten percent as a reminder all our gifts come from God. The rector's family tithes or gives away ten percent of their income (after taxes) to charity with the majority of that going to Calvary. There is no minimum amount but it is important to give what you are able.

Is a pledge legally binding? What happens if I cannot fulfill it?

No. Sometimes circumstances change. A loss of a job or move out of town or an unexpected change in income may make you decide to raise or lower the pledge. It may be adjusted during the year. For those who have a donor advised fund, some may choose to say, "It is our intention to recommend a grant from our donor advised fund."

How do we pay our pledge? Weekly, monthly, all at once, or another way?

Some pay all at once at the beginning or end of year by check or gift of stock but most pay weekly or monthly by check. About half of our pledge income is now received through automatic bank withdrawal for convenience. This is also very helpful to the church for income remains steady throughout the year.

Is the amount I pledge kept confidential?

Yes. The amounts pledged and given are kept confidential but we do publish a list, without amounts, of those who have supported the church for this year. Only the rector, treasurer, stewardship committee chair, and the director of finance have access to the pledge records.

Are the annual appeal, the stewardship campaign, the stewardship drive, and the pledge campaign the same or different things?

These terms are often used interchangeably to refer to Calvary's annual fundraising efforts to create and support our budget.

Who should I call if I have a question about my gift or statement?

The Director of Finance on Calvary's staff, Lynda Kennedy, can provide giving statements for tax purposes and address any questions you may have about giving at Calvary. Lynda may be contacted at 412.661.0120 ext. 113 or by email at lkennedy@calvarypgh.org.

What is the Saint Michael's Society?

This is the planned giving ministry at Calvary. Its purpose is to provide support for the long-term future of Calvary's mission. One becomes a member of the St. Michael's Society by notifying the church, in writing, that Calvary is a beneficiary of one's estate plans. We host several informational events throughout the year. About sixty families are members of the St. Michael's Society or have named Calvary as a beneficiary in their will. ■



The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore's mission statement is "to serve the parish and provide outreach to the wider community as we navigate our spiritual journeys and live out our faith". The Bookstore supports many worthy causes including being the sponsor of the 2019 Calvary Episcopal Church Used Book Sale netting \$4,250. The money raised from this fundraising event benefitted seven local organizations:

Book 'Em is an all-volunteer project of the Thomas Merton Center which sends free books to prisoners in Pennsylvania. In addition to donating books, the Bookstore's monetary donation is used primarily for mailing costs. To learn more about Book 'Em, please visit www.bookempa.org.

Kathy Garrison's Backpack Project focuses on the children of women in POWER: Pennsylvania Organization for Women in Early Recovery. Kathy personalizes each child's backpack with fun and educational materials that she collects on a child's interest, whatever it is, from dinosaurs or pandas to Louisa May Alcott or baseball. She fills the backpack with personalized notepaper, word searches, books and puzzles, on the child's topic, as well as school supplies like colored markers and Kleenex®. Further information is available at www.power-recovery.com.

Homeless Children's Education Fund's (HCEF) mission is to advance the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness, guiding them to be productive, empowered citizens. As a national model for addressing the educational needs of unstably-housed children and youth, HCEF leads a collaborative effort among regional partners by providing educational programs and services in Allegheny County and advocating for policy and system improvement. To learn more, please go to www.homelessfund.org.

Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program (NYOP) is an afterschool program for elementary school children from the surrounding neighborhoods founded by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Wilkesburg. NYOP uses an arts-based curriculum that includes instrumental music, singing, dance, art, poetry, and photography, all in a Christian context. The NYOP provides a safe place, mentoring relationships, and an atmosphere that promotes personal growth and a sense of belonging. For more information about NYOP, please go to ststephenspittsburgh.org/youth-outreach.

The New Sanctuary Movement Pittsburgh is a national interfaith coalition dedicated to honoring a call to support and welcome immigrant neighbors. They provide housing and hosting, language access, accompaniment, transportation, childcare, some legal services, and work hard to fill in any gaps people may be experiencing. Additional information about this organization is available at www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org or email newsanctuarypittsburgh@gmail.com.

Westinghouse High School Science Project: biology teacher and Science Department Lead Instructor Monica Dugan of Westinghouse High School in Homewood will use funds to help with scientific literacy with the purchase of a digital camera for microscope and book purchases. Westinghouse High School is designated a Title 1 school, with 78% of students living at or below the federal poverty level. Since Pennsylvania funds schools by local real estate taxes, funding for Westinghouse High School is very low. For additional questions, please contact Ms. Dugan at mdugan1@pghschools.org.

Wilkesburg Community Ministry is a nonprofit providing essential necessities of food, clothing and energy assistance to Wilkesburg residents since 1968. They serve approximately 5,000 residents per year and have partnerships with educational and after-school youth programs. To learn more including the Urban Survival Program, please visit www.wcm15221.org.

As the season of Advent is about to begin, stop by the Bookstore to see a large selection of Advent books, calendars, candles, and wreaths.

The Bookstore is open Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the week, the Bookstore is open Tuesday through Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® are accepted. ■

Happy 100th Birthday



When Tree of Life Congregation was here celebrating Rosh Hashana, we got to meet **Moe Lebow**. He will turn 100 years old on Saturday, November 16, 2019. It would be wonderful for him to receive cards from his friends here at Calvary Church. Please mail a birthday card to him at 6315 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. ■

Please remember Calvary Church
in your will.

Status Report from the Treasurer

At its October 28th meeting, the Vestry approved the Treasurer's Report for the nine months ended September 30, 2019. As the numbers below indicate, there is both good news and not so good news to report on the financial front. Although Pledge Income received is an excellent 96% of the budgeted amount for the first nine months of the year, this shortfall amounts to \$22,000. There is good news in the fact that Calvary has received from numerous non-pledgers total contributions in excess of \$76,000, which is only \$4,000 under the budgeted amount for the entire year. In addition, our actual Operations Fund expenses are \$27,200 less than the budgeted amount for the first nine months of the year. The not so good news is that our actual expenses have exceeded income by \$175,100. Historically, the 4th quarter of the year has reflected positive financial results here at Calvary. We are reasonably certain that this trend will continue this year and that this deficit amount will decrease considerably. In order to accomplish this goal, it is important to remind everyone to continue to fulfill your 2019 pledge commitment to Calvary Church.

Sincerely, Bob Eley

Calvary Episcopal Church
Operations Fund (Operations, Outreach & Capital Budgets)
Year-to-Date Financial Results through September 30, 2019

	9-Month Actual 2019	9-Month Budget 2019
Income:		
Pledge and Non-Pledge Contributions	\$703,000	\$709,400
Loose Plate and Special Offerings	26,600	34,500
Transfer from Endowment Fund	202,800	204,900
Trust Income	16,700	16,700
All Other Income	65,500	61,200
Total Income	1,014,600	1,026,700
Expenses:		
Salaries & Benefits	739,800	744,000
Diocesan Assessment	114,700	114,700
Maintenance & Operations of Bldgs.	120,900	128,800
Office & Administration/Finance	70,700	78,000
Taxes & Insurance	77,700	77,700
Hospitality & Parish Life	6,300	8,300
Christian Formation and Music	10,900	16,600
Pastoral Care & Outreach	22,600	22,200
Capital	26,100	26,600
Total Expenses	1,189,700	1,216,900
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(175,100)	(190,200)



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A Reflection by Charlotte Broome

Tree of Life Shabbat Service

Calvary was the setting for Tree of Life Congregation's Shabbat (Saturday morning) Service on October 26 – the day before the one year anniversary of the attack on their synagogue. Calvary parishioners and other friends of Tree of Life were invited to share in worship and remembrance.

Most noticeable upon entering the nave was how different it looked. We are used to seeing the sanctuary and chapels brightly lit. On this day, both chapels and everything behind the rood screen were dark. All the focus was on the Torah rolls within the ark, which was placed where our crossing altar usually stands. A bit of stagecraft which transformed our church into a synagogue just by adjusting the lighting!

The service was lengthy - two and a half hours. Worshippers drifted in over the course of the morning and moved around to greet one another. Most of the prayers and readings were spoken or sung in Hebrew but we were given prayer books with English translation so it was possible to follow along with the prayers and readings.

Of course the focus of the service was remembering those who lost their lives in last year's attack, and prayers for hope and healing for the survivors. In a very moving moment, all the survivors and their families were invited to gather in front of the congregation. There were prayers of gratitude for those who helped in the aftermath of the tragedy. Different groups were asked to stand and be recognized including EMTs and police officers, faith leaders, government officials, social workers and others.

Afterwards, everyone was able to visit and mingle at a bounteous buffet luncheon in the Parish Hall. It was truly a memorable day of hospitality and connection for Tree of Life, Calvary and other members of our Pittsburgh community. ■

THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS AND CHURCH STAFF

Thank you to the many volunteers, 150 people by some counts, who helped make the Calvary Bazaar a great success. Your faithful work will help many people and worthy causes in the East End of Pittsburgh.

Thank you also to the church staff who worked tirelessly to welcome and prepare for the Tree of Life visits and the Calvary Bazaar. The sextons (Jim Gubash, James Knight, Ron Johnston, Andy Dilts, Jose Roblero, and Mary Ann Packer), Kim Pieratt, Weezie Wells, Lynda Kennedy, Ken Smith, William Stevens, Fred Roth, and Tammy Lewis all made Calvary proud. –Jonathon ■

United Thank Offering

Sunday, November 24, is the date of the fall United Thank Offering fundraising drive at Calvary, for which the blue envelopes in your service bulletin will be provided.

Please express your gratitude for the gifts you enjoy in your everyday lives, and for the humanitarian contributions of UTO by giving generously at that day's offertory, or at any convenient time in the future. Checks may be made out to Calvary and designated on the memo line for UTO.

Since 1889, UTO has collected and granted \$138,629,911.07 in thank offerings to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church and abroad in the Anglican Communion through 5,257 grants. This year, the focus of the UTO granting process was: *Go: crossing boundaries created by race, culture, and economics to create communities that listen deeply and learn to live like Jesus.*

An Episcopal Church Award associated with the Pittsburgh Diocese in companion with Uganda St. Andrew's Senior Secondary School Physical Plant Development in the amount of \$85,655 was made. St. Andrew's Secondary School provides an inclusive full high-school education for blind, orphaned, disabled and non-disabled students. The school needs a second finished permanent classroom building, main hall, security fencing and four additional pit latrines for students and staff to save students walking many kilometers to access government-certified secondary education.

For the full list of UTO grants, please visit unitedthankoffering.com/granting/1883-2018-grant-list ■

Using a Donor-Advised Fund at Calvary

In recent years, donor-advised funds have become an increasingly popular way for individuals and families to structure their charitable contributions. One IRS regulation about donor-advised funds is that the donor is not able to sign a legally enforceable pledge letter because, technically, the funds are no longer theirs to give away, but rather are held by the funding entity or sponsor. This is often a community foundation or a financial firm.



However, it is possible to be a part of Calvary's annual stewardship campaign using a donor-advised fund. The following language is acceptable to the IRS and can be included with your notification to Calvary about your intention to support the church in 2020:

"I/We intend to recommend a grant from the [name of donor-advised fund], a donor-advised fund, in the amount of \$X during the year 2020. Grant recommendations are subject to the approval of [name of fund sponsor/entity]. This expression of intent does not create a legally enforceable obligation."

Please call Jamie McMahon, Senior Warden, at 412.889.4248 if you have any questions. ■

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

Sunday, November 10 at 12:45 p.m. – Brunch at Industry Public House (4305 Butler St., 15201)

Tuesday, November 19 at 5:45 p.m. – Holy Happy Hour at Arsenal Cider House (300 39th St., 15201)

Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Advent Quiet Day at Calvary Church

Friday, December 6 from 7–10 p.m. – Yule Ball in the Refectory ■

Calvary Movie Night Thursday, November 21, 2019



From his very birth, young Philippino boy Magnifico supports his neighbors and family as he "grows up." This film has been lauded with honors. It won the Internationale Filmfest spiele of Berlin's Kinderfilmfest, the Grand Prix Award for Best Picture and Rome's International Children's Film Festival. "MAGNIFICO" won a record breaking 7 Awards for Philippine's BEST PICTURE (2004).

Come for a salad supper (prepare for 2) in the Refectory (at 6 p.m.) Film starts promptly at 7 p.m. followed by a brief discussion led by Clint Van Dusen, in the Parish Hall. **Please RSVP to Clint by Sunday, November 17** at apax4cmvd@msn.com or 412.660.2297. ■

Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 28, 2019
at 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion, Rite II
with congregational hymns and choral music.
Everyone is welcome.

CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*
Geoffrey Royce, *McNulty Intern*
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*
Andy Dilts, Ron Johnston,
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*
Sherry Bloom, *Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary*
Robert Dilts, Rebecca Randall, *Archivists*

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

Agape Deadline

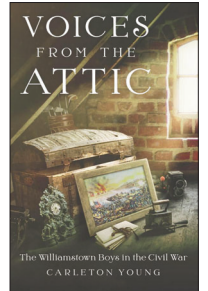
The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, December 6, 2019**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it directly to the church office.

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. ■

East Liberty Valley Historical Society December Lecture

“Voices from the Attic: The Williamstown Boys in the Civil War:” a lecture by Carlton Young, Ph.D.

While cleaning out his parents’ Churchill attic about 15 years ago, Carleton Young found a wooden box packed with letters written by two well-educated brothers during the Civil War to their parents in Vermont. Francis and Henry Martin, soldiers in the Vermont Brigade in the Army of the Potomac, wrote about 250 letters detailing battlefield injuries and amputations, winters quarters construction, interactions with enslaved people and other war experiences. A retired high school history teacher, Dr. Young will talk about the letters and the research and travel that led to the publication of his book about them in 2015.



Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m. at E. Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Highland Ave., 15206 ■

A Class on The Book of Genesis

Foundation Book of the Bible

Led by Bob Owens, the class meets in
McClintic Hall (on Level G) **Sundays at 10 a.m.**
Please join us when you can.

You may listen to past classes on the Calvary website at
www.calvarypgh.org/Sermons ■



SHELDON CALVARY CAMP HOLY EUCHARIST at CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sheldon Calvary Camp service, an informal celebration of the Holy Eucharist, will meet in the Refectory at 3 p.m. on **Sunday, November 24, December 29 and January 26**. The Rev. Leslie Reimer is the celebrant, and we use music from the Camp songbook. Mark your calendars and join us when you can. ■



News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

PROJECT CREED: What are the Recommendations?

From Jon Delano, Coordinator,
Project CREED & President, Diocesan Council

[Edited for Space]

At Diocesan Convention in mid-November, the lay & clergy deputies of this diocese will be asked to approve three resolutions and several proposed Constitutional changes recommended by the four Working Groups of Project CREED (Committee to Re-envision the Diocese of Pittsburgh).

As the coordinator of Project CREED, I want to share the results of this nearly year-long review.

Prompted by Bishop McConnell, the Standing Committee, with the support of the Diocesan Council and Board of Trustees, initiated this review to see how we can better live out the words of our mission to Love, Serve, and Heal by focusing on four aspects of our work as individuals, parishes, and a diocese.

An amazing group of 66 volunteers – 45 lay and 21 clergy – gathered many times to make concrete recommendations in the areas of Communications, New Ministries, Reaching out to Neighbors, and Governance. The goal was to develop at least one specific task for each of our parishes and the diocese.

Communications: If approved by convention, each parish will identify a communications point person; there will be a diocesan-wide training session on websites, information content, and social media; parishes will identify individuals in their midst to serve as reporters and editors in sharing stories; and the diocese will establish an ongoing Communications Steering Committee to assist ongoing and new communication initiatives.

New Ministries: If approved by convention, each parish will encourage new lay-led ministry initiatives, each parish will encourage a greater diversity of leadership in new ministries *with particular attention* to historically under-represented populations; and each parish will encourage lay-led Morning Prayer (or other Daily Office services) when clergy cannot be present and congregations desire it.

Reaching Out to Neighbors: If approved by convention, each parish will develop a “Be in the Community Day” to

collectively leave church property to be as one with neighbors, including meeting neighbors of different faiths or no faith for conversation; each parish will designate a point person to provide and update information for a parish ministry resource directory which will be part of a diocesan resource directory to encourage sharing information so that individuals can be more involved in community outreach.

Governance: Changes in the governance structure of this diocese were unanimously recommended by the Governance Working Group. Because changes in governance require constitutional amendments, which must be approved by two subsequent conventions, the changes will need diocesan convention approval in both 2019 and 2020 before they can take effect in 2021.

Board of Trustees: If approved by Convention this year and next year, the Board of Trustees will be reduced in size from 16 to 12 lay members with four members elected at-large by convention, four members elected by districts (one from each), and four members appointed by the bishop. Each member will serve a 3-year term. Currently, the convention elects 7 members, the bishop appoints 5 members, and the districts elect 4 members.

Diocesan Council: If approved by convention this year and next year, the Diocesan Council will be reduced from 18 members to 14 members. Eight of those 14 members will be the four lay and four clergy members elected to Standing Committee. Four of those 14 members will be lay deputies elected by districts (one from each). Each member so elected will serve a 4-year term. The bishop and the chancellor by virtue of their offices would be the remaining two members on Council. Currently, the membership on Council is elected by district – two lay and one clergy per district – with six additional voting members sitting by virtue of their offices. In effect, this is a partial merger of Council and Standing Committee, but with district lay representation to guarantee geographic diversity and to maintain the two-thirds Lay representation on Council.

Standing Committee: If approved by convention this year and next year, no parish in the diocese shall have more than two members (clergy and/or lay) at the same time serving on the 8-member Standing Committee. Currently, there is no limitation which allows for the possibility of just a few parishes dominating the Committee.

I hope this summary is helpful to you. Again, special thanks to each of the 66 members of Project CREED, the incredible diocesan staff, all the members of the current governing boards, our hard-working consultant Judy Stark, and Bishop McConnell who had the willingness and faith to encourage this diocesan review!

Jon Delano,

Coordinator, Project CREED/President, Diocesan Council
jon.delano@verizon.net

October 29, 2019 ■

Episcopal Church ‘still in’ despite Trump administration’s withdrawal from Paris climate pact

By David Paulsen, November 5, 2019

[Episcopal News Service] The Trump administration announced on Nov. 4 that it would withdraw the United States from the global climate pact known as the “Paris agreement” within a year, but that won’t affect The Episcopal Church’s commitment to the agreement’s goal of stopping or slowing climate change.

“The Episcopal Church considers climate action part of fulfilling a sacred trust from God,” California Bishop Marc Andrus said in a written statement reacting to the Trump administration, which he called “an irresponsible move that particularly threatens some of the world’s most vulnerable populations.”

Andrus, who has led Episcopal delegations in recent years to annual climate summits hosted by the United Nations, warned that delays in addressing climate change could produce catastrophic scenarios in both the short term and long term. The hardest-hit communities “will continue to suffer the tragic effects of wildfires, sea level rise, heat waves and other climate-related disasters.”

An Episcopal delegation was in Paris, France, in December 2015 to make a spiritual case for climate action during the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP. At that conference, member countries, including the United States, reached a landmark agreement to set voluntary goals aimed at keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius, which scientists think would be necessary to prevent a spiraling catastrophe of melting glaciers, rising sea levels and related weather extremes.

[Read more at www.episcopalnewsservice.org] ■



[The Calvary Episcopal Church Newsletter, *Agape*, November 10, 2019]

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

November 10 – St. John’s Episcopal Church, Donora, and Michael Singer, Lay Pastoral Associate.

November 17 – Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, and the Rev. John Mark Feuerstein.

November 24 – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon, the Rev. Noah Evans, the Rev. Laura Di Panfilo, and the Rev. Charles Fischer, III.

December 1 – St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Johnstown, and the Rev. Nancy Threadgill; and Shepherd Wellness Community, Scott Peterman, director.

December 8 – Church of the Advent, Jeannette, and the Rev. Martin Wright.

December 15 – Church of the Advent, Brookline. ■

Bishop’s Visitation Schedule

November 10: St. John’s, Donora

November 17: Good Shepherd, Hazelwood

November 24: St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon

December 1: St. Mark’s, Johnstown

December 8: Advent, Jeannette

December 15: Advent, Brookline ■



www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh

Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at

www.episcopalpgh.org

Submissions for publication on the diocesan web site, calendar, and the *Grace Happens* weekly e-newsletter should be sent electronically to

info@episcopalpgh.org.

Please be sure to include your complete contact information with any submission. ■

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The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, Bishop

412-721-0853 ext. 252 | dmccconnell@episcopalpgh.org

Andy Muhl, Executive Assistant

412-721-0853 ext. 251 | amuhl@episcopalpgh.org ■



SHELDON CALVARY CAMP **HOLY EUCHARIST** at **CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Plan ahead for these service dates:

2019: Oct. 27 • Nov. 24 • Dec. 29

2020: Jan. 26 • Feb. 23 • March 22

April 26 • May 24

Join us at 3 p.m. in the Refectory

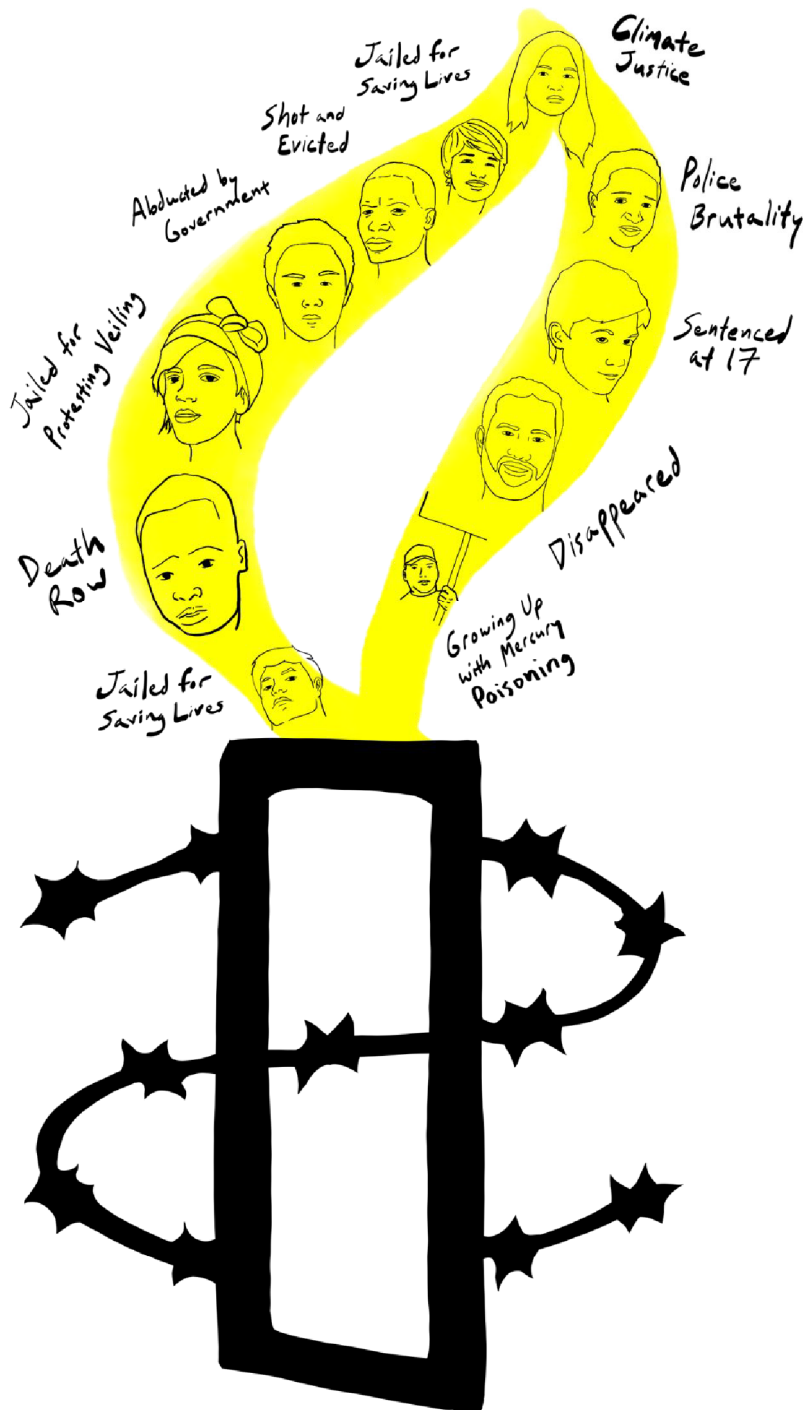
All are welcome! Campers, families, staff, alumni,
and friends – **Please join us and spread the good news!**



Write for Human Rights

Last year, Pittsburghers joined together and wrote hundreds of letters to change lives.

This year will you be one of them?



Join Amnesty International Group 39 and other human rights groups for our 33rd Annual Write-a-thon and Human Rights Festival!

Write a letter. Change a life. Come for five minutes or the whole event. Light refreshments will be provided.

Monday, December 9, 2019, 6-9pm

Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Please help us make this event happen with a donation at amnestypgh.org or send to Amnesty International Group 39, P.O. Box 8112, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Contact: amnesty39@gmail.com

GROUP 39

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**





A SERVICE OF
Lessons & Carols
for Advent

December 1, 2019

The First Sunday of Advent at 5 p.m.

The Calvary Choir and soloists, joined by Chatham Baroque, present this annual service of word and song anticipating coming of the King of kings. Readings and music give voice to the hopes and prayers of the season.

A pot-luck *hors-d'oeuvre* reception follows the service




CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Ave., East Liberty 15206

www.calvarypg.org



Calvary Movie Night

Thursday, November 21, 2019



**Winner of a Record Breaking
7 Awards for Best Picture –
Philippines (2004)**

**Winner
Grand Prix Award for Best Picture
Rome International
Children's Film Festival**



**Crystal Bear Winner at
Kinderfilmfest, Berlin Film Festival,
Best Feature
chosen by a jury of children**



Magnifico

**Come for a salad supper (prepare for 2) in the Refectory (at 6 p.m.)
Film starts promptly at 7 p.m. followed by a brief discussion
led by Clint Van Dusen, in the Parish Hall**

**Please RSVP to Clint by Sunday, November 17
at apax4cmvd@msn.com or 412.660.2297**



The Friends of Music at Calvary present

GEORG
FRIDERICH
HANDEL

MESSIAH

Join us for Pittsburgh's only
complete performance of Handel's
most-beloved oratorio, presented on
original instruments led by

*Chatham
Baroque*

and the Calvary Choir and soloists,
all directed by Alan Lewis.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019
7:30 P.M.

A donation of \$10 is requested at the door

CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue (at Walnut Street)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
412.661.0120 ♦ www.calvarypgh.org





Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22, 2019
during the 11 o'clock service

**There will be no Christian Formation classes
on December 22 or December 29.
Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2020.**

**CALVARY**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PITTSBURGH + PENNSYLVANIA

Calvary Movie Night: Thursday, January 30, 2020



WAJIB UM CONVITE DE CASAMENTO

واجب

de ANNEMARIE JACIR



SELEÇÃO OFICIAL



FESTIVAL DE LOCARNO
PRÊMIO DON QUIXOTE E PRÊMIO DO JÚRI JOVEM



NOMINADO
AOS PRêmIOS DE
MELHOR ATOR PELO
ASIAN PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS



OSSAMA BAWARDI APRESENTA UMA PRODUÇÃO DE PHILISTINE FILMS O FILME DE ANNEMARIE JACIR COM MOHAMMAD BAKRI E SALEH BAKRI
CORPORADO POR METAFORA PRODUCTIONS, JBA PRODUCTION, KLINKFILM, CIUDAD LUNAR, APE6BJORN, SNOWGLOBE FILM, SHORTCUT FILMS
EM ASSOCIAÇÃO COM CACTUS WORLD FILMS DIREÇÃO DE FOTOGRAFIA ANTOINE HEBERLE DIREÇÃO DE ARTE NAEL KANJ MONTAGEM JACQUES COMETS SOM HAMADA ATALLAH
EDIÇÃO CARLOS GARCIA E KOSTAS VARYMPOIOTIS PRODUÇÃO EXECUTIVA OSSAMA BAWARDI EXECUÇÃO E DIREÇÃO DE PRODUÇÃO ANNEMARIE JACIR

Come for a salad supper (prepare for 2) in the Refectory (at 6 p.m.)
Film starts promptly at 7 p.m. followed by a brief discussion
led by Clint Van Dusen, in the Parish Hall

Please RSVP to Clint by Sunday, January 26
at apax4cmvd@msn.com or 412.660.2297