



CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

Spring/Summer 2022





CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis

PARISH OFFICES ARE OPEN WEEKDAYS 8:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

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, Diocese of West TN

The Rev. Paul McLain
Associate Rector

The Rev. Audrey Gonzalez
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Scott Walters
Rector

The Rev. Katherine Bush
Associate Rector

The Ven. Mimsy Jones
Deacon

The Rev. Buddy Stallings
Assisting Priest

VESTRY

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Sr. Warden

Greta Cooper Young
Warden at Large

Will Hayley

Zachary R. Ferguson
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Director of Community Ministries

Kristin Lensch
Organist-Choirmaster

Ebet Peeples
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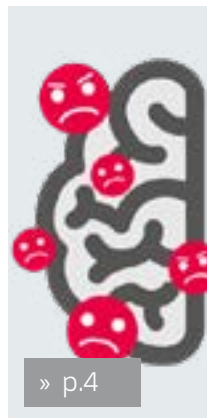


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CLOGGING THE VELCRO

by the Rev. Scott Walters, Rector

image courtesy of rickhanson.net

Once, apropos to absolutely nothing, as I recall, my retired farmer/ sailor/ Pentecostal Christian/ folk-philosopher friend Marshall said, "Isn't it a blessing we don't have to worry about being eaten?!" I granted him that being eaten does not rank very high among my worries and that this was indeed a good thing. I wondered if he'd praise the Lord next for the fact that he'd never known anyone to be struck by an asteroid.

Marshall's little burst of gratitude came to mind recently in a conversation with my spiritual director. He was telling me about a neuropsychologist named Rick Hanson who says that the human brain is velcro for the bad and teflon for the good. I know next to nothing about neuroscience, but I knew exactly what Dr. Hanson meant. Why is it my mind can spin around something that's wrong, or might possibly go wrong, rather than the 10,000 blessings I'm enjoying in any particular moment?

Why is it my mind can spin around something that's wrong or might possibly go wrong rather than the 10,000 blessings I'm enjoying in any particular moment?

Well, Dr. Hanson's theory, which he shares with lots of folks in his field, is that many modern anxieties result from having the brain of a species that did have to worry about being eaten for a very long time. And, when that was the case, we needed brains that even the possibility of danger catches in like velcro. The good stuff? Well, don't waste

that great big brain of yours mulling over all that. The good stuff isn't what's hoping to have you for lunch.

Unfortunately, worries are often having us for lunch now. Minds so finely tuned to worst-case scenarios will let a dozen compliments slide right past, but hold on for dear life to a question about whether you'd ever considered orthodontics, to say nothing of what the future of COVID-19, or the stock market, or the war in Ukraine might hold.

Saints, mystics, and our mothers have known these truths about us for so much longer than science has. More importantly, they knew what to do about it.

Twenty centuries ago, St. Paul said to the people of Philippi, "Beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Paul was no Pollyanna. As a former tormentor of the followers of Jesus, Paul knew that we are capable of getting things exactly wrong, and the consequences can be dire. And he was ready to suffer and even die for his faith. But he also knew that to follow Jesus is to be transformed "by the renewing of our minds," as he put it in Romans. To think on what is true, honorable, just, and pure is to practice that renewal. If we do just that, Paul would say that even the prospect of actual suffering can be acknowledged and met without overwhelming the goodness we enjoy as well, even in difficult seasons of life.

You'll find so much good news and fodder for hopefulness in the stories that follow. Stories about the miracles of Lenten Preaching

and Waffle Shop and Holy Week and Easter. Reflections on summer and sabbath and on bringing members of the body back together again after a long season of separation. You'll meet people serving breakfast burritos to hungry neighbors and others committing themselves and us to the sacred work of racial reconciliation and even some happy feasibility study results.

So here's my charge to you and to me: think on these things. Because the brain science is finally catching up to Paul. Even in bursts of eight to twelve seconds, reflecting on what is good can begin to rewire these anxious brains of ours. The little hooks in our neural-velcro can get clogged with goodness and lose at least a bit of their grab on what might possibly go wrong.

Lent is over. Maybe our shared Easter practice could be to think on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, and pleasing a little more than we're accustomed to. As we do, I have a hunch that we'll find even more of the strength and vision needed to set what's actually wrong with this world right.



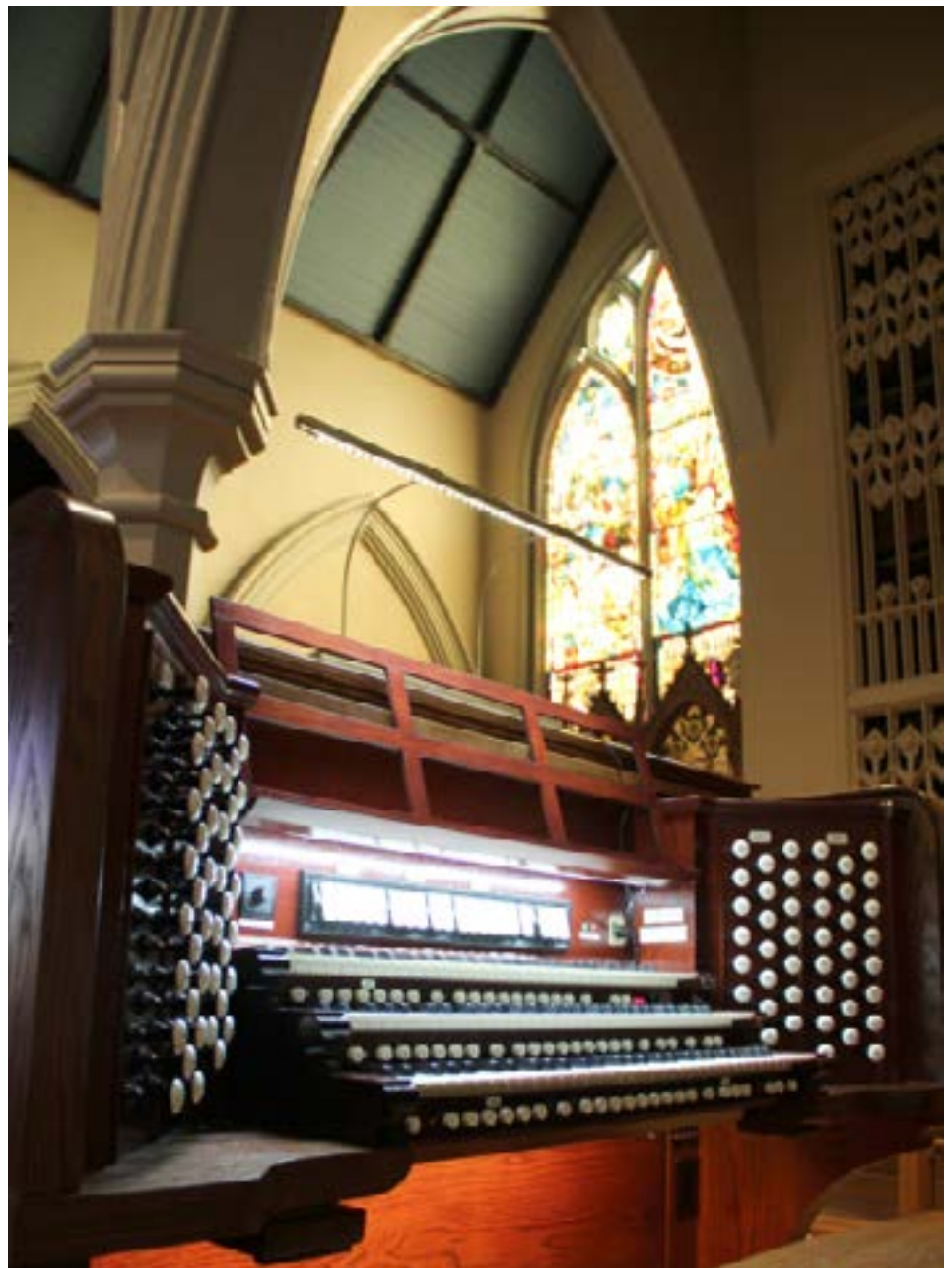
I love playing Calvary's 1935 Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ. Having a superlative instrument to play is like walking around all day with a ruby in your pocket. The sounds, the number and variety of them, and the ability to go from the softest soft to the loudest loud inspire me. Using this majestic instrument to accompany your robust singing feeds my soul, and I hope your soul is fed by our collective efforts in services. After all, good liturgy is the work of the people.

AN INSTRUMENT FOR GENERATIONS

by Dr. Kristin Lensch, Organist-Choirmaster

Do you know the remarkable story of our 87-year-old instrument? Calvary purchased this organ from one of the finest American builders, the Aeolian-Skinner company; their reputation holds true today. With the world coming out of the Depression in 1935, the company had very few contracts, so the organ was installed in less than seven months for \$75,000, less than half its value. Rhodes College economists estimate that is equivalent to \$1,000,000 in today's dollars.

Calvary's instrument is a historical and artistic gem, a treasured work of art. Only ten other instruments were built in 1935 by Aeolian-Skinner. The hallmarks of these instruments include superb pipework construction, generous use of first-grade California sugar pine, and excellent wood finish. In addition, Aeolian-Skinner's technical director at the time, G. Donald Harrison, was making revolutionary changes to the sound and style of the instruments he was building. His name is revered among builders and organists today as one of the most pivotal tonal designers in the history of American organ building. Our organ consultants tell me that if we wanted to install a new instrument of this same size and quality today, it would cost \$3.5 to 4 million.





Certainly, this is one of Calvary's most valuable assets.

Since its installation in 1935, Calvary's pipe organ has gone through some revisions and additions, which have taken it a few steps away from its initial sound with the G. Donald Harrison stamp of approval. In the 1980s, work was done on our organ to follow organ-building trends of the time. Some original pipework was removed in favor of adding brighter, higher pitched stops (of lesser quality) and boosting the vigor of the trumpet and reed stops. At the time, it was what people wanted; looking back, it was like adding hot pink lipstick to the Mona Lisa. Part of the proposed renovation project aims to return it to its initial glory, a sound coveted by organists everywhere.

I recently traveled to the Northeast to hear our organ's "sister" instruments—organs built by the Aeolian-Skinner company

in 1935 and 1936. I took planes, trains, and automobiles to listen to five instruments in New Haven, Groton, and Boston. The pipe organ in New Haven at Trinity on the Green is nearly identical to ours and is pristine: no revisions or additions have occurred. I can hardly describe the majesty and warmth of that instrument. It was enveloping, even when building to a thunderous fortissimo; it was never brash or aggressive. I wish I could temporarily install it in Calvary's nave so you could hear the differences, and the gorgeous similarities, between it and ours. The other four organs had minor restorative work done by the organ consultants who will work with us. After hearing these instruments, I have complete confidence in these experts who will guide us and work with our organ.

Embarking on a renovation project of this masterpiece is a daunting but thrilling endeavor. Nino Shipp tells me that since

this organ was installed in 1935, it has accompanied five generations of her family in services in which they have been baptized, confirmed, married, and buried. This organ has been a partner in liturgy, serving hundreds of thousands of people on their spiritual journeys. It gives voice to our singing so that we may do the work of the liturgy together.



THE TOOLS OF A LENTEN PREACHING SERIES SEASON



by Heidi Rupke, Lenten Preaching Series Coordinator

Sometimes our Lenten speakers ask me how long I've been coordinating the Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary. I respond, "This is my fourth season, but two of those were during the pandemic, so..." And we share knowing looks about how a virus can change our jobs and how we gather.

In 2019, I studied the meticulous records kept by my predecessor Debbie Balling and followed her treasure trove of organization through an exciting season. Our attendance was at a five-year high, and the energy matched it. The tools of the trade were spreadsheets, seasoned volunteers, and a well-established annual routine for hundreds of attendees.

In 2020, we had to cancel the remainder of the season just two weeks into Lent. The clergy and I learned how to create interview podcasts from home to salvage some of our speaker line-ups. ("Could you please move to a room where we don't hear so many birds?" asked Noah Glenn, who patiently coached me through recording platforms and external microphones.) My tools included Zoom meetings, yoga pants, and the aforementioned microphones.

In 2021, we offered two Lenten speakers per week, many of them recorded ahead of time by speakers who could not travel to Memphis. Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch engaged fantastic local musicians to play preludes and centering music. After such a strange year, those of us in the Nave with real live musicians got chills; it was ghostly and beautiful and aching all at once. The number of attendees ranged from five to 55 (when a speaker came in person), but the 2021 live stream videos have netted more than 4,000 views to date. The necessary tools included masks, Director of Communications Robyn Banks's and Videographer Noah Glenn's top-notch video editing, and working internet connections.

Which brings us to 2022. How can I describe what it was like to be back in the Nave with hundreds of people after such a winding path to get here? We offered noon preaching on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, with rich and deep conversations on Wednesday evenings.

Some things changed beyond recognition or faded away during the last two years; I am happy to report that LPS and Waffle Shop did not! I saw some familiar faces but many people I

didn't recognize: a daily shifting crowd that reflected different faces of Memphis.

This year's volunteers were incredible. From Rick Shields and Terri Dulaney—who spearheaded the formidable task of guiding visitors through the rabbit warren that is Calvary—to the ushers, recruited by Laurence Ritter, who distributed programs, rang the bell, and counted attendees. Checking in with volunteers is one of my favorite parts of the job. Their competence and hospitality made Calvary's welcome tangible.

The speakers also noticed Calvary's hospitality. Dr. Ellen Davis (whose noon sermon on trust is must-see TV if you haven't watched it yet) was amazed to learn that the welcome she received extended to more than a dozen other speakers this season. All of the details that have been practiced over the years—from a unique token of art to the availability of volunteer airport transportation to a chicken salad lunch with a longtime friend—hit her fresh, and she was astonished.

What were the tools of 2022? We've kept some of the ones we've gained in the past few years: a high-quality livestream

video experience and audio podcast whose audiences continue to grow and talented local musicians on Thursdays. We also added a Tuesday offering, "Silence in the City," which fortified and sustained those who gathered for quiet reflection. Other tools have been the backbone of the series for decades: attendees from throughout the region, dedicated and delightful volunteers, and

speakers with incredible stories. (Have you heard Geoff Calkins's sermon yet? Or Dan Matthews's latest message which was delivered 50 years after he first came to LPS? Or Lisa Anderson? I could go on...)

While I'm glad we're extending our digital offerings, my favorite part of Lent is being on-site for every single event. There is something electric about

the combination of scriptural stories read from an old pulpit, professional musicians creating sublime melodies, the scent of fish pudding, and the space to gather with others who are contemplative or curious. Mark your calendars now for Lent 2023, when we will celebrate a century of the Lenten Preaching Series. If you can, you should come in person. Sit by me if you like. Your seat is saved.



LPS 2022 Season Overview

17 noon services
5 Wednesday evening Dialogue podcasts
2655 in-person attendees
1317 online attendees (so far!)
1222 LPS podcast plays (so far!)
264 Calvary volunteer hours (at least!)
99 consecutive years of LPS



WAFFLE SHOP REBOOTED - A LENTEN MIRACLE

by the Waffle Shop Committee

When Calvary Waffle Shop was forced to shut down abruptly with the rest of the world in mid-March 2020, no one thought it would be two years until it reopened. Thanks to the efforts of Calvary's chef, Mary O'Brien, 2021 saw a minimal takeout version. It was well into January before we could confidently say that Waffle Shop 2022 was a go, set to open, as always, the day after Ash Wednesday for three days a week. Waffle Shop suffered from the same supply chain and staffing shortages as the rest of the world.

We had no idea what to expect—would anyone come? Would people feel comfortable dining together in the Mural Room? Would longtime volunteers return? What could the kitchen, dessert room, wait staff, and cashiers, together with supportive church staff, take on as we shook off the dust and, with little time for planning, threw ourselves into the many hours of volunteer time and effort it takes to produce this annual miracle?

People not only came back, but they came back in droves, stood in long lines, made new friends, and ended up sitting

together as a party of four rather than two parties of two. They emerged full and happy, giving thumbs up to the kitchen crew as they left, paid our cashiers with big smiles, and went home with large to-go orders of 12 fish puddings, 8 Calvary salad plates, and 10 Boston cream pies. It was beautiful to witness the love and devotion of so many to this almost 100-year-old signature Calvary ministry.

Longtime customer and impromptu piano player Michael Donahue exclaimed, "Thank God y'all are back! I'm so tired of making my own aspic." One of



our volunteer wait staff told us, "I finished my last chemo treatment just in time to work for Waffle Shop!" As always, Fish Pudding caused newbies to ask, "Is there fish in Fish Pudding?"

One lawyer told us he had practiced law and eaten at Waffle Shop with his friends for over 50 years; he was thrilled to continue the tradition. A stalwart few came every day (they must work out faithfully). One caller to the front desk learned that the Lenten Preaching Series

and Waffle Shop were in person again and said, "Oh my God – this is fabulous! I'll be right over." Another stayed in touch with the front desk as she made her way downtown after 1 p.m., giving a blow-by-blow account of her location—"You have no idea how much this means to me. I grew up at Calvary. I've just passed Parkway...I'm going to make it. See you soon!"

In the 17 days Waffle Shop 2022 was open, we served over 5,000 lunch entrees and

2,300 desserts. With the church staff's help, we came into the 21st century, with cashiers using iPads, taking credit cards, and maintaining a real-time purchase and inventory system to help better forecast income, expenses, and sales trends.

But most importantly, Waffle Shop Rebooted made God's love visible in downtown Memphis once again to the thousands who flocked in the doors to nourish their bodies and souls. We can't wait for 2023!

What is Waffle Shop?

Calvary's famous volunteer-run Waffle Shop serves up homemade waffles, tomato aspic, chicken salad, and other favorites plus daily specials including the beloved and curiously-named fish pudding during Lent. All proceeds from the Waffle Shop support outreach ministries across the city of Memphis.

WALKING THROUGH HOLY WEEK

by Mike Wade



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Calvary's commemoration of Christ's Last Supper began in the Great Hall with a delicious Agape Meal that included pita bread, lentil soup, stuffed grape leaves, and more prepared by volunteer chef David Balling and his assistants. Lee Cagle's elegant dulcimer music enhanced our dining. Observing the ritual of foot washing powerfully deepened our remembrance.

The meal nourished us with food, affectionate camaraderie, music, scripture, and prayer. All this and the washing of feet facilitated a singular meditation on the Last Supper. Those who planned this observance enabled a sense of love, unity, and humility among ourselves as our thoughts focused on Christ's final meal with his apostles.

We can't know what was going on in the apostles' minds—not exactly or completely anyway—but

we can imagine that as they ate, they visited with each other as we did that Thursday evening, and that they watched with some incredulity as Jesus washed their feet as perhaps some of us did seeing this ritual take place. And, while as far as we know, the apostles didn't foresee what Christ was to endure in the days to follow, we can imagine that they had near unbearable anticipation of climatic events to come as they dined that night with their leader.

When we moved from the Great Hall into the church, our feast continued with music from the choir under the direction of Dr. Kristin Lensch and a sermon from the Rev. Scott Walters. Partaking of the Eucharist on Maundy Thursday brought to mind vividly the body of Jesus, abused for our sins.

How to describe the stripping of the altar as I recalled the humiliation of Christ being stripped of his clothes? Moving, yes, dramatic, certainly,





and heartrending, of course, but ultimately words fail, even seem somewhat blasphemous. For me, it was the saddest part of the evening. And finally, darkness. Lights extinguished to memorialize that loneliest and longest night.

Reflecting on the evening, I thought: if a time machine had arrived in our parking lot that Thursday night, would I have gotten inside to return and personally visit the worst events of Christ's last days? I'm doubtful.

And yet I'm grateful for a holy commemoration, convinced that a timeworn saying, slightly amended, is apt for Calvary's 2022 Maundy Thursday: best experienced in person, in the flesh and soul.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Memphis served up perfect weather for Good Friday and Calvary's pilgrimage to pray The Way of the Cross. Led by the Rev. Scott Walters, approximately 15 parishioners walked briskly through downtown Memphis, pausing to pray and read scriptures. We recounted the process by which Christ was executed, from his condemnation before Pilate to his entombment.

Praying the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday didn't explain why, for the remission of our sins, Christ had to die. Still, it did involve me in the death itself—the occasion of an innocent, holy man being scorned,

humiliated, tortured, and killed. Publicly, mind you—think Court Square. By people whose redemption was at stake—think people like you and me.

At the Ninth Station, which memorialized Jesus falling a third time, we recalled Isaiah's prophecy, "like a lamb to the slaughter." Slaughter. Friday, as I walked at peace with disciples, outside in God's fresh air, under His stunning sunshine, the word made me shudder.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

To begin our Great Vigil of Easter, the Paschal Candle was lit in the back of the church from a new fire. Its flame spread among us, lighting our tapers and illuminating the darkened church, a rite that reputedly dates back to Christianity's earliest days when lighting a candle began the evening prayer service. The historian Eusebius recorded that Constantine "transformed the night of the sacred Easter Vigil into the brilliancy of day, by lighting throughout the whole city, pillars of wax, so that this mystic vigil was rendered brighter than the brightest daylight."

The first lesson in the Liturgy of the Word recounted Abraham's near-sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22: 1-8), reminding us that what He didn't require Abraham to suffer—the death of his Son—God himself suffered with Christ. The second lesson described the

scene after Pharaoh's posse was drowned in the Red Sea (Exodus 14: 10-31; 15:20-21), how Miriam "took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them, 'Sing to the Lord for he has triumphed gloriously, horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'"

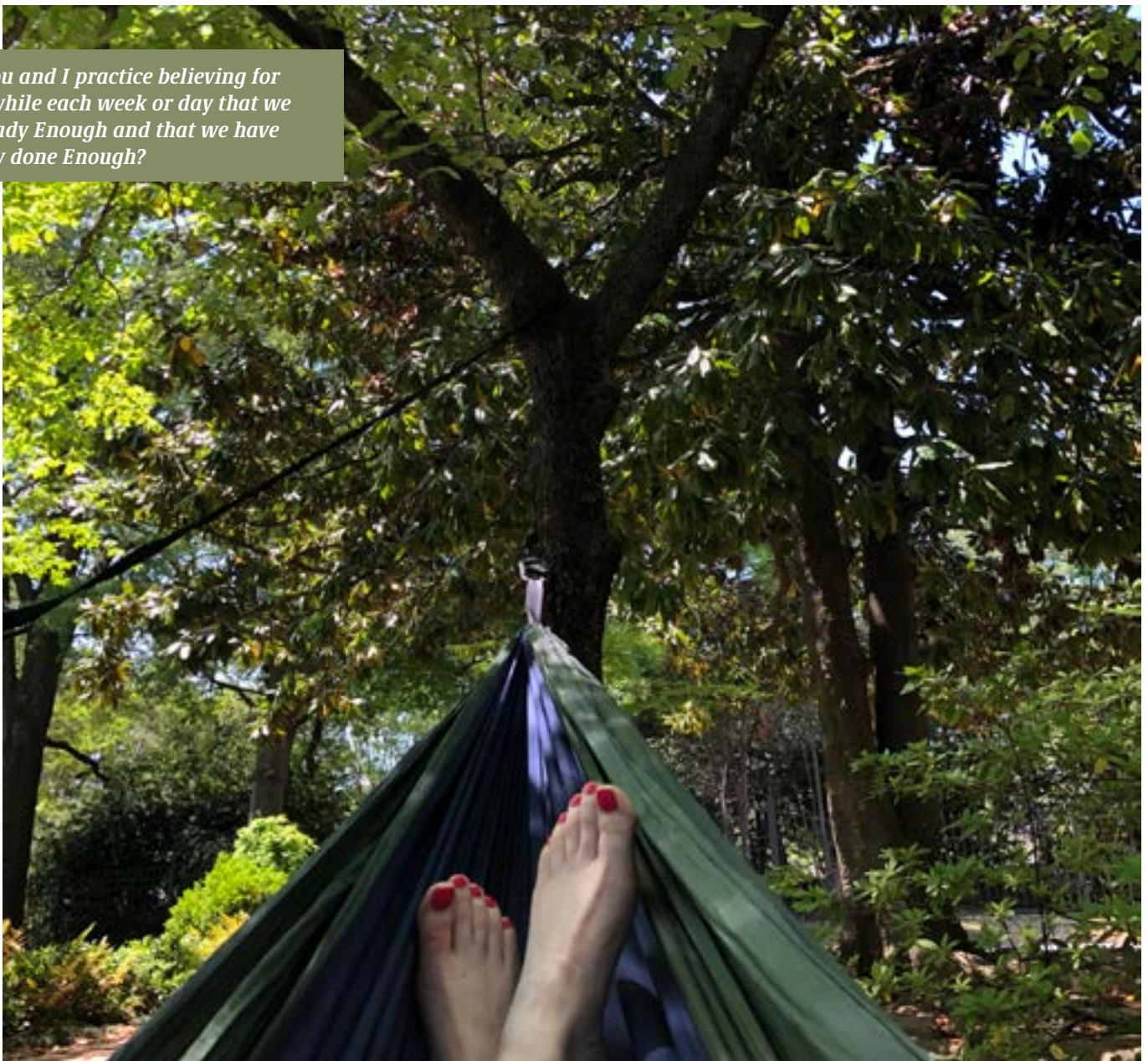
Miriam's story, followed by Canticle 8, The Song of Moses, brought to mind the importance of sacred music and, specifically, our choir's Easter music, by turns solemn and joyous and always vigorous. Under Dr. Kristin Lensch's direction, the choir likely gave us a preview of Heaven's soundtrack. By any standard, the performance of Palestrina's Psalm 42:1-7, *Sicut Cervus*, for example, was sublime. The highest praise for Dr. Lensch and Calvary's choir, including soloists and instrumentalists, still undershoots the mark.

All this and a great sermon, too. From the movie "Field of Dreams," the Rev. Paul McLain drew and expounded upon the core themes of Easter—sacrifice, forgiveness, renewal, and remembrance.

Hard to believe, perhaps, but there was more praise and celebration on Saturday than mentioned here, plus more to come on Easter Sunday. Calvary is very much about "more."

And for Easter, Calvary retold the greatest story ever: Out of love for all of us, Christ died and was raised from the dead.

Could you and I practice believing for a little while each week or day that we are already Enough and that we have certainly done Enough?



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: SUMMER AND SABBATH

by the Rev. Katherine Bush, Associate Rector

It could be that this summer at Calvary is sponsored by the letter 'E.' The choir is going to England. We will engage in a summer series on the book of Exodus. And there is a sense in which summer brings a feeling of Ease: different schedules, different paces.

Though for any parents who have tried to coordinate their children's summer Experiences, we know that an Excel spreadsheet is sometimes needed. So, Ease isn't always the feeling that we get, even when summer brings a change to routines.

Still, when many of us think about sabbath and rest, Ease can be one of the synonyms that rises to mind. But Sabbath-keeping is trickier than just heading out for the nearest hammock. Writer Judith Shulevitz explains, “Most people mistakenly believe that all you have to do to stop working is not work. The inventors of the Sabbath understood that it was a much more complicated undertaking. You cannot downshift casually and easily, the way you might slip into bed at the end of a long day. As the Cat in the Hat says, ‘It is fun to have

"It is fun to have fun, but you have to know how."

fun but you have to know how’... [Sabbath rules] were meant to communicate the insight that interrupting the ceaseless round of striving requires a surprisingly strenuous act of will, one that has to be bolstered by habit as well as social sanction.”

This rings true for me. I may not be following all the rules for a Biblical Sabbath (in fact, I am in no way managing that), but I still know that I need some guidelines. Stopping is hard and pushes against my own sense of proving my worth through my productivity. And even when I do sit still, the lure of social media or checking off a little task on my to-do list can call to me. My own mind’s spinning and my imagining what others are thinking or doing can push me back into the fray.

We may have lost the larger social sanction around Sabbath-keeping as our world pushes a narrative more about that ceaseless round of striving instead. So what about the other piece: cultivating a habit of the mind and soul that helps support

some habits of the body? One of the messages of Sabbath is that whatever we have done or not done over the course of a week is Enough. You and I are allowed, even commanded, to pause and, in the pausing, to consider that enough is actually enough.

I’d like to suggest that we hold on to the idea of Enough and let that guide us toward rest and stillness this summer. This mental exercise will enable us to make that downshift. Your Enough and my Enough might be different things—enough errands, enough screen time, enough purchasing, enough work, enough producing, enough consuming. What can you say Enough to? And then let it be, just for a little while, trusting that the world does not require your constant enterprise. Could you and I practice believing for a little while each week or day that we are already Enough and that we have certainly done Enough?

In his book *Sabbath as Resistance*, Walter Bruggemann describes Sabbath-keeping as “an invitation to spend one day per week in the awareness and practice of the claim that we are situated on the receiving end of the gifts of God.” The receiving end, not the producing end, and not even the consuming end. What might it be like to sit (literally) with this idea and to contemplate gratefully all that has been done that we did not do? When I do climb into my hammock, I am forced to look up through my dogwood tree branches and toward the sky. I didn’t plant the trees that hold my hammock, nor am I responsible for the clouds that billow overhead, and shockingly, I’m not even in control of all the other people I can hear going about their lives from my front yard. I am on the receiving end of all of it.

Bruggemann is right to set all of

this in the context of resistance. Idleness can feel profoundly uncomfortable in a world of frenetic activity, and believing that we don’t need to do anything more to earn our place here is pretty counter-cultural. It might not be easy, at first, to be at ease. Be gentle with yourself and encourage those around you to join you; it’s hard to sit on the porch when someone else is mowing the lawn for lots of reasons!

Since we know this is easier said than done, there are things we can do, as Shulevitz hints at, to support not only the mindset but also the actual practice of stopping. I have found that naming the pause on my calendar makes it a real part of my schedule. Because I struggle with screens, I use an app to control access and plug my phone in faraway rooms.

Hammocks are notoriously difficult to settle into and get out of, so once I’m in, I tend to stay in—this makes them excellent places to practice letting go of the desire to get up and deal with things. You may have your own ideas and habit-supporting rules; I’d love to hear them!

Know that you’re not alone if it feels hard to come to a full stop, nor is this even a modern problem. Those original Sabbath rules are thousands of years old. We’ve always needed guidance to slow ourselves down. So let’s go easy with our ease, and remember that we are already Enough.



WE ARE ONE BODY

by Laura Squire Trott,
3rd Year Vestry Member



At the end of Holy Eucharist, Lay Eucharistic Ministers come to the altar to gather the bread and wine of communion to share with Calvary members who cannot join us for services downtown but still wish to receive communion. Reflecting on the words found in 1 Corinthians 10:17, we send these gifts in prayer, saying together, "We who are many are one body as we share one bread and one cup."

While Covid forced our communal body apart, many found ways to stay connected during highly infectious times by creating FaceTime and Zoom gatherings and socially distanced outdoor visits. Our creative and innovative clergy and staff immediately took to their iPhones and began live streaming services and building an intricate system and calendar of online events. Small ministry groups, including the vestry, stayed vigilant in their visioning for our parish and ways we could continue to make God's love visible in downtown Memphis, even if we had to remain separate.

Shortly before the outbreak of Covid, the vestry met for an inspiring retreat at Crosstown. Brainstorming centered on ways our community could continue to play a role in "reminding people of God's miracles, celebrating the gifts of creation, welcoming the stranger, building others up and helping them grow, connecting different types of people and groups, sparking curiosity, and encouraging participation." Even when we were quarantined at home just a few months later, the vestry stayed dedicated to living into this vision of welcome, attention to our sacred space, and engagement of our greater community through ministry to our neighbors and one another.

When we could not gather indoors, the vestry supported our clergy and staff in initiating a renovation of the Calvary corner where outdoor gatherings and traditions such as Wednesday evening dinners could continue. The Basement Church spread throughout the unused ground floor and into the alleyway and streets to feed, clothe, and pray with our neighbors in need. The vestry also approved efforts to increase ways we could broadcast services online and host larger outdoor services at the Levitt Shell and Metal Museum.

While Calvary pivoted to online services and outdoor gatherings, the vestry remained dedicated to the sense of welcome at the corner of Second and Adams, not only supporting efforts in the feasibility study and how we welcome newcomers to Calvary but also how we reconnect to each other after many months and now years of isolation and separation.

Groups of vestry members walked and rolled through the buildings and parking lots to consider all the ways that people feel welcomed (or not) just by the experience of coming through our doors. New welcome banners and posters were created to highlight the life and ministries of Calvary at our many entrances. As services and programs were offered again in person, vestry members volunteered to stand at doorways in the hopes of greeting newcomers and returning members alike.

Recently, another small committee of vestry members met to think through ways we could connect even further with our Calvary congregation, and we set a lofty goal. Over the next six months, your vestry, with assistance from Calvary's Pastoral Care teams, will reach out to every household in the



congregation. We want to say “hi,” see how you’re doing, and make sure you feel up-to-date with everything happening at Calvary.

With Covid numbers improving, we are offering more opportunities for worship, faith formation, and fellowship downtown, but we realize not everyone is comfortable with gathering in larger numbers yet. We still want our Calvary family to know how much you are loved and thought of, even if you have not made it back to the corner of Second and Adams in a while.

We hope you’ll be ready to take our call, and we hope we have your most up-to-date contact information in Realm, our congregation’s online directory of names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. If you want to make sure your contact information is up-to-date, you can log into Realm at calvarymemphis.org/connect/realm.

We are all looking forward to making these calls, but should you wish to tell us that all is well and take your household off the call list, you may reach out to Ebet Peebles with your update at ep Peebles@calvarymemphis.org or 901-525-6602.

Even amidst this trying time, I’ve found myself smiling with thanks during each vestry meeting and retreat I’ve attended over

the last couple of years. It’s as diverse, loving, creative, and enthusiastic a group as the rest of our congregation. It brings me great joy to hear the beautiful ideas and reflections each vestry member adds to our ministry.

Just a little further in 1 Corinthians from our line found in Holy Eucharist, chapter 12 teaches us more about what it means to be one body with many members.

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each

one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

You, my friend, are a special member of this beautiful and loving body of Christ that is Calvary, and we, the vestry, look forward to connecting with you soon!

CALVARY COMPLETES FEASIBILITY STUDY

INTRODUCTION

by the Rev. Scott Walters, Rector

At our Sunday forum on May 1, Mieke Vandersall and Erin Weber-Johnson of Vandersall Collective presented the findings of a feasibility study in which many of you reading this participated. You can watch their presentation here: youtube.com/watch?v=64ONUeSzqzM.

Below, you will find an executive summary of Vandersall's report, which contains so much more than estimates of prudent capital campaign goals for Calvary at this time. Mieke and Erin told us that the 55% response rate to the survey, near-unanimous support for a campaign, and half of the respondents saying they would be willing to volunteer in a campaign are all remarkable measures of congregational health rarely seen in feasibility studies.

The vestry will consider these findings at their meeting this month, along with other resources previously set aside for the campaign and a commitment from the Calvary Endowment Board to support the campaign. I look forward to reporting back to you afterward.

Thank you for the part you play in Calvary's life, witness, and ministry in downtown Memphis. It's a joy and a privilege to be among you for this leg of the journey, as we continue to discern how we're called to make God's love visible in the years to come.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

by Erin Weber-Johnson and Mieke Vandersall of Vandersall Collective

For quite some time, members of Calvary Episcopal Church have been discerning the possibility of capital improvements to address both deferred maintenance issues in the church buildings and the needs of an expanding congregation.

After pausing after the Listening Phase to address concerns of the pandemic, the leadership decided it was time to move ahead with a Feasibility Study to determine the level of support for a proposed campaign. Calvary Episcopal Church contracted with Vandersall Collective to complete the study. Mieke Vandersall and

Erin Weber-Johnson were the primary consultants, providing services to determine the following:

- level of awareness of the proposed plans within the parish;
- level of support for moving forward with a capital campaign;
- level of engagement by the congregation with the projects and their perception of priority;

- realistic and feasible goals should a campaign move forward.

The study successfully revealed answers to all of these key questions. More than that, it provided insights into Calvary as a community that will prove invaluable to both the implementation of a capital campaign and to Calvary's overall strategy for fundraising going forward.



WHAT WE DID

We conducted the Feasibility Study in three phases:

1. Communication/document creation
2. Data collection
3. Analysis and recommendations

WHAT MADE THE FEASIBILITY STUDY A SUCCESS

1. Effective leadership
2. Clear strategy for recruiting
3. Level of response
4. Clear plans, engaging materials

WHAT WE FOUND

1. It's time for a campaign!

- An abnormally high number, 98%, of participants are generally in favor of the campaign, although some, 16%, with added commentary;
- An unusually strong percent of respondents, 89%, would give to the campaign, even without projects finalized. Typically, we like to see this number around 65%;
- 95 participants, 50%, are willing at this early stage to consider a volunteer position. Typically, this percentage ranges from 17-22%. Given that this number reflects households and not specifically individual volunteers, this indicates a very high willingness to volunteer for a campaign at Calvary Episcopal Church.

2. The financial goal needs to be adjusted

If a realistic goal is used, there is great potential for a successful

capital campaign. In fact, it is likely that a realistic goal may strengthen overall support for a campaign.

3. Giving potential supports an adjusted goal

The goal listed for the Feasibility Study was \$15 million dollars. Vandersall Collective recommends an adjusted primary goal of \$7,300,000 based on gifts self-identified by participants and variables identified within the study.

We further recommend an 11% (or an additional \$800,000) as a challenge goal, for a total initial campaign goal of \$8,100,000.

This challenge goal will encourage donors to stretch their giving and provide the opportunity for a transparent plan to show how gifts will be applied if the primary goal is surpassed.

4. Priorities are driven by strong support for both the kitchen/outreach/dining areas, historic church and organ, and the integrated hallways

While no projects showed any red flags, the clear priorities for participants were funding these three areas. As you consider the results of the study, we recommend utilizing the results of these priorities in determining how to readjust the scope of the overall projects.

5. Calvary has a gifted, engaged congregation

Among those interviewed, a remarkable amount of knowledge on a range of relevant topics emerged. From those who have participated in capital campaigns elsewhere, to those with extensive knowledge and experience as part of Calvary, to those with visionary ideas from their experience as teachers, leaders, and professionals within the community, Calvary has a treasure trove of individuals

with skills and gifts to share. And not only that, they want to share them with their faith community.

6. Calvary clergy and leadership are highly regarded

Even among those with strong ties to previous clergy, the overall appreciation for and trust of the current clergy, staff, and leadership was palpable. This high degree of confidence is an important factor in the thriving of the church, in the success of the Feasibility Study, and in the potential success of the capital campaign.

7. Outstanding questions are opportunities for a successful campaign

Although most people agreed that the proposed plans seemed to appropriately capture the highest priorities for a capital campaign, there were some questions raised during the Feasibility Study about areas of focus that are important to note. These questions include, but are not limited to:

- What is the role of the endowment in funding this project?
- Why is there further work needed on the organ?
- What will be done about the loss of parking spaces?
- In adjusting the pews, how much space will now be provided between pews?

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

1. Adjust your goal and go for it!
2. Set a revised scope for projects;
3. Learn from the study and respond to issues raised;
4. Keep up the clear communication and strong leadership;
5. Make sure your campaign is well resourced and staffed.

BEYOND THE BURRITO

by Jill Piper

Like a lot of “overnight” sensations, Linda Crockett’s success story was years in the making.

“I never missed a Sunday,” Linda, 67, said last month. “I came here to breakfast at 5 o’clock - not 5:01 - 5 o’clock every week for eleven years.”

Linda is a recent graduate of WOWS, Women Offering Women Support, a city government program founded in 2018 to encourage and employ women in Memphis.

In six classes, women learn financial literacy, credit building, professional development, and other skills. Linda took all six.

No stranger to hard work, at 17 Linda pretended to be older than she was so she could get a job as a waitress. Her children’s father, a promising high school and college basketball player, died suddenly, leaving Linda with three small children to raise by herself.

Still, Linda pressed on to raise her kids and retired after a long career with the Girl Scouts of America. In retirement, Linda lost her way for a little while, but she found an anchor in Community Breakfast.

“I don’t even need the burrito; I just come because I’m a passionate person,” she said.

Two years ago, Linda got a car and an apartment in a gated complex with security, which she appreciates. “It’s rough out there for women alone,” she explained.

Now, Linda returns to community breakfast every Sunday to volunteer, sometimes with her granddaughter, Serene Gray, 13. Linda works as a certified nursing assistant caring for four elderly patients in a private home. She volunteers at

Calvary on Sundays and Catholic Charities on Mondays when she isn’t stumping for one of the candidates in the recent primary election.

As the early morning guests gather in the breezeway, Linda smooths ruffled feathers, explains what will happen, and calls for quiet when it’s time for the Rev. Paul McLain to read the prayer requests for the week. Michael prays for his family. Ron prays for his health.

Curtis prays for a car, a job, a place to stay and a wife, which gets a laugh all around.

“Nothing’s too big for God,” Linda says, and gives Serene’s hand a squeeze.



Calvary's Community Breakfast serves 175 homeless and poor neighbors who eat and pray with us here at Calvary each Sunday morning. We serve our neighbors breakfast, wash dishes, make coffee, and more. We volunteer to ensure our neighbors feel welcome. Contact Director of Community Outreach Christine Todd, ctodd@calvarymemphis.org or 901-312-5214, for more information.

RADICAL WELCOME

by Madge Deacon and Clay Woemmel

Something radical might be described as exciting, risky, and beyond the norm. We think of welcome as inviting, embracing, comforting, warm, approachable, and inclusive. Put them together, and you get Radical Welcome. Think of a time you felt very welcome in a place where you did not expect it. Perhaps it was a moment where you feared rejection but were abundantly included instead. This is the essence of Radical Welcome.

On Tuesday, March 8, the Church of the Holy Communion hosted a Radical Welcome Workshop presented by the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Canon for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation. We enjoyed learning alongside Calvary clergy and staff and representatives of parishes throughout the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee.

Radical welcome is a spiritual practice. It opens us to growing and changing together. Instead of expecting others to come to us, we consider what barriers might prevent people from feeling comfortable and then go to them. Throughout the pandemic, Calvary engaged in aspects of radical welcome by taking worship online, moving Basement Church outside, and building a park on our property to welcome even more of our neighbors. And a good number of us were changed by the experience.

Through our recent feasibility study, we've already taken the first step to look around our neighborhood with open eyes and hearts to determine who our neighbors are and how we might engage with them more fully.

Building on a history of inclusivity and hospitality, we might next ask who does not feel fully welcome and included. One example: our buildings are not currently welcoming to persons with physical disabilities. In fact, they are challenging to navigate for most everyone! No one can see into our buildings and witness the numerous beautiful things happening. Ways to address these issues might include positioning greeters outside the buildings so that people know something good is

happening inside, and they are welcome. Or opening walls so that light and people can get in, opening our hearts to consider who may feel excluded and why.

As we begin to reflect on the idea of radical welcome, some questions are helpful.

Why do you come to church?
When did you decide that Calvary was "your Church?"
What are our Calvary essentials?
What have you loved about Calvary?
When have you felt God alive in our midst?
What about the prospect of change scares you? Why?

Radical welcome allows us to open our hearts and embrace the other. In such conversations, we share the gifts of our tradition and culture even as we let our hearts and congregational life be transformed by the other's presence, gifts, and power. The goal is a mutual transformation into the likeness of Christ and his Beloved Community.

The feasibility study and proposed capital campaign provide exciting opportunities for our buildings, congregation, and the whole community. We would welcome the opportunity to share more thoughts with you around the idea of radical welcome. Please feel free to reach out.



photo by Cindy McMillon





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 presented annually to one of our wonderful seniors in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to Calvary and the Diocesan Episcopal community. This year's recipient of the Theresa S. Hardison Award is Ella Chipley, whose participation in all levels of church activity has been truly impressive. The Guild of the Holy Spirit is so proud of Ella and wishes her the best in her college career.

SENIOR CLASS OF 2022

Calvary Senior Class of 2022 on Senior Sunday, April 24. Pictured from left to right, top row: Jonah Smith and Chris Bird. Left to right, bottom row: Ella Chipley, Lily Johnson, Ella Peeples, and Youth Director Gabbie Munn. Nonie Leopard not pictured.



"GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES."

by Gabbie Munn, Director of Youth Ministries



Sometimes in youth ministry, you spend a lot of time planning an evening and sharing in the fun that comes from it.... And sometimes you just get 5 minutes. A couple of weeks ago, as I was sitting at dinner in the Mural Room with the youth group, someone asked if we could do a March Madness bracket for Bible stories. I did a quick google search and told them, "Give me 5 minutes." I ran up to the youth room and quickly threw together a March Madness bracket featuring some of the most notable stories from the Bible: Jericho's Walls, Ezekiel and the Dry Bones, David and Goliath, Jonah and the Fish, the Good Samaritan, Jesus Walks on Water, Daniel and the Lion's Den, the Prodigal Son, and the Exodus from Egypt.

We read a synopsis of the story for every pairing, had (mostly) friendly debate on which story was "better" and why, and finally voted on which story should advance. Admittedly, some

stories advanced because the songs we sang as children echoed in the room. When we came to the round with Noah's Ark, we burst into "Noah's Ark-ee."

*The Lord said to Noah, there's gonna be a floodee, floodeee
Get those children out *clap*
of the muddy, muddy...
Children of the Lord.*

Of course, some stories advanced because they are incredible stories of grace and forgiveness. The story of the prodigal son moved to the very last round, even beating "Jesus Walks on Water" because we had just spent time discussing it in formation a few weeks before. But in the end, there can only be one winner. The Exodus from Egypt went up against Balaam's Donkey, Jericho's Walls, Joseph and his Coat, and finally, the Prodigal Son. Tom Crosby and I took the liberty of acting out the Prodigal Son each round, complete with music and props. Ultimately, the Exodus

from Egypt won our bracket. Everyone immediately thought back to watching "The Prince of Egypt" as children, and agreed that the story was powerful, thought-provoking, and unifying in a unique way. Not to mention, "Pharaoh, Pharaoh" was a blast to all sing together.

It's always a relief when the activity you planned for Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) goes smoothly, but it's even better when a youth presents an idea that you can run with. I'm grateful to have curious and passionate youth to gather with each Wednesday to explore Bible stories and even act some of them out. Sometimes it only takes five minutes to create an opportunity to learn more about the Bible and what speaks to us all in stories. I can always count on the young people around me for a healthy reminder that staying true to what calls us in the present moment is worth pursuing.

Moses goes to the Movies
a special viewing of Prince of Egypt



WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 | 6 P.M.

MADISON AVE. POCKET PARK

VESTRY UPDATE

by Anna Kathryn Word, Senior Warden



My vestry experience has been anything but ordinary. Two and a half years ago, vestry members gathered to envision what a new Calvary could look like—what our dreams were for the space, indoor and out, and what Calvary could look like in the future. Shortly after that meeting, we learned to think inside the box... the Zoom box. Because for the next two years, we existed in tiny boxes on a screen. And while that might have hindered progress in other places, Calvary continued to thrive. We still, as a parish, creatively found ways to keep people engaged and to continue making God's love visible in downtown Memphis.

And now, as we emerge from our collective COVID fog, it is time to revisit those dreams from 2020 (and before). The vestry recently received results of the capital campaign feasibility study, and I was so pleased to see that an overwhelming number of Calvary survey respondents are in favor of proceeding with a capital campaign, would consider giving to the campaign even before details are finalized, and are interested in volunteer positions for the campaign. We expected enthusiasm, but Calvary's response to the survey exceeded all our expectations. This is an exciting time for our parish!

In addition to the capital campaign, the vestry is working on three other important initiatives. We learned during the pandemic how vital connection is within Calvary. Greta Cooper Young and Laura Trott, our current and former wardens-at-large, are working together on a project to re-engage our parishioners and support Calvary's ministries and outreach. Their goal is to reach out to every household in the congregation and make sure everyone is up to date on connection opportunities, both in-person and virtual, within the church.

We are also revisiting Calvary's safety protocols. Calvary's Junior Warden Zach Ferguson is leading the emergency/safety planning committee. This group is reviewing Calvary's emergency preparedness plan and working with key staff and parishioners to revise the safety strategies already in place. The project will provide updated procedures on handling medical emergencies, severe weather, threats of violence, and natural disasters. Once the plan is revised, the committee will create a one-page overview that the vestry will share with the congregation.

And finally, vestry members and parishioners will be exploring

the Sacred Ground curriculum, a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race grounded in faith. This curriculum is part of the Becoming Beloved Community and a part of the church's commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our church and our personal lives. The goal will be to host two small training cohorts in the autumn and additional cohorts in the future.

I am extraordinarily proud of our work, which is built upon the experiences and hard work of prior vestries and our remarkable church leadership. It is an honor to serve Calvary alongside this incredible group of caring and thoughtful leaders. Thank you for your support as we enter this new—and better—normal phase.

PRAYER LIST

Wedding Bells

Ainsley Ayres & Battle Beasley
Caitlin Holland & Jeff Capwell

Great Expectations

Maggie & Matthew Joyce
Emily & Patrick Murphy
McKenzie & Wade Scofield
Hallie Balling Stout & JBen Stout
Barbara Radebaugh & Brie Wallace

Saints Departed

Tina Cooper, friend of Annie Billions
Louise Palazola, friend of Christine Todd
Hagen Peters, friend of Nancy Manire
Rev. Kevin Fleming, friend of Leanne Kleinmann and Andy
and Tomas Alsenas
Rosetta Rand, mother of Renita Stanbury
Bobby Ray Maxwell
Gerald Brent, friend of Paul McLain
Ann Clark Harris, friend of Laurie Monypeny
Tom Fortin, father of Ricky Fortin
Andrew Vollmar, son-in-law of Sharon & David Lee
Marie Reyna, cousin of Helario Reyna
Diana Todd
Alan Copeland, friend of Audrey & Gary Hager
Rosemary Reifel, sister-in-law of Catherine Stevens
Kim Williams, friend of Rhoda Smith
Susan Sanford, friend of Margaret Craddock

New Life

Sarah Virginia Ball, daughter of Sarah & Erik Ball
Austin Andrew Chiuppi, grandson of Sam Bryant
Robert Hughes Flynn, son of Jessica & Mike Flynn
Cora Olema McFadden Gilles-Bower, granddaughter of
Harriet & Jake McFadden
Clay Winslow Stroud, grandson of Harriet & Jake
McFadden
Halle Elise Tieman, granddaughter of Mickey & Joel Wilhite
Ann Marie Cole and Hazelle Tamsin Cole, granddaughters
of Merrill Ann Cole and great-nieces of Suzanne Henley &
Jim cole

Ron Warren, friend of Madge Clark, George Johnson, Bob
O'Connor and Connie Marshall
Sally Bustle, cousin of Paige Whittle
Elizabeth Dunlap, daughter of Mary Golden Dunlap
Mary Loeb, aunt of Charles Lewis
Thomas Hayes Mayo, nephew of Terre Sullivant
Danny Ray Hendricks, brother of Richard Hendricks
Rodger Reeves, brother-in-law of Mary Ann Graham
Anna Shaw, Waffle Shop volunteer
Lucille Vescova, grandmother of Heather Koury
Ed Hanna, friend of Laurie Monypeny
Pat Gamble, friend of Annie Billions
Charles Weiss, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain
Stephen Pavalock, friend of Nick Nesmith
Susan Hedgepeth Sullivan, sister-in-law of Beverly
Hedgepeth

Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



CHRONICLE

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Robyn M. Banks, editor

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SUNDAYS, JUNE 12-JULY 31 | 9:15 A.M. | GREAT HALL