

The Newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 10, 2023

New Call for the Rev. Neil Raman

The Rev. Neil Raman has accepted a new call to serve as Rector of Grace Church in Haddonfield, NJ, in the Diocese of New Jersey, just outside of Philadelphia. www.gracehaddonfield.org

Neil has been with us for five and a half years as Associate Rector and (later) as Senior Associate Rector. During that time, he has contributed greatly to the life of the parish in pastoral moments, through teaching and preaching, and his notable skill in diocesan ministry including serving as President of the Standing Committee.

While I am saddened by the loss of a friend and colleague, I am very pleased and proud for Neil, Elizabeth and Matthew. He is certainly ready and prepared to be a rector and found a fantastic congregation in which to serve. The move will also take them much closer to family.

Because the congregation desires their new Rector to arrive as soon as possible, Neil will only be with us a short time more at Calvary. We will have a party for Neil, Elizabeth, and Matthew on Sunday, December 17 at noon to coincide with the Hanukkah party. In the Parish Hall, we will have an oversized card, with photos, for everyone to sign.

Neil will be the preacher at Christmas Eve at both the 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. services; that will be his last day with us. The family will move into their rectory and start in mid-January.

Because of the timing, we are likely to be without a third full-time priest until the summer. We will be in good hands with help from our priest Cameron, our deacon Geoffrey, our intern Deanna Briody, our Rabbi-in-Residence Aaron Bisno, and also the assistance of the Rev. Leslie Reimer.

To thank Neil for his service to Calvary, we are collecting a financial gift, often called a purse, to present to him on Sunday, December 17, after the 11 o'clock service and Pageant. If you would like to make a financial donation to Neil's gift, please give a check to Calvary Church with a note for "Neil's Purse." Thank you for your generosity.



Dear friends,

As Jonathon has already said, I have accepted the call to be the next Rector of Grace Church in Haddonfield, New Jersey. Grace is a fantastic parish in a small town just outside of Philadelphia. They are a faithful and resilient congregation committed to serving their neighbors in Christ's name. Grace's location offers us the opportunity to live in close proximity to both my and Elizabeth's family in Delaware and Eastern Pennsylvania.

While I am overjoyed by this call, I grieve the end of our time together. Even so, my overwhelming feeling is that of gratitude. I am grateful for each of you and for the time we have spent working together for the sake of the Gospel and its expression in this wonderful place. I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your priest.

I give thanks for the moments, too numerous to count, that we have prayed, wept, and laughed together. The support you showed to me and Elizabeth following my mother's accident and death and after Matthew's birth means more to me than I could ever put into words.

As I reflect on our time together, the following passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians has come to the forefront of my mind. "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly

–Jonathon

Neil, continued from page 1

praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you..." (Philippians 1:3-4). Though our time together as priest and congregation is coming to a close, you will forever be in my prayers. Calvary occupies a special place in my heart.

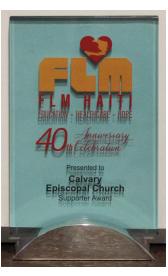
And if you ever find yourself on the other end of the Commonwealth on a Sunday, it would be my great joy to see you at Grace!

With much love,

–Neil 🗖

Calvary Award from FLMH

Calvary Episcopal Church has received an award recently from the Functional Literacy Ministry of Haiti that celebrated forty years of bringing education, healthcare, and hope to the poor in Haiti. For many years, Calvary has been the host site of their board meetings and educational meetings.





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.

There will be no class on December 24 or December 31. We will resume class on January 7, 2024. ■



Work from Home at Calvary on Wednesdays

Do you work from home? Do you miss lunch and standing around the coffee machine chatting with other people? Do you have difficulty separating work-life from home-life? Has the initial feeling of flexibility turned to isolation that is a burden on your spiritual and mental health?

Beginning on Wednesday, January 10, Calvary Church invites those who work from home to work from church each Wednesday from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. We will have the offices open for you to have a quiet work space around other people in a beautiful, familiar and safe space with other church members.

We can provide several accessible rooms for you when they are not scheduled for church or other use including the Evans Room, Parlor, Conference Room, and an upstairs office. We will provide coffee and tea. You are welcome to use the refrigerator to store lunch for the day. We have wifi but please don't plan for all your online meetings on Wednesdays as we do not have unlimited bandwidth. There is also outgoing mail and a photocopier if needed. We simply ask that you are respectful of all people who share space at Calvary.

As you are able, you are invited to share in the noon Eucharist in the Lady Chapel and bring your lunch or order from a local restaurant and dine together in the Refectory at 12:30 p.m.

If you would like to take one day per week to work around other people at Calvary, please join us beginning on Wednesday, January 10. –*Jonathon*

The Clergy, Vestry, and Staff of Calvary Episcopal Church wish you a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas

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

www.calvarypgh.org



THE CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

PRESERVE • SUSTAIN • SHARE

AWARENESS * KNOWLEDGE * UNDERSTANDING * APPRECIATION

We have now held twelve Capital Campaign awareness gatherings, attended by a total of 89 parishioners. Many thanks to the hosts and hostesses who generously opened their homes for gatherings, and to everyone who took time to attend. We are particularly grateful for the many positive responses we have received. It is clear that Calvary – its people, programs, outreach, and facilities – is a very important part of people's lives.

As previously announced, the awareness gatherings are taking a break for the holidays, and will resume 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.

We want to be very sure that we reach everyone during the awareness phase of the campaign, and are open to your ideas for how to accomplish this. If you have suggestions for the format(s) of the awareness gatherings going forward, please do share them by sending an email to us at campaign@calvarypgh.org.

Finally, 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.

Thank you, all.

Sarah Wilson, Campaign Coordinator

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. ■

Visit the Calvary website at www.calvarypgh.org

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis

With Advent Lessons & Carols and *Messiah* behind us, the Choir's focus shifts to Christmas Eve. A brass quartet joins us for both services that day, with a half-hour of carols and other music preceding each one. I am always grateful for the dedication of our singers, and the



month of December puts that faithfulness into high gear: thanks to each and all of them for lifting their voices in praise of the newborn King.

Speaking of kings, King's College, Cambridge broadcasts its annual Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols on December 24, airing at 10 a.m. local time on WQED-FM, 89.3, or via too many internet portals to list. How ever one might spend Christmas Eve morning, the broadcast is a lovely way of refocusing from pre-Christmas frenzy onto the reason we are frenzy-ing in the first place.

Looking beyond Christmas and into the new year, after a couple of months in which the monthly offering of Evensong gets displaced by the Requiem and Lessons and Carols, the Choir resumes singing that quintessentially Anglican service on January 7 at 5 p.m. These First-Sunday services will be important to the singers and me in the months ahead as we prepare for a collective pilgrimage to Lincoln Cathedral (a change in destination from pre-Covidtide plans). I'm very excited for us to be going to there, to sing in what is surely one of the most beautiful Christian edifices on the planet. (The Victorian critic and commentator John Ruskin described it as "out and out the most precious piece of architecture in the British Isles and roughly speaking worth any two other cathedrals we have," a quip sure to rankle the Chapters of any of the others.) We'll be there for the week of August 12 through 18, singing daily evensong and the Sunday morning service, taking in some local sights, and putting our experience of the musical and devotional aspects of sung prayer into a new, and I hope deeper, context.



Walk-in Ministry Winter Request

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 request for **winter hats and gloves.** There is a collection box in the Parish Hall. Please drop off your packages there. Thank you.

Holiday Service Schedule

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 this day. Please note that the Church offices will be closed on Monday, January 1*

Christmas Memorials

If you would like to have your loved ones remembered in the Christmas Eve Order of Service, please fill out this form and return it, with your donation, by Monday, December 18, 2023.

Name (as you would like it to appear): please print

Donor's name: _____

Donor's telephone:

Please return this form to the Church office or mail to: Lynda Kennedy

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

You may also email Kim Pieratt at kpieratt@calvarypgh.org with your information, and then mail your donation to the church office.



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. We will also be saying our goodbyes to Neil Raman as he prepares to leave us to become Rector at Grace Church in Haddonfield, NJ.

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



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). ■

Visit the Calvary website at www.calvarypgh.org



Lily Wants to Know [Third in the Series]

Why does God test people? He tested Abraham, Issac, Adam and Eve... Does God still test people today?

Dear Lily,

Your question about why God tests people is a thoughtful one. Let's dive a bit deeper into the idea of how we can understand all of life's challenges as tests given to us from God. In the Bible, we encounter stories of God testing individuals like Abraham, Isaac, Adam, and Eve. These stories are valuable lessons in a big book of teachings. For instance, when God tested Abraham, it was a way to see how he would react to an unexpected turn of events. Specifically, in this story, God's test of Abraham was to see if our biblical forebear would follow God's instructions and trust in God, especially in challenging situations.

Please understand, when we talk about God testing people, it's not about God setting traps for people or trying to make them fail. Rather, God's tests can be better understood as akin to a teacher who provides their students with challenging tests. Why? In order to help them learn and become better at what they do.

Now, to your second question: Does God still test people today? Many priests and rabbis believe that life itself can be understood as a form of a lifelong test. The challenges we face, the decisions we make, and how we treat others throughout our life – much like the tests we read about in the Bible – are all opportunities for us to learn and to grow, to be better and to become closer to God.

It's crucial to understand that these tests - whether in our familiar biblical stories or in our own unpredictable lives today - are not punishments. Rather, the challenges we face - the tests we undergo - are opportunities for us to discover our strengths, to learn from our mistakes, and to strengthen our connection with God.

So, when we face challenges or are tested in life, these can be understood as ways for God to see how we handle these situations and how we grow from them. God's tests throughout our lives are not about passing or failing (like tests in school). Instead, God's tests are about learning how best to live and becoming stronger in our faith and character.

Keep those questions coming, Lily. They lead to a deeper understanding of our faith and the world around us.

William Stevens Retires

From very early in my time at Calvary, I often found William Stevens working in the church setting up for services,

cleaning vessels after a Eucharist service or caring for Calvary's vestments, vessels, and altar linens. And if he were not the one doing these tasks, William had organized the people who were doing them. Additionally, on Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, he led the forces of people necessary to make our church



even more beautiful with flowers and greens. This was the ministry that William performed without fanfare for twenty-five years as Director of Altar Guild. His was a behind the scenes ministry, but one that is vital for Calvary to be able to worship God with beauty and reverence.

This fall, William decided to step down from his position. We at Calvary are very grateful for all that William has done as Director and his expertise and devotion to this work. On Sunday, November 12, we recognized and thanked William for his ministry at the 11 o'clock service and at coffee hour. It was lovely to see how long the line to talk to him at the coffee hour was!

Additionally, Calvary has purchased a new fair linen in thanksgiving for William and his ministry. A fair linen is the white linen placed on top of an altar and which hangs down on the sides. The fair linen we have purchased will be used for the altar in the All Saints Chapel and will include a handembroidered inscription with his name and dates of service.

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of this fair linen in honor of William, that would be most appreciated. Please write a check to Calvary, noting in the memo line "William Stevens linen." Please know that a gift of any amount is welcome. $-Cameron \blacksquare$



Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, January 5, 2024.** 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.

Warm regards, Rabbi Aaron Bisno 🔳

Children's Faith Formation

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.



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



Christmas Pageant

Calvary's Annual Christmas Pageant will be held during the 11 o'clock service on Sunday, December 17.

Schedule for for rehearsals and performance

Saturday, December 9

• 9–11 a.m.: (Drop-in) Costume fitting/Pick-Up Location: Refectory

• 10 a.m.: Script read through (speaking parts only) Location: Nave

Saturday, December 16

• 10 a.m. to Noon: Dress rehearsal/lunch (ALL cast) Location: Nave/Parish Hall

Sunday, December 17

• 10–10:45 Arrival and dress Location: Parish Hall

• 11 a.m.–Noon: The Pageant Location: Nave

Questions? Email vrispoli@calvarypgh.org

Faith Formation Highlights

This past month, our Faith Formation classes centered around the theme "Spreading God's Love: World Peace through Random Acts of Kindness." The objective was to help children understand the concept of world peace and emphasize how simple acts of kindness can contribute to making the world a better place. Miss Elsa's class discussed simple things, such as sharing toys, helping a friend, or saying kind words, then created a craft to reinforce the lesson. The older group emphasized the value of helping, even if on a small scale. The students brainstormed ways that they could each make a small difference through random acts of kindness then made ribbons and buttons expressing sentiments of hope and peace. In addition, they presented white awareness ribbons to the adult formation groups, explaining their significance and distributing them at the conclusion of the class.

Recently, we focused on gratitude, weaving a lesson around Thanksgiving and acknowledging often-overlooked blessings and people in daily life. The creation of Gratitude Jars served as a tangible expression of thankfulness, as students filled them with notes about things they appreciated. We shared sentiments and reasons for gratitude, fostering a sense of appreciation. Encouraged to continue this practice at home, students were prompted to share their reflections during Thanksgiving dinner with their families.

We're excited to embrace the season of Advent and look forward to discussions about the Messianic Prophecies, rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant, and a joyous celebration of Christ's birth!





Let Us be Light

Jesus,

Let Advent begin; help us to be beacons of hope, patience, good deeds, love, peace and justice... Be our guide in this season. Grant us what we need to keep our lights shining, to shed light on the road that leads others to you. Amen.

The Bookstore at Calvary

Get your holiday cards at the Bookstore with Christmas cards displaying the beauty of Calvary Episcopal Church. There are two sets, Volume 1 and Volume 2, with each package consisting of seven different cards with matching envelopes for \$10. Each card is imprinted with a Christmas verse and greeting. A project of The Architectural History Committee, the pictures on the cards were taken by Phillip Maye and Ken Smith.

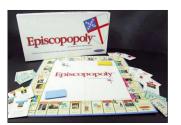
Make Calvary a part of your Christmas tree with the

Calvary Episcopal Church ornament. This exquisite 3D filigree Christmas ornament is fashioned from brass with a 24Kt gold finish and gold colored thread for hanging on a tree, wreath, or



package. Each ornament comes in a red presentation box making it a great gift. Best of all, each ornament is only \$2.50!

Taking a religious twist on Monopoly, which remains the most popular board game played by families at Christmas, is Episcopopoly. Borrowing from Monopoly's theme, properties are



Episcopal churches from across the country. A church offering is required for any player landing on a property which they don't own, and if a cathedral is erected on a property, more offerings are required. The game is won when a player builds a cathedral with the highest possible steeple. Currently not available on Amazon or eBay (selling for \$75 and more), Episcopopoly is available at the Bookstore for \$25! Enjoy with family or friends or give as a fun gift.

The Bookstore has many items to celebrate Advent including nativities, Advent wreaths and candle sets, an assortment of Advent calendars for children of all ages, calendars and daily planners for 2024, decorations for the wall and shelf, mini Advent calendar Christmas cards, music CDs, ornaments, and pins. In addition, there is a wide selection of books to celebrate the Christmas season for readers of all ages including:

Light Upon Light: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany compiled by Sarah Arthur contains daily and weekly inspirational reading to help the reader prayerfully experience God through the liturgical seasons of winter.

Celebrated author and Benedictine monk Anselm Grün offers a daily reader of very simple and often direct Advent reflections in *Your Light Gives Us Hope: 24 Daily Practices for Advent.* We don't like to wait, but the season of Advent is all about waiting – a time of expectation, when Christians have traditionally devoted themselves to practices of prayer and study. *Expectant: Advent Meditations* by Anne E. Kitch offers a short meditation for each of the thirty days of the season, from the First Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day.

Episcopal priest Kate Moorehead invites us to enter the story of salvation with our hearts and minds wide open, experiencing the miracle of Jesus through the eyes of witnesses in *I Witness: Living Inside the Stories of Advent & Christmas.*

For generations, readers have found in the writings of Evelyn Underhill the guidance to help them deepen their own interior lives in the Christian mystical tradition. *In Advent with Evelyn Underhill*, Anglican author and editor Christopher Webber has carefully selected inspirational passages from Underhill's most significant works, providing readings for every day of Advent and Christmas.

Bookshop.org

Additional titles related to Advent and Christmas preparation are available on www.Bookshop.org including 25 Days of Christmas Bible Verses for Advent: A Christian Devotional & Coloring Journal by Shalana Frisby and The Nativity: A Christmas Advent Calendar Coloring Book For Kids by Paula Jane Press. By ordering books through the Calvary page on Bookshop.org (type zip code 15206 in the Bookstore Near Me box on Bookshop.org, click on Calvary



Bookstore, then the red Support this Shop), the Bookstore will receive a portion of the profits.

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.

New Bookstore Hours

The Bookstore is open on Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call the Bookstore at 412-661-0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or email at bookstore@calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. Cash, check, Discover[®], MasterCard[®], and Visa[®] along with touch-free payments are accepted. ■

SAVING LIVES: ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

On Tuesday, November 14 and Wednesday, November 15, I was in Harrisburg to participate in a two-day prayer and action event calling for an end to gun violence in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania sponsored and organized this interfaith and ecumenical demonstration to encourage our legislators to pass sensible gun safety laws.

I was gratified to see participants from around the Commonwealth, including clergy and lay leaders from a number of faith traditions. In addition to the Episcopalians I expected to see, I took note of Quakers, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Muslims, Jews, and Baha'is. The Episcopal Bishops of Bethlehem, Central Pennsylvania, and Pittsburgh were present, as was the Lutheran bishop of the synod in which Harrisburg is located. Representatives from a variety of faith-based groups working to end gun violence were there, too. The organizers of the prayer and action event had pulled together a truly ecumenical and interfaith coalition. That variety in faith traditions was highlighted at the prayer service held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral in Harrisburg on Tuesday night. Short passages were read from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i scriptures, and prayers were offered in the forms traditional for each religion and Christian denomination present. It was beautiful to hear these words of peace in English, in Hebrew, in Arabic, and in Persian.

The most moving aspect for me, personally, was when we gathered on the front steps of the state capitol on Wednesday morning to recite the names and ages of Pennsylvanians killed by gun violence in the last year. The people listed had died from suicide, from accidental discharge of firearms, and shootings, including intended victims and innocent bystanders. It was sobering to hear the names of so many people, many of whom were children and teenagers, and alarming to note that it was not the full number of those who died. My friend who organized the recitation said that she had obtained as many lists of names as she could, but that there were still a number of counties from which she could not get information about who had died from gun violence.

To read more about the demonstration in Harrisburg, please see this article from Episcopal News Service: https://tinyurl.com/HarrisburgNovember2023

These two days energized and inspired me in my own work toward ending gun violence. As you might remember, Calvary had a successful letter-writing campaign to our state senators in September advocating for the passage of sensible gun safety legislation in Pennsylvania. I would love to see us do more. If you are interested in joining me as an ally or have ideas for activities at Calvary which educate and advocate in the movement to save lives from gun violence, please let me know. $-Cameron \blacksquare$





Silent Auction Thanks

The Women of Calvary would like to thank these merchants who so kindly donation items that were part of this year's Bazaar Silent Auction. Please support them if you can.

Sewickley Porsche-Audi (Dwight Woodside) Lynlott Miniatures Dollhouse Junction Calvary Camp • One Brilliant FEAST on Brilliant • Phipps Conservatory The Frick Art and History Center Mark Evers Antiques • Design Trade Market Pittsburgh Custom Design Shaherazad Antique, New and Modern Oriental Rugs The Picket Fence, Walnut Street eb pepper, Shadyside ■

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

Tuesday Night 2024 Lenten Preaching Series

"Hope – Rooted in Christ"

6 P.M. Dinner • 7 P.M. Holy Eucharist with hymns and sermon

February 20

Calvary Preacher: The Rev. Moni McIntyre 315 Shady Ave. at Walnut, E. Liberty

February 27

St. Thomas Preacher: The Rev. Charles Fischer 378 Delaware Ave, Oakmont

March 5

St. Stephen's Preacher: The Rev. Liddy Barlow 600 Pitt Street, Wilkinsburg

March 12

St. Andrew's Preacher: The Rev. Leslie Reimer 5801 Hampton Street, Highland Park

March 19

RedeemerPreacher: The Rev. Carter Hawley 5700 Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill

Mark your calendars! The Lenten Series is back!

The Lenten Series is a weekly program which will be held on the Tuesday evenings of this coming Lent. It is organized by the parishes in our district of the Diocese (which encompasses the East End and the immediate eastern suburbs of Pittsburgh). The Lenten Series was a longstanding tradition until it was interrupted by the pandemic. The district's organizers are excited to be able to reinstate it. The weekly program consists of a simple supper followed by a Eucharist, hosted by various parishes of our district. Each week features a different preacher. See the accompanying image for details.

Calvary will be hosting the series on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. We will need your help! Please watch for information about this in early January.

Coffee Hour 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 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)
- Elizabeth@bebyElizabeth.com



Join us on Tuesdays at Noon, in the Nave.

December 12 – *Journeys of the Mind* by Peter Brown. A multi-layered autobiography/memoir by one of the world's foremost scholars on late antiquity examining the way his upbringing, education in the British education system and his scholarly exploration of history shaped the way he thought of and perceived the world and its history. There are several remembrances of the precise experience that changed his perspective.

December 19 – *Journeys of the Mind* by Peter Brown (Part 2) Please note that there will be no readings on December 26 or January 2. ■

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.



Winter Begins on Thursday. December 21 at 10:27 p.m.

Plastic Recycling

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



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 Cameron Soulis at csoulis@ calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 123 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

WEB VERSION



A Pittsburgh Christmas Carol

Yinz better wahtch aht Yinz better not paht Yinz better not cry, I'm telling yinz hauscome Santa Claus is commin' dahntahn.

He's makin' a list He's checkin' it aht He's gonna find aht who's nebby an 'at Santa Claus is commin' dahntahn.

He knows if you're a jaggoff He can see inside your hahs He knows if you've been workin hard Or sittin' on your cahch

Yinz better wahtch aht Yinz better not paht Yinz better not cry, I'm telling yinz hauscome Santa Claus is commin' dahntahn.

GO STILLERS!



CONNECTIONS / TREE OF LIFE PRESIDENT SERVES AS A VITAL COMMUNITY LINK

Alan Hausman serves as community bridge

"That is Alan to a T," Brokos said. "He goes above and beyond every day."

By JUSTIN VELLUCCI November 20, 2023, 1:04 pm



Alan Hausman, president of Tree of Life Congregation, is also the chief of PA Strike Team 1, an urban search and rescue team that is equipped to save people from building collapses, floods and other natural disasters and terrorist attacks. (Photo by Lauren Rosenblatt)

Pittsburgher.

Husband.

Father.

First responder.

Congregant.

Alan Hausman intermingles wearing each hat. But in the five years since a gunman entered his Squirrel Hill synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018, and committed the worst antisemitic massacre on U.S. soil, Hausman has served as something else.

A bridge.

Audrey Glickman knows the story far too well.

She and her late companion, Joseph Charny, prayed during Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha's Shabbat services that October morning and fled Pervin Chapel when the gunman opened fire, killing 11 congregants and forever changing the fabric of the city's Jewish community. The couple survived by hiding inside a room near the synagogue's choir loft and covering themselves with prayer shawls.

Glickman has watched Hausman, a warm-hearted man known for his knack for storytelling, navigate the weeks and months and years following the synagogue shooting. She says he has and continues to serve as a conduit between law enforcement and Pittsburgh's Jewish community.

"He was in the center of everything — everyone overlooked him and he couldn't tell anyone anything," Glickman told the Chronicle. "At every step, he was arranging something else. He's just done this stuff because he can, because he's a good man."

"He's involved in everything," she added. "Alan is the quiet center, the hub of the wheel — he's holding everything together."

+++

Like his congregation, Hausman calls Shady Avenue home.

Hausman was raised along Shady Avenue and still lives on the Squirrel Hill road, albeit further up the hill from where he spent his childhood. He attended Minadeo Elementary School and Taylor Allderdice High School — both of them near or on the roadway.

Tree of Life congregation — which merged with Hausman's synagogue, Or L'Simcha, in 2010 — opened its building at the corner of Wilkins and Shady avenues around 1953. Several additions and renovations came in the decades that followed.

Though Hausman was elected Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha's president after the tragic shooting, it is not his first time serving as a Jewish community leader. That came several years earlier when he was president of a Pittsburgh lodge of B'nai Brith, a Jewish service organization committed to the security and continuity of both Jews and the State of Israel. He also worked as a district treasurer.

To most, though, Hausman is a first responder. An emergency management specialist for the City of Pittsburgh, Hausman said he started that part of his life as a fire bureau logistics manager.

Hausman, who co-workers say is a whiz with outfitting emergency vehicles, has worked as a member of the Region 13 Taskforce, a 12-county emergency management agency, since 1998. He's been working for the city since 2007.

None of it, though, prepared him for Oct. 27, 2018.

Hausman was with his wife, Stacey, in central Pennsylvania that morning, not shul, when the calls about an active shooter came in. He quickly helped set up the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh as an operations center and sped back to Squirrel Hill on the Pennsylvania Turnpike as fast as he could.

In the days that followed, he worked out logistics for funerals and personally escorted Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers to and from memorial services. As investigators and, later, contractors picked apart the synagogue, he was the one who provided info on the building's structural nuances — or took calls about the location of something as simple as a panel box.

Years later, Hausman coordinated travel arrangements for survivors and victims' families as the trial of the shooter unfolded in a federal court Downtown.

"It's almost like you were designed to be in this position at this time to help your community through this," Hausman remembered FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert A. Jones telling him one morning after the shooting.

Even to this day, Jones calls Hausman "absolutely instrumental" to how officials handled the incident — and, of course, its aftermath.

"As you can imagine, the first few hours and days of an investigation of this magnitude are incredibly challenging and, as both a Pittsburgh EMS member and Tree of Life congregant, Alan served as an effective bridge between the entire Tree of Life community and the FBI," said Jones, who today works for the Pittsburgh Steelers. Jones said Hausman was essential because he was "calm and professional" and knew Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha inside and out.

In the months that followed, when law enforcement needed to walk someone through the scene of the crime, they always called Hausman.

Steve Wilharm's friendship with Hausman started with a call he only remembers vaguely about 35 years ago.

Wilharm, a Pittsburgh native and today Allegheny County's division manager for emergency management, was new to working with the county and had been called out for something. It could've been a gas leak, maybe a fire. There, he met Hausman, who was volunteering at the time for the Salvation Army.

He ran into Hausman again when the latter was working in the Monroeville area as an "upfitter," or installer, of lights, sirens and gear on emergency vehicles. The two later worked together on an emergency planning committee.

"His memory is scary, impeccable," Wilharm laughed. "I'd say to him, 'Hey, Alan, this light went out on my vehicle,' and he'd say, 'Oh, that's a 7-3-6-A' without even looking up; it was incredible."

"He always paid attention to detail," he added. "The bulb, he knows the bulb number. He can name the number of the fuses — 'the I-17 fuse'—– and sure enough that's what it was."

Darryl Jones, chief of the Fire Bureau of Pittsburgh, also is impressed with Hausman's know-how and work ethic. The two worked together years ago at the company Keystone Fire Apparatus, Inc. Today, Hausman reports to Jones in his capacity as the city's emergency management coordinator.

Jones also worked with Hausman in responding to the 2018 synagogue shooting. When he first saw Hausman, Jones said he "was in a different place" and seemed distracted.

"Despite all that, he set up what we needed," said Jones, who recently finished his 16th year as fire chief. "He was an invaluable resource to us, not only in managing that incident but in recovering from that incident."

Returning to the Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha site has been tough for those selected to do so. But Hausman said he is moving forward with and passionately touting the site's rebuilding plans.

His wife, Stacey, a bookkeeper and the mother of their 23-year-old son, Duncan, said it's time to return to "a new normal."

"I am looking forward to going back to what would be our building, even if it's not the same," said Stacey Hausman, who recently celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with her husband. "It will be more comforting. It'll be our space."

It's been a tough year, punctuated by a trial, in which Hausman testified for the prosecution, that ran for much of the summer.

Hausman admits that the trial against the synagogue shooter has emboldened his views of how to move on from Oct. 27, 2018.

Hausman still won't say the shooter's name.

"I have zero feelings for the bad guy, none," he said. "It's almost in my mind as if he doesn't exist. My concentration has always been on the survivors, the victims and their families, the officers."

Wilharm said the incident has really changed Hausman. He remembers his old friend talking about the emergency management response to the Oct. 27, 2018, shooting during an emergency planning committee hearing in Coraopolic in the following January.

"He broke down a few times," Wilharm said. "The people in the audience did, as well. But he talked through it."

"Alan knew every single person in the temple, that's tough," Wilharm added. "I've been out on a lot of calls, fires and plane crashes, but it never happened to me that I came onto a scene and saw someone that I knew or loved. That's left some emotional scars for him."

In the shooting's aftermath, Shawn Brokos said Hausman has become an indispensable partner in the Jewish community's fight against antisemitism.

Brokos, a 24-year FBI veteran who today heads community security efforts for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, talked with Hausman regularly after the synagogue shooting and in the wake of this summer's trial.

But, the two have remained in regular contact as Brokos deals with gatherings — and antisemitic incidents — stemming from the conflict unfolding in Gaza, kickstarted when Hamas militants stormed southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing and injuring thousands of civilians.

"He is probably near the top, if not the top, of the most frequent contacts in my cellphone," Brokos told the Chronicle.

Brokos remembers asking Hausman for tours of the Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha building after the shooting.

"As painful and as gut-wrenching as it had to be for him (to tour the site), he was amazing and he was so patient, walking us room to room and talking to us about what happened," she said. "In typical fashion, he was always so accommodating, always with a smile. He was walking through some of the most painful places ... and he did it week after week."

"That is Alan to a T," Brokos said. "He goes above and beyond every day."

His wife says it's just what Hausman does.

"He's been doing this forever and he knows everyone," Stacey Hausman said.

"Everywhere we go in the world, Alan knows someone. He just knows everyone, and everyone knows him."

Justin Vellucci is a freelance writer living in Pittsburgh.



WE ARE FUNDRAISING WITH SARRIS CANDIES

Help Us Reach Our Fundraising Goals

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!





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



November 9, 2023

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen Rector Calvary Episcopal Church 315 Shady Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Mank Yews

Dear Rev. Jensen:

Thank you so much for Calvary Episcopal's generous gift of \$1,000 to Literacy Pittsburgh through your used-book sale. Your gift helps our students to gain enhanced reading, writing, math, English language, and computer skills. Each year, thousands of individuals achieve their educational goals through Literacy Pittsburgh's free, high-quality educational programming.

Last year alone:

- 38 Literacy Pittsburgh students gained their high-school equivalency;
- 72 became U.S. citizens;
- 702 achieved their employment goals; and
- 794 advanced their educational levels.

Literacy Pittsburgh is growing and improving. In the past year we launched a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) plan to recognize that our collective well-being depends on welcoming diverse cultures and perspectives, and we established three new departments to accelerate the achievement of our students' goals. Daily we see that these changes are increasing our impact on the lives of those at the heart of what we do—our students, staff and volunteers. We can't wait to see what the future holds!

On behalf of everyone at Literacy Pittsburgh, thank you again.

Sincerely,

Carey A. Harris

Chief Executive Officer

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

BETTER LIVES THROUGH LEARNING

411 Seventh Avenue Suite 525 Pittsburgh, PA 15219 412.393.7600 phone 412.393.7627 fax literacypittsburgh.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information for Literacy Pittsburgh may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free. within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



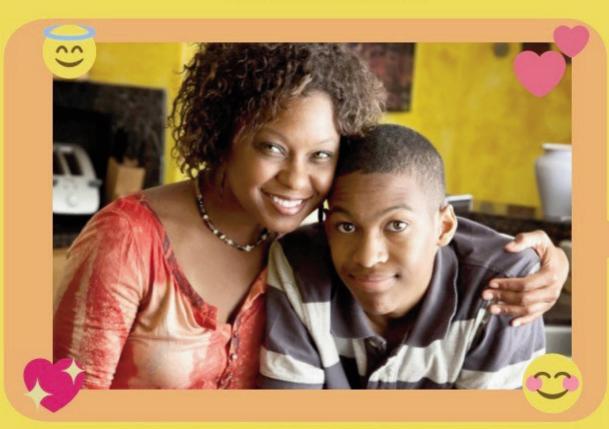
Annually, **hundreds** of youth are **removed** from their **homes** and are in need of **Foster Care**.

FOSTER CARE Program

Foster parents make a difference by empowering families and keeping children on track to a forever home!

If you are interested in learning more about the benefits of becoming a foster parent, or would like to sign up for TRY's Foster Care Program Orientation:

Please contact us!



Three Rivers Youth Foster Care Program 6117 Broad Street Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Telephone: 412-441-5020 ext 215

Chatham Baroque *Alegría*

Music of Baroque Spain and the Americas

with guest artists

Saturday, December 16 • 7:30pm Hicks Memorial Chapel Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Sunday, December 17 • 2:30pm Levy Hall, Rodef Shalom



Chatham Baroque Through the Wood, Laddie

Music of Baroque Scotland and Acadia

with guest artists **PASCALE BEAUDIN** SOPRANO **CHRIS NORMAN** WOODEN FLUTES AND PIPES Friday, January 26 • 7:30pm Teutonia Männerchor

Saturday, January 27 • 7:30pm Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall, Carnegie, PA

Sunday, January 28 • 2:30pm Hicks Memorial Chapel, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary







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 19 (Decimical of December)/

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

January							February						March						April								
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31													
		Ν	Лау	1					J	une	Э			July						August							
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15		17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31		\mathbf{N}		25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30																				
	September October							November						December													
Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	\mathbf{Fr}	Sa	Su	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				