



CALVARY  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

Fall 2020







making God's love visible  
in downtown Memphis

PARISH OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
6 p.m. Evening Prayer (in the Madison Ave. Pocket Park)  
5 p.m. Evensong first Sundays, Sept.-May

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

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf  
*Bishop of the Diocese of West  
Tennessee*

The Rev. Amber Carswell  
*Associate Rector*

The Rev. Audrey Gonzalez  
*Assisting Priest*

The Rev. Scott Walters  
*Rector*

The Rev. Paul McLain  
*Associate Rector*

VESTRY

Kim Kitterman  
*Sr. Warden*

Lisa Buckner  
*At-Large*

John Owen

James Aldinger  
*Jr. Warden*

Madge Deacon

Heidi Rupke

Julie Bethell  
*Clerk*

Bailey Bethell Fountain

Ginny Strubing

Tony Graves  
*Treasurer*

Will Hayley

Edwin Thorpe

Kathryn Jasper

Laura Trott

Nancy Manire

John Webb

Anna Kathryn Word

STAFF

Robyn Banks  
*Director of Communications*

Mary O'Brien  
*Parish Chef*

Jess Steenberger  
*Minister to Children and  
Families*

Fred Goldsmith  
*Information Officer*

Ebet Peeples  
*Director of Welcome &  
Community*

Christine Todd  
*Community Ministries  
Coordinator*

Kristin Lensch  
*Organist-Choirmaster*

Helario Reyna  
*Facilities Manager*

Cindy Yeager  
*Bookkeeper*

Gabbie Munn  
*Director of Youth Ministries*

Steve Smith  
*Director of Finance &  
Operations*



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FROM THE  
EDITOR

When the world abruptly paused in mid-March, I was in the process of putting together the next issue of the *Chronicle*. Like much of the world, I pivoted my energy into online communications. I learned more about cameras, cords, and streaming software than I thought possible in a short period of time. And thanks to the talents and knowledge of Noah Glenn and Bernie Bernil, our Sunday livestreams are helping us stay connected. We've learned a lot about Facebook Live streams as we've done Morning Prayer, Compline, and recently Early Morning Prayers every weekday. And I am so grateful for all of this technology. Seeing names and faces pop up in livestream feeds during the week and on Sundays brings such joy. However, there is something about the *Chronicle*, something about seeing stories and pictures come to life on these pages that brings a different kind of joy. I've always said that my favorite part of my job is getting to share Calvary's story. I hope within these pages you will find stories that resonate and inspire. And I hope that if you have a Calvary story to share (and we all do) that you will send it to me to include in a future issue.

*Robyn M. Banks*



# FINDING CONNECTION

by the Rev. Scott Walters, Rector

Years ago, I helped our friend Ben build a labyrinth near the creek that ran along his blueberry patch. Labyrinths hadn't quite come back into vogue. At least not in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. We imagined drivers-by mistaking it for a UFO crop circle or the site of some dark, satanic ritual.

What actually happened was that each Sunday, at our beloved little Grace Episcopal Church, Ben would stand up during the announcements and let the congregation know the time for Friday Evening Prayer at his labyrinth. He had to announce the time each week, not because we were forgetful, but because prayers were at sundown. So, Ben would consult his Farmer's Almanac for sunset and remind us to get there about 20 minutes early so we could arrive at the labyrinth's center for prayers right...you know...on time.

Of the sabbath, Abraham Joshua Heschel once wrote, "There is a realm of time where the goal is not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord." Those Friday

prayers really did seem to be a way of bringing us into accord with one another in prayer. But they also reminded us each week that we're all riding a spinning orb around the sun together, through days and nights, through moon phases and seasons and years. You might say our life in space and our life in time felt a little more aligned.

The half lap around the sun we've just taken together brought previously unimaginable changes to the way we live together in space. Being able to talk on the phone, send text messages and emails, livestream, and even, God help us, Zoom have all been necessary means of connection. And I've been astonished at the creativity that the members and staff of Calvary have shown in adapting the essence of who God has called us to be for a time of physical separation. And, in the midst of pain and loss and loneliness that we can't forget or deny, there has also been growth, new relationships, fuller life.

One beautiful example is described in Jill Piper's wonderful piece about "Basement Church." Go

read her telling of how our Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet ministries got reimagined nearly overnight. But within that story you'll find a host of long-time ministry leaders who welcomed new people and new ideas when the ways we've been serving people for years suddenly had to change or come entirely to a halt.

What does this have to do with sabbath keeping? Well, if even the essential Christian practices of mercy and justice were held onto as personal possessions or if past practices had been defended as private territories (make no mistake, friends, this is quite possible), our ministries would have come to a halt. But insofar as we dwell in a realm where the goal is "not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord" then we are alive and awake enough to ask what God is calling us to in the present moment, no matter how strange and difficult it might be.

But now, even as I write, the present moment bears yet another surprise. I'm stunned and thrilled to tell you here

that Calvary has just received a grant of more than \$250,000 from the Tennessee Community Cares Program for pandemic assistance for our most vulnerable neighbors. This is one of, if not the, largest grants Calvary has ever applied for and received. While she wishes I wouldn't, I am telling you that our audacious Community Ministries Coordinator, Christine Todd, wrote this grant. But Christine is right to

point out that she'd been prodded by others (thank you, Mary Nease!) to do so over the years. And most especially, because, dozens and dozens of Calvary's people have found new ways to be, and to give, and to share, and to be in accord with one another and with all God's people as we travel together on the very same globe around very same glowing sun.





# 'BASEMENT CHURCH' GROUNDED IN HOSPITALITY

by Jill Johnson Plper

*"No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it away in a cellar nor under a basket, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light." ~ Luke 11:33*

Since the coronavirus disrupted every aspect of life early in the spring, Calvary's labyrinthine basement has been a source of light and sustenance every Sunday for over 100 of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. In recent weeks, we've had as many as 175.

Just as a cellar stores food and provisions for a family, Calvary's basement makes God's love visible in downtown Memphis. Every Sunday between 6:30 and 8 a.m., the Calvary Alley is abuzz with activity. In just over an hour, volunteers and staff have prayed with, fed and clothed our most vulnerable neighbors.

"By combining Community Breakfast and the Clothes Closet, we were able to move these vital ministries outdoors and comply with the city's complex and evolving guidelines about gatherings and social distance," said Christine Todd, Calvary's coordinator of community ministries.



Because of the flood of donations and the need to put six feet between volunteers, preparations expanded into the Bethlehem Chapel. At least twice a week, volunteers sort through heaping piles of jackets and shirts in the rose-tinted light that filters through stained glass windows. Memphis artist Dorothy Sturm designed them for the chapel's dedication in 1969.

"When we added the Bethlehem Chapel as part of our sorting space, all of a sudden people felt, 'Oh yeah, I'm in church.' The stained glass reminded us that the whole basement is a

sacred space," said volunteer Ardelle Walters. "In an email, Elizabeth Crosby referred to it as Basement Church and the name kind of stuck."

For 26 consecutive Sundays, the Basement Church team has clothed about 100 men and 10 women. Volunteer Richard Hendricks and his crew prepare nutritious breakfast sandwiches, orange juice and coffee for 175. On Monday and Thursday afternoons, Sandy West, leader of the Clothes Closet Ministry, invites other parishioners to help her tackle the mountains of donations that come in 50-gallon black bags. They must be sorted and sized before they can be given away. As Basement Church adapted to each week's COVID updates, the team streamlined the process, developing an order form for guests to state their most pressing needs and preferred sizes.

On a recent Sunday, Kevin, 28, was finishing a breakfast croissant and coffee. He was pleased with his order. "I'm leaving with a blanket, some sweatpants, some Lacoste shorts, a nice bag, a washcloth, and three pair of socks. That will last me about a week."

Remember our neighbors have no way to launder their clothing, so each week they must start afresh. Christine added, "Imagine living on the street and having nowhere to get fresh

drinking water. Because there was nowhere to go to the bathroom, we ordered one, then two, and now three portable toilets and a double sink thanks to Rev. Audrey Gonzalez. We want to send out a big thanks to Josh at Safety Quip who maintains those porta-potties during constant use."

To help guests maintain a safe distance, Helario Reyna, our facilities manager, painted stars on the asphalt at 6-foot intervals. Runners fill our neighbors' orders from tidy, pre-sized stacks in the Bethlehem Chapel and deliver them to Greta Young who calls the guests by name when their order is ready. The distribution of breakfast and clothing takes less than an hour, but each installment of Basement Church represents countless volunteer hours on the prep side.

To supplement donations, the team added an online shopping list for high demand items like men's underwear and durable blue jeans. Christine said, "I give thanks for the hundreds of parishioners and friends who have perpetuated what I thought was unsustainable, getting men's underwear, backpacks and pants every week to those who have none."

Want to get in on the ground floor of Basement Church? Here's how: go to Signup genius to commit to a shift sorting clothes with others. All work takes place at social distance, and masks are required. Or, volunteer to greet and serve our guests on Sunday: [calvarymemphis.org/serve/community-ministries/](https://calvarymemphis.org/serve/community-ministries/)





# BREAKING THE CASSEROLE RULES

by the Rev. Paul McLain, Associate Rector

Last September, Jill English wrote an article about the unwritten “Casserole Rules” of pastoral care ministry in churches. Here’s an excerpt:

“A year after my husband left and before the divorce was final, my dear church friend Sue lost her husband Joe to a sudden heart attack. When Joe died, the church stepped up big for Sue. She had meals for months while she figured out how to manage the house and budget by herself. She had lawn boys, free electricians, and pro bono mechanics when her cars broke down. She received hundreds of cards from church friends—we watched them overflow in her mailbox. Women came to clean her house. Strangers did her laundry and unfolded her towels. And not one person asked what she could have done differently to avoid Joe’s death or suggested that things would get better because some new man would snatch her up in a second. I am so glad. I love her and am grateful for each person who stepped in to meet her in her grief and need. One time, she gave me an extra casserole because her freezer was full. It was really tasty and I ate it for days after we wryly talked together about the differences in our experiences of the death of a marriage. We both acknowledged the casserole rules. The church didn’t give divorce casseroles—except the one she gave me.”

For the most part, our clergy and pastoral care team do a wonderful job in reaching

out to those who are going through illness or the death of a loved one. And it’s been wonderful to see how so many of you have joined in to make COVID-19 check-in calls and even take meals and gift boxes to those who live alone. But, we can sometimes seem paralyzed when it comes to issues like divorce. We often don’t know what to do. We’re sometimes afraid of being perceived as ‘taking sides.’ We often don’t even know that someone is going through a divorce.

Divorce is not the only issue that can be a blind spot for us in pastoral care. Others are losing a job, eviction, bankruptcy and financial problems, mental illness, addiction and recovery issues, having a loved one in jail, being a victim or a repentant perpetrator of domestic and/or sexual abuse, and being a survivor of the suicide of a loved one, just to name a few. Many of these issues have a historical, social, or even a religious taboo attached to them that at least unconsciously may cause us to steer away from reaching out or being available, and instead focus our pastoral care efforts on the safer places where we feel more comfortable. But Jesus spends most of his ministry going to the uncomfortable places to destigmatize issues by casting out demons, hugging lepers, and talking to a previously married woman at a well.

Know that our clergy team is available to you as a first responder for difficult and even complex issues. We will honor confidences and treat you with love and respect. And, as we understand your situation, we will refer you to resource persons who may be helpful

to your specific need. As a first step, we just posted a directory of resource persons and organizations in the Pastoral Care section of our Calvary website. And we’re available to help put together support groups and networks of parishioners and others to offer mutual healing.

Jill English closed her article this way:

“It’s complicated, isn’t it? As people of faith, we are very good at meeting people in times of death and illness. There are no judgments around these things, and we do not need discernment about who was in the wrong. We don’t have to wonder about whether one’s grief

is deserving of a casserole. The rules about other human conditions are not so clear. Casseroles for the death of a marriage? For a mental breakdown? For rehab? How can we know whose fault it is? We all learned that God’s favor falls on those who follow God’s good rules. Maybe then, it’s just best if we offer a sympathetic side-eye and let the chips fall. There are rules, after all. Or maybe the rules are just misunderstood. Maybe, loving our neighbor is a rule that means need is need, and grief is grief, and a casserole is the love of God made real for all who suffer- no matter the cause. Maybe.”





# CORONA-CHOIR-TIDE

by Kristin Lensch, Organist-Choirmaster

I was not prepared for this. My Church Practicum 101 course at Indiana University forced me to learn how to conduct a choir only using my head and eyebrows while playing the accompaniment, improvise on a pre-existing tune, plan a church year of anthems for an SATB choir, and prepare a binder of wedding music (which I use to this day).

Liturgically, I understood Advent, Lent, and Ordinary Time, but Coronatide?? Its liturgical music practices are more barren than Lent! WHAT?? This year, in the midst of Lent, we went from a full choir of 30 voices on Lent 2, to those who felt comfortable enough to show up on Lent 3 (15 did). By Lent 4, we had only 4 singers; for Holy Week and Easter we reduced our ranks again to just 2 singers for Holy Week and Easter. And we're still in that paradigm today, five months later.

My organist friends and I were calling and figuring out Zoom so we could help each other cope and find a way to make music. Some of my colleagues around the country were banned completely from entering their church's grounds. Their church was closed. The lights off. The

organ silent. Nobody was welcome.

Then the real bombshell was dropped. On May 5, the American Choral Directors Association and National Association of the Teaching of Singing held a webinar with scientists who told us that singing is a super-spreader hazard; until we have a vaccine, we shouldn't engage in any group music making. The very organizations we rely on to support us were shutting us down for what could be one to two years.

We all cried. This was our livelihood, our passion, and a life-giving, soul-restoring activity of our beloved choir members and congregations. Our community was shattered. The very thing that gave us life, offered the possibility of death.

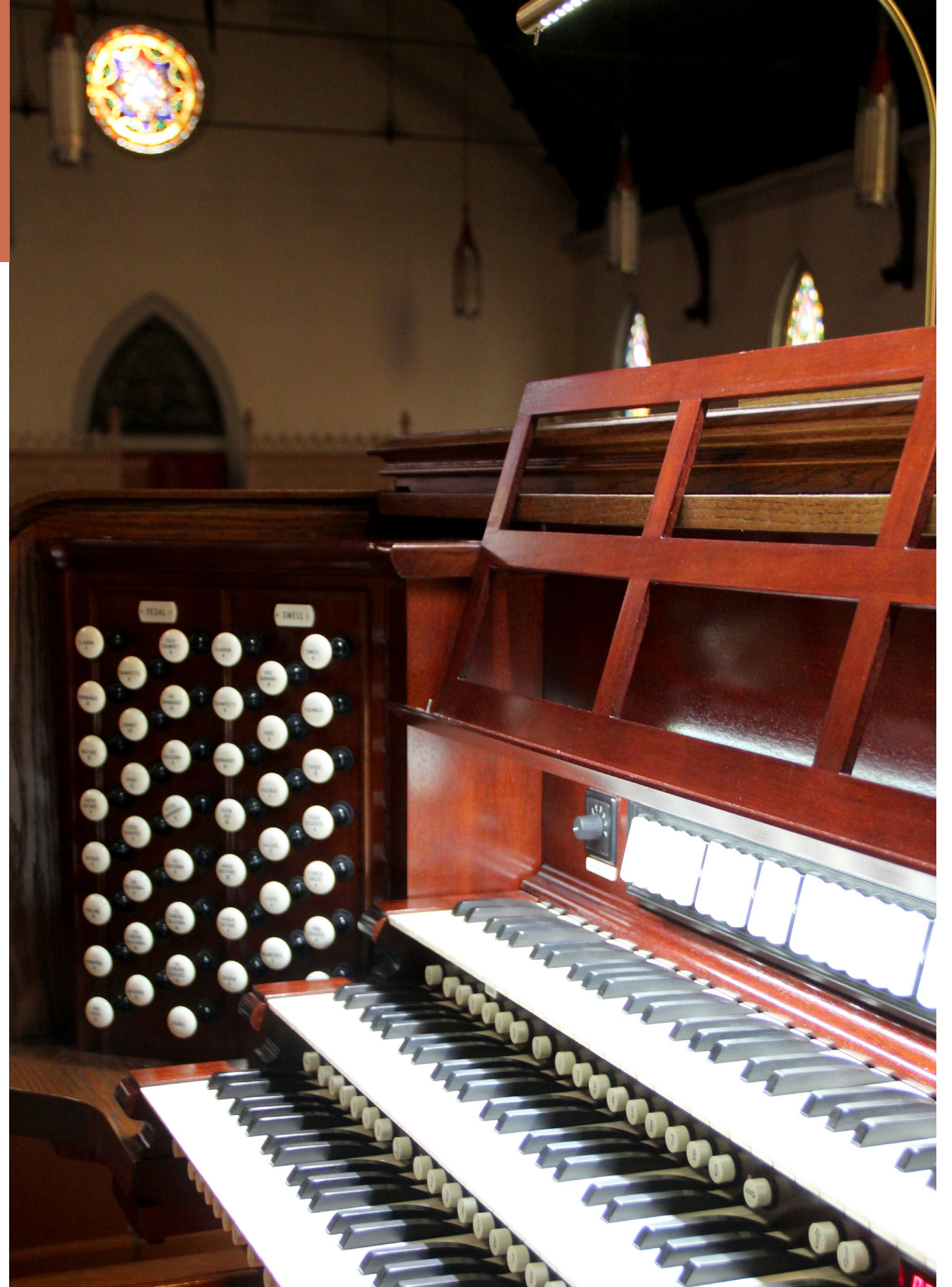
Necessity breeds creativity. The choirs at Calvary continued to meet through Zoom well into the summer. The Boys and Girls Choir continued learning music theory skills, hymnody, and liturgy. I got invited into people's homes over Zoom and met family pets (but not the chickens)! We all learned how to make a virtual choir anthem. Surprisingly, we sounded like a choir even

though the actual music making was done individually at home. It's no substitute for the real thing, but it is something we can do.

We have all learned to adapt in this time, right? We have learned much about how to do things safely, because we can't live in a bubble for this long. We have learned the incredible effectiveness of wearing a mask, and have become good at assessing risk by distance, duration, and density.

Thankfully, to figure out what more we can do to make music safely, 100+ music organizations came together from all over the world to sponsor a study specifically targeted to discern if there is a safe way to expand the way we currently make music. It is led by scientists engaged with a lab at the University of Colorado-Boulder who have studied aerosols for the past decade, and I'm excited to study their results carefully.

This pandemic has been an exercise in trust and endurance. I pray the words of Hymn 552, verse 3, can be true for all of you: "Cast care aside, lean on thy Guide; his boundless mercy will provide; trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love."





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# What's going on THIS FALL

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## WORSHIP

### 10 a.m. Morning Prayer on Sundays

Calvary's Morning Prayer service includes hymns and a sermon. Worshipers may attend in-person, wearing a mask and physically distanced, or may worship from home as the service is live-streamed through Facebook and YouTube. In-person worshipers must sign up in advance at [calvarymemphis.org/connect](https://calvarymemphis.org/connect).

### 6 p.m. Evening Prayer on Sundays

Join us for a simple, spoken service of Evening Prayer each Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Madison Avenue Pocket Park (across from the Brass Door). The readings and sermon each week will be those used at Sunday Morning Prayer. We can accommodate 20 households (physically-distanced) at a time, so you'll need to sign up in advance at [calvarymemphis.org/connect](https://calvarymemphis.org/connect).

### 5 p.m. Evensong (first Sunday of the month)

"Choral Evensong is a 45-min long peace-inducing church service in which the 'song' of voices sounding together in harmony is heard at the 'even' point between the active day and restful night, allowing listeners time for restful contemplation." (from [choralevensong.org](https://choralevensong.org)) Worshipers may attend in-person, wearing a mask and physically distanced, or may worship from home as the service is live-streamed through Facebook and YouTube. In-person worshipers must sign up in advance at [calvarymemphis.org/connect](https://calvarymemphis.org/connect).

### 6:30 a.m. Early Morning Prayers: Monday-Friday

Early morning prayer is offered live on Calvary's Facebook page each day at 6:30 a.m. This prayer service is modeled on Daily Devotions (p. 137 in the Book of Common Prayer) and lasts about 10-15 minutes. All early risers (by preference or necessity!) are invited to come pray together.

### 8 a.m. Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday

Daily Morning Prayer, Rite II, begins on p. 75 in the Book of Common Prayer. This service, which is live-streamed on Facebook, typically lasts 25 minutes and includes a time of intercession where you can type your prayer requests.

### 8 p.m. Compline: Monday-Friday

The Calvary staff leads weekday Compline, a simple service of evening prayers which is live-streamed on Calvary's Facebook page. It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

### 12 p.m. Wednesday Noonday Prayer

Noonday Prayer is offered in-person in the Calvary chancel on Wednesdays and features a reflection by one of our priests. The church doors open at 11:45 and close at noon. It is not necessary to make a reservation. Distancing protocols are the same as for Sunday morning worship.

## FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Children and Youth: Hit the Road Passport Book

From 5:15-6:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, children and youth will be able to get their "Hit the Road" passport booklets stamped and pick up materials for the following week's lesson. This is your chance to get out there and find God in new ways in the world. Every week, you'll find different activities. You can do as many as you want and each one completed earns you a stamp.

### Wednesday Evening Yoga at Calvary via Zoom: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thanks to Calvary teaming up with Yo Clark (via Zoom!), we can once again practice yoga together. Classes are for all levels including beginners and taught by one of the best. Yo, a well-loved yogi in Memphis, is the owner of Any Body Yoga Studio: Where Everybody Is Somebody. She is known for her intelligent instruction combined with a sense of humor, and for her rare ability to create both a sense of community and a true, deep welcome to newcomers of all shapes, sizes, colors, and fitness levels. Classes are free but you'll need to sign up with Ardelle Walters, [ardellew@gmail.com](mailto:ardellew@gmail.com), to get the Zoom link.

### Our City, Our Story: A Book Study

MIFA is committed to convening key stakeholders to promote discussions of the issues that challenge our city. This year's Our City, Our Story will build on last year's conversation about homelessness to educate and engage our community around this important issue that affects so many of our neighbors. MIFA is delighted to welcome Matthew Desmond, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, for a virtual event on Oct. 7, to broaden our community conversation about housing inequality. Visit [community.mifa.org/ourcityourstory](https://community.mifa.org/ourcityourstory) for more information.

### Newcomers Classes

The Rev. Amber Carswell has been holding both small, in-person, outdoor classes and online classes this fall. If you would like more information on attending a future class, email Amber, [acarswell@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:acarswell@calvarymemphis.org).

### Feeling Apocalyptic?

Join Elizabeth Crosby online Thursdays from 6-7 p.m., through Oct. 8, to discuss *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy, a post-modern and ancient story about a country in ruins—its prophets, pilgrims, Adams and Eves, gardens, serpents, fowl of the air, fish of the sea, and the Incarnation of the Word. Contact Elizabeth to sign up, [elizabeth.crosby@musowls.org](mailto:elizabeth.crosby@musowls.org).

### Grief Support Group Meets Online

The Grief Support Group offers healing and hope after the death of a loved one or another form of loss. This is done through mutual sharing in a small group setting. The group meets every other Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. over Zoom. The group is facilitated by the Rev. Bill Kolb, former associate rector of Calvary with many years of experience in pastoral care and bereavement counseling. Those interested are encouraged to contact Bill at [williamkolb461@yahoo.com](mailto:williamkolb461@yahoo.com) or 901-438-0751.

### Gleanings: Formation Class with Scott Walters

Join an online conversation about faith, justice, empathy, prayer, and more each week with a small group. Conversation fodder will come from articles accessible online by authors from Barbara Brown Taylor to David Foster Wallace (and others who don't use all three of their names). The Sunday class is full, but other groups may form if there is interest. Contact Scott Walters, [swalters@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:swalters@calvarymemphis.org).

### Zoom Bible Study

The Rev. Amber Carswell is leading a study of the book of Exodus. The group meets on Zoom, so contact Amber, [acarswell@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:acarswell@calvarymemphis.org), if you want to join this new way of being together. Jump in any time!

COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Kroger Card

Make certain you have a Kroger card with Calvary Outreach selected as the recipient of Kroger’s contribution. Go here to get started: [kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards)

Calvary’s Clothes Closet

- Ask your workplace, gym, favorite non-profit, etc. or friends if they would allow us to put a bin in their space to collect men’s jeans for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- Come sort and organize donated clothing Mondays and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. at Calvary.
- Consider the Sunday morning volunteer opportunities by following the link to the Sign-Up Genius at [calvarymemphis.org/serve/community-ministries/](https://calvarymemphis.org/serve/community-ministries/)
- Consider a gift of men’s underwear or anything from the Amazon Wish List. Visit [calvarymemphis.org/amazon](https://calvarymemphis.org/amazon).
- Contact Ginger Graves, [gingergraves4@gmail.com](mailto:gingergraves4@gmail.com), about the shoe ministry by picking up recycled shoes for our neighbors at Fleet Feet.

Knitting

Knit for our neighbors. Contact Peg Wahl, [wahlpeg@gmail.com](mailto:wahlpeg@gmail.com), about joining those in the diocese who are knitting neck warmers for our guests this winter.

Pray

Pray for our neighbors.

Community Breakfast Angels

*Community Breakfast is Calvary’s Sunday morning meal that serves over 175 neighbors experiencing homelessness each week. Community Breakfast Angels give gifts of \$500+ to help make this meal possible for one month. If you would like to be a community breakfast angel, contact Community Ministries Coordinator Christine Todd, [ctodd@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:ctodd@calvarymemphis.org).*

January, February, March, April

In honor of imprisoned youth by the Rev. Audrey Gonzalez

May

Melinda Menke

June

Katie Dann & John Pruett

July

In loving memory of Renu Pahuja by Dipika, Dr. Verma, and family

August

In honor of Calvary’s Clothes Closet and Community Breakfast Volunteers

September

In honor of Calvary’s Pastoral Care Teams by Vincent Astor

October

In honor of Suzanne Smith Henley by Laura & Tom Fulton

November

In appreciation and awe of Calvary’s Waffle Shop and Wedding Guild

December

In honor of the volunteers who work throughout the week to serve our neighbors on Sunday mornings by Debbie & David Balling



Dinner To-Go

Parish Chef Mary O’Brien is taking orders for a to-go dinner that you can pick up on Wednesday evenings. We invite you to get it to go or to bring a camp chair and enjoy a physically-distanced picnic with others in the Calvary parking lot.

All orders must be placed by Monday to pick up on Wednesday. Login to your Realm account ([onrealm.org/calvarymemphis/](https://onrealm.org/calvarymemphis/)) to place your order.

If you need help logging into Realm, contact Ebet Peeples, [epeeples@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:epeeples@calvarymemphis.org).



Blessing of the Animals

Calvary offers its annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Madison Avenue Pocket Park across from the Brass Door Restaurant. All people and animals are welcome to stay for Evening Prayers at 6 p.m., but you must reserve a spot in advance for the worship service. Visit [calvarymemphis.org/connect](https://calvarymemphis.org/connect) for the sign-up link.

If you had a beloved creature you would like to be remembered in the Prayers of the People's Pets Departed, please e-mail the name to Clay Woemmel, [cwoemmel@gmail.com](mailto:cwoemmel@gmail.com), by Thursday, Oct. 1.

Come join us for a beautiful evening of giving thanks for all God’s creatures great and small!



# CHILDREN'S FORMATION

by the Rev. Amber Carswell, Associate Rector

Children's formation, like all of life, will look different this fall. As Gabbie Munn, our director of youth ministries, and I (and every school system in the world) wrestled with what it meant to educate children during a pandemic, we had a few things solidly in mind. First, diocesan restrictions forbid in-person classes for children. Second, it's a rare bird who thrives in online education, speaking as someone who took the online version of a class only when she didn't care about the subject (see: Management of Information Resources, a subject as nebulous as it was mind-numbingly boring.)

So, if both in-person and online were off the table—how to proceed?

We started with the desire to empower kids and parents to find ways to experience Christian formation in their own homes. The first idea was simple: every week, we'd provide parents with the curriculums our teachers use to teach their respective age groups about the lessons for that Sunday.

The second idea was more ambitious and might be fully described as creating a Scout achievement/Choose Your Own Adventure/Book-it Pizza Hut/Camino de Santiago passport model of formation.

If not a word of that made sense, here's the idea. Booklets full of

activities that relate to Sunday's scripture lessons are available to every child and youth. Each week, they'll have a fictional story, a video to watch, a craft to make, an outdoor activity, and more to choose from. Each completed task earns stamps in this passport booklet, and stamps earn prizes. Kids will get to choose what sort of Christian adventure they want to have.

Our point of contact is on Wednesday evenings. Gabbie and I will have a table set up outside to talk with kids about what they did, provide next week's materials, and stamp booklets. We're asking them to send us pictures of their activities, because pics or it didn't happen, but also to be able to recognize our participants in some way when we're all able to get back together in an actual room.

We're calling this adventure Hit the Road, since the idea is to find God outside the ways we have come to rely on inside the church. I'm ready for the church to be back (and sometimes I even manage not to weep at its current state) but I hope this will be one way that our Christian formation can deepen in a time of separation. The ancient Israelites knew of the devastation of exile, but in that time, they learned something about the presence of the God who never forgot them. May this journey bring something of that knowledge to every one of us.

*The ancient Israelites knew of the devastation of exile, but in that time, they learned something about the presence of the God who never forgot them. May this journey bring something of that knowledge to every one of us.*

Contact Amber Carswell, to get a Hit the Road passport booklet for your child. Supplies and stamps will be available every Wednesday at 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the church parking lot.



## TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE

by Gabbie Munn, Director of Youth Ministries

Ms. Betty Sugg was my high school English teacher and fashion icon. Not only did she push us to be our best, she had impeccable taste. She often showed up to class with velvet pant suits tucked into combat boots and completed her look with big, gold... cat earrings. "Be a sponge!" she would exclaim as she passed out the weekly poems we were to memorize. One of these poems was "To Make a Prairie" by Emily Dickinson.

To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,  
One clover, and a bee.  
And revery.  
The revery alone will do,  
If bees are few.

What relief! I was sure I could memorize, recite, and have this poem out of the way and out of my mind by the end

of the day. Check! Another assignment off the list. Emily Dickinson and her prairie daydreaming was out of sight, out of mind. Seven years later, I owe Ms. Sugg an apology. This poem is no farther from my mind today than it was when I recited it between classes for a quick completion grade.

Over the past four months, I have found myself daydreaming about being back in the 3rd Floor Youth Room, singing songs at Happening, and snagging one of Mary's cookies from the Great Hall before Sunday Formation. Thankfully, sometimes that's all I need—a quick trip to my kitchen for a cookie before 8 p.m. Compline on Facebook Live and a little reverie. Suddenly, I'm back in the Youth Room for Compline.

While physically distanced, I've found myself finding God in seemingly small moments. Seeing a butterfly would take me back to Happening. Sometimes I'll drink a good cup of coffee and suddenly be back at Ugly Mug with the EYC.

During the Fall, we are going to Hit the Road together. Inspired by the Camino Pilgrim Passports that record the journey of pilgrims who walk the Camino de Santiago, our passports will challenge us to find God here in Memphis, examine our faith and scripture, and record our progress. You are invited to do as much or as little as you'd like—this journey is yours to choose. I hope that even the smallest piece of this experience, paired with a little reverie, will allow us to walk through this time together.



# PARENTING DURING A PANDEMIC

by Heidi Rupke

## MARCH-APRIL

As I walked my children to our neighborhood school on March 13, I received a text saying that spring break would start the next day and would be extended an additional week. That day, we also concluded the 2020 Lenten Preaching Series and Waffle Shop, which had run for just about two weeks. Since a committee and I had been planning the speaking series for close to a year, it was disappointing to see those plans disappear so abruptly.

Those first weeks, I felt suspended in mid-air, not sure where to direct my energy and time. Fortunately, my children were able to absorb as much of that as I had to give. Rosie, Marilla and Edward were shocked but also delighted with the time off school. They played for hours with Legos in the attic and we walked through our neighborhood every day. Spring seemed more glorious this year, though all that had really changed was the quality of our attention. We started fostering dogs because we were lonely for our friends and routines.

During this time, we connected with Calvary through the live-streamed services each week. Hilary Chipley delivered dozens of filled Easter eggs to our front yard one morning since we had missed the communal hunt this year. Lenten preaching went on via podcast, and I was both lonely and comforted to know that we could still connect remotely.

## MAY TO MID-AUGUST

As we settled in for the longer haul, we marked milestones missed: Rosie's 5th grade promotion ceremony as she left the elementary school she'd attended for six years, a long-planned road trip to national parks out west cancelled, family birthdays celebrated without guests. The kids adjusted pretty well to not seeing their friends, and we were fortunate to have one family as a "double bubble." This family was the only one that we interacted with regularly in close contact.

Since Dave and I were working from home, we set up flexible schedules that allowed us to spend time with the kids at various points throughout the day. Hours of only light supervision meant that the kids experienced some of the "1980s childhood" that has long been my ideal. (Minus the Twinkies, of course.) They spent hours reading and doing unstructured play. We completed all of the puzzles in the cupboard, played all the board games, and traded puzzles and games with other families via porch drops. Edward learned to read. Marilla mastered cursive handwriting. Rosie took up knitting. We decided to keep one of those foster dogs. Some of those languorous 1980s days felt more like Rupke Cage Match. The foster dog had heartworms, intestinal worms, mange, yeast and ovarian cysts.

Rosie and Marilla continued Boys and Girls Choir via Zoom. Calvary started meeting again with a limited congregation. We didn't attend those services, but we made it to the Founder's Day outdoor service at the Metal Museum. I almost cried to hear live music again and to see fellow parishioners. (I am a regular church crier, but this seemed different



Dave, Heidi, Marilla, Rosie, and Edward Rupke pose during quarantine. Photo credit: Jaime Harmon

somehow.) Dave and I lost an uncle and an aunt, and more relatives faced health challenges; we were humbled to hear their names read each week from the pulpit.

## MID-AUGUST TO PRESENT

The new school year is upon us. Rosie is at home doing virtual school. Marilla and Edward are part of a small pod of other children from their school who are learning in the same building, all on individual screens. They are masking and social distancing from their few "classmates," but they are ecstatic to be near other children again.

In July, I wrote about the need for creative collaboration for schooling in an article in *The Daily Memphian* and was soon contacted by Ruthie & Paul

McLain. Ruthie helped us draft a legal document for our pod school and both are on call to assist with after school activities. Calvary continues to work as a community, even at a distance.

I read a book recently that asked, "What if unscheduled events were interpreted as spiritual guidance?" In my life, unscheduled events are generally considered annoying or complications to my "much better" plans. The low-lying depression, emotional exhaustion, and loss of many support systems has been difficult. Yet this pandemic, destabilizing and catastrophic as it has been in many respects, may indeed be one of my parenting teachers: showing me how to pay better attention to each new spring flower, a foster dog who needs a home, and the large and small kindnesses of all God's people.



# VESTRY UPDATE

by Kim Kitterman, Senior Warden



Well, you know the old saying that many times the best trait to have in times of change is flexibility? That is absolutely the truth, and this vestry has started, stopped, and adjusted course so many times this year, and it is not over yet! Can you all relate? I think it is universal during this time we are living in.

In January, we came up with the most exciting, bold, innovative vision of the Calvary of tomorrow, but were soon met with the realization that the capital campaign and master plan were not going to happen in 2020 as we had imagined. Though we have been forced to adapt to the fact that our plans and visions for Calvary may materialize at a slower pace, rest assured that we have not stopped dreaming and planning. Your vestry has been holding virtual meetings since April and has had almost perfect attendance and participation. This vestry is amazing, talented, engaged, willing, focused, smart, and dedicated. I really could not have asked for a better group of people during this "unprecedented" year. (You know I had to use that word!)

We have participated in the Return to Calvary Task Force, and many vestry members have spent time reaching out to parishioners just to check in. We have started a new committee tasked with making our park and parking lot greener and more open for multipurpose activities. We also have started the important work of proposing vestry nominations for next year's vestry class. Finally, your vestry has been participating in annual giving planning, and has approved financial decisions that have put Calvary on even better footing for the future than ever before. We have watched in amazement as the pledges have continued to come in, and, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, revenues and expenses remain on track. You will hear much more when our annual giving drive kicks off in a few weeks.

If you see a vestry member, whether at church or while volunteering, whether in-person or online, please thank them again for their hard work and perseverance during these particularly challenging times.

Love and Light to all of you.

"Though we have been forced to adapt to the fact that our plans and visions for Calvary may materialize at a slower pace, rest assured that we have not stopped dreaming and planning."

# STAFF UPDATES



HILARY CHIPLEY

In early July, Hilary Chipley's mother was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and Hilary went immediately to Wisconsin to be with her. In the days that followed, it became clear that the coming months, and possibly the coming year, will require an enormous amount of Hilary's time and energy, the rest of which she will want to dedicate to her family. And so, sadly, she decided to step down from her duties as Director of Children and Family Ministries at Calvary.

Hilary joined the Calvary staff in 2011, and we are deeply grateful for her commitment to the formation of our children, for her support for their parents and families, and for her work forming a committed team of teachers and catechists to carry out this essential ministry in our parish. Some of the children she taught have now moved on to college and beyond, and her love and ministry left an indelible mark on their lives.



JOHN PALMER

In late August, John Palmer stepped down into full retirement from his position as associate organist/choirmaster at Calvary. He first served in this capacity from 1989-1994 and returned in 2014 upon his retirement from FedEx.

We are grateful for John's musical talent, irrepressible good cheer, regular insistence that none of us has quit being beautiful, and knack for choosing just the right recycled greeting card or estate sale gift for any occasion. We wish him and his husband Dave every blessing in the days to come.



JESS STEENBERGEN

We are happy to announce that Jess Steenbergen has accepted the position of Minister to Children and Families. Jess is a 2nd grade teacher at Compass Hickory Hill. Previously, Jess served as an interim youth minister at Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis. A native of New York, she has lived and taught youngsters in the Memphis area for six years.

While our search for a full-time Director of Ministry to Children and Families will continue this year, we're thrilled to have someone with such evident expertise, energy, and good humor joining our team at Calvary. Be sure to welcome Jess by sending her a note, emailing her at [jsteenbergen@calvarymemphis.org](mailto:jsteenbergen@calvarymemphis.org), or stopping by and meeting her on Wednesday nights at Calvary.





Many Calvary parishioners and friends gathered at the Metal Museum on Aug. 6 for a physically-distant worship service in honor of Calvary's 188th birthday.

# Prayer List

## Wedding Bells

Grace Bethell & Juddy Carlton, 12/14/19  
Lynn Wynn & Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo, 12/27/19  
Sarah Jones & Garrett Anderson, 12/28/19  
Cathi Moore & Steve Miller, 01/29/20  
Meredith Day & Jackson Hearn, 06/6/20  
Jennifer Bell and Austin Bradley, 07/11/20  
Natalie Ann Rentrop & John Hall Morgan, 07/18/20

## Great Expectations

Casey & Logan Graves  
Olivia & Mike Hammond  
Dani & Jonathan Lee  
Locke & Reed Waldrop  
Rachel & John Welcher  
Liza & Jack Wahrman

## New Life

Nathaniel Horace Ball, son of Sarah & Erik Ball, 11/29/19  
Grace James Gwin, daughter of Melissa & John Gwin, 01/01/20  
Dorothy "Dottie" Elizabeth Tipton , daughter of Emily & Will Tipton, 3/12/20  
Emerson Taylor Fields, son of Sarah Hunter Simanson & Andrew Fields, 3/27/20  
Ellis Ann Powell, daughter of Samantha & Joseph Powell, 4/14/20  
Brynn Melody Johnson, great-granddaughter of Ken Hopkins, 4/22/20  
Beckett Gregory Wallace, son of Barbara & Brie Wallace, 5/16/20  
Henry Goldsmith, great-grandson of Fred Goldsmith, 5/28/20  
Poppy Moon Johnson, granddaughter of Sue & Owen Johnson, 5/28/20  
Elisabeth Jane "Eliza" Jasper, daughter of Kathryn & Jake Jasper, 7/23/20  
Journey Rose Etheridge, granddaughter of Barbara Etheridge, 8/6/20  
Olivia Whittington Hall and Everly James Hall, daughters of Colby & Alex Hall, 8/27/20

## Saints Departed

Danny Abell, half-brother of Jesse Abell  
Elsie Baietto, mother of Louise Baietto  
Phillip Baker Sr., friend of Jim Martin  
Joe Barizza, friend of Laurie Monypeny  
Karen Barker  
The Rev. Canon William Barnwell  
Ann Baxter, sister of Pat Morgan  
Margery Bernbaum, friend of Christine Broughton  
Millard Moore Bosworth, friend of Laurie Monypeny  
Billy Joe Boutwell, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain  
Daphne Boyle, mother of Harriet McFadden  
Walter Robert "Bob" Brown, friend of Nancy Manire  
The Rev. Linda Brown, deacon in the Diocese of Arkansas  
Susan Marsh Bryan, friend of Len Grice  
Lila Beth Burke, friend of Mary Nease, Kathy Williams, Debbie Kinard, and Mary Jane Viar  
Billy Wayne Burkes, grandfather of Haley Holbrook  
The Rev. Arnold Bush, father of Stephen Bush  
Richard Butler, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain  
Sarah Caldwell, daughter of Kathleen Caldwell  
Janey Campbell  
Mary Lewis Casey, friend of Susanne Darnell  
Andrew Steven Chiego, son of Sara & John Chiego  
Jerry Chipman, friend of Kell Christie Gary  
Carol Clark  
Anne Coggin, mother of Jay Coggin  
The Rt. Rev. James M. Coleman, former Bishop of West TN  
Laura Houston Collins., sister of Locke Houston Waldrop  
Robert Cooper, brother of Mary Peebles and uncle of Jenny Madden  
Leona Courtney, friend of Paul McLain  
Jeannie Ruth Crenshaw, friend of Christine Todd  
Michael Steven Cromer  
Donna Whittle Culver, cousin of Paige Whittle  
Debra Dabbs, mother of Jennifer Sciubba  
Philip Davidson, brother of Betty Anderson  
Al Davidson, friend of Peg & Dan Wahl  
Frank Dominioni, friend of Clay Woemmel  
Jared Dykes, cousin of Ruthie McLain  
Barbara Easley, mother of Gary Easley  
Wesley Emerson, former Organist-Choirmaster at GSL

John Faquin, friend of Betsy & Ed Kelly  
Sarah Clements Ferrari, daughter-in-law of Zillah Ferrari  
Oenia Foster, mother of Floyd Foster  
Michelle Fountain, friend of Molly Polatty  
Taylor Nickels "Nick" French  
The Reverend William Fry, former Rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church  
Tim Gaston, friend of Julie Bethell  
Jim Gilliland, father of Kate Connell  
Bob Goodrich, friend of Peg Wahl  
Peggy Gundlach, aunt of Lisa Jehl  
Sue Hahn Gutierrez, friend of Heidi & Dave Rupke  
Barbara Haight, mother of Scott Haight  
Robert "Trent" Hall, friend of Gary Hager  
Bobby Harbour, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain  
The Rev. Joyce Hardy, friend of Ardelle & Scott Walters  
Lynn Harris, friend of Nina & Len Grice  
Henry Hasselle, husband of Christy Hasselle  
Dorothy Megan Hays-Barzizza, daughter of Tom Barzizza  
Johnny Hill, friend of Martha Nash  
Betty and Darrel Hirschi, aunt and uncle of Dee Wallace  
Ruby "Lee" Stauffer Hooker  
Robert Hopson, uncle of Betty Jo Dulaney  
Gloria Hunt, friend of Laura Trott  
Kathy Hunt, wife of Wil Hunt  
Joseph Jellinek , father of Martin Jellinek  
Carol Jones, friend of Madge Clark  
Mark Kaufki, friend of Mary Honey  
Patte Kennedy, friend of Rhoda Smith  
Ann White King, friend of Carrington Wise  
Camille King, friend of Michelle Pellay-Walker  
Francis Kitterman, mother of Jeff Kitterman  
Barbara Klepper, friend of Laurence Ritter  
Florence Horton Leffler, friend of Elaine Colmer  
Richard Lewis, friend of Christine Todd  
Judy Littman, friend of Nancy Manire  
John Luke, friend of Sharon Alexander  
Martin Mahoney, brother of Sharon Mahoney Lee  
Leigh Marek, friend of Fred Piper  
Raymond Martin, father of Jim Martin  
Frank Martin, friend of Pat Morgan, Ginny Webb, and Ruthie McLain  
Betty Mauldin, great-aunt of Robyn Banks  
Judith McClain, friend of Scott Walter and Paul McLain  
Martha McKay, friend of Christine & Carol Todd  
The Rev. Steve Montgomery

Jack Smith Moore, Jr., father of Sharon Moore  
Scott Moorey, friend of Nina Sublette  
Janie Morgret  
Ann George Humphreys Morton, friend of Nancy Manire  
Rana Zoe Mungin, friend of Anna Talley  
Lottie Vera Newsom, longtime Waffle Shop worker  
Sarla Nichols, friend of Christine Todd  
Gloria Polk Nobles  
Judy Oakes, sister of Lisa Jehl  
James Peyton, father of Beau Peyton  
Michael Phillips, son of Robbie Phillips  
Joe Pipkin, friend of David Lusk  
William Robert "Bill" Pruett, father of John Pruett  
Jana Putnam, wife of Sherry Sachritz  
Phyllis Pyeatt, friend of Donna Davis  
Joyce Ramiro, aunt of Elizabeth Blaylock  
Brooks Ramsey, friend of Nancy Manire  
Rebecca Ramsey, friend of Nancy Manire  
Varner Lamar Rencher, Sr., father of The Rev. Ollie Rencher  
Amne Young Richardson, sister of Mathis Young  
Chuck Robinson, friend of Dana Sue Percer  
Veronica Rodriguez, friend of Paul McLain  
Lois Ruleman, friend of Cristina Pinkham  
Bryan Runnings, uncle of Joanne Parker  
Dr. Charlie Safley  
Tamera Schmiede, friend of Kristin Lensch  
Deweese Scruggs, mother of Jerry Scruggs  
Jack Sellers, friend of Nina Grice  
James Smedes, uncle of Dave Rupke  
Ann Wallace Smith (Wally)  
Dan Spector, friend of Katie Dann  
John Starks, friend of Ellen Davis  
William C. "Bill" Teague, father of Lynda Gayle Deacon  
Coy Thomas, father of Sharon Thorpe  
Shirley Thomas, friend of Scott Walters  
Balbina Ginoles Tobes, sister of Elena Akin  
Leonora & James Tubbs, friends of Paul McLain  
Jean Turner, grandmother of Catie Thacker  
Andre Walker, friend of Pat Kerr Tigrett  
Francis Walker, mother of The Rev. Noble Walker  
John Walters, uncle of Scott Walters  
Greg Warren, friend of Greta Heru  
Mike Wilson, father of Kim Wilson Appling  
Tyler Young, friend of Gabbie Munn  
Marge Zondervan, aunt of Heidi Rupke





# CHRONICLE

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SAVE THE DATE  
NOVEMBER 1

Outdoor  
Worship Service at  
St. Columba