

Make plans to attend the Calvary Block Party
Friday, Oct. 19 from 6:30-9 p.m.



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

October 2018

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

BUILDING

ON

grace

Calvary's Annual Giving Campaign 2019



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis

102 N. Second St. • Memphis, TN 38103

P: 901-525-6602

W: calvarymemphis.org

T: @calvarymemphis

FB: facebook.com/calvarymemphis

IG: 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.

E-mail clergy and staff with initial of first name
followed by full last name@calvarymemphis.org

Example: swalters@calvarymemphis.org

CLERGY

The Rev. Scott Walters Rector

The Rev. Amber Carswell Assoc. Rector

The Rev. Paul McLain Assoc. Rector

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Ven. Mimsy Jones 901-685-6916

VESTRY

Warden's Committee: Margaret Craddock, Sr.
Warden • Peg Wahl, Jr. Warden • Hank Word, At
Large • Hall Gardner, Treasurer • Gail Harrell, Clerk

Sarah Ball • Chris Bird • Madge Deacon • Tony
Graves • Palmer Jones • Kim Kitterman • Heidi
Rupke • Les Smith • Sarah Squire • Edwin Thorpe
• John Webb

PARISH STAFF

Robyn Banks (312-5207) Dir. of Communications

Issiah Carroll (525-6602) Kitchen Assistant

Hilary Chipley (312-5203) Dir. of Children & Families

Fred Goldsmith (525-6602) Information Officer

Kristin Lensch (312-5212) Organist-Choirmaster

Gabbie Munn (312-5206) Youth Minister

Mary O'Brien (312-5211) Parish Chef

Katie Owen (312-5205) Parish Financial Officer

John Palmer (312-5208) Asst. Organist-Choirmaster

Ebet Peebles (312-5201) Welcome & Community

Laurel Reisman (312-5216) Parish Administrator

Helario Reyna (312-5202) Facilities Manager

Gary Thompson (525-6602) Sexton

Christine Todd (312-5214) Comm. Ministries Coord.

Cindy Yeager (312-5204) Bookkeeper

Calvary Episcopal Church

Building on Grace

BY THE REV. SCOTT WALTERS, RECTOR

I recently learned that, in the eyes of estate sale appraisers, a set of encyclopedias is worth approximately nothing. This was disturbing news with grave implications for our children. What will they use to anchor the corners of their blanket forts?

My mother sold just enough *World Book Encyclopedias* to acquire a free set for our family.

And the heavy brown books of uniform size were perfect for the living room shelters we would construct between sofas and coffee tables and dining chairs after we'd arranged them just so.

The impulse to build shelter goes mighty deep. And the materials we choose will dictate much of any project's final form. Stacks of magazines and paperbacks may well work, but the resulting structure won't be the same. Encyclopedias were the closest thing to a foundation our blanket forts had.

Our theme for the annual giving season this year is "Building on Grace." Many elements go into the construction of a Christian community. St. Paul's image of the Church was of a body made up of many different members with different gifts and functions working harmoniously for the purposes of God. If we translate Paul's body into our building metaphor, our varied gifts might be shingles and faucets and 2x4s and electrical wire and copper pipe. For all our differences, we do fit together into something God can use to heal the world.

But, the whole structure of the Church rests on the redeeming work of Jesus, which is the perfect gift of divine grace. Grace is what all of our gifts rest on and arise from. And so grace should determine how we use what we have and how we let it go into the world. If we truly believe our lives find their most profound meaning in a gift, does it make sense to cling to them and to what we have as if our lives depended on holding on tightly?

So, for this year's annual giving gathering we're going to set up a big tent in our parking lot where we'll share a common meal and celebrate what's happening around us on our block. "Building on Grace" is about celebrating what we let go of, like buildings for



Scott Walters

a school for boys who might not have been born into the opportunities many of us enjoy. Like space for a ministry to people trying to move out of homelessness and into stability. Like a center for the nurture and care of young children, and more.

Perhaps the best evidence that a community is built on grace shows up in the lives of people nearby.

We celebrate the fact that our corner has spilled into the lives of others and even into the way buildings on our block have come back to life as a shelter for learning and healing and growth. But we are also looking ahead.

The next five years may bring more change to Calvary's neighborhood than the last 40 have. Currently abandoned buildings may be filled with new neighbors. What will these people see when they look over onto the Calvary block? Will they see signs of welcome and invitation and generosity toward all who pass by us or who come seeking friendship or help? Will they see signs of the beauty that is woven so deeply into our worship life?

I believe they will. But what we become tomorrow will be the result of what we give of ourselves today.

Since the earliest moments of scripture, the common life of Christians and Jews has been supported by each of us giving a portion of what we have for the common good. The tithe was just that. The first tenth was given back. It didn't matter whether you had a little or a lot. An honest portion was all that was asked. And the community whose life these tithes supported was then expected to give generously of itself as well. The alien and the foreigner and all sorts of strangers were to find welcome because a community built on grace can't help but send grace into other lives.

Whoever you are and whatever you have, I hope you see yourself as part of the miracle of grace that is Calvary Episcopal Church. I hope you will look at the way our life together as Calvary spills out into other lives in Memphis and beyond. And I hope that you will be inspired to live the same way, giving a

portion of what you've been blessed with for the sake of the community that feeds you and sustains you and challenges you to live more fully into the truth that grace really is what we all depend on ultimately.

I hope everyone, truly everyone who takes part in Calvary's shared life, feels included enough to contribute. If it helps, maybe imagine your tithe, or whatever your faithful portion might be, as a single encyclopedia volume, stacked among many others, but holding down a corner of the shelter we all need as much as our neighbors do. That shelter is an expression of the gift that everything in our lives rests so firmly upon.

Will you take part in this building project of God's work in the world whose foundation is nothing more, but nothing less, than grace?



YOU'RE INVITED TO A

— Calvary Episcopal Church —

BLOCK PARTY

6:30-9 p.m.

Friday, October 19TH | 102 N. 2ND ST.
VALET PARKING FROM ADAMS

RSVP TO RSVP@CALVARYMEMPHIS.ORG

**FALL SUPPER • BEER, WINE, SOFT DRINKS
• SPARKLERS IN THE PARK • ANNUAL
GIVING KICKOFF • CASUAL DRESS**

— Host Committee —

Ken Clark • Margaret & Bill Craddock • Madge & Whit Deacon
• Nicky & Chris Hitching • Kim & Jeff Kitterman • Margaret & Alec McLean • Jill & Fred Piper • Sarah Squire • Peg & Dan Wahl
• Clay Woemmel & Brooks Terry • Anna Kathryn & Hank Word

Because alcohol will be served, this event is for adults only.

What are you building?

BY JILL PIPER, ANNUAL GIVING CHAIR



About ten years ago, an idea for an adult education class was burning a hole in my brain. *Wicked*, the musical about Oz from the witch's point of view, had started it. Transfixed by its twin themes of differentness and destiny, soon I had a whole series of other

musicals with big spiritual themes, including *South Pacific*, *Les Miserables* and *Into the Woods*. I pitched the idea to George Yandell, who was our associate rector then.

Having no teaching experience and no credentials, I was expecting a waiting period. Instead, George said, "Let's put it on the schedule." That's when I began to backpedal in earnest.

"But what if I give a class and nobody comes?"

George fixed me in his gaze and said, "That is one of the possible outcomes." Pause. "And that is why personal growth feels so risky."

#####

Time travel back to 1840, when Memphis was a "primitive and pestilential mudhole."* Calvary has 31 parishioners who meet in a small, rough-hewn chapel. Under the leadership of her third rector, Phillip Alston, Calvary begins to outgrow its little frontier home.

Memphis is a rowdy, lawless river port just a couple of decades established. East and west, the streets have been laid out in the order of the presidents (Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Monroe, Madison) and on the north-south axis, River (now Front) Street, Main, Second, Third and so on. Despite

epidemics of dengue fever, malaria, and dysentery, civilization comes to the Fourth Chickasaw Bluff in fits and starts. The turning point came with the Flatboatmen's War in 1842, when an armed militia and vigilantes roused the rough, transient boatmen who brought fighting and drunkenness to Memphis. Alston has drawn the plans for a permanent Calvary soon after his arrival in 1839, but he cannot begin building until 1842. Nevertheless, in 1841, he orders the bell for the bell tower before it's even clear Memphis will survive as a city.

I have often wondered if Phillip Alston thought, "What if I order this crazy expensive custom bell from Philadelphia and this city fails?"

Parishioners liked him, according to the *Great Book of Calvary*, for his "perfect simplicity, his retiring modesty, and his ingenuous humility."

Humble people have moments of doubt, right?

But I always think of this story about the bell whenever I hear it rung: at every call to worship, every Easter, every Christmas.

I imagine it was rung at the end of the Civil War.

And on Armistice Day, November 11, 1918.

And V-E Day, May 8, 1945.

And V-J Day, September 2, 1945.

And on April 4, 2018, Remembrance and Reconciliation Day.

#####

Grace brought me to Calvary Church as a bride in 1986. It must have been God's plan to introduce me to this remarkable community because my plan was distinctly secular until I met this young man who came here on Sunday mornings.

Looking back, I see myself living out different stages of faith in this old building: dubious young adult; then earnest wife and worker; overwhelmed parent; Waffle Shop wipeout (I am a food service failure); library window dresser; joiner of committees; and hostess of meetings & Easter egg hunts. A nudge that came from both within me and without me brought me into the Emison Room to teach a few adult classes about poetry and plays, and now that same sense of calling has swept me into another annual giving season.

Without my husband's discipline and example, I'd probably be a "Chreaster," a word I learned from a college girl from Scranton. ("We're Chreasters," she explained. "We only go to church on Christmas and Easter.") I'd probably put \$5 in the alms basin a couple of times a year and not think about it. But 32 years since I walked through the door, my calendar—and my heart—revolve around Calvary.

We have built a life here, and when it's your home, part of the deal is you keep it up.

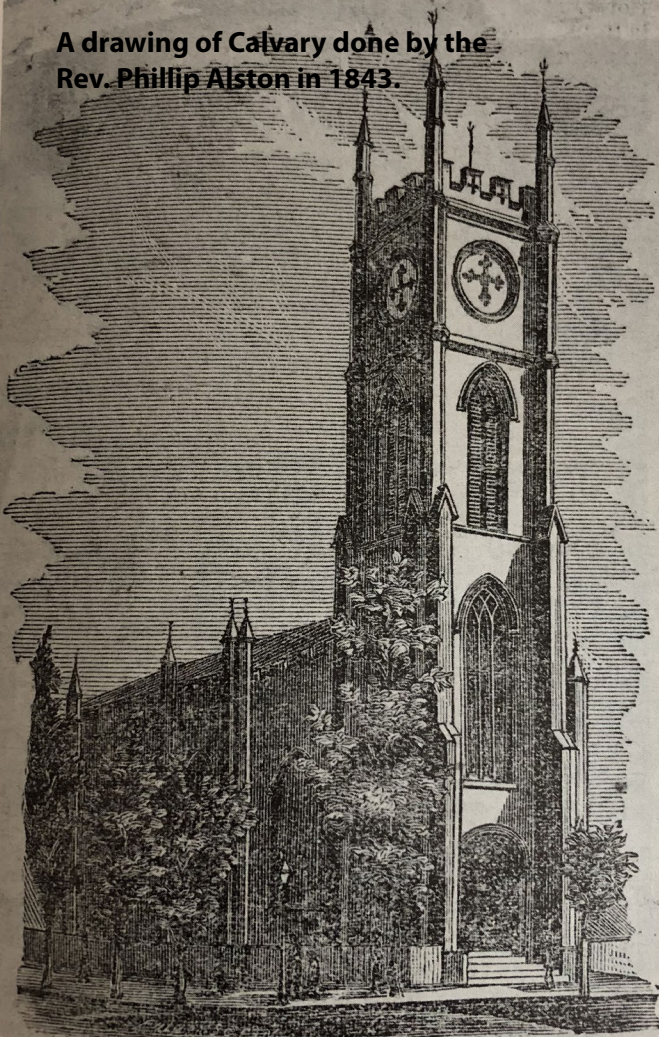
I'm partially quoting a speaker I heard last year, but I have come to believe that it is both my privilege and my obligation to furnish the household of God. Jesus, who knew something about building, said, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?" (Luke 14:28)

Phillip Alston planned for a bell tower. In the last few weeks, a bunch of us have planned a block party. I hope you'll come to it on Friday, Oct. 19, and hear more about the past, present, and future of the Calvary Block.

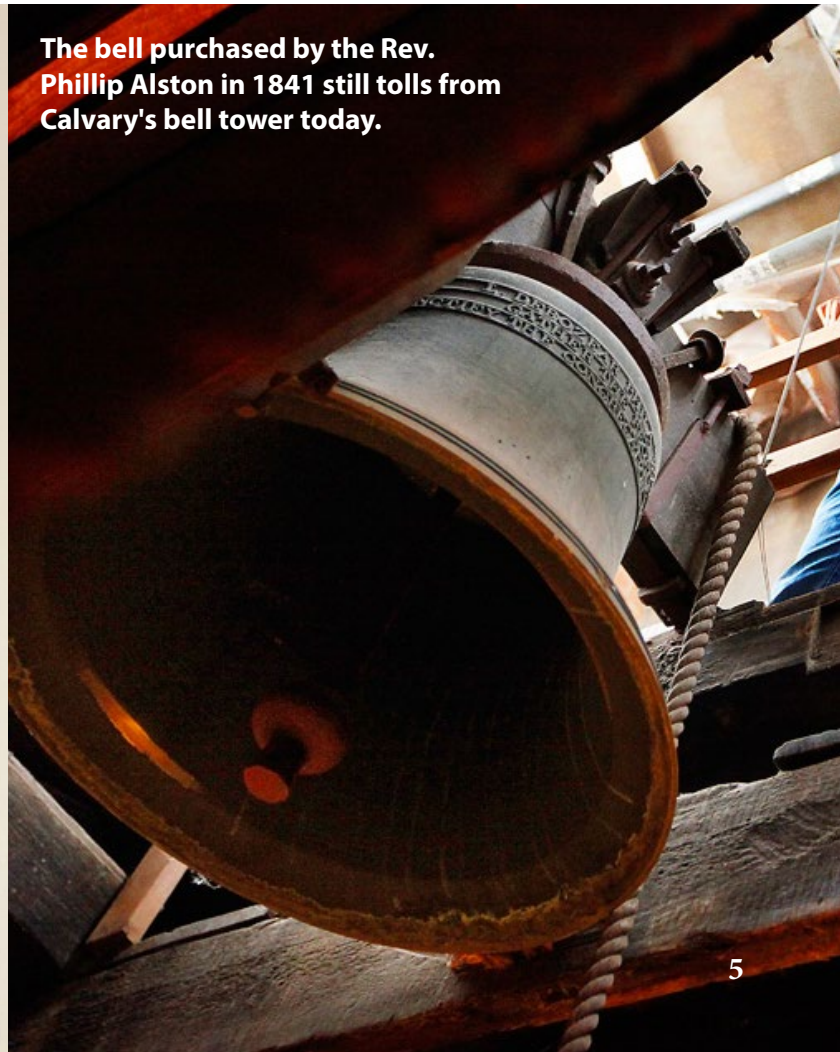
What are you building at 102 N. Second?

**From Metropolis of the American Nile, 1982, by John E. Harkins.*

A drawing of Calvary done by the Rev. Phillip Alston in 1843.



The bell purchased by the Rev. Phillip Alston in 1841 still tolls from Calvary's bell tower today.



Building the Calvary congregation and block

BY MARGARET CRADDOCK, SENIOR WARDEN

May 1819 – Plan of Memphis is established and the first lot is sold

August 1832 – Ten communicants under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Wright begin meeting in a log schoolhouse in Court Square



1838 – Calvary, led by the Rev. George Weller, purchases Lot 265 on Second St., north of Adams, for \$600, and constructs a frame building for worship

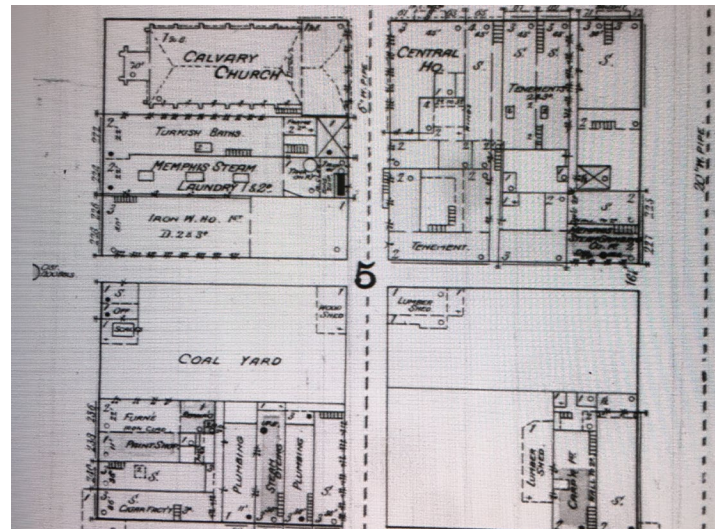


1839 – The Rev. Phillip Alston purchases Lots 339 and 340 where the church is today for a total of \$4,000

1844 – The sanctuary, as designed by Phillip Alston and constructed for \$9,000, is consecrated

1839-1971 – Lot 340 is subdivided and transferred to various owners and lenders before all of it finally comes back to Calvary again in 1971. Over the years its three parcels are owned by lender/hotelier John Gaston who rented to a Turkish Bath operator; the second wife of the Rev. Alston who sold 45 feet to Congregation Beth El Emeth; and John Manogue who operated a foundry on the lot that became Pidgeon Thomas Iron Company which later sold its property to Goodwill Industries.

The Calvary Block in 1887



1893 – The Calvary Parish House association buys back the parcel on the south side of the sanctuary for \$15,000 from John Gaston and builds the Parish House for \$22,000

1907 – Calvary has a gymnasium for men and boys in the back of the Parish House; members come to worship in a neighborhood with a steam laundry, flats, an office of plumbers & electricians, The Pidgeon-Thomas Iron Company, a wholesale druggist, and boarding houses

1920s and 1930s – Calvary grows as a congregation of active ministries under the leadership of the Rev.

Dr. Blaisdell. He begins Christian Social Services to support working mothers with a nursery, a clinic and a clothes closet. An employment bureau is added along with ministries to the jails. And we can credit him with Lenten Preaching, Waffle Shop and the Calvary Endowment.



1938 – Federal Reserve Bank, now Grizzlies Prep Charter School, built at corner of Jefferson and Third

1951 – Calvary starts the first Boys Club in Memphis

1950s – The Bride's Walk is added to connect the Parish House to the church; a small prayer room with its own door is added on the NW corner of the church. A sign on the door invites people in: "You are always welcome to pray and rest here."

1961 – The stucco that covered the church is removed after a chunk of it falls on a policeman's car in the middle of the night causing "severe damage" of \$150

Mid-1960s – 100 N. Main is built

1971 – Calvary purchases the Goodwill building, south of the church, and razes it; construction workers find evidence of the old iron works

1990 – Calvary purchases the property at 80, 82 and 84 Jefferson for the Calvary Street Ministry.



1991 – The education building is constructed on the former Goodwill site

1993 – Calvary Place Childcare Center opens

1997 – Calvary purchases the Federal Reserve Bank; several charter schools lease the building

Late 90s – Additional parcels are purchased from businessmen to be used for parking

2012 – Grizzlies Prep Charter School opens

2016 – Property for new Grizzlies Prep building is purchased from the Botto family and the building is renovated for a 5th grade class

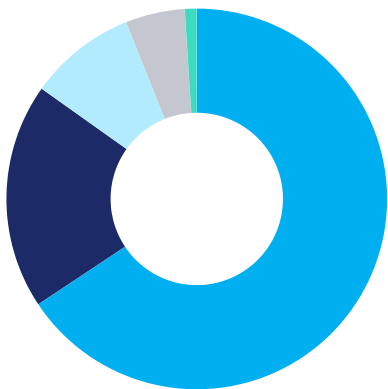
2018 – Columbus Park is purchased from the city

2018 and beyond – The downtown landscape is changing; millions of dollars are being invested in the neighborhood; hotels, offices, and apartments will bring more people; Bird Scooters and bikes are eliminating the need for cars for some; there is tremendous activity and Calvary will connect with a changed neighborhood

Building Calvary Together

Where does the money come from?

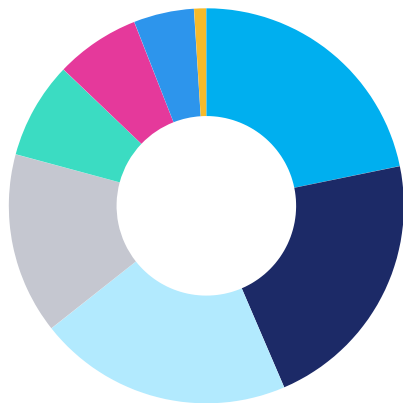
As the largest source of Calvary's income, your pledges guide the vestry in setting the budget for the coming year. Programming, outreach, staffing and even building maintenance projects are all planned based on your pledges. Other sources of income include support from Calvary's endowment, rental income from the parking lot and Calvary Place, the offering plate, and kitchen and event income. Please turn in your pledge card by Sunday, Nov. 18 so we can get to work visioning and budgeting for 2019!



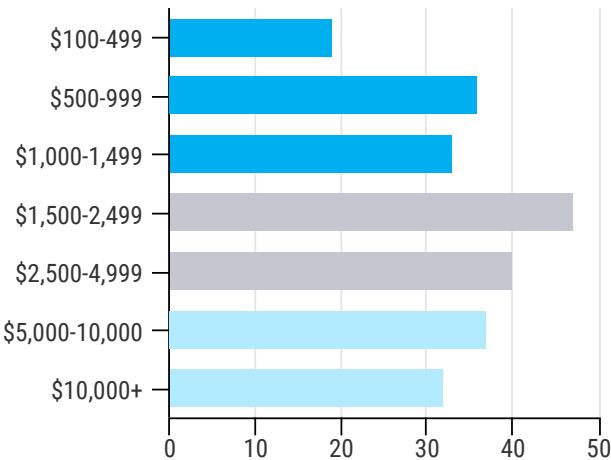
Pledge Income Endowment Income
Parking Lot & Daycare Rent Offering Plate/Non-Pledged Gifts
Kitchen/Other

Where does the money go?

In addition to the growing missions and ministries of Calvary, we've been able to fund some meaningful improvements to our building and block over the last five years including: an almost complete overhaul of our HVAC systems (Did you know we have more than 30?); the purchase and renovation of the new Grizzlies Prep 5th Grade classrooms; the purchase of Columbus Park; refurbishment of the Great Hall and Bride's Walk; new floors in the 2nd floor classrooms and more. Stay tuned for the next big project, a comprehensive and much-needed refurbishment of the Nave front doors.



Worship and Pastoral Care Buildings and Grounds
Administration Outreach, LPS, and Diocesan Support
Music Children, Youth, and Adult Formation
Food & Fellowship New Website and Branding



2018 Pledge Distribution
Every pledge at Calvary counts.

Total \$ Pledged	\$1,363,066
Total Pledges	241
New Pledges	21
Average New Pledge	\$1,685
Increased Pledges	79
Unchanged Pledges	110
Average Pledge	\$4,544
Median Pledge	\$2,100

2018 Annual Giving Summary

Building up students at Grizzlies Prep

BY SAWYER SCHAFBUCH, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT AT GRIZZLIES PREP CHARTER SCHOOL

Seven years in operation and Grizzlies Prep continues our mission to equip young men to lead successful lives through an excellent academic foundation, social and emotional development, and access to amazing opportunities. This also marks the seventh year of our partnership with Calvary Episcopal Church as you have both physically and emotionally provided for our young men.

Between the old federal reserve building and the newly renovated 5th-grade building, 350 young men are being served downtown on a daily basis. These students, predominantly young men of color, represent over 15 zip codes across Memphis. Together we create classrooms that are safe, structured, and a proven environment to grow as Grizzlies Prep has once again been named a TVAAS (Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System) level 5 school (the highest possible)

for student growth. The renovated fifth-grade space is warm, inviting, and joyful. It has been great to make room for these younger students and their families.

The Calvary community has not only invested in Grizzlies Prep's physical buildings, but they also have been investing in our young men through mentoring. We have over 100 mentors partnering with students on a weekly basis, many of these from Calvary. These mentors are great listeners, cheerleaders, and shepherds.

We look forward to what will happen in the lives of our young men this year. Thank you, Calvary, for your continual support.

If you are interested in getting involved, email mentor@grizzliesprep.org.

Mentor, Casey Beck, spending some quality time with her lunch buddies Travyon and David.



Finding Grace

BY HEIDI RUPKE

My first passport arrived when I was 20, just in time to send me to the Netherlands for a three-week theology course. Leaving the cornfields of Iowa for the canals of Amsterdam was like landing in Oz. There, even ordinary tasks like grocery shopping became dazzling and sometimes overwhelming. Everyone was so tall! And I was suddenly illiterate! More than a few times that trip, I got lost. Back in those days, I had to depend on paper maps, landmark recognition, luck, and the kindness of strangers to get around a new city.

The kindness of strangers has followed me over the ensuing decades. As I explored the Netherlands and several other countries and continents, the thrill of new people and places did not fade. There was the time I ended up at the home of a fellow teacher in China, celebrating Chinese New Year. Neither of us could really speak the other's language, but we communed over a savory goat stew. Or the time that an older couple invited us to go bush-walking with them after we had twice visited their church in Canberra, Australia. Chris and Geoff then accompanied us to a nature preserve, pointing out all of the bird species we encountered there. Both times, the hospitality of my hosts transformed the new spaces into something beautiful and interesting, rather than strange and forbidding. After a few minutes in their company, I didn't feel lost.

I wonder about those who drift through Calvary's doors.

Some come for the program Lives Worth Saving. On the second Thursday of each month, women who have been picked up for prostitution commune over a delicious lunch made by Parish Chef Mary O'Brien and receive information about local resource centers. (A kind of paper map, if you will.) Participants take away gift bags of hygiene items and a clean arrest record.

Other people wander into Calvary for Community Breakfast: a hot meal, a prayer, and a visit to the clothes closet. Coordinator Mary Nease says, "Each week I am reminded of how grateful people in need can be for the smallest thing—tennis shoes that fit, a hug, remembering a person's name, an extra package of jelly, etc. And each week I get to spend time with an amazing group of volunteers who show up very early every Sunday to

cook and serve and clean and show that they care." Strangers and friends, lost and found.

Room in the Inn is another way into Calvary. Each Sunday evening, 12-15 guests who are experiencing homelessness receive shelter and a warm meal. Volunteers make beds with clean sheets, drive a van, cook a side dish. Sometimes parishioners and guests play board games together or watch football. Sometimes they chat together about lost things: estranged family members, past jobs, old hopes.

Jesus told stories about coins, sheep, and sons that left the fold. Each lost one was part of a family or group. Each one had a place and worth to God, the ultimate seeker. Some wandered back on their own; others were dramatically rescued. Orson Welles said, "If you want a happy ending, that depends, of course, on where you stop your story." Jesus's stories end with the finding, but I tend to think that those lost ones probably went missing a few more times after their triumphant returns. At least, that's how it works in my life.

I have also been lost at Calvary. There was the time that I found out I was unexpectedly pregnant, and one unsuspecting parishioner congratulated me in the Great Hall. I snapped that this pregnancy really hadn't been my plan and I wasn't happy about it. She replied evenly that the church was here to help me and that my baby was already loved and welcome. And oh, she was right! Or there was the time I had to trade in a long-anticipated trip to Australia for an emergency jaunt to Baptist Hospital. As my passport sat in a drawer, I learned the new languages of disease and convalescence. All the while, people at Calvary stood ready to remind me that I belong to this place and these people. They brought meals and cards, ran errands, and watched my children over months of recovery. My name was added to the Prayers of the People. Through love and hospitality, healing and time, I found my way home again. May we all be so welcoming and so welcomed.



Heidi Rupke

Building spaces that welcome

BY TOMMY PACELLO



Tommy Pacello

My wife Olivia Wilmot and I joined Calvary about three years ago. As recovering skeptics of organized religion, we chose Calvary and the Episcopal tradition because at the core of both is feeding the hungry and clothing

the naked; in essence, caring for and welcoming our neighbors without judgment, both friends and strangers alike. A value that we strive to carry into our personal and professional lives.

As our understanding and appreciation of Calvary has grown, so has our family. Olivia and I are now raising our 15-month-old daughter Colette at Calvary and Calvary Place. This notion of inclusion and welcoming the stranger is something that continues to resonate with us. We have seen it first-hand as new members to Calvary and now as new parents. In both cases finding ourselves clueless to established norms and traditions.

How you welcome someone is a critical part of making a great first impression. At Calvary, Olivia and I were met by a priest who had empathy for our past experiences and a congregation that shared many of our values, were kind, and welcoming.

I'm trained as a city planner. I spend most of my waking hours thinking about cities, studying what makes some successful and others less so. A consistent factor that makes places (cities, neighborhoods, or buildings) successful and liveable is how they make people feel. Are they hostile or inviting? A chain link fence with razor wire on top sends an entirely different message than a landscaped garden. One is defensive and the other welcoming. The point is that how we design our places matters. This is true at the city level, but also at the block and building level.

If you walk in the back door of Calvary, there is a brass plaque that says "All are welcome." Well, what about our front door? What about the edges of our block? What about our parking lot and the condition of the sidewalks, and the spaces between the buildings? What messages do these places send? Are they welcoming? Do they help us achieve our mission of "making God's love visible in downtown Memphis?"

I love that all are welcome at Calvary. That is a large part of why Olivia and I choose to be here. My question is what are the small things we can do tomorrow to our buildings and block that broadcast this message to our neighbors? Likewise, what are the more substantial physical improvements that can be put into motion that will enhance our ability to be a witness of God's love to our neighbors?

It is exciting to think about Calvary taking our piece of Memphis and making an intentional and meaningful effort to make it as welcoming to all as possible. The annual giving campaign is when each of us has the opportunity to invest our resources to accomplish this. If we all invest in Calvary, and thereby our block and our city, then God's love will become even more visible in downtown Memphis.



Grace at Calvary

1. Calvary's triptych window, depicting the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is a focal point of worship at Calvary.

2. At Calvary's Community Breakfast, over 200 poor and unsheltered neighbors are served a hot breakfast each Sunday morning.

3. The 8 a.m. worship service at Calvary offers worshippers a quieter, more intimate setting.

4. Parish Chef Mary O'Brien, along with John Young and Debbie Kinard, serve eggs, bacon, cheese grits, and homemade biscuits during the Parish Breakfast, offered each Sunday from 8:45-9:45 a.m.

5. Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch, who oversees the vibrant music program at Calvary, accompanies the choir and congregation at the 10 a.m. worship service.

6. Calvary's acolytes are instrumental in helping our services run smoothly and leading our processions.

7. Maddie, a member of the Calvary Choir and one of our youth, recently led the setting of the psalm at our 10 a.m. worship service.

8. Marilla, pictured with Rector Scott Walters, reads the lesson during Children's Chapel, an opportunity for children to experience the "Liturgy of the Word" in an easy-to-understand, story format, offered during the 10 a.m. worship service.





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9. In addition to leading the worship procession, Calvary's acolytes carry the crosses, torches, flags, and banner and assist with communion.

10. Paul McLain, one of Calvary's associate rectors, listens to the sermon during a 10 a.m. worship service.

11. Cristina Pinkham, one of our Godly Play teachers, hugs a former student on her way back from communion.

12. The Calvary Choir, which currently has 31 singers, leads the 10 a.m. worship service each Sunday as well as Evensong at 5 p.m. the first Sunday of the month.

13. Calvary's 10 a.m. worship service uses more contemporary language and attracts a congregation that includes many families with young children .

14. Audrey Gonzalez, pictured with Rector Scott Walters, is an associate priest at Calvary and can be found here most Sundays celebrating the Eucharist or assisting with communion.

15. Phoebe explores arts and crafts during Godly Play.

16. Beau and Semmes act out the Bible story they just heard in Godly Play with one of their teachers, Karyn Bondi.

17. Jackson and Charlie discuss possible answers during the senior high formation class.

18. Associate Rector Amber Carswell teaches about the Book of Common Prayer in the senior high formation class.

Grace in Community

BY NINA SUBLETTE



Nina Sublette

When I was a little girl, my beliefs about church were formed through my day-to-day experiences. I went to church and school at the same place. The rector and his wife were close friends with my parents, and the rector's youngest child was in my class. To me, church was a second home and part of

what made me, me. It was there that I first felt comfort in times of loss and sorrow.

When I went away to college, my mother encouraged me to go to the local Episcopal church—and I did a few times—but I was more interested in college activities. When I came home from college on breaks, I returned to “my church”—the church I knew and loved. I was back with familiar faces and families I had known my entire life. Then the rector was called to another church in another state. They relocated while I was in college, and when I returned home after graduation, everything was different. Someone who knew every bit of my spiritual being was no longer there. It wasn't my church any longer. I equated church with the rector.

I visited a few other churches but never felt a connection—until a friend introduced me to Calvary. I started attending—not regularly, but seasonally (my mother called me a Holly Lily Episcopalian). I kept going, dropping in, but never really making any connections. As the decades passed, I experienced some of the most challenging times of my life. And I felt comfort at Calvary. I felt close to God at Calvary. I needed Calvary. But I was a perimeter parishioner. It felt like Calvary didn't need me. Calvary was a booming congregation with dynamic leaders, established families, relationships, and history.

Then Calvary went through a similar change in leadership that I feared would impact my feelings about church. There was a period of substitutes, interim, and temporary priests. This was also a period when I was lured to other churches because they had a dynamic rector. Yet I stayed at Calvary. By this point, I had learned that a church was not a

building or a rector. A church was more. A church has the power to celebrate and comfort those in need. A church is a community of people that gather together to support one another as we all try to walk in love as Christ loved us. The longer I was here, the more Calvary became my home. Some of the most beautiful and miraculous things have happened in my life while I have been at Calvary. Some of the worst things have also occurred in my life while I have been at Calvary. It was through both of these glorious and devastating periods of my life that I discovered the meaning of church.

I have never felt closer to God than I do now. I cherish that Calvary welcomed my partner with open arms. I adore that my daughter was baptized at Calvary and she sees her godparents every Sunday at church. She still runs up to Miss Robbie in the nursery to give her a hug even though it's been years since she was in diapers. She learned her first prayers at Calvary and has gone to camp with Calvary families. She sings in the choir and adores Sunday school and EpiscoPals on Wednesday evenings. She feels at home at Calvary, and that warms my heart in a way I never thought was possible. We have been wrapped in a type of love and support that is indescribable at Calvary.

Groups of people came together to support me when I needed it the most. Some I did not know well at all, but that has led to the establishment of deep and meaningful connections. People I did not even know prayed for me. A kind, anonymous soul offered to pay my fees to attend a retreat during a time of financial and emotional turmoil. That is church. When I have received so much, it often seems impossible to be able to put a value on that type of love and support. But the lesson I have learned is that when you give from your heart, you receive more than you could ever imagine. When you give some when you have little, the return is not equal; it is immeasurable. The peace and love that surround Calvary have guided me to this point in my life, and I find myself happy and grateful. Grateful for hardship and loss, grateful for new beginnings, grateful for the opportunity to see God in the eyes of people I encounter every day.

I am so grateful that my journey has led me to Calvary. A church is not a building or a rector. A church is God's love—and that love is present in the community of Calvary Episcopal Church.

Upcoming Events

October 6
Saturday

Blessing of the Animals

Calvary offers its annual Blessing of the Animals in Court Square Park, 62 N. Main St. downtown, beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6. Free hot dogs, drinks, and a cool down doggie pool will be offered. If you had a beloved creature you would like to be remembered in a special prayer for deceased pets, e-mail the name to Clay Woemmel, cwoemmel@gmail.com, by Thursday, Oct. 4. Come join us for a festive afternoon of giving thanks for all God's creatures great and small!

October 7
Sunday

Evensong

Join us for a traditional Anglican choral liturgy in Calvary's beautiful nave at twilight, Sunday, Oct. 7. 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. The service begins at 5 p.m. and childcare for children under five years old is available.

October 9
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 Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 6:30 p.m. The group meets every second Tuesday at the Brass Door in downtown Memphis.

October 14
Sunday

Soup Sunday

Purchase Portuguese kale (with sausage and potatoes) and vegetarian Cinderella (pumpkin) soups for \$5/pint and \$10/quart at the Information Desk on the first floor Sunday, Oct. 14. All money raised from the sale of soup supports Calvary's Community Breakfast, a ministry that serves a hot breakfast to our homeless and poor neighbors every Sunday. Soup will be prepared during two shifts in the Calvary kitchen Saturday, Oct. 13. Contact Debbie Kinard, dkkinard@bellsouth.net, for more information.

October 19
Friday

Calvary Block Party

Come to Calvary Friday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. for a fall supper, light entertainment and a side dish of annual giving philosophy with the Rev. Scott Walters. Rain or Shine!

October 27
Saturday

Monster Mash

Join us for an evening of Monster Mash, Calvary's Halloween Party on Saturday night, Oct. 27 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ghoulish Great Hall! All ages are invited to this fun party! There will be music, dancing, games, and a photo booth. Adults are encouraged and welcome to attend in costume and pass out candy to trick-or-treaters!

Great Expectations

Jessica & Mike Flynn

Rachael & Sheldon Ruud

New Life

Charlotte Catherine Browning,

daughter of Amanda & Colin Browning

Addison Mackenzie Fields,

daughter of Sarah Hunter Simanson & Andrew Fields

Kate Barnes Jasper, daughter of Kathryn & Jake Jasper

Vayda Rose Marshburn,

daughter of Alyce & Tucker Marshburn

Barry Walker Maynard,

son of Eleanore & Barry Maynard

Jade Pham Nelson,

daughter of Mya Navarro & Michael Nelson

Jeremiah Solomon Yeager, grandson of Cindy Yeager

Saints Departed

Bill Banks, father of Bill Banks

Freddie B. Bean, uncle of Mak Clayton

Frederick W. Canner, friend of Laurence Ritter

Chelsea, friend of Ruthie McLain

Don Dowling, father-in-law of Marie Madden Dowling

Rose Fraser, grandmother of Brad Thompson

Richard C. Harvey, nephew of Al Harvey

Norma Holmes, aunt of Fred Piper

Ed Meslis, uncle of Gaby Moorefield

Angelina Nocifora, sister of Peter Nocifora

Jeff Ratcliff, friend of Paul McLain

George Wynn Smith, Jr.

John Tate, husband of Gwin Tate

Fred Walters, brother of Jim Walters and uncle of Scott Walters

Jimmy Wiggins, uncle of Stephanie Burch



CHRONICLE

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

VOCES8: Sunday, November 11 at 5 pm Calvary Episcopal Church

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 are available on eventbrite.com. VOCES8 is exclusively represented by Opus 3 Artists.

VOCES8

