



February 12, 2019

Ashes to Go

Calling laypeople and clergy: We need your help to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday!

Everyone in the Diocese of Pittsburgh is invited to distribute ashes in their own communities. Ash Wednesday is an important observance to many Christian people, and offering ashes throughout the day is an act of gracious hospitality. You will find there are lots of people who say they were worried about finding a way to receive ashes, or that they have obligations that hamper their ability to get to church that day.



If you are interested in distributing Ashes to Go this Ash Wednesday, March 6th, please contact Canon Natalie Hall at nhall@episcopalpgh.org for more information.

Canon Hall can help:

- determine ash distribution sites near you
- ensure you have the needed supplies
- offer suggested liturgies

Give the entire Pittsburgh region the gift of ashes: A reminder of how fragile we are, met with God's deep investment in life for all people.



REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION

Rescheduled to

Sunday, February 17, 2019

4 p.m.

**With Church Without Walls
at Rodman Street Missionary
Baptist Church**



*I have decided to stick with
LOVE. Hate is too great a
burden to bear.*

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, 6111 Rodman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206



Diocesan Transitions February 2019



Deacon Linda Wilson has stepped down as Pastor-in-Charge at All Souls, North Versailles, effective June 30, 2018. **The Rev. Dr. Teresa Hunt** is currently serving as regular supply.

Kimberly Macy Karashin and **Julie Lynn Smith** were ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons by Bishop McConnell at Trinity Cathedral on December 1, 2018. Kim continues to serve as diocesan Canon for Mission, and is also serving as deacon at Advent, Brookline and St. Peter's, Brentwood. Julie has been serving at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, during their time of transition.

The Rev. Brandon Thomas Mozingo was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests by Bishop McConnell on December 15, 2018, at St. Stephen's, McKeesport, where he is now Priest-in-Charge. He had previously been leading the parish as a deacon.

The Rev. Joseph Baird has been named Vicar of St. Peter's, Blairsville, effective January 1, 2019. **The Rev. Arthur Dilg** concluded his service at St. Peter's on Christmas Eve. Fr. Dilg will continue to serve as regular supply to St. Michael's, Wayne Township, and as chaplain to retired clergy.

The Rev. Daniel Isadore has stepped down as Priest-in-Charge at All Saints, Brighton Heights, effective January 1, 2019, in order to expand his campus ministry as Chaplain at the University of Pittsburgh and Chatham University. All Saints is currently being served by the Rev. Aidan Smith.

The Very Rev. Canon Scott Quinn led his final service as Trinity Cathedral's interim dean on January 20, 2019, before beginning a well-deserved sabbatical, to end with his effective retirement date of Easter, April 21. **The Rev. Dr. Philip Wainwright**, the cathedral's priest associate, will take over responsibility for worship services, pastoral care, and cathedral staff for the immediate future.

Lisa Brown has been appointed to the General Convention Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized. A member of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, and a deputy to General Convention, Lisa will work with this group over the next two years to explore lifelong formation.

The Rev. Charles Esposito has been called to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen's Wilkinsburg, effective February 2, 2019, following the retirement of **the Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker**.

With the consent of Diocesan Council, Bishop McConnell has appointed **Suzanne DeWalt** and **Peter Balfe** to be Disaster Preparedness Coordinators for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Sue is a member of Calvary, East Liberty, and has served multiple terms on the Board of Trustees. Peter is a member of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, and is a current member of Diocesan Council. Both are appointed to three-year terms, to end in December 2021.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Widows' Corporation partially subsidizing his diocesan salary, **the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler** has been designated Canon for Recovery Ministries serving the five dioceses within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His efforts will focus on education and training for clergy and parish leadership in matters related to addiction and recovery. The remainder of his time will continue to be spent on assisting in parish clergy transitions, pastoral matters related to the clergy, and in supervision of parishes participating in the Mon Valley Mission Initiative.



Register Today for Lenten Learning Day 2019

Registration is now open for Lenten Learning Day 2019, **Saturday, March 23**, at [St. Brendan's Episcopal Church](#) in Franklin Park. This will be a special day of learning, worshipping, and building relationships with others across our diocese and communities.

[Click Here to Register](#)



The theme for this year's event is **Good News Within Reach**. Come and learn about some of the mission and ministry taking place throughout our diocese - directly from the people who lead and participate in it. Ponder together how similar forms of mission and ministry might work in your own parish and community context. Get the practical tips and helpful resources you need to join in God's work in the world.

Special Guest Speaker: Father Paul Abernathy

We are thrilled to be welcoming Father Paul Abernathy as our special guest speaker this year.



Father Abernathy is pastor of St. Moses Orthodox Christian Mission in Pittsburgh's Hill District and director of [FOCUS Pittsburgh](#), a non-profit specializing in Trauma-Informed Community Development. Since its inception in 2011, FOCUS Pittsburgh has distributed millions of dollars in food, clothing, furniture, transportation assistance, and emergency relief to the Greater Pittsburgh community. The group's Backpack Feeding Program distributes food to 2,500 children every weekend during the school year. Father Abernathy is also CEO of the FOCUS Pittsburgh Free Health Center, which offers free primary, behavioral health, and dental care to the area's uninsured and underinsured. Father Abernathy and his ministry were recently featured in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#).

What Else is in Store?

Too much to list here. To have a look at the rest of this year's lineup, [click here](#).



SJO Offers Film at Calvary

The diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) offers an important environmental event for the community. The documentary film "Bag It," will be shown at Calvary Church in East Liberty on **Wednesday, February. 27, at 7 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Diocesan SJO and the ecumenical group *What's SUP* (Single Use Plastics), this engaging film follows its filmmaker as he learns through everyday experience how plastics affect our climate, our oceans, our bodies, our lives. The film will be followed by remarks and discussion led by Pittsburgh City Councilwoman Erika Strassburger, and climate activist, filmmaker, and entrepreneur Mark Dixon.

A consistent advocate for important environmental causes and actions, Strassburger recently sponsored a unanimously-endorsed City Council proclamation urging residents to choose sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics at stores and restaurants.

Filmmaker, activist and entrepreneur Mark Dixon authors the website [NoPetroPA](#). He has repeatedly tackled issues involving global warming and has been active in addressing the practice of fracking, and the plastics and the current petrochemical rush in Western Pennsylvania and its polluting effects.

The "Bag It" event is free and open to the public, and parking is available at [Calvary Episcopal Church](#), located on Shady Avenue and Walnut Street in Shadyside/East Liberty.



2019 Anti-Racism Workshop

Our next anti-racism training, *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*, will be held at St. Thomas Memorial Church in Oakmont on Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, 2019.



This training is required of all elected leadership, lay and ordained, in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, including all candidates for Holy Orders.

[You may register here](#). There is no fee for the training but a free-will offering will help offset the cost of the food and refreshments.

In a time when the current climate of our political and social life is marked by polarity and fear, our society has great need for the alternative offered by our faith. St. Paul boldly announces that, "in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19). The work of the Church, therefore, is the ministry of reconciliation, and nowhere is this more urgent than in the call to heal the wounds of racial injustice that have so marked our history. This workshop gives us some critical tools to begin the work.

[St Thomas Memorial Church](#), 378 Delaware Ave, Oakmont, PA 15139



Open Position at TSM

Trinity School for Ministry (TSM), Ambridge PA, is seeking to hire a full-time Audio Engineer.

A full job description and application instructions are available at <http://www.tsm.edu/communications-assistant-audio-engineer/>



2018 Parochial Reports Due March 1

Parishes are reminded that Parochial Reports for the year 2018 are due by March 1, 2019, and the Episcopal Church's online filing system is now open.

A blank report form, filing instructions, and detailed workbooks for help in completing each page of the report are available online at www.episcopalchurch.org/research/forms-and-instructions

Parishes are highly encouraged to file using the online reporting system. Information about how to access this system was mailed to every parish in December. For those who file electronically, a signed paper copy is also required to be submitted to the diocesan office. If you cannot access the online system, submit your completed and signed paper copies to the diocesan office for entry into the system.

It is the joint responsibility of clergy and vestry to assure the timely completion of parochial reports.

Contact [Judi Rogers](#) or [Kathi Workman](#) in the diocesan office if you have questions about filing your annual parochial report.



Commission on Race and Reconciliation Offers Monthly Prayers

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation has developed a series of special prayers calling attention to specific issues still prevalent in our society today that we as a church must be ever mindful of as we work toward making the world a better place for all of God's people. This will be a regular monthly prayer offering.

February - For humanity toward perceived enemies (Internment of Japanese Americans, Executive Order 9066, February 1942):

O God of all nations and all peoples: our nation once, in time of war, forcibly interned in camps, without trial and without just cause, many of our own people because of their Japanese ancestry. Grant us, by your grace, the strength and courage never again to treat as enemies any entire group of persons, solely because of the enmity of some members of that group, but to defend and preserve the basic human rights of all people, even in times of distress, for the sake of your Son who died for all. Amen.



Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

February 17: Emmanuel, North Side

February 24: Atonement, Carnegie

March 3: St. David's, Peters Twp

March 17: St. Thomas, Canonsburg

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.

A service celebrating the Rev. Gilbert M. (Gib) Watt's life will be held Saturday, February 16, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Memorial Church, 378 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139, with the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, presiding. The Rev. Jeff Murph will be assisting.



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to info@episcopalpgh.org. When possible, the copy should be in a Word document and all original logos, pictures and artwork should be attached separately. Please be sure to include your contact information with any submission.

