



CALVARY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

Winter 2021





making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis

PARISH OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 a.m. 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 of the Diocese of West
Tennessee*

The Rev. Amber Carswell
Associate Rector

The Rev. Audrey Gonzalez
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Scott Walters
Rector

The Rev. Paul McLain
Associate Rector

VESTRY

James Aldinger
Sr. Warden

Laura Trott
Warden-At-Large

Will Hayley
Kathryn Elam Jasper

Anna Kathryn Word
Jr. Warden

Lisa Buckner

Nancy Manire

Madge Deacon
Clerk

David Cocke

John Owen

Tony Graves
Treasurer

Elizabeth Crosby

Jerry Scruggs

Zachary R. Ferguson

Ginny Strubing

Bailey Bethell Fountain

Greta Cooper Young

STAFF

Robyn Banks
Director of Communications

Mary O'Brien
Parish Chef

Jess Steenberger
*Minister to Children and
Families*

Gary Thompson
Information Officer

Ebet Peeples
*Director of Welcome &
Community*

Christine Todd
*Community Ministries
Coordinator*

Kristin Lensch
Organist-Choirmaster

Helario Reyna
Facilities Manager

Cindy Yeager
Bookkeeper

Gabbie Munn
Director of Youth Ministries

Steve Smith
*Director of Finance &
Operations*



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CALVARYMEMPHIS.ORG



FROM THE
EDITOR

When a fellow Episcopal communicator reminded me recently that we were headed into our second "Covid Lent," it caught me off-guard. It seems like there should be something oddly reassuring about the fact that we've "been there, done that." And we have come such a long way from those first live-streamed worship services in March of 2020. But being reminded that this all began almost a year ago doesn't bring much reassurance at all. Stresses over new technology have been replaced by stresses over finding new ways to keep people connected in this technology-wearily world. This [Chronicle](#) is filled with stories of how Calvary parishioners have stayed connected over the past year. Reading these stories reminds me that Calvary continues to be the place where so many of us come (whether in-person or through our computer screens) to be renewed and restored to continue doing the work God calls us to do.

Robyn M. Banks

Cover photo: Calvary in the snow. February 2021
photo credit: Helario Reyna

BEING CALLED OUT

by the Rev. Scott Walters, Rector

Are there still intercoms in grade school classrooms? Our children haven't been in that world in a while. And with all the modern modes of communication at our disposal—or rather, at whose disposal we often find ourselves—if they're not gone already, surely the days are numbered for those crackly speakers with long pull chains by which Ms. Munn (my 3rd-grade homeroom teacher) could summon the office. Or, better yet, through which our principal, Mr. Osgood, could announce that it was time for a school-wide assembly in the cafeteria.

We'd all file out of our classrooms and sit crosslegged like a bunch of fidgety yogis. The room would buzz with our barely (at best) contained energy as we waited for the awards ceremony or fire safety presentation or whatever it was we'd been summoned for to commence.

I know you've been told a thousand times that a church is not a building. It's people. But, since we're already imagining ourselves in school, indulge me in a little

etymology. In that Gideon's New Testament you took from a motel room back when schools still had intercoms, you'll find the word church more than a hundred times.

The family tree of church, or kirk, as the Scots say, reaches back to the Greek kuriakos, which means "pertaining to a lord." But the Greek word behind all those churches you read in your Bible is not a form of kuriakos. It's a bad translation of ekklesia, which means, "Hey, I see you fidgeting over there. I need everyone to stay seated on their bottoms right now."

There's just another sentence or two of this dreadful word lesson stuff. Anyway, ekklesia means "to be called out." Christian people are "the called-out ones." So a better translation is assembly. Truly. A word I hope can pull your imagination out of the linguistic fog and back into the school cafeteria where we were assembled for something new after being called out of class.

I love this image of the church (we've just used the word for too long, so there it is) being constantly assembled. We're

constantly being called out in new ways, with new people sitting next to us on the waxed institutional tiles.

What follows in this [Chronicle](#) are stories about the Calvary assembly over the past year. I almost typed reassembly, but for all our long and storied tradition, Calvary has never assembled twice in precisely the same way with precisely the same people in precisely the same places. And we've certainly never assembled again in a world that's remained unchanged. Maybe 2020 was just the year when we had to put years of practice being called out of our lives and into new relationships and ways of being more intensely to use.

In the pages to come, Ryan Jones will remind us how the need for human connection didn't wane for families during the pandemic, which is how picking up Wednesday dinners in the parking lot while Cora May got her "Hit the Road" passport stamped actually brought Ryan, Sarah, and their kids closer to Calvary in important ways, even during these days of social distance. Milton Winter writes about how our pastoral care teams

found new ways to connect and support people when so many of the traditional "touches" were not possible. Barbara Etheridge gives us a glimpse into the hardship COVID-19 presented to people for whom singing is a spiritual practice and the beautiful ways our choirs assembled themselves against so many odds. Christian formation didn't cease either. Mary Jane Viar tells how learning and trust and fellowship could still happen when classes and small groups adjust to the times as best they can. Mary Royer Hayes tells of the blossoming of Community Breakfast and Clothes Closet into the miracle in the Maggie Isabel alley that is Basement Church. And Clay Woemmel writes beautifully about the hardships as well as the unexpected graces that sustained us after we were forced to reimagine how we worship together, much of it going online.

Hearing these stories of the Calvary assembly fills me with hope in a hard, hard time. They even fill me with anticipation for new expressions of old traditions like Waffle Shop and the Lenten Preaching Series. The

hardship of these times and the toll they've taken on our minds, bodies, and souls is real. And there will be much healing work to be done in our lives and our world in the days to come that no vaccine can do on its own. But I can see that healing work happening already in the Calvary assembly.

I hope the stories here remind you of a dozen more and provide you with a little hope

and encouragement as well, remembering that as the church of Jesus, assembly is not just something we do, it's who we are. Because when even two or three of us get together in his name, Jesus says he's part of the gathering as well. And read the stories. Whether they're a few months or a few millennia old, they all seem to say that when Jesus joins the assembly, the healing that's most needed begins to happen.



A TIRED FAMILY FINDS A TIRELESS COMMUNITY

by Ryan Jones

Everyone is tired of everything. We're tired of Zoom meetings. We're tired of wearing masks. We're tired of thinking about the risks now associated with what used to be normal, everyday life.

The last year has just worn us all down.

But for my family and I, there were a few bright spots along the way.

Calvary was one of them.

We'd only been members at Calvary for a few years when the pandemic and its various lockdowns began. But the things that drew us to the church, and the things that kept us there, still existed despite COVID-19. It just took us a little while to find them. When we did, it became clear that Calvary is more than just a physical place. It's a community whose strengths and ideals carried over despite the lack of physically gathering together like we were used to.

One of the most remarkable silver linings of this last year at Calvary was the Wednesday night "Hit the Road" program. Not only did it bring us (especially our four-year-old daughter Cora May) closer to the church, but it managed to keep us engaged, physically able to see some Calvary members again, and fed (both literally and spiritually).

Have you ever tried to get a toddler excited about church or homework? Let me tell you, it's not something that will build your confidence as a parent. But somehow Jess, Scott, Amber and all the others at Calvary managed to put together a program that got Cora May talking excitedly about her weekly

lessons, activities, and scripture on an amazingly consistent basis.

Every week leading up to Wednesday nights, all we heard from her was "I can't wait to see Amber," or "I'm going to tell Jess about all of the things," and "Can we do my church homework tonight?" She still asks us if we are going to get dinner and see everyone at church on Wednesday nights. Being able to actually see some church leadership and others from the congregation, even if it was only in the parking lot, cannot be overstated here. In a time when our physical contact with people was limited to our immediate family and mad rushes to the grocery store, being able to briefly reconnect with the folks at Calvary on Wednesday nights was a much-needed respite from the days of isolation.

That sense of community that we loved about Calvary from the start was evident in this program, as it not only brought us together again but also brought us (and our daughter) closer to the church. With us it was the realization that the community we discovered at Calvary was present no matter the nontraditional circumstances. For Cora May it was getting the opportunity to meet and engage with Jess, Amber, and Scott in ways that she might not normally have been able to do, and in ways that she as a toddler found fun and looked forward to!

Let's not leave out the food either.

If you missed out on the chance to get some of these dinners on Wednesday nights, it's truly a gastronomical tragedy. How is it that someone is talented enough to make some of the best meatloaf I've ever eaten, while

also putting out amazing white bean and sausage cassoulet, impressive greens, baked fish, and some of the best vegetarian entrees I've ever had? It doesn't seem possible that one person in a church basement kitchen can somehow be that vastly talented to deliver such impeccably executed and diverse range of dishes. The food alone was enough to keep us coming back every week. Maybe someone should look into opening up a new Calvary Restaurant? We'd be there weekly.

Another item that seemed likely to fall by the wayside with the pandemic was my wife Sarah's involvement with the Calvary book club. One of her favorite discoveries of attending church here has been not only the book club itself, but also the friendships she's made because of it. At a time when we were new to the church, it was Sarah that took the surprising (for her) step of getting involved with this group of women and getting to know them firsthand. All of this could have come to a halt when physical gatherings were put to a stop, but in another example of Calvary community persevering amidst change, the book club shifted to online meetings and discussions and allowed Sarah and her friends to keep up with each other and the going-ons of their various lives.

We, like everyone else at Calvary, can't wait to return to normal. We want our children to

have the full experience of enjoying a loving, open-minded, and interesting community at Calvary, just as we have. All without the worry of COVID-19. But this year showed us that not only can the folks at Calvary adapt on the fly, but that the community we love there doesn't exist only inside the chapel or the building itself.

It's the people that make all the difference.



CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

by Milton Winter



In the year 2020, I both received and gave pastoral care from Calvary Church. Twice I was a patient in hospital for surgery—the second was an emergency, with great pain until the surgery could be done. I was attending a lovely Lenten Evensong at Grace-St. Luke's in which our own Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch and other members of Calvary Choir were participating. As I listened, something inside me did not feel quite right. I dismissed it as a bit of indigestion, and went home, savoring the evening of beautiful music and prayer. But about midnight I was in real distress and the nurse at Trezevant where I live dispatched me to Methodist-University Hospital in an ambulance.

On both of my hospital stays, the Rev. Paul McClain was there at "dawn-thirty," to pray with me before surgery, even though I had tried to assure him that Jesus would hear if he offered a kind word from the comfort of his home! I also had calls and communications

from Scott, Amber, Kristin, John Palmer, and many others in the Calvary Choir and the pastoral care team. The clock seems to "run backwards" when one lies in a hospital bed. The pastoral care I received was heartening at a time when I did not feel in control of events. It sustained me through some fearful moments, and I am sure it speeded my recovery.

Having received pastoral care in 2020, it was also a privilege to extend it to others later in the year as I began to feel better. The care team of which I'm part is an interesting and enjoyable group of Calvary folk. Paul McClain and Len Grice are our leaders. We enjoy each other's company. But we gather on Wednesday evenings for a larger purpose, to share the compassion of Christ and extend the interest and encouragement of the Church to those who are experiencing "trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity." That list, drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, includes all of us at one time

or another. We consider it a privilege to reach out with visits, phone calls, cards, and small gifts, just to say that we care and that "you are remembered in our prayers."

Two individuals stand out in my recollections of 2020. One person to whom I sent a card wrote a beautiful letter of appreciation for the ministry of Calvary's pastoral care teams. She had heard from quite a few church members and said it made a great difference. Not only had there been cards and calls, but casseroles brought to her home, and with that comfort food, she had felt the comfort and care of the Church and of God. I was also given the name of an elderly member residing in a nursing home to visit.

Sometimes it is hard to find something to talk about when visiting someone for the first time. But in this case, within five minutes, I felt as if this dear lady and I were old friends. It turned out that her twin nieces were longtime friends of mine and that she knew a

large circle of people that my father had lived among in the days before he met my mother and moved to my hometown, Cleveland, down in the Mississippi Delta. We shared many stories on our visits, laughing and recalling interesting people we'd both known in days gone by. "Delta people" have a special bond. It is a complicated society, troubled in so many ways, but those of us who are from there do love it.

In Philippians, St. Paul says "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." So, we care for one another. But this admonition comes in a pretty heavy context. It is in a passage that tells of Christ, who was in the form of God, emptied himself and took the form of a servant and humbled himself even unto death on a cross. That is quite an example and it gives us all a call to serve each other in the ministries of our Church.



MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

by Barbara Etheridge

I came to Calvary because of the music. My mother invited me to join the community choir for a performance of Handel's Messiah at Calvary in 1999. A few years later, I joined the Calvary Choir. And in 2017, I was received into the Episcopal Church. Through it all, I sang.

As we began 2020, I looked forward to the music we would learn and the planning we would do for our choir pilgrimage to England in 2021. I already knew that my job would be ending in March, so my husband Jeff and I were planning a nice, long trip in April after Easter. My position as director of finance meant many long days preparing financial statements and budgets. Still, Wednesday choir rehearsals and Sunday services were my outlets for stress relief and spiritual community.

In March, I found myself working in my dining room. Packing up my office would have to wait. But "Safer at Home" also applied to the choir, so March 15 was the last Sunday we had a "full" choir at church. The next week had only four singers, and by Holy Week, we were down to

two singers and an organist. My company asked me to continue working for a few months, but sitting home all day, I became very anxious about the virus and worried for my family, all of whom were still doing things outside the house. I needed an outlet, and the virus would not allow for in-person choral singing. A Facebook group I am in had a post from a church in England for a virtual choir project with a piece we had sung at Calvary not too long before our lockdown, so I took the plunge, figured out how to record myself singing, and sent in a video. That church then did another project with another piece we had sung at Calvary, so I decided to do that one as well.

Meanwhile, Calvary Choir started having Zoom social hours to stay in touch with each other. Practicing over Zoom was just impossible because of time delays, but we had some great conversations. We shared our personal stories of being at home, working or not. Calvary Choir is blessed to have doctors and teachers in our group, and they, of course, had their unique challenges. We celebrated the good things, prayed for the sick,



and supported each other. By May, we were working on our own virtual project. Over the summer, we decided to postpone our England pilgrimage to 2022. In early fall, we created a small cookbook of some of our favorite recipes while we've been at home. We even led sung Compline services.

I continued to sing virtually, but I found something missing—the joy of live singing with other people. My job finally ended at the end of August. I watched many Hallmark movies and home improvement shows to keep my spirits up, but singing, even virtually, was still the most fulfilling.

At the end of September, Kristin received approval for the choir to gather in person. We sat in the parking lot, masked, 12 feet apart. As we sang the first notes, my eyes filled with tears – finally, we were together and singing! We sang hymns and some familiar pieces. Those 45 minutes were glorious, and my heart was full. I came home exhausted – I had sung out so much stress and anxiety.

The next few weeks, we continued to meet

in the parking lot until the sun no longer cooperated. Kristin developed a plan for us to sing in the Nave, still masked but safely spaced. As the organ played and our voices filled the room, my soul felt at home. Pandemic or not, the calendar moves forward. And although we could not yet sing as a large group in person, we were able to record music for Calvary's Lessons and Carols service. A rise in virus cases sent us back to singing from home and dashed our hopes for a large outdoor Christmas Eve service. But now cases are going back down, vaccinations are being administered, and the choir is back together, rehearsing in the Nave in anticipation of our all being back together for worship.

Every Sunday morning, I tune to Calvary's Facebook page to worship, and once a month I watch our evensong service. I sing along with the staff singers on the hymns and the anthems if I know them. Don't tell Kristin, but sometimes I even try to sing a different part! There is a joy in singing, and joining my voice with others to "make a joyful noise", even virtually, is truly uplifting.

WORSHIP

at Calvary

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist on Sundays

Worshippers may attend in-person, wearing a mask and physically distanced, or may worship from home as the service is live-streamed through Facebook and YouTube. In-person worshippers must sign up in advance at calvarymemphis.org/connect.

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

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

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

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

8 a.m. Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday

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

8 p.m. Compline: Monday-Friday

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

12 p.m. Wednesday Noonday Prayer

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



LENTEN PREACHING SERIES AND WAFFLE SHOP GO ON

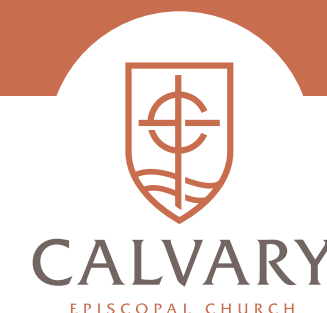


CALVARY’S FIRST NOONDAY LENTEN SERVICE took place in a downtown theater 98 years ago. It would be another six years before the first plates of waffles, chicken hash, and fish pudding brought the Waffle Shop into being. In the decades since, in peacetime and war, booms and depressions, moon landings and struggles for civil rights and all the events that have shaped our common life in Memphis, Lenten Preaching Series preachers have spoken truthfully, hopefully, and prophetically to the world as it is, and to our lives as they are. They have nourished us when we’ve been depleted, and challenged us to be God’s agents of healing, justice, and mercy in a world that has always needed much more of all three. A global pandemic hasn’t lessened those needs. And LPS will go on in 2021, adapting and speaking, as it always has, to the times. I hope you’ll join us.

The Rev. Scott Walters
RECTOR

PREACHING SERIES & THE WAFFLE SHOP

FEBRUARY 19 - MARCH 26
WEDNESDAYS *and* FRIDAYS



2021 Lenten Preaching Series



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

The Rev. Dan Matthews
Retired Episcopal Priest,
Asheville, NC

The Rev. Dan Matthews is a consistent favorite at Calvary's Lenten Preaching Series. His preaching is inspired by powerful and meaningful stories like the

Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. In light of these stories, Matthews pushes us to recognize when genuine blessings come our way. He believes that these moments of being "kissed by God" are more than being in the right place at the right time. His spiritual discipline of holy love is modeled after his mother's ability to love with abandon.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

LENT AFTER DARK
February 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Renkl
Writer, Nashville, TN

Margaret Renkl is the author of *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss*. She is also a contributing opinion writer for *The*

New York Times, where her essays appear each Monday. Growing up in Alabama, Renkl was a devoted reader, an explorer of riverbeds and red-dirt roads, and a fiercely loved daughter. In her address at Calvary, Renkl ties the gospel of Luke with our place and responsibility to the natural world. "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin; yet I say unto you, Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." When Jesus offered this message of reassurance to his disciples, he wasn't talking about climate change. But for us these words can offer more than comfort — they can also inspire engagement with the imperiled natural world. Consider the lilies and make a commitment to save the world they need to survive. To save the planet we need to survive.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

The Rev. James Lawson
Retired United Methodist minister
and civil rights activist, Los
Angeles, CA

The Rev. James Lawson has spent a lifetime studying and practicing nonviolent resistance to injustice. As a draft resister who went to prison and a missionary who also studied the methods of Gandhi while in India, Lawson was well-positioned for an integral role in the American civil rights movement. Along with others, he helped to plan nonviolent demonstrations for Nashville students protesting segregated lunch counters. A friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Lawson was heavily involved with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. While continuing his civil rights work, Lawson also served as the pastor of the Holman United Methodist Church in Los Angeles until his retirement in 1999.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

LENT AFTER DARK
March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Jemar Tisby
**MARCUS BORG ENDOWED
SPEAKER**

Scholar, writer, podcaster, and
historian, Helena, AR

Dynamic, significant, and prophetic, Jemar Tisby is a public historian with the ability to explore racial justice solutions and cultural conversations that compel listeners to action. He provides audiences with richly-informed explorations, unflinching moral insight, and clear paths forward. He has recently taken the position of CEO of The Witness Incorporated, a nonprofit organization he founded, which is dedicated to Black uplift from a Christian perspective. Tisby is the author of two books, *The*



FRIDAY, MARCH 5

The Rev. Meredith Day Hearn
Priest-in-Charge, The Indian Hill
Church, Cincinnati, OH

A native Texan and Tennessee transplant, The Rev. Meredith Day Hearn is an Evangelical turned Episcopal priest. Graduating from Yale Divinity School and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music in 2015,

Meredith's love of poetry, songwriting, and storytelling deeply informs her understanding of God in the world. Her preaching seeks to investigate the sanctity of the ordinary, highlighting life's inevitable suffering alongside its propensity for great beauty. After serving at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal in Memphis, Meredith recently moved to Cincinnati where she serves as priest-in-charge of The Indian Hill Church.

Color of Compromise—a *New York Times* bestseller—and *How to Fight Racism*, released in January 2021. His writing has also been featured in the *Washington Post*, CNN, and *The Atlantic* among others. Tisby is currently a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Mississippi studying race, religion, and social movements in the twentieth century.

Jemar Tisby came to the Christian faith through a door he never expected: a theologically conservative white evangelical church. As a new Christian and a Black man, Jemar studied the words and actions of Jesus. This led to the desire to understand the history of the Christian church and particularly the ways in which it has been complicit in systemic racism. Jemar's scholarly work provokes reflection and calls readers to actions that promote justice in line with the way of Jesus. Keeping scriptural texts close, Jemar's work is reminiscent of Marcus Borg's: provocative, compelling, transformative.



**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY,
MARCH 10 & 12**

LENT AFTER DARK
March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Pádraig Ó Tuama
Poet and podcast host,
Northern Ireland

Pádraig Ó Tuama's interests lie in language, violence, and religion.

Having grown up in a place that has a long history of all three (Ireland, yes, but also Europe) he finds that language might be the most redeeming of all three of these. In language, there is the possibility of vulnerability, of surprise, of the creative movement towards something as yet unseen. He is inspired by any artist of words: from Krista Tippett to Lucille Clifton; from Patrick Kavanagh to Emily Dickinson; from Lorna Goodison to Arundhati Roy. Ó Tuama loves words — words that open up the mind, the heart, the life. For instance — poem: a created thing.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

LENT AFTER DARK
March 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro
Rabbi, speaker, author,
Murfreesboro, TN

As a rabbi drawn to Hasidism and Kabbalah, and a practitioner of Perennial Wisdom found at the

mystic heart of all religions, Rabbi Rami Shapiro's message is simple: Alles iz Gott: everything is a manifesting of God. He is inspired by anyone who dares to step outside the safety of sacred opinion to experience and perhaps utter Truth beyond "ism" and ideology. Love is a reaction to images we hold of others rather than to the others themselves. With this in mind, Shapiro prefers to meet others as they are rather than love them as he imagines them to be.



FRIDAY, MARCH 19

The Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams

Professor of Old Testament,
Virginia Theological Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Fentress-Williams lives at the intersection of the church and the academy. In addition to her tenured teaching

position at Virginia Theological Seminary, she serves as the Senior Assistant to the Pastor for Teaching and Preaching at the Alfred Street Baptist Church. Dr. Fentress-Williams' published work reflects her interest in a literary approach that highlights the multiple voices in scripture. She recently published a commentary on the book of Ruth for the Abingdon Old Testament Commentary Series and was a contributor and Old Testament Editor for the CEB Women's Bible. In May 2019, Dr. Fentress-Williams delivered a message of challenge and celebration at the ordination of the bishop of West Tennessee, the Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

LENT AFTER DARK

March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Kirk Whalum

Minister and grammy-winning
saxophonist, Memphis, TN

The Rev. Kirk Whalum believes that music is the language that communicates across borders. Music can break and enter into a person's soul. The difference is a musician is not there to take; he's there to give, to leave something. Whalum's saxophone style blends his Memphis roots with Houston nightclubs and Parisian concert halls. When not on tour, he serves on the faculty of the Visible Music College in Memphis.



FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Rabbi Micah Greenstein

Senior Rabbi at Temple Israel,
Memphis

The senior rabbi at Temple Israel, Micah Greenstein loves Torah no matter where it comes from. "Torah" in a broad Jewish

sense refers to the teachings and wisdom of Judaism, but he treasures insights on goodness, love, justice, shalom, and compassion from every faith tradition and every reflection of God's unity. What inspires Greenstein most about the Jewish legacy he lives and teaches is that it is not simply a tale of enduring persecution and surviving hate, but rather a 4,000-year-old joyful embrace of faith, family, and the blessing that comes with being God's partner in healing a broken world.

LENT AFTER DARK

FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24 · WEDNESDAYS 6:30 – 7:30 P.M

In addition to the noontime experience, Calvary offers **LENT AFTER DARK** each Wednesday. This year, these moderated conversations will be live-streamed on Calvary's Facebook page, YouTube channel, and website. They will also be part of Calvary's podcast series. You will have the opportunity to ask questions of our guests during this time.

FEBRUARY 24

Margaret Renkl

Writer, Nashville, TN

MARCH 3

Mr. Jemar Tisby

MARCUS BORG ENDOWED
SPEAKER

Scholar, writer, podcaster, and
historian, Helena, AR

MARCH 10

Pádraig Ó Tuama

Poet and podcast host, Northern
Ireland

MARCH 17

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Rabbi, speaker, author,
Murfreesboro, TN

MARCH 24

The Rev. Kirk Whalum

Minister and grammy-winning
saxophonist, Memphis, TN



THE WAFFLE SHOP

FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 26, 2021

WEDNESDAYS: 11 A.M.-1 P.M. and 5:15-6:15 P.M.

FRIDAYS: 11 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Orders must be placed 24 hours in advance at calvarymemphis.org/waffleshop.

Waffle Shop has become the ultimate annual comfort food for many, so we are pleased to let you know that it will be up and running again in 2021, a year in which we'll take all the familiar comforts we can safely get. How it gets to you will change, in keeping with the times, but the essence of Waffle Shop will remain very much alive. And our prayer is that it might be for you a living source of connection not only with the memory of Lents gone by, but with fellow Memphians today, and a small, enduring celebration of the nourishment we depend on one another, for now, more than ever.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

No Waffle Shop due to
weather

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

Calvary Salad Plate (Chicken
Salad, Tomato Aspic, Shrimp
Mousse and Pear with Cottage
Cheese)

Waffle with Chicken Hash
Boston Cream Pie

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

Fish Pudding with Potatoes,
Slaw, and Cornbread
Waffle with Chicken Hash
Boston Cream Pie

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Spaghetti and Rye Bread
Waffle with 2 Sausages
Chocolate Bourbon Cake

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Fish Pudding with Potatoes,
Slaw, and Cornbread
Waffle with 2 Sausages
Chocolate Bourbon Cake

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Seafood Gumbo and
Cornbread
Waffle with Chicken Hash
Les Carloss's Cajun Velvet Pie

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

Fish Pudding with Potatoes,
Slaw, and Cornbread
Waffle with Chicken Hash
Les Carloss's Cajun Velvet Pie

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

Turnip Greens with Pork Belly
and Cornbread
Waffle with 2 Sausages
Lemon Chess Pie

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Fish Pudding with Potatoes,
Slaw, and Cornbread
Waffle with 2 sausages
Lemon Chess Pie

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Corned Beef and Cabbage
with Cornbread
Waffle with Chicken Hash
Tennessee Bourbon Pie

FRIDAY, MARCH 26

Fish Pudding with Potatoes,
Slaw, and Cornbread
Waffle with Chicken Hash
Tennessee Bourbon Pie

FORMATION IN A TIME OF COVID

by Mary Jane Viar

Late in 2019, I was in search of something new in the way of formation at Calvary. I had recently completed (for the second time!) the four-year course in Education for Ministry (EfM), and I was anxious to keep my brain working while lowering the intensity required by EfM. The Thursday morning women’s Bible/book study group seemed a promising possibility. So, I asked Amber to sign me up.

It was exactly one year ago that participants in that group received word from Amber that we were about to begin making our way through the book, *Consider the Women: A Provocative Guide to Three Matriarchs of the Bible* by Debbie Blue.

That study, beginning on January 30, 2020, would be followed by a meet and greet with the author after she preached at Calvary on Ash Wednesday to open the 2020 Lenten Preaching Series. For the next few weeks, our group of about 10-12 women read and discussed the book while sitting around the table in the Emison Room. On Ash Wednesday, we listened as Debbie Blue preached to a crowd in the nave, and then a large group of us met at Dana Sue and Ann Percer’s home, with the author, snacks, and wine. It’s one of the last “normal” experiences that I remember at Calvary before everything changed. COVID showed up.

When COVID first invaded life at Calvary, my reaction was slightly overboard, as usual. “Life will never be the same! Waffle Shop and the Lenten Preaching Series will be gone forever! I’ll never see my Calvary family again! What



Mary Jane Viar and the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, at Bishop Phoebe Roaf's ordination

about my Thursday morning group?” I was certain that the things I loved at Calvary would never return.

And then, they did.

In typical Calvary style, things seemed to keep moving, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Changes were made, folks were flexible (even me), and life at Calvary continued. New things arose, and old things remained in a different form—Basement Church, Wednesday night dinners in the parking lot, Advent Lessons and Carols online, and even worship outside.

And, by March, our Bible/book study had become a ZOOM event. Who even knew what that was a year ago? There were changes, of course. It became an evening class, and it was no longer just for women. But now, surprisingly, much remains the same as in the pre-COVID time. Amber (the best!) is still there

to lead us, first through Exodus, then through a book on midrash, *Reading the Book* by Burton Visotzky, and, currently, through Paul’s letter to the Galatians. I find myself looking forward to seeing everyone each week, even though they appear in a grid square, rather than in person. Discussions are still thoughtful and not much hindered by the online format. I know my faith is being nourished and challenged with each lesson because the thoughts and words shared by Amber and my Zoomates stay with me during the week.

My Zoom study group experience has been one of trust and learning from each other, despite not being physically together. It turns out that my fears were unfounded. Formation and life at Calvary go on!

Until that time when we can all be together again, let’s remember that the best part of Calvary has always been that feeling of family. These days, we don’t have to be in the building together to feel that. Formation by Zoom is a great example. Together, we can do this, Calvary!

MAKING WAFFLES

by Jane Slatery

I heard my mother say more than once, “the more complicated the recipe, the better.” Jane McSpadden Genette Twist has always loved to cook. Throughout her adult life, Moma spent many hours serving in our Lenten Waffle Shop. She served in the kitchen, at the cash register, as a hostess and waitress. I imagine that in her early Waffle Shop days she served alongside her mother-in-law and my grandmother, Lucy Orgill Genette, also a lifelong and faithful Calvary parishioner.

The last few years, my mother’s favorite post has been making waffles. And as you can imagine, she always nailed it on the head, lifting up that waffle iron cover at the exact right moment. There is an art to it! This picture was taken in February 2020, one week before we had to shut down Waffle Shop due to the pandemic. I will always treasure it and our time together making waffles at a place that has been so important to generations of Genettes and now Slaterys.



BASEMENT CHURCH

by Mary Royer Hayes

I have been volunteering on Sunday mornings to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness for about five years now, maybe more...

Actually, I came with my children a few times when they were younger and then I started coming on a regular basis as they got older—cooking and serving breakfast in the basement of our church and occasionally working in the clothes closet, helping our neighbors find fresh clean clothes to change into for the day or the week. I learned that free washers and dryers were hard to come by for this population.

Greeting our neighbors, looking them in their eyes, really seeing them, saying “good morning” and serving them breakfast is important. Then, getting them a fresh pair of underwear, a shirt in their size, clean socks, or fresh jeans is a huge gift. It’s a level of respect they do not get on the streets, but we can offer here at Calvary.

I served our homeless neighbors for a few years with a few of the long-time regulars like Mary Nease, John Young, Richard Hendricks, Allen LaBarreare, Christine and Carroll Todd, Teresa Elliott, Margaret Newton, Claudia Sighting, Linda Crockett, Sam Morris, and Sandy West.

In addition to the volunteers, I have become friends with several neighbors who come every week and look to us at Calvary to help them get through their week. I look for Rodney, James, and

Eddie to hear how they are and how their week was.

After the pandemic started, I actually got Covid in early March 2020 and was not able to volunteer for about a month. During that time, I was delighted to hear that Greta Cooper Young, Christine, Elizabeth Crosby, and Ardelle Walters had figured out how to continue to serve while hosting our neighbors outside.

Finally, after quarantining, I was delighted to get back to work to join our volunteers and neighbors. The work on Sunday mornings changed so much in March 2020.

It takes a lot more people and more time and a lot more volunteers work throughout the week to sort and get the clothes ready. We started sorting in Christine’s dining room, but have been able to expand into the Bethlehem Chapel and the old Archives Room. Now we have a lot more volunteers. Elizabeth brought her sister, Annie Billions, Deb McCanless who is studying to be a deacon, Liz Browne, Donna Pendergrass, Ardelle brought her neighbor Lori Garner, Liz Browne brought her neighbor Andrea Suels, Greta brought her wife, Nina Sublette, Bill Etnyre, and more. Also, Michele Crump, Julie and Steve McClanahan, Jill Piper, Carol Ann Mallory, Jane Slatery, Margaret McLean, Marci Sweeney, Becky Dapper, and more come to organize during the week for those of us who work on Sunday mornings. Scott Walters, our Rector, prays with our guests and volunteers—



Elizabeth Crosby and Mary Royer Hayes on a Sunday morning at Calvary.

their prayers are often for a home, a job, and health. Not a week goes by that their prayers include thanks for parishioners at Calvary. In the end, Basement Church has provided a silver lining during the pandemic; it is truly a gift that I have gotten to work side-by-side with this fine group of people.

Scott, as well as everyone mentioned above, serves our neighbors and shares God’s love in downtown Memphis through their lives and

support of guests at Calvary Episcopal Church.

The service work at Calvary is a huge part of my life and if for some reason I am not able to come, there is a huge piece missing in my week. I love our church, all the volunteers I work with, and our neighbors. I am proud to be of service. I love Calvary and what we all do to make this happen. Please come join us once, twice, or any Sunday morning. You won’t be sorry you did.



WORSHIPING IN NEW AND DIFFERENT WAYS

by Clay Woemmel

As I reflect on the past year, I recall how typical 2020 seemed as it began. Yes, staff members at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center where I work had been receiving email updates about the novel coronavirus since December 2019; yet, I was unprepared for the scope of what was to come. At Calvary, we participated in a special meeting about the virus and its imminent arrival in Memphis. The UTHSC campus and the Waffle Shop, two venerable Memphis institutions, closed the same day. Things, it seemed, were not looking good.

By the following Sunday, I sat in the nave while our first live-streamed worship took place. A

week later, we were all worshiping from home, Brooks and I watching from a laptop in my makeshift home office. The empty church, the isolation, and the pain of the pandemic gave Lent a truly penitential tone that I have rarely experienced, despite the traditional solemnity of the season. Yet, it felt like a season of growth despite the sadness. Calvary inspired us to continue doing ministry by moving the Community Breakfast outside. We dug through our closets in search of anything that we could donate to the clothes closet.

Old things, like Morning Prayer on Sunday, were new again. And there were new things too: Recipes for a Maundy Thursday meal and

then eating that meal with the laptop nearby as the service resumed. I wondered aloud if the stripping of the altar would translate to a virtual context yet found it even more moving than usual. Perhaps, I thought, it would still feel like Holy Week and Easter. And indeed, with the kindling of the new fire at the Easter Vigil, I felt a sense of renewal.

As the year continued, I found that in the darkest moments, I returned time and again to the music and messages from Calvary that gave me strength. One of the benefits of technology, I have learned, is that you can engage in renewal anytime and from almost anywhere. Miss daily Morning Prayer due to a meeting at work? Watch the recording during a break and problem solved! Want to hear Widor's *Toccata* traditionally played at Easter in late August? It's as easy as a YouTube playlist. Advent Carol in February? Sure, why not, if it helps.

Of all of the things one might miss about Calvary, I have missed the people most of all. When we returned to the nave with masks and physical distancing, it felt as if a wound was beginning to heal. Being back in that sacred space and seeing parishioners I had not encountered in many months felt joyous, familiar, and new at the same time. The way we do things has changed, but the essence of worship continues uninterrupted. Eucharist at the pocket park, All Saints Day at the Shell, the Blessing of the Animals—even Gracie (our dog) got in on the action. It was wonderful to see so many people again, even at a distance.

I looked forward with eager anticipation to Christmas. Advent is my favorite season of the liturgical year, and the Christmas Eve service my favorite worship experience. I felt crushed when we learned that all in-person worship was suspended. But, after reading Scott's comforting email to the parish, when the video went live to reveal a fully decorated chancel and the sounds of a musical prelude, my misgivings about a Christmas unlike any other began to melt away.

By this time, we had learned how to better worship at home, casting video to the television and sound to our speakers. With a roaring fire in the fireplace and Christmas tree, candles, and garlands all in place, it was Christmas once again. Although we were not together at the Shell or in the nave, God incarnate in human form was very much among us.



And now, we approach another season of Lent, back where we stated at the beginning of the pandemic. I was heartened to learn that the tradition of the Lenten Preaching Series and the Waffle Shop will continue, albeit in a different form.

I first visited Calvary during the 1998 Lenten Preaching Series at the invitation of a fellow graduate student. I hope that we will extend the same welcome that I received many years ago to all those that gather, whether virtually or in person, for preaching or for food. Although we will miss the fellowship of being together, we have the potential to reach many who might not have been reached before. That is the beauty of learning to worship in new and different ways.

I pray that all of you, near and far, will continue to be enriched by our worship as we move forward together.

2020 VITAL STATISTICS

WORSHIP



685

**WORSHIP SERVICES
OFFERED**



331

**AVERAGE SUNDAY
ATTENDANCE**



10

BURIALS

6

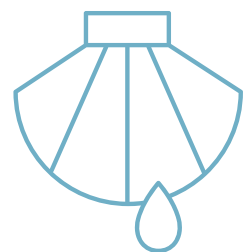
MARRIAGES



MEMBERSHIP

13

BAPTIZED



32

INCREASES

ALL BAPTIZED MEMBERS

793



9

**CONFIRMATIONS &
RECEPTIONS**



24

DECREASES

ANNUAL GIVING

Households (thus far):
Number of new pledges:
Average new pledge:
Number of increased pledges:
Number of unchanged pledges:
Number of decreased pledges:
Total \$ amount pledged:
Average pledge:
Median pledge:

	2020	2021
Households (thus far):	239	223
Number of new pledges:	34	12
Average new pledge:	2,221	2,853
Number of increased pledges:	71	92
Number of unchanged pledges:	114	99
Number of decreased pledges:	20	20
Total \$ amount pledged:	\$1,240,488	\$1,219,955
Average pledge:	\$5,190	\$5,495
Median pledge:	\$2,400	\$2,548



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



8,800

PEOPLE SERVED

780

**BACKPACKS
DISTRIBUTED**



3,000

**TOOTHBRUSHES
GIVEN AWAY**

150

**NEW
VOLUNTEERS**



620

**PAIRS OF
SHOES GIVEN
AWAY**





Brittain Ryan Wells, son of Brittain & Austin Wells, was baptized at Calvary's All Saints Day service at The Levitt Shell.

Prayer List

Wedding Bells

Caroline Sheil & Cameron Ellis, 10/17/20
Alex Rentrop & Kyle Guffy, 12/18/20
Sabrina Starling & Ned French, 12/28/20

Great Expectations

Bailey & Collin Fountain

New Life

Asher Todd Mroch, son of Robyn Randolph & Rick Mroch,
9/22/2020
Wilson Bayne Slatery, son of Morgan & Wil Slatery,
10/6/2020
Julia Louise Welcher, daughter of Rachel & John Welcher,
10/20/2020
Winston Locke Waldrop, daughter of Locke & Reed
Waldrop, 10/22/2020
Addison Eden Lee, daughter of Dani & Jonathan Lee,
10/28/2020
Sullivan Cole Graves, son of Logan and Casey Graves,
11/1/2020
Louise Elizabeth Wohrman, daughter of Liza & Jack
Wohrman, 11/12/2020
Tululla Mae McGuinness, daughter of Carmen & Joe
McGuinness, 12/29/2020
Gaines Jackson Hammond, son of Olivia & Mike
Hammond, 1/6/2021

Saints Departed

Seddon "Bud" Allen
John Ayer, friend of Kristin Lensch
Gerry Barnes, cousin of Paul McLain
Alison Barnwell, friend of Annie Billions
Joel Baxley, father of Sarah Baxley and friend of Kell
Christie
Jason Bell, friend of Chris Thomas
Roberta Bush, friend of Judy Tucker
Nicklaus Carter, friend of Kendra Martin
Ron Casey, friend of Ebet Peeples
Rick Censullo, husband of Charlotte Borst
Tom Chipley, uncle of Tom Chipley
Ann Cooper, Mother of Greta Cooper Young
The Rev. Senter Crook
Minetry Apperson Crowley, friend of Nino Shipp
Paul Day, step-father of Ruthie McLain
Robert Clark Day Jr., brother of Margaret Craddock
Kathleen Dempsey, friend of Kendra Martin
Ann Denton
Noel Desch, friend of Bunny & Robert Oates
Kathie Dougan, friend of Kendra Martin
David Edgerton Douglas, friend of Lee Anne Eason
Betty DuPriest, great-aunt of Robyn Banks
Virginia "Jenny" Emison
Christopher Esdaile, brother-in-law of Nancy Manire
George Friedl, friend of Stella Blocker
Saidee Gardner, mother of Hall Gardner
Joyce Gingold
Marty Gorman, friend of Connie Marshall
Armond Grandi, uncle of Pat Robison
Jenny Grehan, friend of Betsy Kelly
Virginia Griffee, friend of Rhoda Smith
Micah Griffin, friend of Gabbie Munn
Robert Hamilton, friend of Vincent Astor
Rusty Hensley, brother-in-law of Wil Hunt
Gail Williams Hitchcock, friend of Kendra Martin
Ann Cocke Hooser
Tom Horton, friend of Kendra Martin
The Rt. Rev. William A. Jones, friend of Milton Winter
Kellie Kellett, friend of Ebet Peeples
Nancy Kelly, aunt of Paige Whittle
The Rev. Bill Kolb
Andrew Kratzke, son of Nancy Mardis

Aaron Krosnick, friend of Michelle Pelay Walker
Ron Little, friend of Mark Mitchell
Jerry Mahoney, brother of Sharon Mahoney Lee
John Clement Marshall, Jr.
Jan Mazurek, mother of Hilary Chipley
Joann McCanless, mother of Debbie McCanless
Andy McDonald, son of Cathy and the Rev. Jim McDonald
Becky McLain, sister-in-law of Paul McLain
Shep Miers, friend of Amber Carswell & Missy Wilkinson
Martha Nash
Bill Odom, friend of Nina Grice
Jim Pace, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain
Thomas Anthony Pacello, Jr.
Lucy Pace Parschauer, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain
Bill Platten, friend of Martin Jellinek
Louis Delmas Polatty
James "Jim" Powers, brother of Ginny Webb
Sue Pruett, mother of John Pruett
Marcie Richardson, friend of Sarah Squire
Michael Riser, friend of Gabbie Munn
Constance Lynn Ross
Francis Ozzie Shaefer
Bill Simmons, friend of Franklin Barton
John Gilbert Stallings, Jr., brother-in-law of Tom Barzizza
E. T. Tabyanan, friend of Cyd King
Thelma Tate
Lonnie Taylor, friend of Ruthie McLain
John "Buddy" Thomason, father of Palmer Jones and Susy
Thomason
Nancy Fraser Thompson, mother of Carey Thompson
Norma Todd, sister of Ginny Webb
The Rev. Rita Tracy, friend of Ruthie & Paul McLain
Kandy Kieffer Wallace, friend of Lee Anne Eason
Cheyanne Ward, cousin of Gabbie Munn
Alec Watts , friend of Molly Polatty
Jerry Whitt, friend of Bill Branch
Shirley Carpenter Whittle, step-mother of Paige Whittle
Thomas Marshall Williams
John Barton Williams, friend of Betsy Kelly
Bailey Williams, friend of Nina Grice
Terry Williamson
Major Wilson



CHRONICLE

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



SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 4
11 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST

*Easter at
the Levitt Shell*

SIGN UP
INFORMATION
COMING SOON!