



January 8, 2020

Emergency Training Offered

**A limited number of spaces remain.
Please register today.**



The Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee of the diocese was recently reinvented to assist parishes in preparing for both natural disasters and man-made emergencies.

One of the committee's first steps is to offer *Stop the Bleed* training in collaboration with UPMC to all interested clergy and lay members of the diocese. This training is credited with saving lives after the Tree of Life shootings. *Stop the Bleed* teaches basic bleeding control techniques and provides tools which empower the public to respond to life-threatening medical situations.

WHEN?

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

WHERE?

Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, 15206

COST?

Freewill donation at the door - for refreshments!

HOW DO I REGISTER?

[Click Here to Register](#)

QUESTIONS?

Contact Tim Austin, Committee Co-Chair at austover@gmail.com

Maximum enrollment: 50



ST. BRENDAN'S SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS:

**"Watergate, the Clinton Scandals &
impeachment in the age of Trump."**

Conversation with: **KEN GORMLEY**

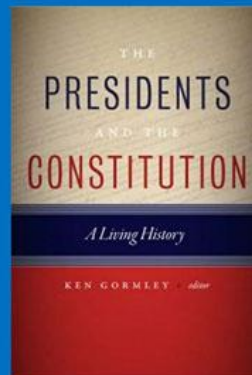
President of Duquesne University, Constitutional Scholar & Author

January 16, 2020 @ 7pm

St. Brendan's Episcopal Church
2365 McAleer Rd.
Sewickley, PA 15143

For Tickets Please Call:
412-364-5974

Doors open @ 6pm
Drink & Appetizers



2020 IRS Updates from the Canon Treasurer

- **STANDARD MILEAGE RATES** - Beginning January 1, 2020, the standard mileage rates will be:
 - 57.5 cents per mile driven for business use, down one half cent from the 2019 rate.
 - 17 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down three cents from the 2019 rate.
 - 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.
- **GOOD NEWS FOR HOUSING ALLOWANCE** - The legal challenge to the housing allowance has been resolved and this valuable benefit to ministers remains intact.
- **PARKING LOT TAX REPEALED** - The Parking Lot Tax approved in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 was repealed in December 2019. Parishes may file for a refund of taxes paid for 2018 and 2019.
- **IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS** - IRAs will now be subject to required minimum distributions (RMD) when the account owner reaches the age of 72. Previously, the age was 70 ½.



- **UPDATED 2020 FORM W-4 FOR WITHHOLDING OF FEDERAL INCOME TAXES** - The IRS has redesigned Form W-4 for 2020 in an effort to reduce the form's complexity and to increase the accuracy of the withholding of federal income tax. Employees who have furnished Form W-4 in any year before 2020 are not required to furnish a new Form W-4. However, all employees hired in 2020 must complete the new, updated W-4.
- **REVIEW OF W-2 FORMS** - It is estimated that 60% of W-2's provided by churches are not completed properly. Key areas where errors occur are as follows:
 - Clergy Housing Allowance should not be included in Box 1 wages. The housing allowance **should** be reported in Box 14 and also included in Box 16 State wages.
 - Clergy GTL (Group Term Life Insurance) imputed value should be included in Box 1 wages and also reported in Box 12 (Code C). The amount does not have to be included in Box 16 State or Box 18 Local wages.
 - The imputed value of an employee's use of an employer-paid vehicle for personal reasons should be included in the employee's Box 1 wages and also reported in Box 14. The amount does not have to be included in State or Local wages.
 - Both employer and employee contributions to an employee's Health Savings Account should be reported in Box 12 (Code W) and should not be included in Box 1 wages.
 - Boxes 3 and 5 for Social Security and Medicare wages for clergy should be zero since clergy are considered self-employed and pay their Social Security and Medicare taxes by filing Form 1040 (Schedule SE) Self-Employment Tax.
 - SECA reimbursements to clergy should be included in Box 1 wages and also included in State and Local wages.
 - Employee (Lay and Clergy) contributions to 403(b) retirement plans should not be included in Box 1 wages. The amount should be reported in Box 12 (Code E).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the above information.

Faithfully,
 Kathi Workman, Canon Treasurer
kworkman@episcopalpgh.org or 412-721-0853 ext. 259



Think Summer! Consider Helping the Summer Food Service Program

The Summer Food Service Program is a federal program that provides nutritious meals to youth 18 and under, when free and reduced school meals are not available. But this program only reaches about 1 in 7 children who get free and reduced-cost meals during the school year.

The [Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank](#) works to increase participation in the [Summer Food Service Program](#) in the 11 counties of Southwestern PA*, and they are asking for our help in reaching more of these children! It's not too early to begin thinking about how you might pitch in.



There are several ways that people and parishes within our diocese can help:

- Distribute flyers and electronic advertising in your community to raise awareness of the program.
- Volunteer at a Summer Food Service Program site near you once a week - or more - to provide fun activities for participating children.

- Have your parish become a Summer Food Service Program site, hosting the program either in your building or at a nearby location such as a park or community center.

(Note that security clearances are required for any volunteers who will have direct contact with children; these clearances are provided at no cost.)

If you feel called to serve your neighbors in any of these ways, or just want more information, please contact Chris West at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank - by phone at 412-460-3663 ext. 495, or via email at cwest@pittsburghfoodbank.org.

** The 11 counties served by Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank are: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Somerset, Washington. If you or your parish are interested in helping the Summer Food Service Program but are not located in one of these counties, the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank can direct you appropriately.*



New Zealand Night Prayer Community Common Prayer Service

As part of their Community Common Prayer Series, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 335 Locust Street, in downtown Johnstown is offering a "New Zealand Night Prayer" service **at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 19.**

The offering of prayer in the evening, often called Compline, has sometimes been described as the 'goodnight prayer of the Church'. It rounds off the day and prepares us for a quiet night. As the psalmist wrote:

*I lie down in peace and take rest my rest
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.*

"Night Prayer" is the order of Compline from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, the common prayer book for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. They, along with The Episcopal Church, are members of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

Free refreshments and conversation will be available following the service. All are welcome.

For more information: call 814-535-6797, visit saintmarksjohnstown.com or contact the Rev. Nancy Threadgill at revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbbn.net



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.

JANUARY--For an end to slavery:

"O God of liberty and justice: we live in a nation in which the institution of human bondage was once a legal and accepted practice. We give thanks for those who worked and fought, at great personal sacrifice, to bring about an end to that cruel and oppressive system in our own land, and we pray that governments and authorities everywhere in the world might be led to make a quick end to the enslavement of any human being, throughout the Earth." Amen





St. Paul's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, will be participating in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, leaving Pittsburgh on January 26, 2021 and returning via Tel Aviv on February 6, 2021.



The tour will be guided by Qumri Pilgrimages, operated by Iyad Qumri, former Canon to the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. Mr. Qumri has guided tours in the Holy Land, where he was born, and where he has raised his family, for 20 years. For a sample itinerary and more, visit www.iyadqumripilgrimages.com. A group from St. Paul's toured with Qumri Pilgrimages in February 2019.

The cost of the trip is estimated at \$4,000 for people sleeping two per room and there are single occupancy rooms available at a slightly higher rate. This includes tours, lodging, meals while there, tip to tour agency, airfare and travel insurance. We will be staying at hotels in Jerusalem and Nazareth during this pilgrimage.

We will begin meeting as a group in the months before the pilgrimage to build community and prepare for the experience.

If you are interested in going, please contact the Rev. Noah Evans at noah@stpaulspgh.org, Rector, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. The deadline is February 1, 2020.



Exploring the Ministry of the Baptized Survey

From the Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized

The Task Force on Formation and Ministry of the Baptized, appointed by General Convention, is reaching out to people who worship in Episcopal communities for insight, direction, and a better understanding of what's working and what isn't. They seek to identify the resources and practices that are forming Christians for daily life in your context, and the challenges you face, in order to equip people of all ages to live into their baptismal vocations with confidence and joy.



They are seeking input from lay and ordained people who participate in Episcopal faith communities, or who identify as Episcopalian. The survey will take about 25 minutes of your time to fill out.

[Click here to start the survey.](#) Responses are due by January 31.



Parting Shot: Welcome, Piper Isadore!

Please welcome Piper Kaczmira Isadore, born to Hallie and the Rev. Dan Isadore on January 3rd, at 3 p.m., 7 pounds, 14 ounces! Dan+ is our diocesan Episcopal University Chaplain and Hallie is the Database and Donor Services Specialist at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Please keep the whole family in your prayers as they settle in to this new chapter in their lives.



Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

January 12: St. Peter's, Brentwood
January 19: St. James, Penn Hills
January 26: St. Paul's, Monongahela
February 9: All Souls, North Versailles

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



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.

