

The Newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Lily Wants to Know [Second in the Series]

Lily is a precocious child with relentless curiosity. She is also unbelievably cute, and therefore, impossible to resist when she sells Girl Scout cookies or asks questions. She began attending Calvary a few years ago and is a student at a local Roman Catholic elementary school.

Lily wants some answers and maybe you do as well. We hope to make this an occasional column in the *Agape*. If you have your own theological or religious questions, please write to the Rector or Rabbi to ask.

On to Lily's questions:

Why is the God of the Old Testament described as so grouchy and vengeful, whereas God is not described this way in the New Testament?

Dear Lily,

Your question about how God is described in the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) compared to the New Testament (Christian Bible) is very insightful. Let's see if we can't gain a better understanding of these different perceptions of God.

The Christian Bible is actually comprised of both the Old and New Testaments, each of which contain many different stories and teachings. These stories were written by various people at different times and for different audiences. This is the first reason there are different understandings of God between the two volumes.

In the Old Testament, God is sometimes understood to be strict or stern because many of the stories talk about rules and guidance for how people should live. These rules were given to help people in ancient times make good choices and live easily with each other. And, when people didn't follow God's rules, they faced consequences. Over the years, this has led many readers to conclude that the God of the Hebrew Bible was "grouchy" ... because God held people responsible for their (bad) behavior.



But when we turn to the New Testament or Christian Bible, the focus changes. Here we are introduced to Jesus, a kind and loving teacher who, rather than speaking of consequences, talked about compassion, forgiveness, and the idea that God's love is available to everyone. This is why many people see the New Testament as a message of hope and love.

Reading both the Old and New Testaments' descriptions of God, is kind of like looking at different sides of a person's personality. Think of your parents; sometimes they might be strict about certain things, like homework, but at other times, they show lots of love and care. And both parts of a parent's personality are real and true.

And here's something interesting to consider: the stories and descriptions of God in the Bible can also reflect our own individual experiences. Just like we can be grouchy or stern one moment and loving and forgiving the next, it seems that sometimes God can be the same way. Of course, each of us have our own ways of understanding and experiencing God, as well.

Keep asking questions, Lily. Questions help us learn and grow in our understanding of the world and our faith.

Warm regards, Rabbi Aaron Bisno

GRATEFUL hearts

The 2024 Annual Appeal has been tremendously successful, with many new families pledging and others increasing their commitment. We thank everyone who has pledged and recognized the importance of Calvary and Christ in their life and our community. While our Campaign ended on November 5, we will continue to accept pledges through the remainder of the year. If you have yet to pledge, we appreciate your prayerful consideration.

Yours in Christ, David & Ashleigh Riehl, Stewardship Co-Chairs ■



Rabbi Aaron Bisno and the Rev. Jonathon Jensen will continue to teach a class together. We will focus on the great stories of Judaism in the Book of Genesis. The classes will be in person in McClintic Hall, also known as the choir room, on **Sundays at 10 a.m.** Sessions are recorded and posted to Calvary's YouTube page with a link in the Friday email. All are welcome to attend.



Have you been meaning to meet with me? Or would you like to set up another coffee visit? I invite you to email or call me to find a time for us to get together over coffee or tea. I want to get to know each of the parishioners at Calvary and hear your stories. Whether you've already met with me or you've been meaning to do so, please contact me! I'd love to spend time with you. I can be reached at csoulis@calvarypgh.org or 412-661-0120, ext. 123. —*Cameron* ■

Calvary's Office Hours Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Once again, it's time for Calvary families to get into the Christmas Spirit through the East End Cooperative Ministry's (EECM) gifting program. We hope to provide gifts for 75 children/youth this year. EECM will give us a list of participants with 3 gift requests for each one: something they **need**, something they **want**, and a **book** or **calendar**. Each item will be identified on a separate Berry which will be arranged for picking in the Parish Hall, beginning November 12. These gifts help relieve the financial burden on many East End families at Christmas and brighten their holidays.

Calvary has been a strong supporter of this program in the past and we request your help again this year. Participation is easy!

- 1. Choose a berry (or several) from the bulletin board in the Parish Hall, and sign-up on the corresponding log sheet. The berries are numbered and indicate the requested gift. There is a separate berry for each item. Each berry also contains a Code Number with A,B or C. If you'd like to fulfill a single child's wish list, take three berries with the same code number. Be sure to take a hand-out that details how gifts are to be wrapped and returned. Undesignated donations of gift cards from Target, Amazon or Giant Eagle, in the suggested amount of \$25, are also welcome.
- 2. If you are attending church virtually and would like to participate, please contact Linda Lewis or Jennifer De Rosa (information below). We will help you select one or more berries and help make arrangements for drop-off of items.
- 3. Wrapped gifts may be brought to the Parish Hall any time before 1 p.m. on **Sunday, December 3, 2023.** The gifts will be taken to the EECM Community House the following week to be distributed to families. If you are unable to drop your gift off by that time, please contact Linda or Jennifer so arrangements can be made.

A few volunteers are needed to sort and bag the gifts from noon–2 p.m. on Sunday, November 26 and Sunday, December 3. We also need at least one volunteer to make reminder phone calls on Sunday afternoon (December 3), and several volunteers with hatch-back cars or vans to help deliver the gifts to the EECM Community House between noon and 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6. A Volunteer sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall, or simply call, text or email Linda or Jennifer.

You can reach Linda at 417.527.3963 or by email at fcblinda@gmail.com. You can reach Jennifer at 412.956.3968 or email jennifer@de-rosa.org. Thank you for your support of this fun and important EECM program! ■



PRESERVE • SUSTAIN • SHARE

AWARENESS * KNOWLEDGE * UNDERSTANDING * APPRECIATION

We have now held ten Capital Campaign awareness gatherings. Many thanks to the hosts and hostesses who generously opened their homes to fellow parishioners. As previously stated, these Awareness Gatherings are planned to be small, informal events, to encourage open conversation. While we have received many positive responses about the format of the gatherings, we know that there are members of the parish who cannot, or do not wish to, go out in the evening.

To address that situation, there will be two Awareness Gatherings held at Calvary, open to everyone. They will take place on **Sunday, November 19**; one at **10 a.m.,** following the 9 o'clock service, and one at **12:15 p.m.,** following the 11 o'clock service and coffee hour. We will share the vision of the campaign, the case for support, and have ample time for questions and answers. Like the neighborhood gatherings, there will not be any solicitations at these gatherings.

After the events on the 19th, we will take a break for the holidays, and will resume the gatherings after the first of the year. At that time we will also begin scheduling a series of tours, highlighting the areas of the church which require investment from the campaign. To accomplish all of this, the Awareness Gatherings and tours will continue well into 2024.

For general questions about the gatherings, please email campaign@calvarypgh.org. If anyone has a need to make a gift or first payment on a gift during the current tax year, please contact campaign co-chairs Mary Lou Southwood at mlsouthwood@southwoodpartners-llc.com or Don MacLeod at donaldterrymacleod@gmail.com.

Quiet Day

I'm sad to report that the Advent 2023 Quiet Day originally scheduled for December 2 is cancelled. My father-in-law's funeral is that weekend and I will be out of town.

Mark your calendars! We will have a Quiet Day for Lent on **Saturday, February 24, 2024**. −*Cameron*

Visit the Calvary website at www.calvarypgh.org

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



There are several major musical events taking place over the coming weeks. The first, on Monday evening, November 27, at 7:30 p.m., is an organ recital, jointly presented by Calvary's McVay Recital series and the Organ Artists Series of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the

American Guild of Organists, by the young New Zealandborn organist Thomas Gaynor. A native of Wellington, Thomas earned his undergraduate degree from the New Zealand School of Music while holding organ scholarships at the Wellington Anglican Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Mary of the Angels Roman Catholic Church. In 2012 he moved to Rochester, New York, to study at the Eastman School of Music, where he earned a doctoral diploma and Eastman's highest honor, the Artist's Certificate. In 2017 Gaynor was presented with the Gold Medal and Audience Prize at the St. Albans International Organ Competition. This followed first prizes at the Bach-Liszt Internationaler Orgelwettbewerb Erfurt/Weimar, the Sydney International Organ Competition, and the Fort Wayne National Organ Playing Competition. He has performed extensively across North America, Europe, Oceania, and in Japan and Colombia, and we are delighted to host his debut

appearance in Pittsburgh. Admission to the recital is free to Calvary parishioners; to reserve a seat at a festive dinner at 6 p.m., at \$35, use this QR code (which will also appear in Sunday bulletins while spaces remain).



The following Sunday, December 3, is the First Sunday of Advent, and Chatham Baroque will join the Choir in the annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 5 o'clock. This service marks that occasion in a variety of seasonal music, interpreting and amplifying scriptural readings pointing to the birth of the Messiah. An hors-d'oeuvre reception follows, and all are invited to bring a favorite taste-treat to share.

And the following Friday evening, December 8, the Choir, joined by a period-instruments ensemble anchored by Chatham Baroque, present our first post-Covid performance of Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. Ours remains the only complete performance of the oratorio offered in the Pittsburgh region, allowing Handel's entire conception to come to life in the projection of the central story of our faith, tracing through scriptural reference, metaphor, and allusion the anticipation, birth, suffering, death, resurrection, and glorification of the Messiah. Vocal soloists for the evening are Sarah Nadler, Raquel Winnica-Young, Guy Russo, and Edward Vogel. A \$20 donation is asked at the door. Please join us.

Holiday Service Schedule

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23
The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m.
The Rev. Leslie G. Reimer, preacher
The Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan, celebrant
The service will be livestreamed.

Please note that the Church offices will be closed on Friday, November 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 24

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 11 a.m. only
The service will be livestreamed
(There will be no 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. services this day)

Christmas Eve: December 24

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.,

Music begins 30 minutes before each service.

The services will be livestreamed.

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. The service will be livestreamed.

Please note that the Church offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 26

Wednesday, December 27

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 12 Noon in the Lady Chapel

The First Sunday after Christmas: December 31

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8, 9, and 11 a.m.

The 11 a.m. service will be livestreamed.

No Christian Formation classes.

Please note that the Church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1 ■



Vestry Member Appointment

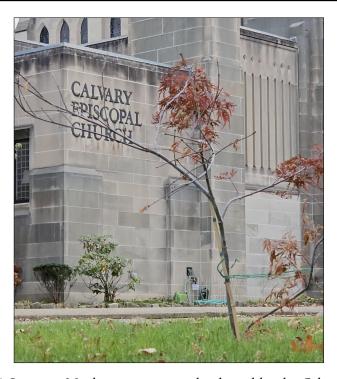
The Vestry has appointed Mr. David Riehl, a financial advisor, to serve the unexpired term (2026) of Mr. Michael Kennedy who resigned for personal reasons. David and his wife, Ashleigh, are co-chairs of this year's stewardship campaign. They are proud parents of three children. ■



Join us as the Tree of Life Congregation shares a Hanukkah celebration at Calvary on Sunday, **December 17**, **2023 after the 11 a.m. service.** The celebration will include singing, food, crafts, menorah lighting, latkes, and jelly donuts.

That morning, Tree of Life members will join us for our Christmas pageant at the 11 a.m. service

After we all share in the Christmas pageant we will all share in the Hanukkah party. All are welcome. ■



A Japanese Maple tree was recently planted by the Calvary Gardening Team. It is donated in memory of Normandie Fulson, a longtime parishioner who passed away last year. Normandie participated in many activities at Calvary, and served as the very first verger in the program created when Arthur McNulty was rector.



Faith Night

You are warmly invited to the third Faith Night of free ice skating at the Hunt Armory on Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 5:40 p.m. until 9 p.m.

The Islamic Center of Pittsburgh, DePaul School for Hearing and Speech families, St. Jude Roman Catholic Parish, Tree of Life Synagogue, and Calvary Episcopal Church are invited to come to the rink at the Armory, see old friends and make new ones, and enjoy a night of ice skating together. Muslims, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants – neighbors of all faiths – can come together as friends.

There is no charge for the event. There will be skates available or bring your own. You are welcome to skate or simply be present. The registration link will be posted on the front page of the Calvary website: www.calvarypgh.org.

What: Faith Night of Skating and Fun Where: Hunt Armory on Emerson Street between Alder and Walnut Streets

When: Saturday, November 25 (the Saturday after Thanksgiving) from 5:40 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Cost: Free

Thank you to the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Center for Interfaith Collaboration at Calvary Episcopal Church for making this event possible. ■

Altar Flowers

Help us keep the church altars in full bloom, including the newest one in the Transept Narthex, 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. ■



East Liberty Valley Historical Society

Wednesday, December 6, 2023: "She Devils at the Door." Historian Eliza Smith Brown tapped her own family history for her new book, which tells the story of sisters Lucy and Eliza Kennedy − Vassar grads, leaders in the suffrage movement and longtime campaigners against corruption in Pittsburgh government. Join us in the Parish Hall at 7 p.m. ■

Thank You! እናመሰግናለን!

Thank you so much, Father Jonathon, for your support to the Ethiopian community in Pittsburgh and for providing the publicity for our Ethiopian Food Sale fundraiser event. We greatly appreciate your continued support.

A sincere thank you to Ken Smith, Kim Pieratt, Kathy Farrington, Jim Gubash, Ron Johnston, Adam Augustine, and Eric Walker for helping, and providing what we needed for the event. We appreciate Calvary Community for making the time to support the Ethiopian Food Sale fundraising. Because of you we had a great turnout.

100% of the food purchase donation proceeds will go to rebuilding the village church and traditional Orthodox church education school in rural Ethiopia. Currently, most of the Ethiopian regions are under civil war and I'm having difficulty receiving updates. We will send you updates over the next few months so that you know exactly the status of the rebuilding project. Please keep Ethiopia in your prayer to end the civil war in the region.

Thank you, Calvary Community, again for your support.

-Ethiopian Zekre Kedusan Bete Gubae Org Alem Gebeyehu, President ■





Agape Deadline

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

Children's Faith Formation

Christmas Pageant Sign-Up



It's that time of year again! Calvary's Annual Christmas Pageant will be held during the 11o'clock service on Sunday, December 17. Sign up to be part of this very special Calvary holiday tradition!

Questions? Email vrispoli@calvarypgh.org



Open on Sundays from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and for other church events as published.

Details at https://www.calvarypgh.org/the-nursery

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11 o'clock Service



Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is a special time for children to pray, ask questions, and hear the good news of God's love. The Sunday scripture readings are proclaimed and explained on a level appropriate to children ages 4-11. Any child in this age group may participate - no registration is necessary.

Children are invited to gather with adult leaders after the Opening Prayer and process to the Refectory. They return to their families at the time of the Peace. If you are running a little late and miss the beginning of the service, no worries! Drop in and join us in the Refectory.

Faith Formation Highlights

Miss Elsa's class recently explored the physical places associated with Jesus' life events in Nazareth, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem. The key takeaway was a focus on Jesus as a historical figure and how significant events in our faith can originate from seemingly small and



ordinary places. This lesson instilled a sense of wonder and awe, emphasizing the importance of appreciating humble beginnings and recognizing the extraordinary in the ordinary. The hands-on activity of creating a topographical map using salt dough fostered creativity and helped reinforce the concept of physical places and history in their faith.



Earlier in the month, the class learned about the liturgical calendar and its colors. Understanding the symbolism behind colors like purple, white, and green enhanced their spiritual journey, making the teachings of the Church more tangible and relatable. This approach allowed the younger students

to grasp the cyclical nature of faith, akin to the changing seasons, and helped them comprehend the significance of preparation, celebration, and learning in their spiritual lives.



In addition, the students have engaged in practical life activities like silver polishing and grating cinnamon. These hands-on experiences not only develop their practical skills but also encourage a sense of calm and

focus amid the noise of the world.

The older students explored the uniqueness of each individual as a creation of God. Fingerprinting served as a tangible reminder of their distinctiveness, reinforcing the idea that every person has a specific place and purpose in God's grand design. This lesson nurtured a sense of self-worth and appreciation for the diversity of God's creation, fostering empathy and understanding.

The students also spent some time in the kitchen making dog biscuits to sell at the Calvary Bazaar. Thank you to Miss Adele for leading this activity!



Most recently, the class also delved into the concept of stewardship, emphasizing their responsibility to care for God's creation. We also began working on our aquaponics project, a fascinating reminder of the splendor and interconnectedness of all life.





Life in the Vine

Be sure to check out the Children's Faith Formation Blog for updates about what's happening in our classes and reflections on nurturing the spiritual life of children.

www.calvaryfaithformation.org

The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore has many items to celebrate Advent including new and gentle used Advent books for adults and children, Advent calendars, cards, wreaths, and candle sets. A variety of calendars and daily anners for 2024 are available including:



2024 Churchman's Ordo Kalendar:

January 2024 through December 2024: Offers a traditional use of the Revised Common Lectionary and The Anglican Service Book. Includes a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion. Days are color-coded to indicate proper vestment colors.

2024 Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendar: January 2024 through December 2024: Conforms to the Revised Common Lectionary with dates in the proper color for each day. On the back of each month's calendar sheet are printed the lessons and psalms for each Sunday and major feast day,



along with other suggestions and notes. Under the calendar pad is the Table of Feasts together with useful information about lessons and psalms. Useful for home or church.

Episcopal Church Revised Common Lectionary Lesson 2024 Calendar: A comprehensive calendar of the readings for the Episcopal Lectionary Year B, daily eucharistic readings, and readings for the Daily Office Year Two, including sanctoral observances. Hymn suggestions drawn from "Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary' are also included.

The Episcopal Liturgical Appointment Calendar: Two facing pages for each week with ample space for noting appointments. Daily Office readings from the Book of Common Prayer, Sunday readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, proper liturgical colors, holy days, commemorations, and secular observances are all noted for easy reference. 2025 calendar included for ease of advance planning.

2024 Pocket Diary: This weekly planner features include prayers for special occasions, daily devotions, space for addresses and phone numbers, and reminder pages for birthdays.

Hostess Gift Suggestions

As we enter the holiday season, the Bookstore has several hostess gift suggestions to please anyone including:

Thistle Farms natural body care products including the emollient-rich and naturally fragranced hand lotion, which is gentle and soothing for all skin types, along with body wash, essential oils, and hand soap. Founded



by Episcopal priest the Rev. Becca Stevens, every product is

handmade by the women of Magdalene, which is a residential program for women with a criminal history of prostitution and addiction.

Balm XVI, a line of lip balm created by the sixteenth Rector of Calvary, made from natural beeswax, organic shea butter, organic coconut oil, and essential oil. Available in grapefruit, lime, orange, and peppermint.

A variety of stationary items including Calvary and Episcopal themed notecards and notepads.

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:

November 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.

Indie Gift Guide 2023 for Genre Lover: this guide including the following categories: romance, science fiction/fantasy, mystery/thriller, graphic works, and poetry. All titles are trade paperback unless otherwise noted.

Best Books for Young Readers: independent booksellers recommendations from across the nation, which includes suggested ages following each book description.



Each flier includes a short synopsis of the books highlighted along with the release

date. 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.

Show your support of the independent Bookstore via Bookshop.org

There is now another way you can support the Bookstore, which is a member of the Episcopal Booksellers Association as well as an independent bookstore, when shopping for books. As an alternative to Amazon, go to www.bookshop.org, which gives independent bookstores tools to compete online and financial support to help them maintain their presence in local communities. On the home page in the upper right corner, click Choose a Bookstore, then type in zip code 15206 and pick Calvary Bookstore. Be sure to check our new category, Advent and Christmas Preparations, which includes Advent calendars, Advent calendar and journal coloring books for children, and Advent books for adults and children.

Bookshop.org will ship your order from their wholesaler's warehouse (usually within 2-3 days) directly to you, handle the customer service, returns and overhead, and the Bookstore at Calvary will receive a small stipends! 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.

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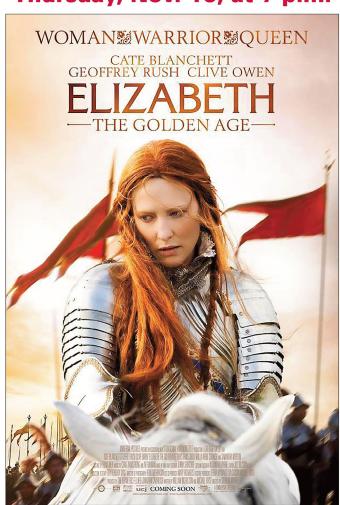
Bookstore, continued

Alibris

Alibris is an online store that sells new books, used books, out-of-print books, rare books, and other media through an online network of independent booksellers. Calvary has over 300 mostly out of print, donated books available online at http://hymnal82.alibrisstore.com. The collection of offerings includes art, children's fiction, comics, graphic novels, fiction, poetry, and travel to name just a few. Each title listing includes the edition, binding, publisher, date published, description, and condition. Checkout the unique offerings that are reasonably priced.

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 − bookstore@ calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. In addition, we can arrange for contactless pick-up of your items. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® along with touch-free payments are accepted. ■

Calvary Movie Night: Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m.



Join us in the Parish Hall from 7–9 p.m., followed by a brief discussion with Clint Van Dusen.



Go online to

SarrisCandiesFundraising.com

Enter our Group ID# 10-3596

and Shop On-line

Items will be shipped directly to your family and friends.

View the entire inventory of Christmas Candy on the website.

For every purchase made online, the Women of Calvary's Bazaar will earn profits!



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, rabbi@calvarypgh.org
 - Deanna Briody, dbriody@calvarypgh.org

www.calvarypgh.org



What to do when you need pastoral care

One aspect of the human condition is that we all experience difficult situations at times in our life. Whether it is illness, grief, depression, loss, loneliness, or something else, you do not have to travel the path alone. Calvary is here for you during those tough times. You can call on Calvary's clergy and Calvary's pastoral care committee for help when you need it. You are not being a burden when you do so. This is why we are here. We are honored when you share your life stories. Let us know when something terrible happens or when something good happens. We want to walk alongside you, pray with you, and help care for you as you go through it. That is what pastoral care is.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call the church office (412-661-0120) to speak to one of the clergy. At times outside of office hours, call the church office and press 2. Your call will be forwarded to an emergency phone where you can leave a message. Please be sure to leave your name and a callback number in the message. A Calvary clergyperson will then return your call.

All members of the Calvary clergy are available to deal with pastoral care issues of all kinds. As well, the pastoral care committee provides both spiritual and practical support by extending Calvary's ministry through services to those in life transitions, including the homebound, elderly, sick and bereaved. We want you to call on us when you need us.

Finally, a reminder that because of privacy laws, hospitals, health care facilities, and health care workers are not permitted to tell us that you are a patient. Please let us know if you or a loved one are in the hospital.



Hosts Needed

Now that coffee hours have resumed, we need hosts to help us. Your group can sponsor a coffee hour by bringing, plating and arranging small sweet and savory snacks for enjoyment after the 11 o'clock service each Sunday. If you are interested, please sign up with Kathy Farrington at farringtonk@ me.com or use the sign up sheet at the sign in the Parish Hall.



A 6-week program meeting in Calvary's Parish Hall February 5 - March 11, 2024

20-30 minutes of yoga, followed by journaling Led by Calvary parishioner, Elizabeth Hepburn Miller.

Every-body and all-bodies are welcome here! You have the permission to show up just as you are. All levels and abilities are invited to join as we journey through a 6-week program to share in joy, grounding, resting and breathing together to know God's love for us and make His love known.

What is "Yoga"?

The term yoga refers to a spiritual practice, involving breath, postures and meditation that originated in Ancient India thousands of years ago. Although other religions and philosophies also have their roots in Ancient India, the practice of yoga is not specific or rooted in any one religion.

Much like the disciplines of prayer, fasting, service, and study of scripture, yoga is practiced as a spiritual discipline. Getting still, embodying prayer, and mediating on God's word through gentle movement is yoga, and it is an additional way to connect the body, mind and soul as we care for one's whole spiritual well-being. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

To bring:

- Yoga mat or beach towel
- Journal (paper) and pen
- Yoga blocks, optional, if you have them or want them
- Bath or beach towel for your knees, hips, etc on the hard floor

To wear:

- Comfortable clothing

This group is for those...

- looking to find rhythms of getting still
- that have 2024 resolutions to make more intentional space for God's presence
- that want to connect deeper to God and their body in a body-neutral space, with fun and community
- who love yoga, or have never done yoga before!
- that want to develop a practice that is healing and helpful to the body, softening and relaxing for the soul, and engaging for the mind.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. You are so loved and welcomed here. I can't wait to practice with you!

-Elizabeth Hepburn Miller (you can connect with me at www.bebyelizabeth.com or by email at Elizabeth@BeByElizabeth.com) ■



Join us on Tuesdays at Noon, in the Nave.

For the next several weeks the Brown Bag Lunch and Literature ministry will bring readings from Pulitzer Prize winning authors. The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction is awarded to American authors typically writing on American themes.

The Good Earth won the Pulitzer in 1932. Pearl S Buck's depiction of pre-revolutionary China presents a graphic view of the last emperor's reign tracing the whole cycle of life and the sweeping changes that have occurred in the lives of the Chinese people during the last century.

Robert Penn Warren was awarded three Pulitzers in his life and was our first poet laureate. The novel, *All the King's Men* traces the rise and fall of Willie Stark who resembles the real-life Huey "Kingfish" Long of Louisiana. It is perhaps the only full-blooded American novel of politics that plunges deep into the hearts of its characters and therefore into the hearts of its readers.

Spiritual Reflection – William Cleary

Adult spiritual formation may be described as the step-bystep discovery of God's presence in our lives and our personal transformation along the way. Calvary's Spiritual Reflection meetings continue to be a regular and familiar forum for small group peer ministry. Meetings are groupled, and no preparation is required. Our interactions follow the Principles for Contemplative Dialogue of the Merton Institute for Contemplative Living.

For this term we will continue using both Joan Chittister's "The Breath of the Soul" and William Cleary's "Prayers to an Evolutionary God." Cleary is a former Jesuit priest, author, filmmaker and composer. In this book of prayers paired with short prose pieces, he reflects on the works of Teilhard de Chardin and particularly on Irish priest-psychologist Diarmuid O'Murchu's more contemporary, "Evolutionary Faith." As one reviewer put it, "In Bill Cleary's book, the 'God of evolution' is not an abstract topic of theological reflection but the focus of meditation, prayer, and praise."

Meetings are held in the Evans Room from 7–8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. The meetings are hybrid, allowing "in person" conversation while using Zoom so others can join remotely. Our Upcoming meeting is on **November 21.** Email Matt Muldoon (mattmuldoon@msn.com) or Sondra Krimmel (sskrimmel@gmail.com) for information or to be added to the email list. Please feel welcome to join us at any time.



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 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 Ieong, Senior Warden Wendy Lomicka, Junior Warden Lauren Ernst, Treasurer Daniel Geroni, Assistant Treasurer

Have you remembered Calvary in your will?

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.

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





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Items will be shipped directly to your family and friends.

View the entire inventory of Christmas Candy on the website.

For every purchase made online, the Women of Calvary's Bazaar will earn profits!





The Women of Calvary





If you are a young adult and/or the parent of young children, please join us at any time for the **Gospel and Breakfast class (GAB)**. The Parents of Little Ones and Calvary Young Adult Ministry co-sponsor this time to meet for fellowship, light breakfast, and a discussion of the Gospel passage appointed for the day. We gather in the Evans Room on Sundays during the Christian Formation hour (10–10:45 a.m.). The nursery will be open at that time, or you can bring your little one(s) along if you prefer. Drop in when you can. No prior knowledge needed.

Questions? Please contact the Rev. Cameron Soulis (csoulis@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 123). ■

Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at

www.episcopalpgh.org

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

info@episcopalpgh.org.

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

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh mailing address:

325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412.721.0853 | info@episcopalpgh.org

Andy Muhl, Director of Communications and Technology

412.721.0853 ext. 253 | amuhl@episcopalpgh.org ■



Walk-in Ministry Needs Your Support

Trinity Cathedral hosts a walk-in ministry that provides the most vulnerable among us food, toiletries, clothing, and referral services. They participate along with four other downtown churches as members of the Downtown Ministerium. Calvary has agreed to help with the ministry's greatest need: men's underwear, size large. Boxer briefs are the favorite, but any size and style is welcome. There is a collection box in the Parish Hall. Please drop off your packages there. Thank you.



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!)

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 ■

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.



Brown Bag Lunch and Literature

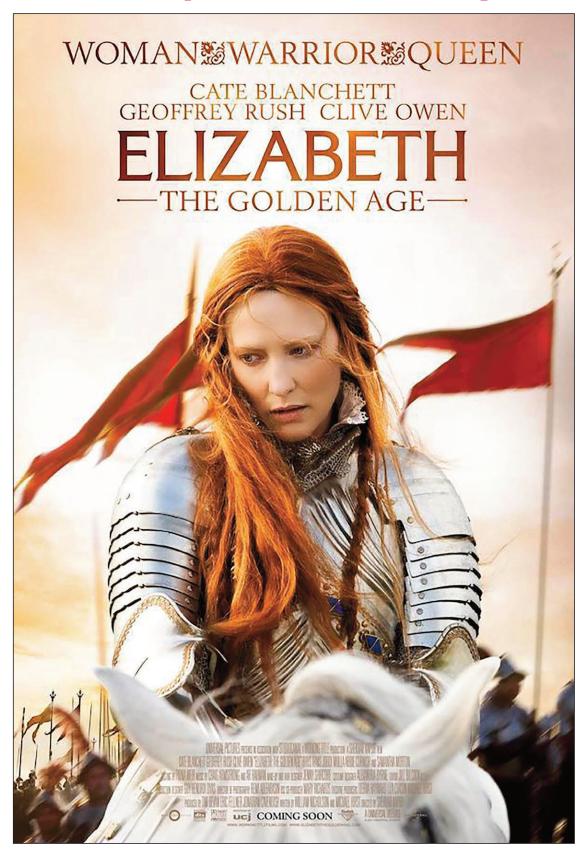
In many retreat settings, at mealtime literature of various kinds is read to those eating their meal in silence.

Join us at noon every Tuesday for the public reading of selections from great literature.

Unplug and relax in the beauty of one of Pittsburgh's architectural gems while your imagination is nourished by wonderful readings.

Contact The Rev. Geoffrey Royce at groyce@calvarypgh.org for more information

Calvary Movie Night: Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m.



PRAYER

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Tuesday, November 14th

5:30 – 7:00 pm Interfaith Prayer Service, St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, 221 N Front St, Harrisburg, PA

Wednesday, November 15th

7:30 am to 9:00 am Interfaith Prayer Breakfast with Legislators

10:00 am to Noon Advocacy Appointments with Legislators and staff

OR

10:00 am to Noon Recitation of Names of the Lost on the Capitol Steps

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm Lunch

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm Solemn Procession: Witness Walk around the Capitol Mourning the Victims of Gun Violence

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm Press Conference in Capitol Rotunda

SAVING LIVES: ENDING GUN VIOLENCE



A block of discounted rooms has been reserved for Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at the Penn Harris Hotel, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011

https://diocesecpa.org/saving-lives-ending-gun-violence/





Deadline (Friday):

Publication Date (Sunday):

January 5 January 14

February 2 February 11 [Lenten Issue]

March 1 March 10 [Easter Issue]

April 5 April 14 [End of Program Year]

May 3 May 12

June 7 June 16 [Summer Issue]

August 9 August 18 [Beginning of Program Year]

September 6 September 15

October 4 October 13

November 1 November 10 [Advent Issue]

December 6 December 15

2024 CALENDAR

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December 1 December 10

2023 CALENDAR

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