

## A Christmas Hope

In the season of Advent, we wait expectantly for the arrival of the Lord. Christmas is the gift of knowing that the human and the divine are intimately and inseparably joined. In the person of Jesus, God and humanity become reunited. Christmas derives its power not from doctrine or dogma, not from traditions, or expert theological statements. Its power, what draws people to the holy day and season, is from the communal and individual experience of the event which displays God's unfailing love for each of us. The message for the community is that God is being born into the world. For the individual, the message is that God can be born into each of our hearts. St. Augustine said that this birth of Jesus, this nativity, is always happening.

God has revealed himself in numerous ways since the creation. Through nature, through historical events, through prophets and saints, through myths and stories. Ultimately, God revealed himself as a human being. As human beings, what we know best and can relate to best are other people. That is one of the foundations of our faith and the good news we proclaim. In Christ, God became one of us. Our faith is not simply some propositions to which we assent or a set of rules we follow. Our faith is about having a relationship with God in the person of Jesus. The Incarnation (God in the flesh) is a proclamation of this.

Christmas is a gift, a reminder that God is always with us. One of the titles given to Jesus, Emmanuel, literally means God is with us. For the Christian and those who do not believe, and those who are on the edge of belief... Christmas proclaims to us that the human and divine are brought together. Each person, no matter his belief, can welcome God to be reborn in your hearts. That is what the power of the Christmas story is. Don't get hung up on the particulars. The meaning is that God welcomes shepherds, kings, and everyone in between, including me and you.

—Jonathon ■

# ADVENT

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE



# Geoffrey Royce Ordination

God willing and the people consenting, Geoffrey Royce will be ordained a deacon in Christ's one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church on **Saturday, December 21 at 10 a.m. at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Pittsburgh.**

Geoffrey is known to many at Calvary. He and his wife, Kam, have been members for the last several years. He has written regular columns for our parish newsletter, co-leads the acolyte program, has preached on several occasions, and is a regular presence in the community. For the past year, he has been the McNulty Intern learning about ordained life, becoming better acquainted with parish ministry, and reaching out to the community.

As part of his outreach to the community, he serves among the working class at a deli counter in a grocery store (about the best training for ordination one could have). Earlier in his life, he was a monk for two years in an Episcopal monastery. He is also an accomplished musician and carpenter.

After his ordination, Geoffrey will remain at Calvary and take an increased role in the liturgy as a deacon in addition to helping us serve our neighbors in our city.

## What is a Deacon?

The deacon is one of the three orders (bishop, priest, deacon) of ordained clergy in the Episcopal Church. It is an order that is mentioned in the Bible. The first martyr, Stephen is a deacon. They are mentioned in other places, I Timothy 3:8-13, Acts 6:1-15, Acts 20:28. The Rev. Jean Chess, some of us may know from Calvary many years ago, is a deacon.

The deacon serves directly under the authority of the Bishop or the clergy to whom she is assigned and is an agent, emissary, messenger or ambassador of the church. A deacon's role is always relational and best understood in relational terms executing duties that extend the intentions or ministries of those who have authority over him. He or she is a volunteer, generally not receiving a stipend for diaconal (adjective for deacon) work.

A deacon also usually has a role or work in the world. Deacons are lawyers, retirees, teachers, and carpenters. They evangelize as agents of the church outside the walls of the church. Servant leadership is the cornerstone of all ordained ministries. They are meant to be liminal people. That is, they stand between the world and church taking the good news of Jesus to the world and bringing the hopes and concerns of the world to the church.

In liturgy the deacon expresses this aspect in reading the Gospel, preaching, preparing the elements of the Eucharist at the altar, and offering the dismissal to send the faithful out into the world.

—Jonathon ■

## By the Numbers



**1 - Newly Minted Sexton Welcomed:** Say "HI!" to Adam Augustine – the friendly, curly-haired guy with a blue shirt and a smile.

**1 - Newly Minted Crèche Unveiled:** The one in the yard. Made from wooden scraps of previous

iterations. Pungent smell of Urethane varnish permeates undercroft for days.

**2 - Festive Events Happen on One Sunday Morning:** The Christmas Pageant and a Hanukkah Party – Donkey to Dreidels, Camel to Candles, Live Lambs to Latkes. One tradition follows the other at the suggestion of Tree of Life Congregation. What great folk!

**3 - Year Cleaning Cycle Observed:** McClintic Hall cleared of chairs, music stands, and pianos for Bazaar sales tables. Following event, timing seems right for triennial (!) floor cleansing.

**3 - Year Liturgical Cycle Begun:** After completing year "C" of the Revised Common Lectionary, Advent 1 of year "A" begins December 1 on page 1. Wonky, eh?

**3 - Testimonial Pledge Videos Released:** Final one unveiled on "Day of Giving". Bless those who spoke. Bless those who have pledged.

**4 - New Trees Planted:** Conservancy confers Cherries and Dogwoods on Calvary to help cover recent losses to Mother Nature.

**7 - Days of Photo Fal-de-Rol Finished:** Picture directory project involves 154 sittings and untold number of individuals before the lens, plus 6 paparazzi and 8 volunteer organizers behind.

**8 - Purple Bowed Wreaths Hung:** After latest possible Thanksgiving, sextons work day-off to prepare for imminent Advent.

**8 - McClintic Hall Thermostats Found Faulty.** Choir members' shivering and Genesis class' chattering teeth explained. Rrrrepairs coming.

**10 - Chairs New to Calvary to Remain:** Brought from Tree of Life for High Holy Days, they now line the window of the Parish Hall. Comfort and style not seen in a while.

**22 - Living and Late Calvary Authors Honored:** Bookstore sponsors Author Event. Signings and substantial sales ensue.

**50 - LED Bulbs Installed:** New light in the darkness of the narthex and around exterior sconces.

**84 - Inches Measured:** Length of Rector Jonathon Jensen's new office couch, donated as a memorial by a generous parishioner.

**225 - Berries Picked:** All available are plucked as Project provides gifts to 75 area recipients in need.

**Myriad - Events Observed:** Pictures, of course; Super Seniors Lunch; meetings of Diocese, Opera board, et al; Young Adult's Yule Ball; Lessons and Carols; Messiah; Amnesty letter writing; etc.

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## Health and Order

Anyone who has tried to change a habit or a practice has experienced at least a glancing awareness of what addiction is



like. I worked with a carpenter whose wife would regularly ask him if he was varying his diet. He would respond, “Yes, I eat in a different Subway every day.

The desert fathers said that if you can’t change the way you eat you cannot hope to change anything else about yourself. It’s not only food that we take in that matters to our health. Food is a good place to start. Some of us were raised in households where particular tastes for particular foods were not honored except maybe on your birthday. Perhaps there were even rules about when the pantry and/or the kitchen was closed. Snacking was not allowed or encouraged. In my home pop was strictly regulated though Kool-Aid flowed freely. Ice cream floats were awarded by a particular babysitter as a reward for obedience and good behavior. At least the obedience and good behavior part was right.

Using food in a transactional way seems to be the basis of many dieting plans. This provides the beginning exercises necessary to weight control. Some restaurants publish the calorie counts of particular entrees and other choices. Sugary drinks are meeting different sorts of challenges in the law and public policy.

Certain ancient Hebrew law devoted much attention to food, how it was harvested or slaughtered and in what combinations it could be served. Jesus and his disciples were chastised for their conduct around food. Our own law goes a long way towards protecting us from faulty agricultural and food processing shortfalls and errors, much more so here than anywhere else in the world.

Our economy and marketing practices are another matter, though. Farming as it existed up until just after World War II is all but gone. Industrial farming (an oxymoron) which replaced the small local farm, teeters on a precarious and unsustainable fulcrum. Over-production and volatile pricing have made this approach to farming so unpredictable that as a nation we are moving towards being unable to feed ourselves. Our farmers and their way of life is certainly threatened.

Eating well, eating healthily is so expensive that it is beyond the reach of many. Since public health affects all of us we need to concern ourselves with how we might have an impact in this area. It is not enough to just address the pain of hunger. We could see ourselves doing more, changing the order of things. We could extend Christ’s ministry of healing by helping to bring health, through food harvested locally and raised organically. Spring is coming.

—Geoffrey Royce ■



Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for a fun evening of fellowship, Calvary’s 17th Annual Chili Fest, on **Saturday, January 25, 2020**. Full details and sign-up sheets will be available after the first of the year. Plan to chill out with some chili, cornbread, salads and other “fixin’s” and celebrate the start of the new decade. ■

## Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany at Calvary

### Third Sunday of Advent – December 15

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

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

### Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22

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

**Christmas Pageant** during the 11 o’clock service

*No Christian Formation classes or Genesis class on this day.*

**Hannukah Party, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall**

### Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24

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

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

*Music begins 30 minutes before each service.*

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

### Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25

*The Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.*

*The Holy Eucharist with sermon and Christmas carols.*

### The First Sunday after Christmas Day December 29

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

*No Christian Formation classes. The Nursery will be open.*

### The Second Sunday after Christmas Day January 5, 2020

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

### The First Sunday after the Epiphany January 12

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

*The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be administered at 11 a.m.*

• *A Class on the Gospel of Mark, 10 a.m.*



# Children's Christian Formation

Brunch on November 17 was a kick-off to our new ministry called POLO (Parents of Little Ones). A few parents gathered at a nearby restaurant while their children were cared for in Calvary's nursery. After hearing comments such as "We haven't met," "I didn't realize that our going to brunch meant without our children," and "I really needed this," we decided that we are off to a very good start. As a group, we decided that from now through May we would meet the third Sunday of every month and possibly have lunch in the refectory with a speaker in the future. We also decided to have seasonal events with our children outside of Calvary and brain-stormed ideas. Group sledding is our plan for winter.

Pamela Abdalla, Meg Bohna, and Kelly Glass, teachers for our younger two classes, are helping our children learn more about the season of Advent – that it is the beginning of a new church year and a time of anticipation for the birth of Christ. They have been busy making Advent wreaths, singing songs with Ms. Sue, reading scriptures and stories, playing games, praying together, and decorating aprons for their Christmas party/cookie bake to be held later this month.

Laura Marchl is leading our Confirmation class this year. They have a wonderful group of young men and women who gather each week to talk about their beliefs as Christians and Episcopalians, using "Faith Confirmed" as their guide. On Christ the King Sunday, they had a chance to get together with the families and mentors of the class for some fellowship and general information about their class. They are planning some outreach projects after Christmas.

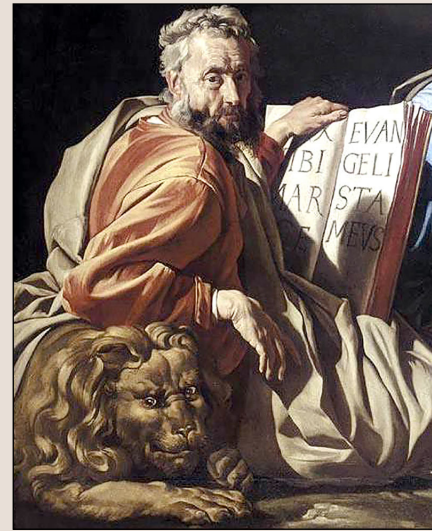
## Christmas Pageant

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to participate in the Christmas Pageant!

We will have rehearsal for those with speaking roles in the Nave on Sunday, December 15 after the 11 a.m. service. We will have one walk-through rehearsal on Saturday, December 21 for all volunteers and participants. For a costume fitting, please arrive by 10:30 a.m. (Parish Office Level E). Rehearsal will begin in the Nave at 11 a.m. and will end at noon, with pizza being served in the refectory immediately afterward.

If you would still like to be in the pageant, please let me know and I will add your name to the cast list. If you cannot come to rehearsal on the 21st, just come to the Refectory on Sunday morning, December 22 at 10:30 a.m.

We welcome all children and youth from the Tree of Life Congregation to participate in our Christmas pageant to learn more about the birth of Jesus. We also invite Calvary's children and youth to help celebrate Hanukkah with the Tree



## Gospel of Mark Class

Beginning on **Sunday, January 12 at 10 a.m. in McClintic Hall**, the Rector will lead a class on the Gospel of Mark. We will meet through April or until the class concludes.

The Gospel of Mark is the oldest and briefest of our recorded Gospels, sixteen short chapters. The narrative opens with a prophecy from Isaiah and leads straight into John the Baptist preparing the way of the Lord Jesus. This Gospel is filled with healing stories and a dramatic trial and crucifixion all pointing to the Kingdom of God. A motif that occurs is the "Messianic Secret" in which Jesus is portrayed as telling his followers not to tell others about who he really is. Oddly, the Gospel has two endings.

Please join us as we explore the Gospel of Mark together. Resources will be available in the Calvary Bookstore.

## Book of Genesis Class

Thank you to Bob Owens for leading our class on the Book of Genesis. ■

of Life Congregation at 12:30 p.m. so that we can learn more about Jewish holiday traditions. This is a very exciting opportunity for us to make new friends and celebrate our differences.

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

## Coffee Hour

Families of pageant participants will be hosting coffee hour on Sunday, December 22. This will take place after the 11 o'clock service and before the Hanukkah party. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer to bring food, help set up, and/or to serve.

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





## Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Beginnings!

November was a short month because we were closed the week of Thanksgiving. We packed in as much as possible to learn all we could about the season of *Fall*, *Native Americans*, and *Animals Preparing for Winter*.

Our Blue Team (ages 4 and 5) learned about *Native Americans* and their culture. They talked about respect, cooperation, kindness, and gratitude. Their projects included the construction of three dwellings, clay pinch pots, seed mosaics, animal skins from paper bags, turquoise pendants from clay, talking sticks, and a totem pole reflective of each team member. They ended the unit by creating their own version of an Iroquois Peace Tree, talking about unity, health, and justice. Our visiting naturalist, Ms. Verna, brought in artifacts such as a teepee, animal skins, hooves, antlers, and a toy buffalo to further support the unit.

Our Purple Team members (age 3) are now on the lookout for signs of animals preparing for winter after their unit on *Hibernation, Migration, and Adaptation*. Our playground, being surrounded with trees, plants, flowers, bunnies, squirrels, birds, and even bugs, provides us with opportunities to observe and experience the many changes of each season – all of which makes for great discussions once we return to the classroom.

Our current theme is *Love and Celebrations*. Our Purple Team is reading books, singing songs, and having discussions about love - there is endless love to give and endless love to receive. There is always room in our hearts to love more people. They made paper plate lacing hearts using a hole punch and dot markers. Before lacing their heart with a colorful ribbon, they each wrote down something they love. They discussed ways to express their love without using words and learned to say “I Love You” in Sign Language.

While leaning about celebrations, each of our team members has been thinking about ways to celebrate with their loved ones. When asked, they have named singing, dancing, staying up late, eating, fasting, decorating, wearing fancy clothes, cooking, baking, cleaning, and giving/receiving presents – all great answers. Since we have such diversity at Beginnings, we have invited parents into the classrooms to share pictures, stories, and food items to help us better understand their holiday traditions. We are also learning more about Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah since all are being celebrated this time of year.

Our students, ages 3-5, are going to experience something new and exciting this school year. Mad Science will be putting on a show of experiments, trying to prove that Santa’s abilities are/are not scientifically possible.

Their show is called “The Case for Santa Claus.” They will try to answer questions such as *Can a sleigh really fly? Is it cold in the North Pole? Can Santa really get down the chimney? Wouldn’t a fire in the fireplace hurt him?*

Our teachers along with Calvary staff enjoyed the warmth and comfort of Peggy Morycz’s annual Saint Nicholas Day Tea held on December 5. She prepared specialty teas and handmade both sweet and savory items that were served on her beautiful Christmas china. This was very special for all who attended, and we thank you Mrs. Peggy!

Our Holiday Sing-Along will be held in the Nave on December 18. Our teams and their families are practicing “Jingle Bells,” “Santa Shark,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” and “My Favorite Things.” Santa Claus is also planning to visit. A potluck luncheon immediately following the program will present Beginnings families with an opportunity to spend time together during this wonderful time of the year.

Beginnings will be closed for Winter Break, December 19, 2019 through January 6, 2020. –Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■



## Bookstore News – Part 1

The Bookstore hosted Calvary Book and Author Day on Sunday, December 1, 2019 to honor our authors – at least the 22 of them known to us! People attending all three services that Sunday stopped to browse, admire and visit with the authors, and have books signed. Quite a bit of Christmas shopping was accomplished that morning.

The variety of books ranged from children’s books to spirituality, from art and architecture to a reference book for word gamers, from cooking of India to bookbinding, fiction to history, and most particularly about Calvary itself.

Rector Emeritus Harold Lewis was available to chat and to sign his books, as well as Stewart O’Nan, Katherine Ayres, Phil Hallen, Gillian Cannell, Philip Maye, Rich Ekstrom and his son-in-law Nick Courage, Sid Neff, and Alan Frank. Some who were unable to come on that Thanksgiving weekend were represented by their books, including Anoo Verghis, Susan Hansen, and Elizabeth Howard. Some Calvary authors from the past were Arthur McNulty, Sam and Helen Shoemaker, Dorothy Hodges, and Margaret Hodges. This is not the entirety of the distinguished roster. And if you, Author, aren’t included in the list, please let someone from the bookstore know!

That this one parish can boast of so many talented writers is amazing. And if you missed that day, remember that the books are available in the bookstore, and many of them are or can be signed. ■

***Read the online version of this issue of Agape for more Bookstore News, and photos from Author Day***



## Saint Michael's Society "The Heart of Calvary's Future"

Seven years ago, I moved to Pittsburgh and settled in the Shadyside/East Liberty neighborhood with my husband Ed. I had never lived in Pittsburgh before and at the time was travelling every week for work, which made settling in to a new city challenging. We gradually began to understand our neighborhood and I was pleasantly surprised to find that an Episcopal Church (Calvary) was basically across the street from our new home.

Having an Episcopal Church so close to home in Pittsburgh was comforting. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having been baptized and raised attending the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY and having parents who were very active in the Episcopal Church. In fact, my parents gave so much of themselves to the Cathedral and the diocese of Long Island that when they moved away from Long Island they were each awarded the Bishop's Cross for their work.

My personal relationship with the church, however, hasn't always been straightforward and, over the years, I have felt less connected and engaged in the church. Arriving in Pittsburgh I was curious to see what Calvary had to offer.

What I found was for me quite remarkable: a church more like what I hoped for than expected. It was/is the Calvary we all know, open and friendly, where people are kind and reach out and say hello and take care of each other and do good works, and where acceptance is the rule not the exception. The messages and work of Calvary fit with my understanding of Jesus' messages and work. There is also the beautiful building, filled with wonderful architecture and music. Joining Calvary helped me settle in to life in Pittsburgh. In time I also became aware that this church was a pillar of the community of my new city of Pittsburgh, which had been supporting and doing good works for the community from its inception.

So Calvary is important to me, and that is why the St. Michael's Society is important to me. I recognize that Calvary is an important part of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh has become my home. The community and clergy keep us healthy and supported. The historic building adds to the beauty and wonder of the city. The community work and programs of Calvary help the stability of the city and the East End.

I also know that much of the reason Calvary has continued for so long is because of the work and generosity of those who came before me, who were forward thinking about the

future. Without them, Calvary would not be here for me. They made Calvary part of their legacies. The beauty of the St. Michael's Society is that it is all about what each person can give or feel comfortable giving, which means that all of us can have Calvary be part of all of our legacies. We can help to keep it alive for future members, the neighborhood, and the city. That is why I decided, however much I gave, that I wanted Calvary to be part of my personal legacy and joined the St. Michael's Society. *—Donald MacLeod*

*If you are interested in exploring a possible estate gift to Calvary Church, please contact Deborah Kelly at [dc1kelly@gmail.com](mailto:dc1kelly@gmail.com) or 412.688.9299. Please know that all planned gifts, whether \$1,000 or \$100,000, contribute to Calvary's fiscal health and become an important part of your legacy. ■*

## Calvary Cares

The members of Calvary care about each other. One way we demonstrate this is by offering help with short-term practical needs, arising from a surgery or other incidents placing one in need of aid. The Pastoral Care committee maintains an email list of parishioners on whom we can call to help with tasks such as driving to appointments, providing a meal, grocery shopping or other errands.



If you would like to volunteer to be on this email list, please email Michele Bender at [mbbender@gmail.com](mailto:mbbender@gmail.com) or The Rev. Leslie Reimer at [ltreimer@calvarypgh.org](mailto:ltreimer@calvarypgh.org).

If you or someone you know could use help from this group, please let Leslie know. ■

## What is a LEM?

A LEM is a Lay Eucharistic Minister offering home communion to Calvary members who cannot attend Sunday services, either temporarily or long term. When a LEM makes a visit, he or she carries the parish with them as a sign of the whole community's care, support and concern.



Calvary LEMS visit on the third Sunday of each month except for December and Easter month, when Calvary priests make the communion visits.

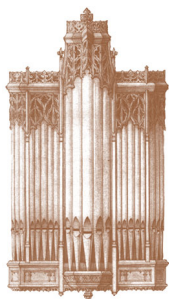
If you or someone you love would like to have a LEM visit please contact The Reverend Leslie Reimer by calling the church office at 412.661.0120 or email Leslie at [ltreimer@calvarypgh.org](mailto:ltreimer@calvarypgh.org) ■

**TRIVIA:** Per a recent holiday fad, what "spy" hides around the house, reporting back to Santa on who has been naughty and nice?

*The answer is on page 8.*



## MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



*What sweeter music can we bring  
than a carol, for to sing  
the birth of this, our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! awake the string!*

—Robert Herrick

There's nothing quite like singing carols for getting us into a receptive frame of mind to receive again the incomprehensible gift of God's own Self at Christmas. The deep well of personal memory they can tap into, as well as the broader cultural collective memory, is a rich resource indeed, and is surely a strong part of the popularity of this particular holiday, out of all Christian holy-days. (Well, there are also the presents...)

The Carol emerged as a musical genre in fourteenth-century England. Carols were not yet specifically tied to Christmas, but reflected other seasons and subject matters, as well. They were, above all, a folk-genre, a form of music typically transmitted orally, rather than in writing, and with no known composer, but often with strong geographical roots. From these humble origins, carols largely stayed underground, subsisting only in popular culture until the nineteenth century, when a number of collections documenting them appeared in print.

These collections coincided with (and were to some degree prompted by) the appropriation of carols into the Church – an absorption that was highly successful with regard to Christmas, but less so for other seasonal observances (Easter carols, for instance, were not a big hit). From these native origins, the nineteenth-century English history of the carol branched out to absorb items from other national repertoires. A widespread interest in the collection of folk-music around the turn of the century led to the broadening and deepening of the repertoire. And as contemporary composers got their hands on these texts and tunes, new arrangements, from the simple to the dazzling, emerged, challenging and delighting choirs and congregations alike. (One such arrangement, compiled by Gustav Holst as a medley of several carols, will be part of our Prelude to the Christmas Eve services, along with various congregational carols.)

It is particularly interesting to me that so much of the seemingly age-old body of carols was actually introduced as new and unfamiliar music as comparatively recently as the nineteenth century – and essentially none of the carols we think of as age-old was widely known even two hundred years ago. This gives me hope that, in turn, things that seem new to us will one day be as familiar as, well, *Silent night*. (And remember, that carol was invented out of whole cloth in 1818, when an organ break-down in the German village

of Obendorf compelled its tiny parish to find something to sing with guitar accompaniment!)

Perhaps the most widespread experience of carols in the modern world is the King's College Service of Lessons and Carols, broadcast live on Christmas Eve, and airing at 10 a.m. local time on WQED, 89.3 FM, or via the Minnesota Public Radio website ([www.mpr.org](http://www.mpr.org)). It is also typically rebroadcast on Christmas Day. Whenever you hear it, it is a wonderful way to connect with both the story of Christmas and the wonderful range of music that adorns it. This year's service takes place in the shadow of the death, just last month, of the long-time director, Stephen Cleobury, only months after his retirement. His contribution to the history and life of the carol cannot be underestimated.

And in case you've not had enough carols by the far end of the Twelve Days of Christmas, Evensong on January 5 will include a fair few carols by way of continuing our celebration. Please, join us for that service at 5 p.m.! ■

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## The Archives

We have a wonderful collection of materials at Calvary preserving and documenting our history as a congregation. Our archives have a secure, dedicated, and climate controlled room in the parish offices filled with images, documents, maps, and other materials.

On many occasions, I have used the archives for sermon and newsletter material for people like Matilda Dallas Wilkins and John G. Magee, for organizations we help found like the Kingsley Association or Alpha House, or for information about aspects of our building and grounds like the Evans Room or the World War I Memorial Cross in front of the church.

We have had the blessing of two archivists, Bob Dilts and Becky Randall, who have given hours of service each week over many years, all as volunteers. Becky has concluded her ministry as a parish archivist and will take up duties with the Soup Group. Bob Dilts will serve a bit less in the archives (he will continue tending the parish gardens) but, God willing, work in the archives for many more years to come.

We are pleased to welcome Mary Ann Slater who will join Bob as parish archivist. Mary Ann was a Library Specialist at Pitt and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with her to our benefit.

Thank you to Becky Randall for her faithful service caring for our past. Thank you to Bob Dilts for his continued service. Thank you and welcome to Mary Ann. —Jonathon ■

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Please remember Calvary Church  
in your will.



## Christmas Pageant and Hannukah Party

On Sunday, December 22, Calvary will offer our Christmas pageant at the 11 o'clock service. We tell the story of the birth of Jesus with costumed children leading us in carols accompanied by live sheep, goats, a donkey, and a camel.

At 12:30 p.m. that Sunday, Calvary will host the Tree of Life's Hannukah party with potato latkes, jelly donuts, dreidels, Hannukah songs, and a menorah lighting. The Calvary and Tree of Life congregations are invited to share these celebrations together.

I have never heard of a church and synagogue having a Christmas pageant followed by a Hannukah party but it works in Pittsburgh. We are not trying to convert one another to a different faith. However, I do hope Calvary and Tree of Life members are converted more deeply to their own faith and meet each other as neighbors and friends. Both congregations are putting prayer and faith into action together as a witness of value and hope. —Jonathon ■

All are welcome to the Menorah Lighting  
outside the Tree of Life Synagogue,  
5898 Wilkins Ave., 15217,  
on Sunday, December 22 at 6 p.m.  
The service will last about 20-25 minutes. ■

**Have you completed  
and returned your  
2020 Annual Appeal  
Pledge Card?**

[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

## Diocesan Convention

The annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh met at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on November 15 and 16. The convention was well run and organized and had a decidedly more gentle spirit than those of ten years ago and earlier.

Two of our parishioners, Michael Braxton and Jamie McMahon, were elected as lay deputies to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church that meets every three years. Each diocese sends four lay deputies and four clergy deputies to represent us. That is, half of our diocesan lay deputies are from Calvary.

Jean Adams was elected to serve on the Disciplinary Board. That is a group that convenes, when needed, to address issues around misconduct.

The Rev. Neil Raman was elected to serve on Diocesan Council and also as Clergy Alternate to General Convention. Our Rector, Jonathon Jensen, was elected to the Standing Committee. This group is a council of advice to the Bishop and has several canonical (church laws) responsibilities including consents to the ordination of clergy, consents to bylaw revisions of congregations, appointing members to vacancies on boards, and related areas. If there is a vacancy in the role of bishop, the Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority. Our own Russ Ayres is currently the President of the Standing Committee.

Thank you to all who offered themselves for service.

## Project Creed

One initiative discussed and approved is called Project Creed. This is a broad effort to begin to reorganize our diocese to focus on our mission on Love. Teach. Heal. It is organized in the four areas of Communications, New Ministries, Reaching out to Neighbors, and Governance (structure). To learn more about Project Creed, see the diocesan website at <https://www.episcopalpgh.org/project-creed-what-are-the-recommendations/> ■

## Holy Baptism



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

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

*Trivia answer:* The Elf on the Shelf.

*Fun Fact:* According to legend, candy canes were shaped to resemble a shepherd's staff, as a way to remind children of the shepherds who visited baby Jesus.





## A Big “THANK YOU”

In spite of a cold and drizzly evening, the December 1 service of Lessons & Carols was a lovely welcome to Advent. A bountiful reception afterwards was enjoyed by about 200 parishioners, guests and our wonderful choir. Hearty thanks to all who made delicious hors d'oeuvres to share and those who helped in the kitchen.... Betsy Amis, Kathy Ayres, Ruthanne Bauerle, Charlotte Broome, Jan Dilts, Gez Ebbert, Adele Eley, Kathy Farrington, Kathy Hendrickson, Adam Hallowell, Barbara Hicks, Karen Kapsanis, Janet Kaye, Nancy Kenny, Laura Marchl, Tracy Morris, Sue Neff, Kim Pieratt and her son Daniel, Susie Prentiss and Sarah Wilson. Special thanks to our wonderful Sextons, Andy and Adam, who helped set up, clean up and move tables and trolleys of food throughout the evening.

—Jean Robinson & Lucy Douglas ■

## Discipleship Class

This winter, Calvary will be offering a Discipleship Class. The class is an opportunity to take a deeper dive into who we are as Episcopalians and even more fundamentally who we are as Christians. The class is also an opportunity for those who are newer to Calvary to connect with others and learn more about Calvary.



This class serves as preparation for those who are interested in confirmation or reception in the Episcopal Church and the reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

The class will take place on Sunday mornings during the formation hour, 10:00-10:55 a.m. in the Refectory. **The first session will take place on Sunday, January 5, 2020 and the last session on Sunday, March 29.**

Each session will include a short talk by a member of the clergy or a member of the parish, small group discussion, and an opportunity to ask questions. Over the course of the class you can expect to hear about prayer, the sacraments, Calvary's buildings, Calvary's history and identity as a congregation, and get to know others who are new to Calvary.

If you are interested in attending or have any questions about the class or about Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows contact the Rev. Neil Raman (nraman@calvarypgh.org). ■

## Plastic Recycling Continues

Thank you to the many people that recycle their plastic film. The collection boxes are located in the Parish Hall. ■



### WAJIB (The Wedding)

Against a backdrop of the ongoing Israeli occupation of the West Bank of Palestine, a Palestinian father Abu and son Shadi organize a wedding for Abu's daughter Amal. They are Christians and there will be a Christmas wedding.

The father and son are an “odd couple” reminiscent of Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. This is a comedy drama and the father-son bickerings are both hilarious and poignant. The father-son actors are really father and son.

In the film, Abu is played by Mohammad Bakri, Shadi is played by Saleh Bakri, Abu's daughter is played by Maria Zreik. Directed by Annemarie Jacir (2018). The location is a very steep Nazareth.

Please bring a friend or spouse and a salad for two in the Refectory at 6 p.m. The film (with English subtitles) begins promptly at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall to be followed by a brief discussion led by Clint Van Dusen.

Please make a reservation at 412.660.2297 or email Clint at apax4cmvd@msn.com by **Sunday, January 26, 2020.** ■

## Thank you Calvary Gardens Team!

With the mulching and spreading of leaves to protect perennials over the winter, the Gardens Team completed its yearly mission: creating and maintaining our gardens for services and enjoyment of parishioners and neighbors. So thanks to the following individuals who gave of their time and talents as able between March and early December: Charlie Atwood, Ruthanne Bauerle, Holly Best, Mike Broome, Nancy Carpenter, Catherine Davidson, Bob Dilts, Lauren Ernst, Bill Gentz, Daniel Geroni, Donna Hallen, Judy Kennedy, and Frank McStay. ■



Please recycle this newsletter when you have finished reading it.

# CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206  
email: [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto:calvary@calvarypgh.org) ■ [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)  
telephone: 412.661.0120

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*  
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Senior Associate Rector*  
The Reverend Neil K. Raman, *Associate Rector*  
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*  
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Dr. Moni McIntyre, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*  
Geoffrey Royce, *McNulty Intern*  
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*  
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*  
Jamie McMahon, *Senior Warden*  
Sue DeWalt, *Junior Warden*  
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*  
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*  
Tammy Lewis, *Director, Beginnings;*  
*Director of Children's Formation*  
Kim Pieratt, *Parish Administrator*  
Louise Wells, *Special Assistant to the Rector*  
Kenneth Smith, *Director of Communications*  
Jim Gubash, *Head Sexton*  
Adam Augustine, Andy Dilts, Ron Johnston,  
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*  
Sherry Bloom, *Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary*  
Robert Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

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An expanded version of this issue of *Agape*,  
with additional content may be viewed  
on the Calvary website at  
[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

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## Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, January 10, 2020**. Please e-mail your text to [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto: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](http://www.calvarypgh.org). Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■



## SHELDON CALVARY CAMP HOLY EUCHARIST at CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Sheldon Calvary Camp service, an informal celebration of the Holy Eucharist, will meet in the Refectory at 3 p.m. on **Sundays, December 29, January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26, and May 24**. Then we will be at camp for the summer. The Rev. Leslie Reimer is the celebrant, and we use music from the Camp songbook. Mark your calendars and join us when you can. ■

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## Soup Group Cooking and Sale

Mark your calendars for a **Soup Group Sale on Sunday, January 12, 2020 after all services**. We are hoping to get a new freezer for the pantry. If you have any favorite soups that you would like to buy, please let me know of your request. We will also have some dry mixes available for purchase and free samples of our soup during coffee hour that day. Our ministry of giving soup continues! There will still be plenty of soup available to take to friends, family and neighbors. In preparation for this sale **we will be cooking on January 10, 2020 at 10 a.m.** in Calvary's kitchen. Contact me for more information.

—Adele Eley, [adele.eley@gmail.com](mailto:adele.eley@gmail.com), 412.371.6921 ■

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greet & gather at  
**Coffee Hour**

after the 11 o'clock service

Individuals can join other Hosts  
for Coffee Hours

We encourage individuals who would like to contribute baked goods for the coffee hour after the 11 o'clock service to contact Judy Wootten. We will coordinate you with other individuals on a specific Sunday. Groups and organizations at Calvary could consider hosting a Sunday to mark a special occasion or honoring a particular event or person. Please sign up on the display in the Parish Hall or contact Judy Wootten at 724.733.1660 or by email [jcwootten@comcast.net](mailto:jcwootten@comcast.net) to schedule a Sunday. **Thank you to those who have already signed up!** ■





## News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



### A Letter to the Diocese from the Bishop

The Feast of Saint John of Damascus  
December 4, 2019

My dear friends and colleagues in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Today is the 36th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, and I am now well into my eighth year among you as your bishop. These facts seem hardly possible, especially that my time here has passed so quickly; that I am now 66 years old; that we have been through so much, accomplished so much, in what seems to me the twinkling of an eye.

However, I know it is now time for me to plan for the future – yours and my own. With the consent of the Presiding Bishop, I am calling for the election of the ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh, who will be consecrated on April 24, 2021. I will remain the Ecclesiastical Authority, and will retain full jurisdiction, until the moment I hand the crozier to my successor on that day, which will also be the effective date of my retirement.

I have not come to this decision lightly. I have prayed long and hard over it, particularly during my sabbatical. But I know that by April of 2021, I will have done what God called me here to do. We have built a beautiful vision together, and you will need a leader who will have the energy and stamina to carry it forward over the next several years.

Betsy and I have made sturdy friendships across the eight counties and thirty-six congregations of this diocese. We will

miss you all very much, more than we can say. We have shared so many stories, have prayed and wept and laughed with you on so many joyous occasions.

There have also been hard times, times when the voice of the Church needed to be lifted up in the midst of a hurting world, and you have trusted me to be a part of your voice. When I add them all up, the painful moments recede, and the joyful times spring into the foreground with a power that fills me with astonishment and gratitude. For this and so many other reasons, serving as your bishop has been the greatest privilege of my life.

This announcement initiates a process with clear canonical requirements and a well-tested timeline, all of which will be discussed with the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council at their regular meetings next Tuesday, December 10, and then with the clergy of the diocese at our convocation the following day. I have asked Bishop Todd Ousley, the head of the Presiding Bishop's Office of Pastoral Development, and Judy Stark, our consultant for Project CREED, to join us for those gatherings, and they are glad to attend. Following a process of discernment and search, you will elect your next bishop at a special convention to be held on November 21, 2020, five weeks after our regular, annual diocesan convention. I have separated these two events to underscore the importance of our moving forward in the new work we have begun – in communication, in new initiatives, in meeting our neighbors, and in the reform of our governance – so that your new bishop will have a solid platform from which to lead.

I assure you that I will be completely engaged in the life of the diocese until the moment I am no longer your bishop, as together we continue to learn how to love, teach and heal in the name of Jesus Christ. In the meantime, please know you are always in my prayers.

Faithfully, your bishop,

(The Right Reverend) Dorsey W.M. McConnell, D.D.  
VIII Bishop of Pittsburgh ■

## Church of England's cathedrals continue to attract

[ACNS, by Rachel Farmer] As Church of England cathedrals reported a record increase in visitors, they have been hailed as places “for all, and for fresh encounters”.

In the report, published this week, cathedrals reported nearly ten million visitors in 2018, an increase of over 10 per cent on the previous year. There were also over a million visitors to Westminster Abbey.

The major Christian festivals also grew with Easter congregations reaching a record high, with 58,000 people attending a cathedral at Easter and 95,000 during Holy Week – the highest numbers recorded for a decade.

Third Estates Commissioner, Dr Eve Poole, who leads the Church of England's Cathedrals Support Group, said: “We are proud that our cathedrals are a precious resource not only for the church but for the nation as well.

“We know from countless anecdotes that many who visit as tourists encounter something deeper, and cathedrals have been imaginative in creating more opportunities for people from all walks of life to cross their thresholds.”

Cathedrals reported a total of 37,000 people worshipping each week in 2018, marking an increase of around 14 per cent over the past 10 years. They also welcomed the highest ever number of children and young people for educational events. In 2018, 340,000 young people from nursery through to 18+ attended events at cathedrals and at Westminster abbey.

Adrian Dorber, Dean of Lichfield and Chair of the Association of English Cathedrals, described the latest statistics as pleasing, but warned against complacency.

“We continue to try and find ways that offer spiritual nurture and hospitality to people who have never had much contact with the Church or with organised religion,” he said. ■



The Cathedral Church of Christ, Blessed Mary the Virgin and St Cuthbert of Durham, commonly known as Durham Cathedral

photo © Andy Marshall



The Episcopal delegation urges nations to act swiftly and justly at the United Nations Climate Conference, known as COP 25, held December 2-13, 2019 in Madrid, Spain.

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

**December 15** – Church of the Advent, Brookline.

**December 22** – Church of the Nativity, Crafton, the Rev. Shawn Malarkey, and the Rev. Doug Kinsey.

**December 29** – Diocesan staff including Rich Creehan, the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall, the Rev. Canon Kim Karashin, Andy Muhl, Marlene Rihn, Andy Roman and Kathi Workman. ■

## Bishop's Visitation Schedule

**December 15** – Advent, Brookline

**December 22** – Nativity, Crafton

**December 24** – Trinity Cathedral (Christmas Eve) ■



[www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh](http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh)

## Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at  
[www.episcopalpgh.org](http://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](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org).

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

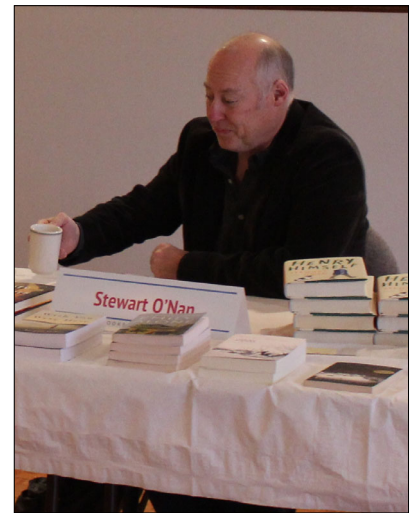
**The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh mailing address:**  
325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412-721-0853 | [info@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)

**The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, Bishop**  
412-721-0853 ext. 252 | [dmccConnell@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:dmccConnell@episcopalpgh.org)

**Andy Muhl, Executive Assistant**  
412-721-0853 ext. 251 | [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:amuhl@episcopalpgh.org) ■

# WEB PAGES

The Bookstore hosted Calvary Book and Author Day on Sunday, December 1, 2019



## Bookstore News – Part 2

Get your holiday cards at the Bookstore with Christmas cards displaying the beauty of Calvary Episcopal Church. There is 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 Casey Bice.

In addition, The Bookstore has a variety of calendars and daily planners for 2020 including:

**Advent:** Come browse the large assortment of Advent calendars to choose from with stickers, pictures and Bible text, and pictures and the Nativity Story to name just a few.

**Churchman's Ordo Kalendar:** Offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days that are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion. Calendar dates are printed in the liturgical color for that day.

**Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendar:** Is edited to conform to Lesser Feasts and Fasts of 2006, Book of Common Prayer and the Revised Common Lectionary. Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006 remains the last calendar of saints to be given final approval by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

**The Episcopal Liturgical Appointment Calendar:** Features two pages for each week, ample space for noting appointments, proper liturgical colors, Daily Office readings from the Book of Common Prayer and Sunday readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, Holy Days, commemorations and secular observances.

**The 2020 Liturgical Desk Calendar Episcopal Edition:** A handy 13-month reference for clergy and church staff. Features one week on each two-page spread with convenient color-coded vestment symbols for the season. Includes church holidays, Christian holidays and saints' days.

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



## VOL. 2 CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS

7 cards with matching envelopes.  
Each card is imprinted with  
a Christmas verse and the greeting

WISHING YOU  
A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND PEACE AND JOY  
IN THE NEW YEAR

NEW  
FOR  
2019



NOW AVAILABLE!

**\$10**

[ VOL. 1 SETS ALSO AVAILABLE ]

# Children's Christmas Books

**40%–  
50% off**

Books priced as marked

THE BOOKSTORE AT CALVARY



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

**Plan ahead for these service dates:**

**2019: Dec. 29**

**2020: Jan. 26 • Feb. 23 • March 22**

**April 26 • May 24**

**Join us at 3 p.m. in the Refectory**

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



By the Grace of God

The Right Reverend  
Dorsey W. M. McConnell  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

will ordain

**Geoffrey Swenson Royce**

to the Sacred Order of Deacons  
in Christ's one holy catholic  
and apostolic Church

Saturday, December 21, 2019  
at ten o'clock in the morning

Trinity Cathedral  
328 Sixth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Your prayers and presence are requested  
*Clergy: Red Stoles*      *Reception follows*



# Calvary Movie Night: Thursday, January 30, 2020



## WAJIB UM CONVITE DE CASAMENTO

# واجب

de ANNEMARIE JACIR



SELEÇÃO OFICIAL

tiff

TIFF FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL  
OF FILM FESTIVAL 2017



FESTIVAL DE LOCARNO  
PRÊMIO DON QUIXOTE E PRÊMIO DO JÚRI JOVEM



NOMINADO  
AOS PRêmIOS DE  
MELHOR ATOR PELO  
ASIAN PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS



MELHOR FILME E  
MELHOR ATOR  
FESTIVAL INTL. DE  
MAR DEL PLATA



MELHOR FILME E  
MELHOR ATOR  
FESTIVAL INTL.  
DE DUBAI



PRÊMIO DO JÚRI  
BFI FILM FESTIVAL  
LONDRES



PRÊMIO DO JÚRI  
MED FILM ROMA



MELHOR FILME E  
PRÊMIO DO PÚBLICO  
AMIENS  
FILM FESTIVAL



MELHOR FILME  
FESTIVAL INTL.  
KERALA

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

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

Please RSVP to Clint by Sunday, January 26  
at [apax4cmvd@msn.com](mailto:apax4cmvd@msn.com) or 412.660.2297