



March 15, 2023

Property Maintenance Workshop

Our church properties are like a beloved family member. They are a part of our sacred and special celebrations. They also require work and care, some of which is daunting, to keep them structurally sound and “healthy.”

The Property Committee of the Board of Trustees seeks to help all diocesan parishes with strategies to take care of these buildings and facilities that are important members of our communities. The committee will host an online workshop open to all, and would be particularly helpful to clergy, vestry members, maintenance staff, and facility volunteers.



Copyright © 2002 The Church Pension Fund. All Rights Reserved.

Property Maintenance Workshop
Saturday, April 29 from 9 – 11 AM on Zoom
[Please click here to register as soon as possible.](#)



Faith-Based Security & Resilience Learning Series

Thursday, March 30, 1 – 4 p.m.

This workshop will provide valuable information to religious leaders, security personnel, and members of houses of worship to enhance security and prepare for outdoor events. This workshop is free to all participants.



The March Webinar Series topic is "Preparing for Your Outdoor Events":

- Overview of the Berwick vehicle ramming incident at a mass gathering event.
- Updating your Emergency Operations Plans to include outdoor events and mass gatherings.

- In addition, the workshop series will provide participants with a greater awareness of the many federal, state, and local resources available to the faith-based community.

The Pennsylvania Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Intelligence Center, Western Pennsylvania All-Hazards Fusion Center and the Delaware Valley Intelligence Center are collaborating with the Faith-Based Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (FB-ISA) and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) to enhance security and information-sharing among faith-based and non-profit organizations and the law enforcement community.

Register by Tuesday, March 28 at
<https://fbwebinarsseries.eventbrite.com/>



Advocacy Day in Harrisburg

The five Episcopal bishops in Pennsylvania recently [issued a letter](#) about gun violence in the state along with ways to help curb the growing problem.

Please join your fellow Episcopalians from across the state at CeaseFirePA's advocacy day at the State Capitol in

Harrisburg on **Thursday, March 23**, to urge the PA legislature to pass legislation to reduce gun violence.

You can sign up for the event [here](#).

CeasefirePA has buses leaving Allison Park and Station Square at 5:30 am.

[St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#), Mt. Lebanon, will also be providing transportation for all who are interested with departure from St. Paul's promptly at 5 a.m. Plans are to arrive in Harrisburg at 9am to begin advocacy meetings with our legislators, and participate in a rally at noon. Departure from Harrisburg will be at 3:30 p.m., for a planned arrival back in Pittsburgh around 8 p.m. A \$30 contribution, to offset the cost of the van and gas, is requested for those who plan to travel in the St. Paul's van.

Contact Erin Morey at erin@stpaulspgh.org, if you are interested in joining the St. Paul's group or in carpooling with a later departure time.

The organizers encourage everyone attending to participate in an online training to prepare for Advocacy Day. The training will cover the various pieces of legislation we'll be advocating for and prepare advocates on how to lobby. There are four options -- all covering the same content. Click below to sign-up.

- [Tuesday, March 14th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, March 16th, 6:30-8:00 p.m.](#)



- [Saturday, March 18th, 2:00-3:30 p.m.](#)
- [Sunday, March 19th, 2:00-3:30 p.m.](#)



Lenten Quiet Day in Johnstown

[St. Mark's Episcopal Church](#), 335 Locust Street, downtown Johnstown PA, is hosting a Lenten Quiet Day in-person and via Zoom on **Saturday, March 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

A Quiet Day is a period of respite when time is set aside to be quiet, spend time with God, and refresh your spirit for the days ahead. Quiet Days frequently are held during Advent and Lent. Though the structure of the event remains the same from year to year, the topic differs for each event. The topic of our 2023 Lenten Quiet Day is *"The Great Litany."*



The event consists of alternating periods of meditation and quiet time followed by final prayers and a vegetarian lunch. During quiet times you can engage in relaxing activities, read books available in the Parish Hall or find a quiet spot in the church to read or meditate.

Participants are asked not to talk until after final prayers.

If you plan to attend in-person, please wear a mask and social distance. If you wish to participate via Zoom, please contact the Reverend Nancy Threadgill at revnancy-stmarks@atlanticbbn.net or (814) 535-6797 in advance of the event to obtain the login information.



Godly Play Core Training Offered

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, is hosting a **Godly Play Core Training, Friday, March 24, through Sunday, March 26th**, and everyone is invited to join this training.

This is the most comprehensive training on Godly Play practices and theology and the Core Training is highly recommended for those leading Godly Play sessions, program administrators, and clergy.



Please contact The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo at laura@stpaulspgh.org with any questions. **More information and a signup form can [be found here](#).**



Garden Grants to be Available Again this Spring

These last couple of years, with the continued threat of Covid and isolation, have been difficult for everyone. But Spring is coming, never mind what that darn groundhog said!

The diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee (SJO) encourages each parish to consider creating or sustaining a church vegetable garden. This is a wonderful outdoor activity offering easy social distancing, great fresh air, and much-needed fresh produce for local food pantries and neighbors. So grab those seed catalogs from your mailboxes, and start planning your planting strategy.



Once again in 2023, the SJO Committee will offer grants to fund church garden initiatives. For the last nine years, the diocesan SJO Committee has offered a few (4-8) small grants each year to support the efforts of creating and sustaining parish-based vegetable gardens. In 2022, four established gardens received funding (St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; Holy Cross, Homewood; St. David's, Peters Township; and Shepherd's Wellness, Bloomfield) and two new gardens (Calvary, East Liberty, and All Saints, Brighton Heights).

While the SJO budget is very small, it is able to fund these garden grants, in part through donations from the Outreach Commission of St. Paul's (Mount Lebanon), the Episcopal Church Women, Women of Calvary (East Liberty), and private individuals.

For an application with additional details and submission instructions, [click here](#) for a Word document or [click here](#) for a PDF. Applications should be postmarked by March 22, or electronically (preferable) by March 28.



Local Parish Medical Debt Campaigns Far Exceed Expectations

The results continue to amaze. Over \$40,000 raised. Nearly \$9 million in medical debt forgiven. More than ten thousand individuals given relief.

Three parishes – St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; St. Thomas, Canonsburg; and St. David's, Peters Township – partnered last year with [RIP Medical Debt](#), a non-profit that buys large quantities of debt at a steep discount and then erases that debt with no further obligation or consequence for the individuals who benefit.



In October, [St. Thomas and St. David's reported that their joint campaign](#) resulted in \$1.68 million in debt forgiveness among 1,615 recipients in western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia.

At about the same time, St. Paul's was wrapping up its fundraising for its own campaign, going several thousand dollars beyond a \$15,000 donation target and then receiving an additional \$15,000 matching gift from an anonymous parishioner.

RIP recently informed St. Paul's that it had completed the purchase of medical debts that could be erased through the parish donation. The funds were used to abolish \$7,197,077 in debts across the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

[Read much more here.](#)



Around the Diocese



Bishop Ketlen's Visitation Schedule:

March 19: All Souls, North Versailles

March 26: All Saints, Brighton Heights

April 2: St. Thomas, Canonsburg

April 9: Trinity Cathedral (Easter)

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation. Bishop Ketlen's visitation schedule is [available here](#).

To schedule time with Bishop Ketlen, contact her virtual assistant, Crystal Goforth, at 412-721-0853, ext. 256, or via email at assistant@episcopalpgh.org.

The full church year **Cycle of Prayer** is now [available here](#) and Bishop Ketlen's full church year **Visitation Schedule** is [available here](#).



Parting Shot

As the funeral procession passed by St. Barnabas, Brackenridge, clergy and parishioners stood solemnly outside the church to honor Brackenridge Police Chief Jordan McIntire, who made the ultimate sacrifice and was shot and killed on January 2 in Brackenridge.

[St. Barnabas](#) held a prayer vigil on Saturday, February 4, and the church family made a donation to Chief McIntyre's family and the Brackenridge Police Department.



Has your parish been featured in the news?
Please let us know via email at info@episcopalpgh.org

Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh | 325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@episcopalpgh.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!