



August 15, 2019

Keeping Children Safe - A Reminder

With the beginning of Sunday School and other programs for children and young people, please remember the importance of child abuse prevention.

As Christians, we are called to care for and protect children, and to create a community where all are safe. Abuse of children and youth in congregations, institutions, agencies, or programs of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is wrong and will not be tolerated.

All who minister in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, lay and ordained, volunteer and paid, are entrusted with the care of God's people, and are responsible for preserving that trust.



Some important steps for keeping children safe include:

Screening

A consistent application and screening process for volunteers is essential. A standard written application, including references, must be completed. An interview and reference checks should be done. These procedures can be simple, but should be thorough and be the same for everyone.

Background Checks

All volunteers and employees who have contact with children are required to complete background checks as specified in Pennsylvania state law. These include a child abuse clearance, a Pennsylvania criminal record check, and an FBI fingerprint background check for anyone who has not lived in Pennsylvania for the past ten years consecutively. Current details of how to obtain the required clearances can be found at www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov.

Training

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh provides no cost training for child abuse prevention through the Church Pension Fund's Safeguarding program. This online training can be completed anywhere there is high speed internet access. The short, focused courses can be completed in 30-45 minutes. Certificates are available upon completion of the training. To register for the Safeguarding Training, [click here](#).

Supervision of Programs

It is crucial to monitor and supervise programs for children and youth, implementing guidelines for keeping participants safe as outlined in Diocesan policies.

Full information, further details, and sample forms can be found in the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse [available here](#).

Please feel free to contact the Rev. Leslie Reimer at 412 661-0120 or lreimer@calvarypgh.org with any questions or concerns.

We are grateful for the faithful work of all who teach and care for children and young people in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.





Join the youth from Province III for a bus trip from Washington, DC to Philadelphia, PA. Visit historical sites, hear from leaders in the church who are involved in the struggle against racism, and become a part of the Beloved Community, as we seek to increase racial understanding, healing, and reconciliation.

Round trip from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1514 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20005

Check-in: Friday, October 11, 1 p.m.

Pick-up: Monday, October 14, 12 noon

Housing and meals are being graciously provided by host parishes in D.C., Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Highlights of the trip will include the National African American History Museum, the Oldest African American Episcopal Church in the U.S., and travel on part of the African-American Heritage Trail.

More information is at www.province3.org/blog/trail-to-truth-youth-pilgrimage/.

For additional details about the Diocese of Pittsburgh's participation and registration, contact Paul Barker at pbarker@stpaulspgh.org.

Registration deadline is September 1.



Flea Markets on the Lawn in Carnegie

The Church of the Atonement, 618 Washington Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106, is hosting a Flea Market on the Lawn on **Saturday, August 17, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.**

Details at www.facebook.com/events/452742682169053/



Overdose Awareness Day at Trinity Cathedral

432 people lost their lives from drug overdoses in Allegheny County in 2018.

On Overdose Awareness Day, **Friday, August 30**, we will remember them, we will pray for those who still struggle with addiction, and we will educate ourselves to work to end the overdose epidemic.



The day includes continuing education for addiction specialists starting at 9 a.m., a free training for the public in the use of Narcan to reverse overdoses at 11 a.m., and a prayer service at noon led by members of the Pittsburgh Downtown Ministerium, Christian Associates of Southwest PA, interfaith colleagues, and Coalition for Leadership, Education and Advocacy in Recovery (CLEAR) members.

A cathedral bell will ring once for every person who died from an overdose in Allegheny County in 2018.

Weather permitting, the prayer service at noon will be held in front of Trinity Cathedral.

Pittsburgh Will Not Forget U families will display pictures on the cathedral grounds of loved ones who died from overdoses.

Visit www.trinitycathedralpgh.org/overdose-awareness-day-2019 for additional information.



Education for Ministry

EfM (Education for Ministry) started in 1975 when the School of Theology at the University of the South (Sewanee) decided to develop a curriculum which would provide a basic theological education to lay Christians.



EfM is a distance learning course in which the members of the group meet each week to discuss reading materials which provide a basic education about Christianity and contemporary theological issues.

It is a four-year program, but students commit to only one year at a time. The first year is devoted to reading and understanding the Old Testament; second, the New Testament; third the history of the Christian Church; fourth, contemporary theological issues. The group also engages in a theological discussion on a topic of their choosing for part of the session.

Discussions are led by trained mentors who act as moderators and fellow seekers.

There are three groups in the Diocese of Pittsburgh-- two at Calvary in Shadyside and one at St. Paul's in Mt. Lebanon-- which are currently recruiting new participants. Members of the groups can be from various parishes as well as other denominations.

The Calvary groups meet Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. The cost of the program is \$375 a year and includes all textbooks. For more information on the program in general, please visit <http://efm.sewanee.edu/about-efm/about-efm>.

To discuss the Calvary Thursday morning group please contact Barbara Brooks at tipark4me@aol.com or Diane Santoriello at Dianesantoriello@gmail.com. If interested in the Wednesday night group, contact Vanessa Sterling at vmsterling@gmail.com or (412) 551-2042.

For the St. Paul's group, please email Karen Schneider at kschneider586@gmail.com.



The Choir of Trinity College Cambridge in Concert at Calvary



Friday, September 20, at 8 p.m.

The world-renowned ensemble of undergraduates, directed by Stephen Layton, returns to Pittsburgh with a program of exquisite and glorious choral music, ranging from the Tudors to contemporary masters, including Esenvalds, Lauridsen, and Tavener, and closing with music by Herbert Howells. Tickets may be [purchased here](#).

[Calvary Episcopal Church](#), 325 Shady Avenue at Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206



Parish Audit Reports Due September 1

All parishes are reminded that the completed Parish Audit Reports are due in the diocesan office by September 1, 2019.

Diocesan Canon XVII, Section 5 states:

*All reports of such audits, including any memorandum issued by the auditors or audit committee regarding internal controls or other accounting matters, together with a summary of action taken or proposed to be taken to correct deficiencies or implement recommendations contained in any such memorandum, shall be filed with the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority not later than 30 days following the date of such report, and in no event, **not later than September 1** of each year covering the financial report of the previous calendar year.*



The needed forms and instructions are available in the [Financial & Administrative section](#) of Documents and Forms on our website.

Questions? Contact Kathi Workman, Diocesan Treasurer and Director of Administration, at kworkman@episcopalpgh.org or 412-721-0853 ext. 259



Save The Date!
2019 Diocesan Convention
Love. Teach. Heal. Re-imagining Our Diocese

November 15 & 16
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 N Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Note: This date is one week later than our conventions in the past.

[Click here](#) for important convention documents.



Lay Deputy Certification Forms Due NOW!

Without naming names, one-third of our parishes (36 percent to be exact) have not filed their Lay Deputy Certification forms as of today.

A blank form with complete instructions is available online [by clicking here](#). This form must be signed by a Warden OR by two members of the Vestry.

Please contact [Andy Muhl](#) in the diocesan office with any questions.



Call for Convention Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee of Diocesan Council is now accepting items to be considered at our [next diocesan convention](#).

Proposed resolutions may be submitted by any parish or individual [using this form](#). Each must conform to Robert's Rules of Order and include a short explanation or rationale, as well as contact information for at least two sponsors. An example resolution is on the form.

All proposed resolutions must be submitted no later than September 9, 2019. Submission instructions are on the form.





The Downtown Ministerium and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services are cosponsoring a Poverty Simulation event to be held on Saturday, September 14, from 8:30 AM - 12:00 noon, at First Presbyterian Church, 320 Sixth Avenue.

Poverty Simulations are a unique opportunity to learn more about what our neighbors in need experience every day.

TO SIGN UP:

Contact Christine Hoffman at cgh@flcpittsburgh.org
no later than Thursday, September 5.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Pastor Jennifer McCurry at jpm@flcpittsburgh.org



ALLEGHENY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



Around the Diocese

Bishop Price's Visitation Schedule:

September 8: St. Michael's, Wayne Township
September 15: St. Thomas, Oakmont
September 22: St. Matthew's, Homestead
September 29: St. Mark's, Johnstown

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

Social Justice and Outreach: The August SJO meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 22, 7 p.m., at Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill.



2019 Fall Clergy Conference, Wednesday, September 25 - Friday, September 27, at Antiochian Village and Conference Center, Bolivar, PA. Clergy may [register here](#).



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to amuhl@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.

