



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

Spring/Summer 2023





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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

6 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist

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 Rev. Mimsy Jones
Deacon

VESTRY

Zachary R. Ferguson
Sr. Warden

David Cocke

Jerry Scruggs

Ben Boevig
Jr. Warden

Kate Connell

Brennan Seltzer

Greta Cooper Young
Warden at Large

Elizabeth Crosby

Youth Representative

Shannon Tucker
Warden at Large

Terri Dulaney

Brie Wallace

Cathy Awsumb

Jessica Flynn

Clay Woemmel

Franklin Barton

Len Grice

Madge Deacon
Clerk

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Kristin Lensch
Organist-Choirmaster

Steve Smith
Director of Finance & Operations

Jeremy Demarest
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Christine Todd
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Richard Hendricks
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Sunday, May 14, 2023, will forever be etched into Calvary's collective memory and life story.

Front cover: Graduating seniors (l-r) Dahlia Townley Bakewell, Bruce Marshall, Jack Jordan, and Sam Shiberou delivered amazing sermons on Senior Sunday, May 14.

THE BETWEEN PLACES

by the Rev. Scott Walters, Rector



At the corner of our front yard, where the sidewalk turns from Dickinson onto Overton Park, we put in a little butterfly garden several years ago. Last winter's temperature plunges and hard freezes were not kind to it. But we replanted this spring, and the garden is coming to life again. To give the new plants a better chance, we needed to keep the dogs of passersby from marking the territory as their own, so I thinned a few branches from our crepe myrtles and wired them into a low fence. It seems to be doing the job. But as Ardelle and I sat on the porch swing one evening, we realized the top rail was waist-high to a toddler as we watched one take hold of it as he walked by. The little boy was bursting with delight that something in a world made mostly for grownups seemed to have been built with a person just his size in mind.

With apologies to Robert Frost, maybe good fences really can make good neighbors.

When Director of Communications Robyn Banks sent me a draft of this beautiful summer edition of the *Chronicle*, it had grown to 28 pages of content! That's a whole lot of life for one not-so-little parish magazine. By necessity, the articles are fenced in according to familiar categories. You'll read stories about worship and outreach, and racial reconciliation classes. There are pieces about youth gatherings and visiting choirs, waffles and preaching, Narnia and Pride, and the Mysterious Case of the Stolen Pipes. Each article says something distinct about an aspect of Calvary's life. My hope, however, is that you're attracted even more to the borders between these stories. Because they take on so much more fullness in their relationship with each other, they're members of a single neighborhood. One we call Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis.

As we move into the construction project we've been planning for years, it occurs to me that the borders between aspects of our life together have been of central importance all along. Architectural plans have continued to develop and evolve in response to parish life and input, market forces, and ongoing discernment as a community about what kind of buildings and what kind of block will express who we are and also shape us into the people we believe God calls us to be in relation to one another, and in relation to our neighbors and our neighborhood.





*Scott & Ardelle Walters's butterfly garden.
(photo by Scott Walters)*

This has meant attending especially to borders and between places, hallways and common spaces, openings and connections, always providing accessibility for all as a guiding value.

Edges and liminal spaces have always been holy to Christians and Jews. Remember how the story of a Moabite named Ruth opened into more hope and possibility than anyone could have imagined because a Jew named Boaz did not reap to the corners of his field, just as the Torah required? Edges are places of sacred encounter, where strangers become friends and where distances are closed and the estranged are reconciled by the God who tells us to go and do likewise in our lives.

So, I hope you'll read the beautiful stories within as a whole, whether you take them in in a single sitting or not. Notice the porous, living borders between them. Run your hand along the rails, if you will, because these stories are very much connected, just as we are. There are no holier places than where the wildly different members of Christ's body come into contact with each other and become one by the reconciling grace of God.

CALVARY CLASSIC

Lenten Preaching and Waffles

by Heidi Rupke, Lente Preaching Series Coordinator

In 2023, the Lenten Preaching Series turned 100, and the Waffle Shop 95.

CALVARY CLASSICS

Generationally speaking, I am a Xennial, sandwiched between Gen X and millennials. I remember well life before the internet but nothing about Watergate. So the LPS and Waffle Shop traditions that predate me (almost all of them) can sometimes seem quaint: mayonnaise swirls, singing from hymnals, an elevated pulpit, a rulebook for parsley application. And paper menus filled out with golf pencils? Adorable. But those things are still here and in practice because, somehow, they still work. There is magic in doing things that are not oriented

toward maximum efficiency. There is deep good in doing things that require volunteers, sitting with strangers, and showing up.

And, oh, how Memphis showed up this year! Over the course of five and a half weeks, 4009 people came to Calvary's building to hear Lenten Preachers. More than 5000 came to the Waffle Shop. More than 1000 volunteer slots were filled. Two preachers marked another consecutive appearance in streaks that go back decades. Several others returned after a few years away, but they remembered Calvary, their memories marked by Boston Cream pie, warm greetings, and unique speaker gifts.

FRESH FIRE

Any event built on over nine decades of legacy is susceptible to a certain fustiness. Calcified traditions make sense only to people on the inside; when those people are gone, so are the traditions.

I'm happy to report that LPS and Waffle Shop continue to seek and discover fresh fire. From young preachers—I nicknamed the final week of LPS "Millennials Week"—to new digital platforms to novel seating arrangements and peanut butter pie (gaspl!), we explored the edges of our comfort and expanded our horizons a little. The Wednesday night programming was top-notch, and not just because the clergy let me host one of the conversations. We found new



S AND FRESH FIRE: Still Bring Memphis Together



photo by Cindy McMillion

magic when we brought two preachers from the week and offered thoughtful questions that set their imaginations and wise wonderings alight. What do you get when you ask a seasoned Muslim scholar, a young Black preacher, and a respected Jewish rabbi about the central words of their respective faiths? Surprised, that's what.

We also tried a half-day retreat this year with LPS preacher Pádraig Ó Tuama at St. Columba Episcopal Retreat Center. Under Pádraig's teaching, 80 people learned to write prayers through an ancient form called a "collect." I can't speak for everyone, but at least several of us ended the day in tears at the unexpected places the heart brings us when we are quiet and attentive.

left: LPS Preacher Ms. Dalia Mogahed, director of research at the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding in Washington, DC, was the first Muslim woman to speak in Calvary's pulpit.

Fresh fire came through that mysterious internet as well. Offering LPS sermons on Facebook Live, YouTube, and our podcast channel resulted in an estimated 7238 real-time remote audience members, 3102 (and growing) anytime viewers, and more than 2000 podcast downloads. While I still firmly hold that attending in person is preferable to listening remotely, the audience for these Lenten sermons and conversations grew beyond the boundaries of Memphis into spaces we can only guess at. And that is exciting.

SETTING THE COURSE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Many thanks go to Parish Chef Mary O'Brien and her magnificent kitchen team, to the tirelessly friendly ushers and greeters, to Debbie Balling and Connie Marshall and the fleet of indomitable Waffle Shop servers, to Noah, Sam, Breezy, and Alejandro (the clever sound and video technicians), to Ray Hatton and his team of transportation excellence, and Tommie Doggett, who ran the shuttle bus so fast that one security guard was convinced that we had hired two buses that day.

We couldn't have done this without Director of Communications Robyn Banks and Kelsey Beagle pulling dozens of communications threads together or without our clergy, Scott Walters, Katherine Bush, and Paul McLain, as the consummate hosts for our speakers. Director of Children and Family Ministries Jocelyn Busby and Director of Youth

Ministries Jeremy Demarest helped children and youth create art for the occasion. Bookkeeper Katie Owen and Director of Finance and Administration Steve Smith kept all the finances in order. Madge & Whit Deacon sold goods for Thistle & Bee and counted the day's tip money. David Balling and his team cooked delectable soups for Wednesday evenings. Volunteer cashiers rallied with a smile, even when the internet crashed because of a waffle iron. (True story!) Information Officer Mary Honey directed traffic with kind persistence. Facilities Manager Richard Hendricks and Sexton Monica Marshall kept the building clean and orderly while responding to daily emergencies. Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch and former Assistant Organist Brian Campbell played music and brought us to tears (again!) with a series of young guest musicians on Thursdays.

Even if you didn't attend a single lunch or a sermon, if you're part of Calvary, you also put on the Waffle Shop and LPS 100. It was YOUR church that hosted a mayor, a couple of judges, bestselling authors, some formerly incarcerated people, a group of teenagers, a retirement village's monthly outing, the ladies' lunch, and the Muslim woman from France who had heard about the Waffle Shop from a friend and wanted to try a Calvary waffle the day before the start of Ramadan. I hope that some people found God in their chicken salad, the kindness of a volunteer, the words of a preacher, or in the silence. I suspect they did.

QUESTIONING, LIFE- LONG LEARNERS

The EfM curriculum is thorough, broad, and thoughtfully curated—the perfect program for a questioning, life-long learner.

by Sharon Spence Bailey

For a long time, I assumed that EfM (Education for Ministry) was not for me. Sure, I enjoyed reading, studying, attending Sunday morning and Wednesday night classes, and listening to Lenten preaching. I'd done a good bit of cherry-picking from the excellent offerings at Calvary over the years. But I'd never felt called to "the ministry" and wasn't particularly interested in taking a deep dive into Christian theology. Four years of Wednesday night class and an assigned curriculum? No, thanks. That seemed like a lot (it is a lot of reading and studying, but no tests, no papers, no grades, and you only commit to one year at a time).

I have always found joy in belonging to an Episcopal community. It started with singing "Jesus loves the little children" in the church nursery and blossomed into full color at Camp McDowell, aka "God's backyard," in Alabama. I knew Calvary was my community the instant I walked through the back door in 1995.

But intellectually, I'm a life-long doubter and questioner. One of my favorite sentences as a toddler was, "How do *you* know?" I never believed anyone who claimed to have God figured out. I resisted

literal interpretations and struggled with the sure language of the creeds. Our creator is boundless and mysterious; how could we possibly encapsulate God in our limited human terms? Naturally, I worried about EfM content. Would it be too doctrinaire? Would I feel pressure to accept or reject particular beliefs fully? What if I discovered I didn't belong to this community of believers?

Eventually, I reconsidered and changed my mind. I had several friends who wholeheartedly endorsed EfM. With our children grown, I had more time to read and study and a growing inclination to ponder spiritual questions and learn more about our history and traditions. Meeting weekly with a group of seekers to discuss the readings—in community—seemed like a beautiful way to do that, and it is.

EfM meets in a twelve-person group led by a trained lay mentor using a seminar format. I needn't have worried about a specific dogmatic agenda. EfM encourages questioning, reasoning, critical thinking, curiosity, deep reflection, and spiritual discernment. We explore a wide variety of perspectives and scholarship, both ancient and modern, taking into consideration history, literary context, culture, archeology, metaphor, and multicultural standpoints. The EfM curriculum is thorough, broad, and thoughtfully curated—the perfect program for a questioning, life-long learner.

I was delighted to discover how much the EfM materials support wrestling with big questions and searching for new insights. We tackle unfamiliar terminology and uncomfortable stories. We consider diverse viewpoints. We share our own stories and explore the myriad ways people yearning to connect with God through the ages have felt seen, protected, loved, cherished, encouraged, judged, and even punished by God. We consider the ambiguities inherent in translated language and how the meanings of words evolve and alter our understanding. For example, the word "belief" has not always meant a person's opinion about whether some purported fact is true. Its older meaning is "trust." Replace the word "trust" in

the Nicene Creed with “belief” and see the change.

If you desire a neat theology wrapped up in a tidy package, you won’t find it in EfM. The curriculum does not dictate definitive answers. There is no last word. On the contrary, it delves into the rich complexities of our Christian story. It acknowledges our humble position in this world. As I long suspected, there’s much we humans don’t—

and can’t—know, and that’s okay.

I’ve learned a great deal over the past four years. I’m also right back where I started. EfM did not change my perception of God so much as it validated and enriched and deepened what I’d always known in my heart: God is mysterious and works in us and through us by way of community, and our experience of God, not “right belief,” is the important thing.



2023 Calvary EfM Graduates (from left): Fred Piper, Reece Dike, Juana McCoy, Sharon Bailey, and Mike Coop (not pictured: Karla Philipp)

Education for Ministry, aka EfM, helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. Calvary offers two EfM groups, both led by Richard Hendricks, Wednesday mornings at 10:00a and Wednesday evenings at 6:30p. This is a commitment-class, and participants are encouraged to commit to the program from August through May. Current and past members will be delighted to talk with you about the deeply meaningful conversations and learnings they gleaned from EfM.

MAKING LIFE A LITTLE EASIER

Betty Turner, Marti Holiday, Marci Sweeney, Jan Elam, Claudia Sichting sorting clothes in the Clothes Closet on a Tuesday afternoon.

by Jan Elam

When I retired in November 2020, I vowed to take one year without commitments. I spent 40 years living from deadline to deadline and was looking forward to having no structure. Also, since I retired during the pandemic, many activities I might have chosen were unavailable.

Fast forward to the summer of 2021. Basement Church was coming back inside after Covid and beginning to fully serve our unhoused (or minimally housed) neighbors again. A group of volunteers had begun organizing clothing donations that had accumulated over the past year. Two friends from my neighborhood, along with several other long-time Basement Church volunteers and some new faces, had taken on the task of getting the clothes closet in order. I signed on to help get the indoor clothing ministry back up and running and planned this as a short-term activity, expecting little from the experience. I merely thought my overdeveloped sense of order could be helpful. I also preferred a volunteer activity that was busy, quiet, and did not involve problem-solving or telephones. I previously had too many years of constant plate spinning.

As time went on, I found I enjoyed spending time with old



friends and making new ones. Some volunteers are members of Calvary, and some are not. Some were new to Memphis, some lifelong Memphians, some Sunday morning volunteers, some not. We have a group with an amazing variety of experience and talent in social work, business, and life experience. We began to share travel plans and family health concerns. We looked forward to the latest from children or grandchildren. We had become a team.

I believe I joined the clothes closet effort as a "Martha" who showed her faith by cooking for Jesus. However, I found I was having a "Mary" spiritual experience. But where was this spiritual experience coming from? After all, I felt I

was doing very little to solve significant social problems or even slightly lessen the issue of homelessness. Then, I watched a feature story on national news about a retired doctor who visits homeless camps in his city. The interviewer asked why a successful doctor wanted to spend his retirement this way. His answer made my clothes closet experience make sense. The doctor said, "I can't cure homelessness or persons with lifelong struggles, but I can make their life a little easier."

Maybe this is enough. Dry socks and clean underwear. A coat in winter and a hat in summer. An appreciation of the size of the struggle: a little dignity. This is the part of the story that Mary got.



by Elizabeth Crosby

This year 19 parishioners formed the first Calvary Sacred Ground discussion groups, a program designed to facilitate a deep dive into the history of race and racism in the United States. Part of Becoming Beloved Community, proclaimed in 2017 by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Sacred Ground is part of the work designed by the Episcopal Church to move us all toward racial justice and reconciliation.

The two groups, one meeting on Sunday afternoons and the other on Wednesday evenings, were facilitated by vestry members who felt called to do so by the moral imperative for this form of personal growth. Broadly speaking, participants consider and reconsider the experiences of Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific, and Indigenous Americans. Groups quickly and then deeply bonded, trusting one another with feelings that inevitably arose in such conversations, much of which was encouraged to be reflections on one's personal story within the broader American story about race and racism.

The breadth and depth of the curriculum must be experienced to be fully appreciated. During the 11-session course, carefully developed in the progression and layering of topics, the

groups discussed books such as *Jesus and the Disinherited* by theologian Howard Thurman; articles from multiple sources, such as James Baldwin's "The White Man's Guilt;" excerpts from books such as *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo; and films such as Henry Louis Gates' series *The African Americans: The Black Atlantic*.

Proclaiming their last Sacred Ground session to be the first meeting of their next phase as a social justice group at Calvary, participants have begun that work and invite you to join them, perhaps starting with your own Sacred Ground journey.

Look for information regarding the formation of new Sacred Ground groups in the fall.



NARNIA at Calvary



It was a hopeful and magical thing that touched us as little girls.



by Bill Bangham

Brush aside clothing hanging in a hallway at Calvary and enter a magical world. Snow is falling. A lone lamppost shines in a forest. Over there is Mr. Tumnus's house. Across the way is a beaver lodge. In the distance, mountains—among them looms a sinister-looking castle—and scattered about are stone figures of people frozen in the midst of life.

Welcome to Narnia.

During Lent, children and family ministries at Calvary treated children to a dramatic reading of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, C. S. Lewis' allegory of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection that has delighted children and adults for generations.

Read each Sunday during the 46 days of Lent, middle and high school students in



costume slipped in and out of each session, bringing characters from the book to life — Peter, Susan, Edmund, Lucy, Tumnus the faun, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, the White Witch, the dwarf, Maugrim the wolf, Father Christmas, and of course Aslan the lion — while interacting in character with the children. Mr. Tumnus served tea, the White Witch offered Turkish delight, and goldfish came from Mr. and Mrs. Beaver’s pond.

But at its heart was the reading.

“I was amazed how well the children listened to someone read to them,” said Emily Smith, who, with her sister, Jennifer Shiberou, created, organized, and executed the experience.

Emily remembers them pushing through clothing hung in the old, wooden backstairs at Calvary and entering their own Narnia. It was the mid-to-late 1980s. She was in the fourth or fifth grade, and Jennifer was in the first. Their mother, Roxie Krausser — then director of children’s ministry — created a Narnia experience for Calvary’s children.

“It was a hopeful and magical thing that touched us as little girls,” said Jennifer. “It left me with a sense of wonder which has remained with me the rest of my life.” The sisters wanted to recreate that for this generation of Calvary’s children. “We missed doing it for our own children,” said Emily with a laugh. “I think we





probably were too busy."

Busy is the descriptive word for bringing Narnia to life. Jennifer is an artist. She created the environment through elements and costumes, which changed each week. Emily handled logistics. She selected the readings, lined up readers, and composed synopses for each session so children who missed one could easily be brought into the flow of the story.

Each Saturday, they met at the church to pull it together for the next day. It was also an important time for the sisters to spend together — Jennifer was undergoing chemotherapy for appendix cancer — a time when both needed closeness and support.

Jennifer finished chemotherapy in mid-April.

Now Lent is over. The costumes and scenery have been carefully collected and stored away. The children are already asking if Narnia will come again next year.

Emily and Jennifer smile: "We'll see!"

all photographs by Bill Bangham



CALVARY PLACE CLOSES

by Margaret Craddock

Calvary Place Childcare Center has provided a safe and loving environment for children on Calvary Episcopal Church's campus in downtown Memphis for 30 years since its founding as an independent institution in 1992. But, last October, the Calvary Place Board of Directors delivered the difficult news that the center would probably close on May 31, 2023.

In January 2019, after a deep investment of time, effort, and legal counsel in an attempt to stabilize Calvary Place's leadership and management structures, the Calvary vestry determined that much more church involvement was needed than Calvary could provide. The vestry made the difficult decision at that time that Calvary Place must find a new home in 3 years. Calvary and Calvary Place searched diligently during this time. The 3-year timeframe was extended several times, up to 4 ½ years. But a suitable location could not be secured, so Calvary requested that Calvary Place accept May 31, 2023, as its last day in Calvary space. The church's need for more and better spaces resulted in new plans and a capital campaign in the intervening years, and construction is slated to begin this summer.



photo by Mary Alice Snowden

While a dedicated Calvary Place staff has continued to provide excellent care for children day to day, and a deeply committed parent-led board has worked hard to oversee the center and chart a course for its future, the crucial involvement of the downtown business, medical, nonprofit, and government community that Calvary Place identified as crucial in its original charter is not in place. Over the past five years, as Calvary Church leadership has worked with two Calvary Place boards to find a new home and strengthen its leadership and stakeholder ties, it has become increasingly clear that a deeper rebuilding of the foundations of the center is necessary for it to continue to thrive in the future. This kind of work was challenging in 1992. It may have been even more challenging in 2022, and, despite the gifts, creativity, passion, and countless hours of hard work by both board and church leaders, the task has proved too daunting.

The closure of Calvary Place is a real hardship for families who have had to find other childcare options for their children this summer. In addition to a refusal to compromise Calvary Place's high standards in the future, it was out of concern for these families and the Calvary Place staff, and in support of the Calvary Place Board's hard work, that Calvary Church extended the move date three times and recently explored what if any, conditions might allow for a fourth extension. But, in the end, too many challenges remained.

We express our deep appreciation for the Calvary Place Board of Directors, the staff, and all of the families and children who have been the heart and soul of Calvary Place over the years. Calvary Episcopal Church has been honored to host this center for these three decades.

UNPLUGGED



by the Rev. Paul McLain

In a recent sermon, I reflected on how hearing Mississippi folk music artist Claire Holley's acoustic version of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" helped me experience this familiar hymn in a new way. As I listened to her resonant voice and the simple accompaniment of her guitar, the song became crisper, clearer, and more intimate. Sometimes to get to the heart of the matter, people must also be unplugged for a season.

I am grateful to Calvary for the gift of taking a 3-month sabbatical this summer. It will be a time of rest and renewal, a time to be unplugged for a while. I'll begin by returning to my roots with a dream trip to Scotland in June and early July. Ruthie and I will be there for a month. We plan to take pilgrimages to churches and religious sites and take time to listen to Celtic music, sample seafood, and enjoy the countryside. We'll start in Edinburgh, go to Inverness to experience the Scottish Highlands and Loch Ness, and travel on the Jacobite Steam Train, featured in the Harry Potter movies, from Fort William to Mallaig.

Then we plan to spend some retreat time at the abbey on the Isle of Iona. A highlight of the trip will be participating in the Clan MacLean international gathering on the Isle of Mull. It will be a big family reunion at the historic Duart Castle that will conclude with a "Kirking of the Tartans" worship service. We'll go to the Isle of Islay to sample more seafood, spot seals and otters, and go out with a crew to dig up peat for my favorite smoky single malt Scotch, Laphroaig. While on Islay, we plan to spend some time in pilgrimage and prayer at Kilnave Chapel, a 12th-century church that figures prominently in the MacLean family history.

During July and August, I am planning some travel and retreat time in various sites around North America. I plan to reconnect with some old friends and attend worship services of different traditions. I also plan to catch up on a long reading list of books many of you and others have recommended over the years. Ruthie and I will conclude the sabbatical by participating in the Cherokee National Holiday over Labor Day weekend in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, which has become another spiritual home to Ruthie. We'll enjoy parades, pow-wows, seeing Cherokee arts and quilts, and sharing time with my brother and nephew, who plan to come from nearby Tulsa.

Most of all, I hope to connect with God in new and more profound ways. I want to spend more time outdoors to relish creation and feel the "still waters and green pastures" of Psalm 23, for which my soul longs. I hope to return renewed and refreshed for ministry alongside you here at Calvary.

I am grateful to Scott Walters, Katherine Bush, and so many of you who will take on my responsibilities to make this sabbatical happen. I am also thankful for the support of the Baguette Brothers Bible study group and a small group of parishioners who have guided me in planning the sabbatical—Bill Craddock, Lucia & Hal Crenshaw, Elizabeth Crosby, Martin Jellinek, Heather Jordan, and Sharon & Edwin Thorpe. Thanks to all of Calvary for this amazing gift of being unplugged for a while!

MAKING GOD'S LOVE VISIBLE

MIDSOUTH PRIDE

by Katy Leopard

The first Saturday in June is always the date of the MidSouth PRIDE festival. Calvary and several other churches always come to participate and to show our love for the MidSouth LGBTQ community. Several Calvary parishioners arrived early this year to set up our tent and booth and put out everything we had brought to give away. We had brightly colored buttons that said "God Loves You, No Exceptions," a big rainbow sign saying the same thing, and prayer books that our Sunday School children had colored with rainbows and wonderful inspirational messages.

As we arranged everything, we got some free coffee from the Starbucks tent across the way and chatted with the other booths next to us. A young man approached our table and said, "Oh, you brought more prayer books! I got one last year, and I use it all the time. It is on my coffee table". I will admit to thinking last year that no one would want prayer books



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decorated by children, but we gave every one of them away both years, and I am sure we will do so again next year.

This year, as in the past, people approached our tent with a sense of wonder that a church would be at a PRIDE event. Many spoke to us about experiences of rejection and pain in their childhood churches. Many were tearful when we offered them a card with our location and service times and invited them to join us on Sunday. One young girl approached Emily & Drew Smith, who wore t-shirts that said, "Free Mom Hugs" and "Free Dad Hugs." She asked Drew if she could have a hug. As Drew gave her a big bear hug, she broke down in tears and cried in his arms.

We waited in the sun for the parade to start with our balloon decorations and our rainbow banner. Our clergy representative Katherine Bush was there with her collar on and a t-shirt that said, "This PRIEST loves you." We waited and waited (next year, we will bring umbrellas) and then



finally rounded the corner and walked down Beale Street. Surrounded by glitter, balloons, and rainbows, we marched, waved, blew kisses, and mouthed "We love you!" to the crowds that packed the street. It was GLORIOUS and FABULOUS!

It is easy to forget what others have suffered when you live with privilege of any kind. The privilege of having a dad who gives you big hugs anytime you need one, the privilege of growing up in a church that accepts and loves you just as you are, the privilege of being born into a body and assigned a sex which you have always felt accurately reflects who you are. It was a great privilege to represent Calvary at the PRIDE Festival. It was a great privilege to do a small part in making God's love, which is always there but not always felt in the LGBTQ+ community, visible.

photos by Katy Leopard and Leanne Kleinmann



A DIFFERENT KIND OF RESTORATION

by Kristin Lensch, Calvary Organist-Choirmaster



Sunday, May 14, 2023, will forever be etched into Calvary's collective memory and life story. The organ was in the process of being removed for restoration. That morning, we found out the 26-foot-long rented Penske truck, filled with most of the pipework from the Swell

and Choir divisions, had been stolen. The organ builder, Joseph Rotella, and his crew had loaded it the day before so we could have services on Sunday morning without the removal mess. We were all devastated.

The next day we blitzed the local media, and soon the story was picked up nationwide and even internationally. I called scrap metal yards all day in TN, AR, and MS. Most had already been alerted by the police. At 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, we received a call from the police that the truck had been found abandoned, just a twelve-minute drive away. The officer who found the truck had seen our story on the news, thanks to the excellent work of Director of Communications Robyn Banks and Calvary parishioner Leanne Kleinmann's connections. Joseph, Scott Walters, and I all rushed with tentative elation to the site and discovered that 75% of the pipework was left intact. Yet, a substantial amount was missing. The removal work continued, however. Some craftspeople stayed to remove the



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blower and the rest of the pipes from the chamber while Joseph and the driver went to get a new truck to transfer the recovered pipework. They put in a long day to get everything loaded on Tuesday, and at 8:00 p.m., the truck pulled away on its way to Boston. Joseph was kind and sent me proof—a picture—to verify its arrival at his shop a few days later.

A week went by. Without any progress on finding the pipework, we offered a \$5000 reward through CrimeStoppers of Memphis. It worked! A tip brought us to the rest of the pipes three days later. Some of them suffered damage, but in the words of the builder, “We’re in the restoration business!” They, too, have now made it to Boston.

The restoration work is now a little more extensive, which, understandably, will add time to the job’s completion. In addition to the work planned, the damaged pipes will be replaced with new or used ranks; they will be voiced to fit with our existing instrument. Insurance is cooperating beautifully. I’m even more confident in our decision to go with the best: Joseph and our tonal consultant, Jonathan Ambrosino, are already solving the problem, and when it is finished, our instrument will still resound with glorious sounds due to their marvelous work.

It has been an emotional rollercoaster this past month. I am saddened by the crime in our city and how it touched us deeply, but even more grieved by the desperation that led to the theft—whether it was an act to belong, to get a thrill, or to get a tiny bit of money to make it through another day. I wish we

could be part of a solution to an incredibly complex problem, but I don’t exactly know how.

I have been amazed at the expressions of support and love we received from all over the world—to both Calvary and the organ builders. My inbox was overflowing with kindness and concern from colleagues around the country. Random people from Memphis called the church to express their sadness and support. One organ builder offered to donate a complete rank of the same vintage if we needed it.

And, it has been helpful to put this experience—even as specific as the story of the organ—in the context of Calvary’s long history. Our beloved historic instrument from 1935 replaced the organ destroyed in a terrible storm when the roof blew off and caused water damage beyond repair. That organ was only twenty-four years old! It had been installed in 1910 and destroyed in 1934. In comparison, our 88-year-old instrument undergoing restoration will just need a few more repairs.

My mother taught me not to pray for a specific outcome but for the understanding, strength, and humility to deal with whatever the outcome may be. When my hopes diminish and despair creeps in, I am constantly reminded of my own need for restoration and encouraged by the tangible ways God answers that prayer by nurturing my faith with expressions of love in community.



photo by Scott Walters

YOUnited: A New Youth Initiative



Cynthia McCarty, director of children and youth ministry at Church of the Holy Apostles and Jeremy Demarest are two of our diocesan youth leaders working to unite the youth of our diocese. (photo courtesy of the Diocese of West Tennessee)

by Jeremy Demarest, Director of Youth Ministries

YOUnited is an inspiring new initiative that brings together all the youth groups from around the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee three times a semester to have fun and get to know one another. It began with a desire from the young people in our churches to get to know youth from other churches. In years past, the diocesan EYCs would meet for events a few times a year at St. Mary's Cathedral, and YOUnited is an evolution of those events.

YOUnited is designed to be an open and inclusive safe space for all young people in grades 6 through 12 in our diocese, giving young people from churches with smaller or nonexistent EYCs a place for some fellowship. Our events are focused on community building, with the hope that our young people walk out of the events with deeper friendships than when they went in.

So far this year, we have had three YOUnited events, and they were all an absolute blast. Our kickoff was a Summer Inside party at Holy Communion, where we had an indoor picnic and an obstacle course. Our next event was a chance to show off our bowling skills, or in my case, a lack of skills. And most recently, we had a diocesan fair at St. Philip, where several churches hosted games and activities, culminating in an epic cornhole tournament. My favorite memory from this event is experiencing just how difficult it was to hit the target on the dunk tank to dunk the person inside it, and then Bishop Phoebe taking one toss at it and being the only person to hit the target!

YOUnited has been such a life-giving initiative for me, and seeing the connections between our young people warms my heart. YOUnited will be on pause for the summer and will kick off again in August with some high and low ropes course action. Stay tuned for details!



On Friday, April 21, 2023, Calvary Friends of Music offered a concert featuring the Clare College Singers. Under the direction of Graham Ross, Director of Music since 2010, the choir has been praised for its consistently 'thrilling' and 'outstanding' performances worldwide.

Photos by Bill Bangham



HOLY WEEK AN





ED EASTER 2023





Meet Larry Hawkins, a longtime friend of Basement Church and before that, Community Breakfast. He is housed, hired, and thankful now, and he especially reaches out to newcomers to show them that they can turn their situations around, too. Everyone at Community Breakfast is invited to write a prayer on an index card, and recently Larry shared this: "I want to thank the Lord for waking me up this morning...and for my health, prosperity, peace, Joy, and life abundant." Every week Larry brings his envelope with his tithe and his prayer. L.H. never misses a week with a hug. If you would like to be part of this important ministry, please come, and volunteer, Sunday mornings from 6:15 to 7:45 a.m. You will meet people like Larry who are so thankful for Calvary.

Guild of the Holy Spirit Theresa S. Hardison Award

by Laurie Monypeny, President, Guild of the Holy Spirit
For Theresa S. Hardison, education in all areas was one of the most important aspects of a child's life. One of her most important goals was teaching children to be ready to further their education and embrace learning both physically and spiritually. Many children still remember her from her early teaching years at Shady Grove Elementary and later at Westhaven Elementary. Theresa was also a volunteer director of children's education for many years and was very active in forming Calvary Sunday School curricula and teaching it to our many children. After Theresa died in 2013, the Guild of the Holy Spirit established the Theresa S. Hardison Award for a deserving graduating high school senior at Calvary. This award of \$500 is given annually to one of our outstanding seniors in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to Calvary and the diocesan community. This year's Theresa S. Hardison Award recipient is Bruce Marshall, whose participation in all levels of church activity has been truly impressive. The Guild of the Holy Spirit is proud of Bruce and wishes him the best in his college career at the University of Memphis.



Calvary's 2023 Graduating Seniors

front row (l-r): Frazier Gardner, Gloria Bird, Dahlia Townley
Bakewell, Clara Norman

back row (l-r): Jack Jordan, Sam Shiberou, Bruce Marshall

not pictured: Will Dulaney and Carl Rainey

IN CALVARY'S PRAYERS

Wedding Bells

June 10, 2023: Kay Calandruccio & Richmond Poindexter

Great Expectations

Bailey & Collin Fountain

Elizabeth Parrish & Hazem Hassan

Maggie & Matthew Joyce

Sarah Sandy & Buzz Hardin

Marianne & McLean Smith

New Life

March 9, 2023: Samuel Adams O'Connor, grandson of Doralina Angelescu & Bob O'Connor

May 27, 2023: McKenna Camille Markin, great-granddaughter of Gayle & Raymond Spence

May 26, 2023: Theo Wayne Russell, great-neice of Barbara Etheridge

Saints Departed

Whit Agee, friend of Art Cruthirds

Tom Alley, uncle of Miranda Cully

Graham Ambrosino, stepfather of Hillary Monypeny

George Winton Apffel, brother of Dorothy Hartsfield

Friedell Barnes, mother of Craig Barnes

Louella Benton, friend of Jocelyn Busby

Judy Blenden, cousin of Eric Milner

LaVaughn Bridges, friend of Kendra Martin

James Wray Bush, uncle of Stephen Bush

Emily Johnsey Canter, friend of Mary Beth Seltzer

George Carvell, friend of Debbie Moncrieff

Rita Compton, mother-in-law of Sherry Compton

Liza B. Connette, aunt of Rhoda Smith

Mike Deaderick, friend of Suzanne Henley and Robbie & John McQuiston

Alisa Elliott, mother of Kim Kitterman

Gloria Fisher, friend of Martin Jellinek

Billie Ford, friend of Sarah Squire

Sam Gelose, uncle of David Balling

Tino Gonzales, friend of Candace Kierns-Bitensky

Henny Hale, friend of Zada Gates

Doretha Harris, grandmother of Charlotte Turner

Suzanne Smith Henley

Susan Henninger, friend of Gayle & Raymond Spence

The Rev. Hap Hoffman, friend of Robyn Banks

Rod L. Hubbard, son of Sherry Compton

Gene Katz, friend of Nino & Charles Shipp

Ed Krebs, brother of Mary Beth Seltzer

Mary Long, mother of Phyllis Long

Pat Magruder, friend of Sarah Squire

Tim McCarver, friend of Lee & Joe Duncan

Robbie McQuiston, mother of Anna McQuiston & the Rev. Katherine Bush

Steve Moody, cousin of Robyn Banks

Al Mullins, father of Elizabeth Crosby and Annie Billions

Ruth Cash Neely, step-grandmother of Susan Neely-Barnes

Peter Nocifora

Patti Noonan, aunt of Ebet Peeples

Dr. Brantley Pace, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain

Majid Paydar, friend of Zada Gates

Marian Peck, friend of Sherry Compton

Russell Peck, friend of Debbie Moncrieff

Tony Rogers, friend of Kathy Williams

Barbara Ann Rotella, mother of Joseph Rotella

Lila Wrape Saunders

Suzie Shaw, friend of Kendra Martin

Gene Smith, father of Les Smith

Lynn Preston Smith, aunt of Ebet Peeples

Jim Spruill, friend of Linda Spiese

Phillip Temple, Sr., uncle of Renee Patey

Carroll Gene Temple, cousin of Renee Patey

Frank Tyler, friend of Candace Keirns-Bitensky

Ronald Van Mersbergen, father of Miriam Van Mersbergen

Ken White, son of Dorothy Kirsch

Brad Winchester



CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

A mid-summer evening of good food and trivia with prizes. Chef Mary O'Brien will provide pub food and drinks.

AT 5:30 PM

Calvary Episcopal Church

RSVP at calvarymemphis.org/trivia



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

6:00 PM

at Calvary Episcopal Church

**WITH A MAKE YOUR OWN
ICE CREAM SUNDAE BAR**

