



CALVARY  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

Summer 2018

# CHRONICLE

*making God's love visible in downtown Memphis*

## A community of confession

BY THE REV. SCOTT WALTERS, RECTOR

A recent article I was reading made passing reference to something called “The Museum of Failure.” It had just opened in Sweden. This sounded like my kind of place. So I Googled.

A museum of the same name in Los Angeles was first among the search results. But—I kid you not—the Google listing said it had been closed permanently. I wasn’t sure if the museum’s own failure was its central exhibit or if the leadership really had wanted to make the place work. Soon enough I found the site for the Swedish outpost.

A psychologist named Dr. Samuel West curates the museum. He’s a connoisseur of bad ideas. Among them are products like Colgate frozen beef lasagne, the hula office chair, Harley Davidson perfume, and an electrified plastic mask called Rejuvenique. The advertising materials promised that by shocking your face for 10 minutes each day with your Rejuvenique, you’ll be as beautiful as Linda Evans in no time.

Most of us would rather have our bad ideas and outright failures forgotten. None of us want them to become a curated exhibition.

But one of the first truths the Bible would have us grapple with is how the impulse to cover up our sins and failures is what estranges us from one another and from God. Isn’t that what was going on when Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves for clothes and hid from God when it came time for their daily stroll in the cool of the evening?

**COMMUNITY continued on page 9**

*Photo courtesy of The Museum of Failure.*





## CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

making God's love visible  
in downtown Memphis

102 N. Second St. • Memphis, TN 38103

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IG: [instagram.com/calvarymemphis](https://instagram.com/calvarymemphis)

Parish offices open

Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 8 and 10 a.m.

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The Rev. Amber Carswell Assoc. Rector

The Rev. Paul McLain Assoc. Rector

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The Ven. Mimsy Jones 901-685-6916

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Gabbie Munn (312-5206) Youth Minister

Mary O'Brien (312-5211) Parish Chef

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Cindy Yeager (312-5204) Bookkeeper

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**Calvary has an impressive bell choir that rehearses on Wednesday evenings and plays at the occasional 10 a.m. worship service. To learn more or to join the Calvary Ringers, contact Brad Kroeker, [bradkroeker@gmail.com](mailto:bradkroeker@gmail.com)**





# Gabbie Munn: Youth Director

BY THE REV. SCOTT WALTERS, RECTOR

I'm thrilled to announce that Calvary's new minister to youth is Gabbie Munn. Knowing that Kayla Bartosch would be completing a degree and moving away this year, I asked the vestry to make her replacement full-time. I learned in Little Rock how fruitful it could be when a program built up by a capable part-time minister like Kayla is taken over by someone with additional time and resources to meet young people where they are. We cast our net nationwide in this search. I got in touch with several colleagues who lead Forma, the Episcopal Church's Christian formation network, as well as diocesan leaders and seminary faculty who might help us find the next person. But we found Gabbie only a few hours away in Madison, Mississippi.

Gabbie has been directing the youth ministry program at Chapel of the Cross. She was making plans for medical school last year when she got an unexpected tug to work in the church with young people. She says she suddenly saw her years of work at Camp Bratton-Green and even other college experiences as preparation for something else, and her call to walk with young people in their faith clarified and has only grown since then. Gabbie impressed me immediately. She is smart, personable, and fun. Soon after beginning her work in Madison, she was producing curricula that were being put to use by other ministers across her diocese. She was creative with times and places to connect with young people during the week, not just on Sundays and at Episcopal Youth Community (EYC). But what I've especially taken to heart is what a missionary at the bishop's office told me about Gabbie. She said, "Gabbie is a person of substance. If she'd become a doctor, she'd stand out there as a person of substance and wisdom beyond her years."

God has done great things in the lives of so many of our young people in recent years. I'm so grateful that Gabbie Munn has discerned that Calvary is where she wants to put her gifts to work and live out her Christian vocation in the days to come. Gabbie will begin her ministry at Calvary in August.

## Getting to know Gabbie Munn



**If you didn't have to sleep, what would you do with the extra time?**

Read true crime or see as much live music as possible.

**What fictional place would you most like to go?**

Hogwarts, of course!

**What job would you be terrible at?**

Interior Decorator

**Who's your go-to band or artist when you can't decide on something to listen to?**

The Avett Brothers

**What is your favorite book or movie?**

*Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward

**What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?**

Road trip to a National Park with friends

**Where do you usually go when you have time off?**

Wherever a good band is playing!

**What was the last photo you took?**

Me and my EYC assistant making our "the EYC is acting up" faces



# Calvary Works: Lives Worth Saving

BY MADGE DEACON, LIVES WORTH SAVING VOLUNTEER



*"I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." . . .*

**D**o you know Pat Tia? Pat first came to Calvary through Lives Worth Saving, a monthly program, hosted by Calvary, helping women who have been arrested for prostitution find the community resources that can help them find their new beginnings. Pat told the story of how her life had been lived in a series of truck-stops across the country, and she told of the men she met along the way. She was frequently arrested for commercial sex work and didn't know where to turn until she was invited into a church. Each week people would greet her and ask how her week had been. Their consistent kindness changed her life.

Calvary can be that place for strangers, our neighbors. Often times because of our location people seek refuge within our 186-year-old walls. It is up to each of us to welcome them. How can we most effectively do this? We ask them their names. We invite them to wear a nametag and to join us for a cup of coffee or a glass of water. Each of our neighbors comes to Calvary looking for acceptance and welcome. We might call them by name, tell them we're glad to see them, introduce them to others, and make time to show them, by our actions, they are in God's house, and they are welcome.

Pat Tia's life was saved by parishioners just like you. Since turning her life around, she has earned her bachelor's degree, worked for a time with Claudia Haltom at A Step Ahead Foundation, and is now working on her master's degree and continues to help others through her position with HopeWorks. At Calvary, as the hands of God in downtown Memphis, we welcome our neighbors and let them know God is here in this place.

## Mak Clayton: Calvary's Community Liaison



Have you met Mak Clayton? Mak, who works during the week at the Hospitality Hub, is here each Sunday morning as Calvary's community liaison. Please introduce him to our visitors if they have physical or emotional needs. Mak offers concrete support, recognizes those who are plagued by mental illness, and provides assistance for food or housing.

In the narthex closet (near the rope for the tower bell), there are bags filled with food, a bus pass, and a coupon for a night of shelter for men. You or Mak can offer these resources to anyone in need.

# "I imagine I'll be seeing you down the road"

BY THE REV. PAUL McLAIN

One of the most meaningful experiences I've ever experienced in pastoral care ministry was with a stranger to Calvary. Nina Grice called me to see if I would be willing to visit her and Len's carpenter and longtime friend, Charley. Charley was near the end of a battle with cancer and Nina wanted the two of us to meet to see if I might be a good fit for officiating and preaching his funeral.

I felt a little awkward about this "blind date," but when I arrived in the hospital room, Charley immediately made me feel at ease. He looked up at me, gave me a knowing smile and said, "I know why you're here." Charley then wanted to hear all about my story and check in on how my day was going. After we finished our visit, I offered a prayer, said goodbye, and got up to leave. Charley said, "Come here. I want to give you a hug." He had just met me, yet he embraced me with one of the most memorable hugs of my life with deep and heartfelt love. Charley then looked up at me and said with a sly smile, "I imagine I'll be seeing you down the road."

Not long after our visit, Charley died. Appropriately, it was on the eve of the Feast of Saint Joseph the Carpenter. On the day of his death, an unusual thing happened: a double rainbow appeared over Memphis. Some see the first arc of the rainbow as the material world and the second arc as the spiritual realm. I think of the first arc as the rules we make in our minds that often help us keep things safe and proper, but that are also barriers to meeting a stranger. The second arc is a willingness to let go of our conventions and open ourselves up to deep and meaningful connections with people we've just met.

That day in the hospital, I was stuck in the first arc until Charley made me feel at ease, gave me that hug,

and invited me to join him in the second arc, the place where he was already living.

I officiated and preached Charley's funeral on Holy Saturday right before our Easter Vigil. Holy Saturday is the day when Jesus the carpenter fits and joins together the material and spiritual realms. That night at the Easter Vigil, I told the story of my encounter with Charley and shared these lines from Kermit the Frog's song, "The Rainbow Connection."

"Why are there so many  
Songs about rainbows  
And what's on the other side  
Rainbows are visions  
They're only illusions  
And rainbows have nothing to hide  
So we've been told and some chose to  
Believe it  
But I know they're wrong wait and see  
Someday we'll find it  
The Rainbow Connection  
The lovers, the dreamers and me"

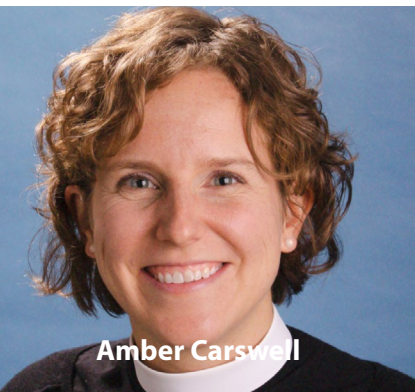
That day in a hospital room with a man I had never met, I got a glimpse of the Rainbow Connection. We see it when we welcome and are welcomed by a stranger. Perhaps it will be a carpenter, who hugs us, gives us a sly smile and says, "I imagine I'll be seeing you down the road."



Paul McLain



# Fall Formation Offerings



Amber Carswell

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." This teaching from Matthew 25 guides much of our conversation here at Calvary, and this year's forum series will be a part of that dialogue. From the Calvary block to the Bible to civil rights and more, come learn along with us about how we might welcome the stranger in our midst.

Forums will run weekly from 11:30-12:15.

## Reception for Founder's Day and Gabbie Munn, Calvary's New Youth Minister

**August 12**

This Sunday, we'll celebrate both the past and future of Calvary by holding a reception for Founders' Day, the annual feast of our church's founding, and for the first Sunday of our new youth minister, Gabbie Munn (see p. 3). Let us eat cake!

## Rector's Forum: Remembering and Responding to April 4, 2018

**August 19**



On April 4, 2018, Calvary held a "Service of Remembrance and Reconciliation" that honored the men, women, and children who were bought and sold on the Calvary block in the mid-1800s, and a new historical marker telling the fuller

truth about our block was unveiled. Calvary has captured the service and unveiling and all that led up to them in a short film that we will watch together. And then we will consider what the power and sacredness of that day call us to in the days to come.

## Rector's Forum: Welcoming the Stranger

**August 26**

Since our Annual Meeting on January 21, Calvary has been reflecting and acting on what it means to welcome the stranger into our midst in all that we do. How does such a focus affect our worship, our outreach, our study, our fellowship, our love of the arts and beauty? How does it affect what kind of neighbor Calvary will be as our neighborhood seems poised for significant growth and change in the years to come? In this Rector's Forum, the Rev. Scott Walters will talk about what a focus on the stranger might call Calvary to do and be this fall, leaving time for your questions and reflections as well.



Scott Walters

## Bristol Choral Residency September 2



Kristin Lensch

This summer, members of the Calvary adult and children's choirs traveled to England and served as choir-in-residence for a week at the historic Bristol Cathedral. Kristin Lensch, organist-choirmaster of Calvary, will give reflections and insights on their travels and the offerings of praise at home and abroad.

## De-Segregating the Church September 9



Dalton Lyon

We all know that during the 1960s civil rights activists staged sit-ins at lunch counters. But did you know that during the same time determined Christians held “kneel-ins” to desegregate all-white churches in the South? Join Stephen Haynes, professor of religious studies at Rhodes College, and

Dalton Lyon, chair of the history department at St. Mary's Episcopal School, as they jointly discuss their respective books on the campaigns to desegregate Sunday morning worship services in Memphis and in Jackson, Mississippi. The stories they tell reveal a bit about how the church has struggled—and perhaps still struggles—to open its doors to all of God's children.

## In Context: The Negro Motorist Green Book and Coming of Age During Jim Crow September 16

Published from 1936-1964, *The Negro Motorist Green Book* directed African-Americans to places of safety during their travels by car, train, or bus. This talk will draw from the memoirs of African-American

Arkansans to contextualize notions of danger and safety from the perspective of their lives as children.

Carmen Lanos Williams is a doctoral candidate in Arkansas State University's Heritage Studies Program. Her dissertation project, tentatively titled “Arkansas in the African-American Imaginary” examines placemaking in the published work of African-American Arkansans and in cultural artifacts depicting coming of age in Arkansas.

It is particularly concerned with how marginalized Arkansans are shaping public perception of Arkansas as both a real and imagined place.



Carmen Williams

## Surveillance and Survival in the 21st Century September 23

We live in an age where much of our national identity is tied to what we believe we've overcome. Our temporal markers include post-civil rights, post-9/11, and post-racial conceptualizations of the world. The tension, however, lies in the reality that marginalized Americans encounter the world differently. Referencing James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*, Ta Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*, and current headlines, this talk by Carmen Williams picks up where the Green Books leave off, by asking how marginal people exist, survive, or thrive in the present age.

## The Book of Ruth: Strangers in the Bible September 30

The Book of Ruth may be one of the shortest books of the Bible at only four chapters long, but it contains abundant insight to the perennial question of the Gospel: who is my neighbor? Join Associate Rector Amber Carswell as she leads this discussion of one of the Bible's most beloved stories.



# Vestry Elections: Sunday, October 28

BY EBET PEEPLES, WELCOME AND COMMUNITY



Identifying candidates to serve on the vestry, the governing board of our parish, is one of the most important tasks of our faith community. Members of the vestry act as agents of the parish in all matters involving parish property and assets and assisting the parish in its planning and in leadership. A candidate for vestry should exhibit personal maturity, broad vision, strategic thinking, deep faith, and a can-do attitude.

Candidates for vestry must meet the following criteria:

- Be a confirmed member of Calvary Episcopal Church
- Be a communicant in good standing (i.e., having received communion at least three times during the preceding year, and having been faithful in corporate worship, in prayer, and in working and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God through Calvary)
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Not have served on the Calvary vestry in the past three years

If you know someone you wish to nominate, or if you feel called to this ministry of leadership, please contact me ([eppeoples@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:eppeoples@calvarymemphis.org) or 901-312-5201) by Monday, Sept. 10. If you wish to nominate someone, you need to find two others with whom to nominate that person, and you need to first be sure to obtain that person's permission. In accordance with Calvary's bylaws, the nomination committee, comprised of 2017 Sr. Warden Fred Piper, and the five third-year vestry members (Chris Bird, Margaret Craddock, Tony Graves, Palmer Jones, and Sarah Squire), will review all names submitted to ensure they meet required criteria.

Five members will be elected on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, to serve a three-year term. The diocesan canons state that each communicant 16 years old or older and in good standing (see #2 above) may vote. There is no requirement that voters be confirmed.



## Guild of the Holy Spirit Theresa S. Hardison Award

By Laurie Monypeny, President, Guild of the Holy Spirit

In 2013, the Guild of the Holy Spirit established the Theresa S. Hardison Award to be given to a deserving graduating high school senior at Calvary Episcopal Church. This award of \$500 is to be given annually to a high school senior in recognition of hard work, dedication, and commitment to Calvary as well as the diocesan Episcopal community.

This year's recipient is Grace Franklin (pictured left with presenter Carter Webster). Grace's participation in all levels of church activity has been truly impressive. Grace has served as an acolyte and acolyte captain, as part of the Happening community, and recently preached along with Mack Bethell on Youth Sunday at Calvary. The Guild of the Holy Spirit is so proud of Grace and wishes her the best in her college career at the University of Memphis.



**COMMUNITY** *continued from page 1*

This year at Calvary we've been looking at our Christian life through the lens of Jesus's words in Matthew 25: "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." By now you may have figured out that I find the presence of strangers throughout the Bible essential to its redeeming good news.

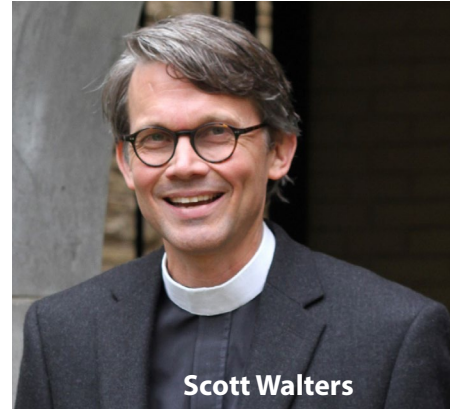
When Jesus comes onto the scene, he seems to seek out strangers and engage them in ways that disrupt the structures and assumptions that keep us estranged from each other. He touches the unclean ones. He eats with notorious sinners and outcasts. He welcomes children and speaks to women as if they are full human beings. He even seems to let one desperate woman from Syria expand his perspective on how vastly inclusive the divine love he embodied really was.

But the definitive moment of reaching across the estrangement that divides us from one another and from God was the cross. Crosses were erected all over the Roman Empire so that criminal failures would be exposed and serve as lessons to anyone else who might defy the emperor's will. But God turned this ultimate exhibition of failure into the ultimate emblem of grace and healing. The strangeness of this gospel remains, regardless of how many times we've heard the story.

As we look to the fall here at Calvary, we'll continue ask what it means to welcome the stranger as if she were Jesus himself. We'll consider what spiritual

practices might help open our lives up along the way. We'll learn about the segregation of Sunday mornings in America and about strangers in the book of Ruth. We'll take note of and celebrate the strangers whose lives are being changed on the Calvary block right now at Grizzlies Prep, the Hospitality Hub, and Calvary Place. And we'll continue to wonder and discern together what Calvary's vocation is as a parish community in downtown Memphis right now, even as our neighborhood seems perched on the brink of great change.

As unappealing as a personal Museum of Failure might be, I find myself more grateful by the year that I live in a loving Community of Confession. And owning my failures in Christian community, by the light of the gospel of grace that's drawn us together is not a terrifying prospect. It's how God begins to set us free from our sins and our pasts. I guess the good news is that if there is one big Museum of Human Failure, God has given every one of us a membership. And when we let go of enough fear and shame to go check it out, we discover that the place (and the party underway) is a first-rate hoot.



**Scott Walters**

## Eucharistic Visitors Training: Sunday, September 9

**C**alvary will offer training on Sunday, Sept. 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Emison Room for all who are interested in the ministry of taking communion to those who are not able to attend worship at Calvary.

This training will also serve as a refresher course for those already engaged in this rewarding ministry. For more details, please contact the Rev. Paul McLain at 901-312-5215 or [pmclain@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:pmclain@calvarymemphis.org).



*photo courtesy of Diocese of Bethlehem*

# Fall Music Events at Calvary

## **Evensong**

**Sunday, Sept. 2 at 5 p.m.**

*also on Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Feb. 3, 2019, March 3, April 7, May 5*

Join us for a traditional Anglican choral liturgy in Calvary's beautiful nave at twilight. Following the *Book of Common Prayer* service outline, Evensong gives weekend travelers an opportunity to worship, or having been to a morning service, it offers a time of prayer and quiet reflection as evening falls.



## **Memphis Ukulele Band** *(a Calvary Friends of Music event)*

**Friday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m.**

On a quiet night at the legendary Sun Studio, three friends and local music veterans decided to form a ukulele band. Fast-forward a couple years and they've added two members, released their first album, and have been heard around the world through tours, festivals, and radio waves. Their ukulele magic exudes pure fun while exploring the genre-bending range of the ukulele, from Hill Country blues to pop, Gospel, folk, and what the band calls "ukulele soul." Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages served. Sponsored by Friends of Music at Calvary. Suggested donation: \$10.



## **VOCES8** *(a Calvary Friends of Music event)*

**Sunday, Nov. 11 at 5 p.m.**

A cappella ensemble VOCES8 tours extensively throughout Europe, North America, and Asia with a repertoire that includes Renaissance music, jazz standards, and recent pop tunes. "Above all, it is the on-stage presence, character and connection with the audience that has made it so successful." (*The Telegraph*). Sponsored by Friends of Music at Calvary, \$25 tickets will be available on [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) beginning Sept. 1. VOCES8 is exclusively represented by Opus 3 Artists.

## **A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m.**

Join us for a traditional candlelight service of Scripture and song inviting you to prepare your heart for the birth of Christ.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 12**

**Sunday**

### **Reception for Founder's Day and Gabbie Munn, Calvary's New Youth Minister**

Sunday, Aug. 12, we'll celebrate both the past and future of Calvary by holding a reception for Founders' Day, the annual feast of our church's founding, and for the first Sunday of our new youth minister, Gabbie Munn. Let us eat cake!

### **Screening of "Whose History?" at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church**

All are invited to a special screening of "Whose History?" an episode of the docu-series *America Divided* on Sunday, Aug. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, 70 N. Bellevue, 38104. "Whose History?" explores how Tennessee and Memphis, in particular, have faced our legacies of racism and white supremacy with a focus on the removal of Confederate monuments and the recognition of lynchings. Calvary's new marker project and Calvary parishioner Tim Huebner are part of this film. The screening is free, but RSVP is required at [facinghistory.org/america-divided-whose-history](http://facinghistory.org/america-divided-whose-history).

### **Summer Room in the Inn**

Calvary is participating in the summer season of Room in the Inn (the second Sunday night of each month, May through September). Due to the lack of emergency shelter for women and the extreme vulnerability of women on the

streets, RITI will host 12-15 women over the summer. Join other Calvary volunteers to make God's love visible to these unsheltered women in our city. Sign up at [calvarymemphis.org/RITI](http://calvarymemphis.org/RITI).

**August 14**

**Tuesday**

### **20s/30s at the Brass Door**

Bring a friend and get to know other young adults of Calvary over drinks and discussions at the local pub. The group meets every second Tuesday at the Brass Door in downtown Memphis. Contact the Rev. Amber Carswell, [acarswell@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:acarswell@calvarymemphis.org), for more information.

**August 26**

**Sunday**

### **Play Date for Ages 1-5 at The Little Gym**

Save the date! Children ages one to five and their parents are invited to a happy hour play date at the Little Gym on Sunday, Aug. 26, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. RSVP to Hilary Chipley, [hchipley@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:hchipley@calvarymemphis.org). The Little Gym is located at 6645 Poplar Ave, Germantown, 38138.

**August 29**

**Wednesday**

### **Bratfest**

Welcome back to Wednesday nights at Calvary! Come from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and enjoy a festive dinner of brats, local beer, and all the fixin's, including vegetarian options, in the Great Hall. Hot dogs and root beer will be available for the kids. \$7/adults, \$3/children 12 & under; \$20/family max.

## WEDDING BELLS

*Bailey Bethell & Collin Fountain on June 16*

*Liz Whited & Carter Wolfe on June 23*

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

*Amanda & Colin Browning*

*Sarah Hunter Simanson & Andrew Fields*

*Kathryn & Jake Jasper*

*Alyce & Tucker Marshburn*

*Eleanore & Barry Maynard*

*Mya Navarro & Michael Nelson*

## SAINTS DEPARTED

*Nancy Hopkins, mother of Katy Piecuch*

*David Jameson, father of Chris Jameson*

*Jane Kobs, friend of Paige Whittle*

*Greg Krosnes, friend of Kell Christie*

*Helen James Long, daughter of Emily & Joel Long*

*Deshun McGee, brother of Devin Veasley*

*The Rev. Donald Edgar Mowery*

*Vicki Person, friend of Kristin Lensch and John Palmer*

*Thomas Ryan Prewitt, Sr.*

*Marion Burton Ridley, friend of Terry Williamson*

*Ann Sharp, friend of Kell Christie*

*Beth Chipley Sohn, aunt of Tom Chipley*

*Debbie Sweeney*

*Carolyn Crocker Vandiver, sister of Linda Spiese*

*Margie Williams, sister of Major Wilson*

*Dick Willingham, brother of Julie Spear*

*Barbara Wilson, mother of Gary Wilson*





# CHRONICLE

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Robyn M. Banks, editor

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Calvary Episcopal Church • making God's love visible in downtown Memphis



**1.** The Calvary Choir offered Evensong Sunday, June 3, at 5 p.m. Those in attendance heard just a few of the pieces the choir will be singing in Bristol, England. **2.** The children at the LAMB Institute in Honduras send their love and gratitude for the t-shirts they received from Calvary this summer. **3.** Calvary was well represented at the annual Feast of St. Columba with over 25 Calvary parishioners present including (top l-r): Sarah Squire, Amber Carswell, Missy Wilkinson (bottom l-r): Robyn Banks and Scott Walters. **4.** The Calvary staff gathered to celebrate Lynda Gayle Deacon, who retired from her positions as music assistant and special events coordinator in July.

