



CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church

102 N. Second St. • Memphis, TN 38103 • 901-525-6602 • www.calvarymemphis.org

RADICAL LOVE

by Christopher D. Girata, Rector

I have a confession: I love to decorate for Christmas the week after Thanksgiving. I can remember back when I was in seminary, my fellow seminarians would lament over my celebration of Christmas before Christmas, reminding me that there are four weeks of Advent when we are to prepare for Christmas ... I can't help it, I'm a product of the culture, and our culture cranks up the Christmas machine the moment the Halloween candy has been given out. With all of the hectic, busyness of Christmas already flying around our heads, how can we honor, even enjoy the beauty of Advent and Christmas?

If we are completely honest, most of us end the Christmas season with Christmas Day, cleaning up all the decorations well before the New Year. But what if we try to extend the beauty of Christmas into the New Year this year? I remember as a child, churches began using slogans like "put the Christ back in Christmas," an attempt to refocus the materialism of the holiday on the true gift of Jesus. That might sound a bit cliché to us, but there is something good about the spirit of that slogan. Christmas is, after all, about the birth of Jesus – the physical in-breaking, the incarnation of God's Spirit in the world.

The incarnation is a radical idea because God's whole being shifted in that moment. Jesus's birth transformed the way we understand God. God was no longer watching us from a distance, God was living right next to us. God knows what it's like to live this human life that we all share and when we say that God loves us with a perfect love, we can believe it. God loves us because of our faults, not in spite of them. God loves us because of our pain, not in spite of it. God loves us because God knows us deeply, through and through.

And God wants us to respond to that radical love, again and again. December is upon us and we can

be tempted to ignore the gift of preparing ourselves for Christmas, but I encourage you to try to carve out time for yourself. Set aside even the smallest bit of time each day to think about what Christmas means to you, personally, and how God knows you so deeply and loves you, all of you. And then when we gather to celebrate the beauty of Jesus's birth, of God's radical in-breaking, we will be ready. Christmas Day will be the starting point for renewed hope and renewed faith in the love we are freely given by God, and we will be ready to return God's love.

Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 7 pm

*with a festive holiday dinner at 6 pm
in the Great Hall*

dinner: \$6/adults, \$3/child, \$20/family max
childcare available for children 5 & under

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Wednesday, December 4



The Advent season begins with the annual Advent Festival on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m. There will be Advent wreaths, Advent calendars, cookies, paperwhite bulbs, and much, much more. St. Nicholas will make a special appearance at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall.



All attendees are asked to bring donations of newborn baby clothes and blankets to donate to the MED, our "gifts to the Christ Child."

Volunteers are needed at the Advent Festival, so please contact Hilary Chipley, hchipley@calvarymemphis.org

or 525-6602, ext. 141, if you are interested and available. Dinner will be served in the Mural Room beginning at 5:15 p.m.

LESSONS & CAROLS WITH FESTIVE HOLIDAY DINNER

Wednesday, December 11

by Ben Robertson, Associate Rector

On Wednesday, December 11, at 7 p.m., Calvary will celebrate one of the most beloved liturgies of the Anglican Communion: The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

While many of the worship services (and their elements) we enjoy draw from a wide variety of roots and sources, Lessons and Carols (L&C) is very Anglican, very us. The first L&C was held on Christmas Eve 1880 in a small wooden hut in Cornwall, England, then serving as the cathedral for the Diocese of Truro. Then Bishop Edward White Benson developed the service of alternating hymns and readings for a vary pragmatic purpose: not to rejoice in the season's beautiful music or the glory of the Christmas story, but, quite simply, "to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve." In 1918, the new Dean of King's College, Cambridge adapted the service

because he felt the Church of England, "needed more imaginative worship." Some adjustments were made in 1919, but since then the prayers, order of lessons, and many of the hymns have remained the same, including the sublime beginning featuring one boy chorister singing the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City."

Millions listen to King's L&C every year on the BBC World Service and National Public Radio, including WKNO-FM in Memphis. Calvary's L&C will be great community celebration, featuring congregational hymns, offerings by the Calvary, Boys and Girls, and handbell choirs, and readings by parishioners and clergy. Please join us for this delightful celebration at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11. A festive holiday supper at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall will proceed the service and nursery care will be available.

THE EMMANUEL MEAL CELEBRATION

Monday, December 16

Each December, the people of Calvary invite our homeless brothers and sisters to the Emmanuel Meal, a delicious meal prepared and served at Calvary by volunteers. People of all ages, including families, guilds, and returning college students have been blessed by this opportunity to show hospitality to those for whom there is often "no room in the inn." Would you like to help spread the joy of Christmas at this year's Emmanuel Meal on Monday, December 16? On that day, we expect to feed approximately 300 people. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Friday, Dec. 13, 9 a.m.—Noon:** cooking/prep
- Saturday, Dec. 14, 8 a.m.—Noon:** cooking/prep
- Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.:** decoration/
set up
- Monday, Dec. 16, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.:** kitchen help,
greet guests, serve food, clean up

Unable to volunteer but want to help? Monetary contributions to help with the cost of the meal are much appreciated! \$30 buys a turkey! Please make your donation to Calvary Church and note "Emmanuel Meal."

Julie Bethell will be signing up volunteers the next few Sunday mornings at a table near the Information Desk. You may also contact her at juliebethell@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m.

We begin our Christmas celebration with our Christmas pageant, complete with Mary, Joseph, and the babe, animals, shepherds, and angels, portrayed by our young people. All ages will enjoy this service with carols. This service will be followed by a festive coffee hour in the Great Hall.



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m.

This family Eucharist will feature special music by the St. Cecilia Choir and the Boys and Girls Choir. This lively liturgy is specially designed for families with children, and will include carols of the season, a special child-friendly Eucharistic Prayer, and a children's sermon by the Rev. Christopher D. Girata. Nursery care will be offered for children under 5.

Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.

New this year, this family-friendly Eucharist will feature music by members of the Calvary Choir, and will include Children's Chapel for children ages 5 through first grade. Nursery care will be offered for children under 5.

Midnight Mass: 10:30 p.m. with choral and strings prelude at 10 p.m.

On Christmas Eve at 10:00 p.m., the Calvary Choir and strings will offer a musical prelude to the 10:30 p.m. Midnight Mass. During this late night liturgy featuring candles and incense, the Calvary Choir will sing music accompanied by strings. This worship service will reflect the glory and beauty of Anglican worship. Please note the use of incense as part of this celebration.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25 at 4:00 p.m.

A simple service of Holy Eucharist and Christmas hymns to mark the day, with the Rev. Audrey Gonzalez and the Rev. Bill Kolb. No childcare will be offered on this day.

Note: Koinonia will resume on Wednesday, January 8 and Sunday morning formation classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, January 12.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Christmas Flowers can be given in honor or memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute to the beauty of the church this Christmas season, send your donation with the names of those you want to honor or remember to Cindy Yeager at Calvary, 102 N. Second St., 38103, by Wednesday, December 11.

ADORNING THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

by Ginny Sisk



Flower Guild members, prospective members and those who just love to "green the church" and get into the spirit of Christmas are all welcome and needed as we flower the altar with poinsettias after church on Sunday, December 22.

Participants are encouraged to enjoy the festive reception in the Great Hall that will follow the 10 a.m. service and children's Christmas Pageant. Then, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. we will place flowers and green the church. If you are not able to help with the greening, but still would like to participate, you also have the opportunity to prepare the poinsettias. The flower guild will gather in the Kitchen from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, December 20, to package the poinsettias into individual plastic bags. All of this is easy and takes no training or knowledge of flower arranging.

Come for some or all of it—it is truly wonderful to walk into the church during the Christmas season knowing that you have helped to adorn Calvary for the coming of the Christ Child. Contact Ginny Sisk at 493-0636 or ginnysisk@gmail.com, if you have any questions or want to join in the fun.

RENEWING OUR FAITH, RESTORING OUR LEGACY

by Scott Crosby, Stewardship Co-Chair

Calvary's stewardship effort continues to move forward. Calls are being made; meetings among friends, old and new, are being held; time, talent, and treasure are being pledged. Energy at our church remains high, and we all must do our part to see that our potential energy is placed into motion. One of the ways we do that is through our financial means.

To those who have pledged, we say thank you. But, we continue to be a long way from our goal. To date, we have reached 27% of our goal. In order to budget properly, Calvary needs to know in the next few weeks our collective pledges – that total sum which we as a community pledge this year to support our church. There is much work to be done.

We no longer want to just *make do* at Calvary, we want to *do*. To accomplish that, we need a budget, and the pledges that go with it, which will allow Calvary to build-up capital reserves, create a source of funds for

new outreach ministries, create a fund for our youth programs to continue to improve, and allow us to stretch to our greatest potential as a community here at Calvary Church. None of us is at Calvary by accident. We are all at Calvary, together, for a purpose, and together, through our gifts and talents, we can live into that purpose.

Each of us is called to do our part. I Peter 4:10 says: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." At Calvary, we do not ask for a specific pledge. Rather, we ask that everyone makes a pledge, with prayerful consideration.

The time to make your pledge is now. Today. Let's work together now to make this year, our 183rd year as a parish, a stewardship effort filled with wonderful potential. You can pledge online at any time: calvarymemphis.org/pledgecard.



WHAT: Wrapping pre-filled gift packages and making personalized holiday cards

WHEN: Saturday, December 21, from 9:30—10:30 a.m. (before pageant rehearsal)

BENEFITTING: MIFA Meals on Wheels recipients

We are asking families to bring pre-filled gift packages of 8-10 items in an *unwrapped* large, sturdy box or a medium size Tupperware container. We suggest purchasing a larger item and a few smaller items to fill the package. All items must be new and in their original packing. Any other items are welcome, with the exception of food, drink, or medications. Please include your children in this project. Share the list with them and please take them shopping with you to collect various items for the package you wish to assemble.

Package ideas include: gardening gloves • socks (regular or non-skid) • stationery • pens/pencils • postage stamps • winter caps • blankets • mittens or gloves • games (playing cards, puzzles, dominoes) • lotion • flashlights • batteries • hand crank radios • toiletries (no travel size) • hand sanitizer • small tissue packages

At our wrapping gathering, we will have a visitor from MIFA share with our Calvary families all the wonderful things MIFA does for our community and other ways your family can get involved.

Email Margaret McLean, mcmadm@comcast.net, with questions.

CHECK THEM OUT!

by Library Guild

Calvary's Library Guild is excited to announce the purchase of four new books that are educational, interesting, and ready for you to check out.

- *Christianity: the first three thousand years*
by Diarmaid MacCulloch
- *Theology for a troubled believer*
by Diogenes Allen
- *Introducing the New Testament*
by Mark Allan Powell
- *Teresa of Avila* by Cathleen Medwick

Because these books are new, we ask that you check them out for only two weeks at a time. This will give others a chance to enjoy them sooner.

Don't forget there is also a lovely selection of children's books available to be checked out.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

Ages 0-5 • Sunday Morning Nursery Care

Calvary provides an excellent nursery facility for children ages five and under.

Pre-K • 2nd Grade – Godly Play

Children learn to prepare themselves to hear and listen to God's voice through the presentation of sacred, Old and New Testament stories, parables, and liturgical lessons.

3rd Grade • Godly Play– People, Prophets, & Parables

3rd graders continue with the Godly Play and Grow curriculum with focus on specific people, prophets, and the parables of Jesus.

4th & 5th Grade • Bible 101 – The Old Testament

The entire Sunday school year is devoted to teaching basic concepts to create a firm foundation for study of the Old Testament.

6th, 7th and 8th Grades • re:form

re:form is a curriculum rooted in historic Christianity and the Gospel which speaks to youth on their level.

High School 9th – 12th Grade • Making it Real and Relevant

Making it Real and Relevant is a lectionary-based study that uses contemporary music, movies, and videos to connect with faith formation in daily life.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Healing Our Bodies, Healing Our City December 1, 8, 15 in Crook Auditorium

Join Drs. Kendra Holz and Matt Mathews as they lead us in an exploration of the Incarnation and how it can reshape our thinking about our own bodies and those of our neighbors. This husband and wife team, in addition to their teaching responsibilities at Rhodes College and Memphis Theological Seminary, serve as Theologians-in-Residence at the Church Health Center.

The Expanded Advent Wreath • December 1, 8, 15 11:15 a.m. in the Emison Room

This series, led by parishioner Matt Seltzer, will take cues from various characters in the nativity story. Each week, as another candle in our wreath is lit, we will place ourselves in the journey to Bethlehem, to expand our awareness of our own contemporary nativity through the season of Advent.

ST. PETER EMBRACES SOUP SUNDAY

by Wayne Knerr, Soup Sunday Coordinator

What a difference a simple phone call can make. Rector Chris Girata called Fr. John at St. Peter on Monday, November 4, and asked if St. Peter would be interested in partnering with Calvary in our Soup Sunday efforts. Fr. John very graciously said yes and made arrangements for a table to be set up in a busy hallway that would give Soup Sunday high visibility.

Mary Collins and I, both first time Soup Sunday volunteers, were greeted on the sidewalk by the Rev. Augustine as we were unloading soup and supplies. Rev. Augustine was very friendly and engaging and led us to where we would be setting up our Calvary Soup flag and soups for the busy morning ahead of us.

What struck me about St. Peter was that you could feel God's presence and love radiating in the church. Everyone was very welcoming and friendly. I learned that St. Peter has a sandwich ministry that provides sandwiches for the First Presbyterian afternoon Sunday lunch. St. Peter also has two cats that they have adopted, Peter and Ruth. Somewhere during midmorning, during a lull, Peter was in the courtyard, walked right up to me, sort of smiled and let me know that I was indeed welcome at St. Peter.

Mary Collins expressed joy in seeing how open and willing St. Peter was in helping another church with their efforts to serve the downtown community. It is great to know that this is what the downtown churches are about – willingness to help each other serve those in need in its community. What a wonderful blessing for downtown Memphis. Mary can't wait for the opportunity to serve again in this wonderful ministry.

Sales were brisk, and we sold a little over \$300 worth of soup, enough to cover our food expenses for the month of November.

Fr. John has invited Soup Sunday back to sell Vegetable Beef and Potato Leek soup on Sunday, December 8. We appreciate being able to partner with St. Peter's to help address those who need assistance in our Memphis community.



In your prayers at home, please remember those on the Calvary Prayer List.

Rick & Nicola Allen	Doyle Gibson	Kelvin Richard	Dane Swindell
Shirley & Chris Allen	Richard Harrison	The Richardson family	Robert Tayloe
Ciera Blackburn	Garrett Helms	Liley Robinson & family	The Tigrett family
John Blaylock	John Heuer & family	Joel Rogers	Julia Velasco
Bob Boelte	Bill Hughes	Reese, Travis, & Samantha Ruud	Hugh Vick
Daphne Boyle	Sally Jones	Beecher Smith	Joshua Wallace
Shuanta Broadway	Jay Killen	Craig Smith	Eileen Watson
Jane Carruthers	Carol Kroeker	Jane Smith	Felder Williams
Linda Dana	Gerri Logan	Maureen Stoneman	Trisha Wood
Jeremy Davis & Family	Raymond Martin	Philip Strubing	Amelia
Tim Doyle	Al McCraw	David Sullivan	Brooke & Donnie
Terry Fox	Lee Milford		Charles
Holly Potter Gibley	Sissy Nickels		Patrick

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Katie & John Owen • Heidi & Dave Rupke
 • Michelle & Brian Vernon • Beth & Matt Yarbrough

SAINTS DEPARTED

Jean Ahokas, mother of Larry Ahokas • Dr. Emmett Dixon Bell, Jr. • Cam Cole, son of Lauren & Cameron Cole

WEDDING BELLS

Hilary Kerryn Edwards & James Christopher Musice (11/2)

To have a loved one or yourself added to any of the Calvary Prayer Lists, please contact Ebet Peebles, 525-6602 ext. 138 or epeebles@calvarymemphis.org.

CALVARY CYCLE OF PRAYER

We give thanks for the many blessings of the gifts and talents of our parishioners.

December 1: Vincent Astor • Karen & John Butler and children Adam & Anna • Todd Smoyer-Garrick & Jeff Craig • Madge & Whit Deacon • Ellen Hammond • Maggie & Andrew Hurst and children Britany, Isabel, & August • Mike Orr • Cash & Rick Shields • Ginny & John Webb • Melissa & Tom Young and daughters Riley & Jordan

December 8: Julie Arrigo • John Denton • Jan & Barney Elam and sons Jacob & Ezra • Lydia & Jack Gibson • Carolyn Grant & Fred Arnold • Nina & Len Grice • Nicky & Chris Hitching and daughter Maddie • Greg Carlos & Åsa Karlström • Joanna & Rich Sasko • Emily & Drew Smith and children Maddie, Jonah, & Hank

December 15: Elizabeth & Jon Blaylock • Laurie & Thornton Brooksbank and children Thornton

& Preston • Diana & Eddie Burton and daughters Hannah & Alison • Marjorie & Sid McMillan • Gwen & Penn Owen and daughter Elizabeth • Dana Sue and Ann Percer • Molly Polatty • Stacey & Rob Quiriconi and daughter Karamia • Karen Barker & Lois Rainey and sons Carl & Drew • Paige Whittle

December 22: Betty Anderson • Rachael & Sheldon Ruud • Blair & Nelson Cannon and sons Henry & Charlie • Novella & Mike Cromer • Gigi & Doug Franklin and daughters Maggie & Grace • Margaret & Alec McLean and children Duncan, Meriwether, Virginia & Campbell • Gina & Brian Miles and children Megan, Jordan, Sloan, Zoe & Luke • Kathryn Skinner • Wally & Beecher Smith • Sam White

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
*Sidney Genette, Jr., Carolyn & Lawrence McSpadden,
Lucy & Sidney Genette, Sr., and John Twist*
by Jane Twist

and in loving memory of
Charles C. King, Jr.

by Dr. & Mrs. Charles C. King, III

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Marjorie Blake Miller
by Pat, Newton, Alicia, and Blake Anderson

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Tipi M. McCracken
by Linda Bennett

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Ross B. Clark, II
by Madge Logan Clark, George William Johnson, III,
and George William Johnson, IV

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29
THE ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Lawrence Cohen, M.D.
by Kay Cohen

and in thanksgiving for
the lives of all of Calvary's saints departed
by Episcopal Church Women of Calvary Church

and in honor of the wedding of
Morgan Michelle Payne & Sidney Wilson Slatery



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

102 N. Second St. • Memphis, TN • 38103
(901) 525-6602 • (901) 525-5156, fax
www.calvarymemphis.org

Parish Offices Open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Morning Prayer: Fridays at 8:40 a.m.

E-mail clergy and staff with initial of first name followed
by full last name@calvarymemphis.org
Example: Chris Girata, cgirata@calvarymemphis.org

CLERGY

The Rev. Christopher D. Girata (x122) Rector
The Rev. Eyleen Farmer (x117) Associate Rector
The Rev. Deacon Audrey Gonzalez Deacon
The Rev. Ben G. Robertson, IV (x124)
Associate Rector

CLERGY IN OUR MIDST

The Rev. Senter Crook 324-3607
The Venerable Mimsy Jones 685-6916
The Rev. Canon Bill Kolb 438-0751

VESTRY

Warden's Committee: Alex Wise, Sr. Warden (3) •
Hall Gardner, Jr. Warden (2) • Bob O'Connor, At
Large (2) • Leslie Atwood Smith, At Large (1) • Peg
Wahl, Treasurer • Terre Sullivant, Clerk

Alison Boeving (1) • Sam Cole (3) • James Dowd (1) •
Rose Johnston (2) • Mike Nelson (1) • Brett Norman
(3) • Allison Parker (1) • John Pruett (3) • Charles
Shipp (2) • Drew Smith (3) • Clay Woemmel (2)

PARISH STAFF

Issiah Carroll (x152) Kitchen Assistant
Hilary Chipley (x105) Dir. of Family Ministry
Lynda Gayle Deacon (x119) Music Admin &
Event Coordinator
Fred Goldsmith (x115) Information Officer
Jason Kindel (x120) St. Cecilia Choir Director
Kristin Lensch (x120) Organist-Choirmaster
Robyn Mauldin (x108) Dir. of Communications
Mary O'Brien (x123) Parish Chef
Katie Owen (x109) Parish Administrator
Ebet Peoples (x138) Assistant to the Rector
Bill Webster (x137) Facilities Manager
Cindy Yeager (x139) Financial Assistant



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Calvary Episcopal Church • Making God's Love Visible in Downtown Memphis



Debbie Kallaher, director of Calvary Place Childcare, and Rector Chris Girata got into the spirit of Halloween for Calvary's first annual trunk-or-treat. Over 50 kids happily gathered goodies from the many trunks that lined our back parking lot.



On Friday evening, November 1, the Calvary Choir and the St. Mary's Cathedral Choir joined forces to sing a beautiful evensong on the feast of All Saints'.



After weeks of preparation with the Rev. Chris Girata and the Rev. Ben Robertson, eighteen adults and young people were confirmed by Bishop Johnson during his annual visit on Sunday, November 4.



The Akin, Young, Parker, and Martin siblings acolyted together on Sunday, November 10. If your 7th-12th grader is interested in acolyting, contact Acolyte Master Catie Thacker at [Catherine.Thacker@ftnfinancial.com](mailto:Thacker@ftnfinancial.com).