

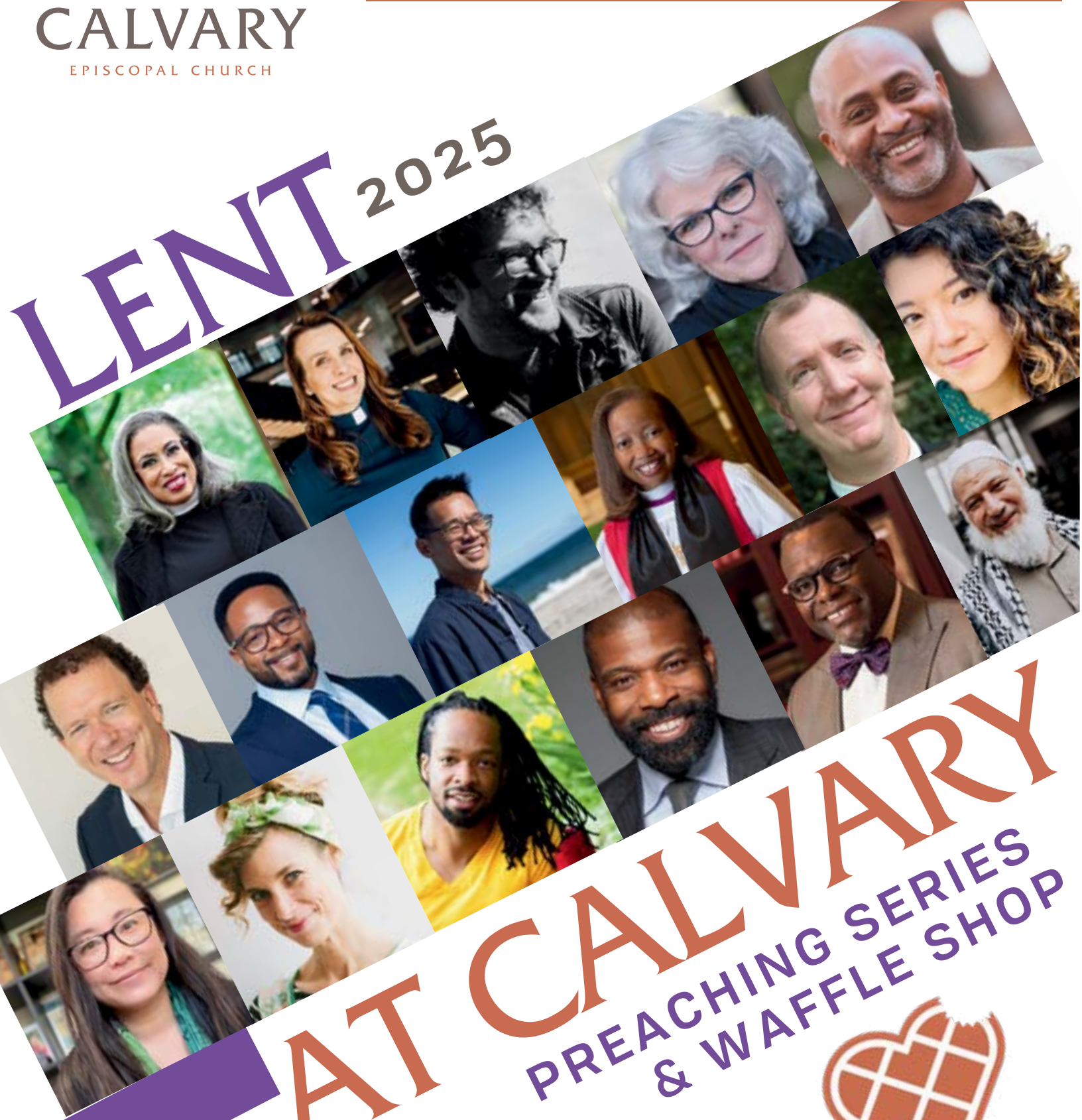


CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

LENT 2025



AT CALVARY

PREACHING SERIES
& WAFFLE SHOP





making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis

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

8 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist
5 p.m. Evensong first Sundays, Sept.-May

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

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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

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Sr. Warden

Bill Bangham
Franklin Barton

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Allison Parker
Jr. Warden

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As an alternative to the traditional turkey dinner with all the fixings served in previous years, Chef Mary O'Brien and her team prepared a delicious turkey chili that was warmed in big pots over propane and served with cornbread and a few other snacks distributed in paper sacks decorated by our youth.

LENT

by the Rev. Scott Walters



Richard Howard purportedly said, “Being a famous poet is like being a famous mushroom.” I suspect the same could be said of preachers. What passes for fame is likely to occur within a shrinking realm that seems increasingly esoteric to more and more people by the year. I hadn’t actually heard of Richard Howard until I went poking around on the internet for the source of the poet as mushroom quote, which I vaguely remembered stumbling upon somewhere.

But, friend, it’s also true that the grilled mushrooms with chimichurri at the tapas place just down the street from our

house will change your life. Preaching can too, I’m told. The wise and quirky old tradition of Lenten preaching at Calvary has certainly changed my life very much for the better.

Once Lent begins, of course, my WASPy middle-class earnestness will require me to tell you, if asked, that, yes, I am just so incredibly busy and exhausted by all that it takes to pull off these twin miracles year after year. The truth of the matter is that nearly all of that work is done by people who are not me, most of whom are tireless and joyful volunteers. I’m actually secretly giddy (an acceptable Lenten frame of mind at Calvary, at least) that it’s somehow my job to settle into one of our creaky old pews three times a week to listen to what another preacher has to say and wander downstairs afterward for a waffle and chicken hash.

This year’s preachers include an iconographer and liturgical

There is a locally famous Calvary spirit that’s been alive among people trying to live the way of Jesus at the corner of Second and Adams for nearly two centuries now.



thought leader in the Episcopal Church, a renowned Old Testament scholar who centers the stories of women in the Hebrew Bible, longtime favorite Memphis preachers, and new voices from pulpits around our city, as well as a playwright and a cupcake baker and, yes, perhaps even a poet or two. We’ll hear Christian, Jewish, and Muslim preachers, preachers who stand in the long line of prophets whose calls to racial justice are grounded deeply in Holy Scripture, and many more.

This Lent, we also invite all of Memphis into a newly renovated Calvary. Our spaces have been designed to be more accessible, integrated, welcoming, and bright. Excitement has been gathering by the week as we wander the widened, light-filled hallways, each of us

making our own inspections as the project nears completion. Have you also been imagining these spaces brimming with people filled with Calvary’s signature Lenten energy?

As you read, you’ll also be reminded that day-to-day life and ministry at Calvary go on even in waffle and preaching season. Nathan will tell the story of an Emmanuel Meal celebration where neighbors received nourishment and music and gifts and fellowship despite construction displacement and rain showers. There’s a piece written by an elder and a teenager on our vestry about a retreat facilitated by the aforementioned cupcake baker, news from the Children’s Ministry Department, and an invitation to a Hymn Fest at which we’ll sing God’s praises to celebrate the restoration of

our historic organ.

It’s such a gift to take part in the vibrant life of Calvary Church, don’t you agree? I suppose our fame is down at the mushroom end of things, as we’re not advertising in the *Wall Street Journal* or the *New York Times* quite yet. But there is a locally famous Calvary spirit that’s been alive among people trying to live the way of Jesus at the corner of Second and Adams for nearly two centuries now. That spirit is rich and nourishing and deeply rooted. God is still at work within it, drawing people into a way of love that knows no exceptions—drawing in people like me. Drawing in people, I suppose, since you’re somehow still reading this, like you. And since it draws you too, I hope to see you at Calvary in person, if that’s possible for you at all, very soon.

SILENCE FOR LUNCH

by the Rev. Katherine Bush



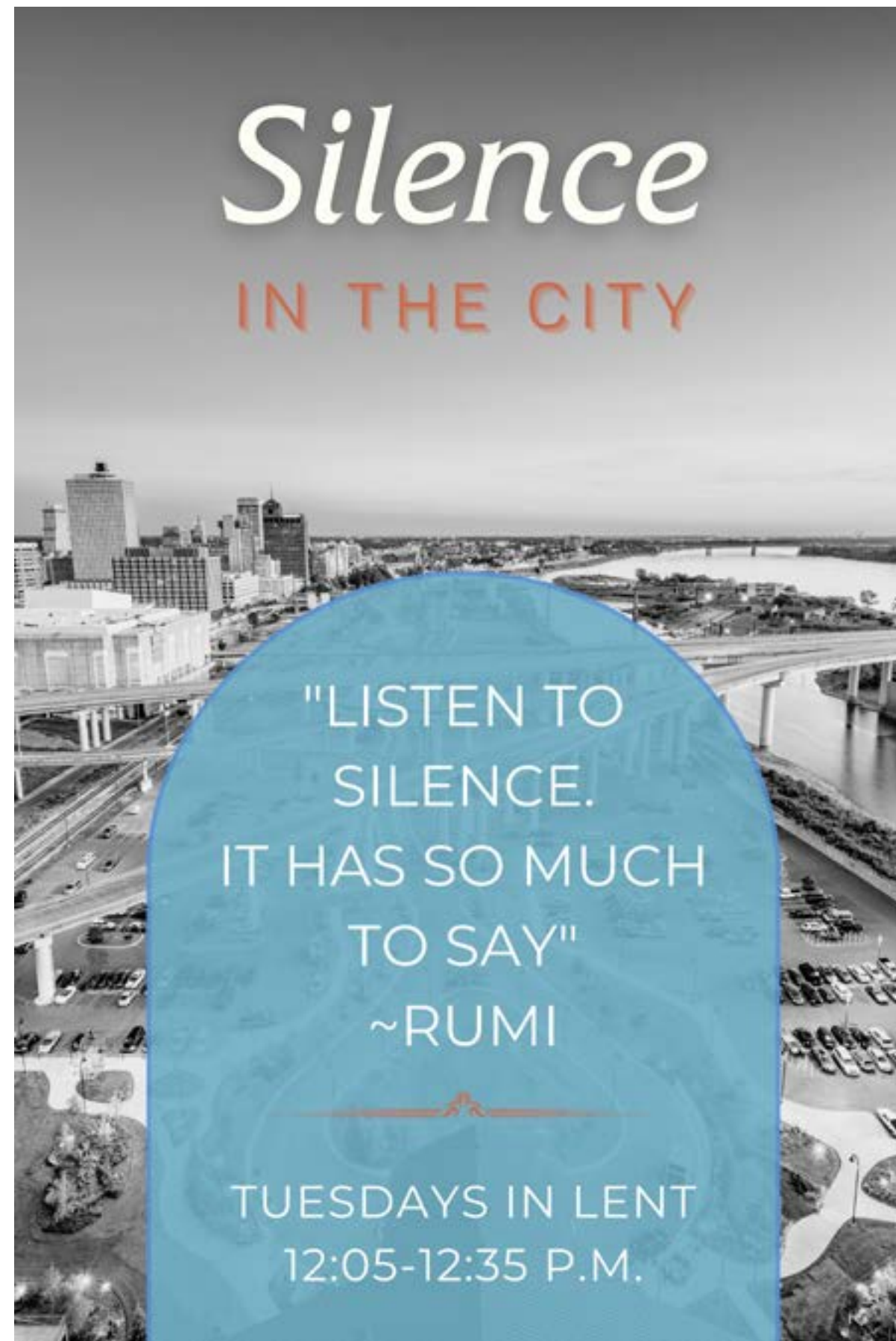
One Tuesday during a past Lent, I unlocked the red Second Street doors to the church and hauled the Silence in the City sign out to the sidewalk. As usual, a few folks were walking up and down the street on their blustery February lunch breaks. A group of three women approached in lively conversation, clearly catching up on each other's news. They passed me, but one woman (who may or may not have been a recognizable former local

newscaster) turned around and asked me what was happening at Calvary that day.

I explained that we offer inspiring preaching and a great meal three days a week during Lent, and she nodded - familiar with our historic offering. But I said, "On Tuesdays, nothing happens on purpose." We open the church, and no one preaches; there's no aspic or pie. We offer a big, beautiful, quiet half hour. We are silent in the city together." She turned to her two friends, who were already hedging up the street, and said, "Y'all go ahead; I'm going to have silence for lunch."

Her friends walked on, and she came in and joined the very sparse gathering. We rang a small bell at 12:05. I read a bit of a psalm at 12:10, and then, as I promised, nothing happened until the bell rang again at 12:35. She gave me a small wave and mouthed a quiet "thank you" as she slipped back out the doors when we're we done.

Lent at Calvary, in all its splendor, can sometimes feel a little un-Lenten. This is not a criticism—you won't stop me from



enjoying Boston Cream Pie or from laughing delightedly at one of those "reunion moments" when we encounter friends we only see in the weekday pews.

And because we all need different ways of connecting, Calvary offers a quiet corollary on Tuesdays. We open the doors of the church and sit still for about thirty minutes. I know for some folks, it's a long way to come for "nothing to happen," and I know just the idea of sitting quietly for that long feels strange and even uncomfortable. Still, I invite you to try it sometime. Come join a few of us bathing in the stained glass light, or set your own timer wherever you are. Try having silence for lunch (you can still eat after!), and you might just discover that it's actually not true that nothing happens.

THE PLACE TO BE IN LENT

by Madge Logan Deacon



I am a lifelong Calvary-ite, and—as I begin these Lenten Reflections—I realize I have been at Calvary for ALMOST three-quarters of the lifespan of the Lenten Preaching Series and that Waffle Shop has been welcoming the community for only about two decades longer



Photo by Cindy McMillion

than I've been alive! Holy Cow! I may or may not suddenly feel like Mother Time!

My parents, Cordelia & Adrian Logan, moved to Memphis and joined Calvary about three years before I was born, and the Rev. Don Henning baptized me when I was six weeks old. I was often in attendance at Calvary during Lent as a little girl whenever my school schedule allowed. And I have wonderful memories of waffles, sausages, and peppermint ice cream in Calvary's Mural Room.

Mama was a faithful member of the waffle-making brigade from when I was a toddler until her health began failing in the mid-1990s. Daddy, my sister Nell, and I were always thrilled when Mama brought Calvary waffles home for dinner.

When my sister died on March 19, 1993, Mama, Whit, and I sat at Mama's dining room table, planning Nell's service. To our surprise, Mama insisted that we must all be at Calvary the next day for LPS and Waffle Shop. In the midst of the shock of having just lost my sister, this made no sense to me, but it's what Mama wanted, so that's what we were going to do! I don't remember who the Lenten speaker was that day, but I do remember suddenly understanding why we were there. We were at our beloved Calvary, surrounded by people we knew and loved, and we were doing something "normal" at a time when everything else seemed strange and abnormal. Someone spoke warm and

remarkable words from the pulpit, and we ate waffles, sausage, and peppermint ice cream, and I knew all would be well again.

The Waffle Shop continues to amaze me and baffle me! The dedication of the women (and men) who make mayonnaise and Tennessee Bourbon pies and chicken salad and waffles year after year. And the volunteer teams from churches and temples and Rotary Clubs who don aprons and serve hundreds of guests per day. And the annual reunions that occur each and every year. Friends who eagerly order their annual serving of Fish Pudding and continue conversations put on hold the year before. Waffle Shop is THE PLACE TO BE during Lent!

I was in my late twenties when I first really understood the importance of, and the wonder of, the Lenten Preaching Series. Where else could one hear such diverse speakers telling incredible stories and addressing critical issues in a sanctuary filled with people of all ages, faiths, backgrounds, and ethnicities? Throughout my thirty-six-year career at FedEx, I often took at least one half-day off during Lent to be able to come to Calvary to hear one of the remarkable speakers and—of course—to enjoy lunch in the Mural Room!

Lenten Preaching Series and Waffle Shop—Calvary's beautiful gifts to the community—and two beautiful examples of "Making God's Love Visible in Downtown Memphis".



WE NEED YOU TO
HELP US CELEBRATE
CALVARY'S
COMPLETE
RENOVATION!

*Join us for Show Forth God's
Praise: A Hymn Festival,
March 2, at 5 p.m., led by
guest musician and Yale
University lecturer Walden
Moore.*

**A Feast (free for all)
follows in our newly
renovated Mural Room.**



CALVARY'S FIRST NOONDAY LENTEN SERVICE took place in a downtown theater 102 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. And Calvary's Lenten Preaching Series continues in 2025, adapting and speaking, as it always has, to the times. We hope you'll join us.

The Rev. Scott Walters
RECTOR

PREACHING SERIES & THE WAFFLE SHOP
MARCH 6 - APRIL 11
WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS,
FRIDAYS



ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday is the first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality. Calvary will offer Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 a.m., and 12 and 7 p.m. Childcare will be offered at 7 p.m.

2025 Lenten Preaching Series



Paul Fromberg

Thursday, March 6

The Rev. Dan Matthews Day Speaker

Rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco and author of *The Art of Transformation* and *The Art of Disruption*



Wil Gafney

Friday, March 7

Womanist biblical scholar and the Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulseley Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth; author of *A Women's Lectionary*

for the Whole Church and Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne



Ekundayo Bandele

Wednesday, March 12

Renowned playwright and theater director whose work has significantly impacted the American theater landscape; founder of Hattiloo Theatre in Memphis



Jericho Brown

**Wednesday, March 12 at 6:15 p.m. and Thursday, March 13

Author of three collections of poetry: *The Tradition*, *The New Testament*, and *Please*; editor of the anthology *How We Do It: Black Writers on Craft, Practice, and Skill* and *The Selected Shepherd*

Peggy Jean Craig

Friday, March 14

Cumberland Presbyterian minister, community development nerd, wannabe poet, and personal photographer for her identical twin girls



Mihee Kim-Kort

**Wednesday, March 19 at 12 and 6:15 pm

Presbyterian minister, agitator, speaker, writer, and slinger of hopeful stories about faith and church; named one of Center for American Progress's "21 Faith Leaders to watch" in 2021; author of *Outside the Lines: How Embracing Queerness Will Transform Your Faith*



Nabil Bayakly

Thursday, March 20

Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Biology professor; advocate for social justice who works with a plethora of local organizations that aim to make the Memphis community more welcoming, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable



Kat Gordon

Friday, March 21

Proud Memphian and founder of Muddy's Bake Shop



Jemar Tisby

**Wednesday, March 26 at 12 and 6:15 p.m.

Author of *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the Church's Complicity in Racism*, *How to Fight Racism*, and *The Spirit of Justice*



Lillian Lammers

Thursday, March 27

Ordained minister in the United Church of Christ; currently leading First Presbyterian in Downtown Memphis



Earle J. Fisher

Friday, March 28

Senior Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Memphis; founded #UPTheVoteGo1 to empower voters and elevate political engagement



Barbara Brown Taylor

**Wednesday, April 2 at 12 and 6:15 p.m.

Author, teacher, and Episcopal priest; new book *Coming Down to Earth* will be out in 2026



Jeff Chu

**Wednesday, April 2 at 6:15 p.m. and Thursday, April 3

Marcus Borg Endowed Speaker

Journalist, author, preacher, and teacher; editor-at-large at *Travel+Leisure*; author of *Does Jesus Really Love Me?: A Gay*

Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America and the forthcoming *Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand*; co-author, with the late Rachel Held Evans, of *Wholehearted Faith*

Dorothy Sanders Wells

Friday, April 4

Eleventh bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi; former rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, Germantown



Micah Greenstein

Wednesday, April 9

Regarded as "Memphis's rabbi"; Temple Israel's eighth senior rabbi



Christopher B. Davis

Thursday, April 10

President of LeMoyne-Owen College; pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, Holmes Road



Padraig O'Tuama

**Thursday, April 10 at 6:15 p.m. and Friday, April 11

Poet, peacemaker, and storyteller from Ireland; new books include *Kitchen Hymns* and *44 Poems on Being with Each Other*



Learn more at calvarymemphis.org/lent



LENT
at CALVARY

THE WAFFLE SHOP

March 6-April 11, 2025

WEDNESDAYS through FRIDAYS: 11 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Download the entire menu at calvarymemphis.org/waffleshop.

It's been 97 years since plates were piled up with waffles, chicken hash, and fish pudding at Calvary's first Waffle Shop in Lent of 1928. For all that's changed in our world since then, Memphians still stream to Calvary each year for these three dishes, as well as more "recent" additions such as shrimp mousse, tomato aspic, and Tennessee bourbon pie. Waffle Shop has become the ultimate annual comfort food for many, and we can't wait to see you again in 2025!

Groups of 10+ can make reservations in advance by calling 901-525-6602. Not able to stay? Get it to go!

DIALOGUE: The Lenten Preaching Series Podcast recorded live

March 12, 19, and 26 • April 2, 9, and 10**

WEDNESDAYS | 6:15-7:15 p.m.

** A special Thursday evening with Pádraig Ó Tuama

In addition to the noontime experience, Calvary offers Dialogue: The Lenten Preaching Series Podcast, recorded live at Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, each Wednesday. You are invited to these live podcast recordings with our guests each Wednesday evening. Attendees also will have the opportunity for a Q & A session with our speaker following the podcast recording.

March 12: Jericho Brown

March 19: Mihee Kim-Kort

March 26: Jemar Tisby

April 2:

Barbara Brown Taylor & Jeff Chu

April 9:

Honoring the memory of the brilliant urban thinker and Calvary parishioner Tommy Pacello, the Rev. Scott Walters will host a conversation with Todd Richardson of Crosstown Arts and Stuart Harris of Constellation Properties. Both are practicing Christians who believe that how we attend to the built environment has a great impact on human flourishing.

April 10: Pádraig Ó Tuama

A special Thursday evening event

VESTRY RETREAT

by Bill Bangham
and MC Hitt



Early on a recent Saturday morning in January, Clay Woemmel found himself chasing his dogs, Gracie and Caroline, through his neighborhood in his pajamas with a fistful of bacon in his hand. They had escaped the house in an unguarded moment and were playing a delightful—for them—game of catch-me-if-you-can.

Gracie and Caroline like bacon.

Once the dogs were corralled, Clay pulled himself together

and raced from his East Memphis home toward Second and Adams. On Second, a block from the Calvary, he got a speeding ticket.

It was not the best beginning of the annual Calvary vestry retreat for Clay. But as Kat Gordon, founder of Muddy's Bake Shop, one of this year's Lenten preachers, and facilitator for the retreat reminded us, we all come with baggage. We carry with us things needed to be done that

are left undone, and others that we anticipate, some with pleasure or others with dread. All are part of the minutia and drama of our lives.

That morning, Kat asked us to center ourselves and be present for the next few hours.

Her request was met with silence and affirmation. Two vestry members admitted their biggest problem would be ignoring their thoughts—the "gerbils"—constantly swirling in their heads. She reminded us

con't on p. 16



this was the only time this vestry would exist. Each year, five adults and one youth rotate off, and six new members join those left to form a new vestry.

The vestry is a representative body. It is a reflection of the church. Some are young, others old. Some work, others are retired. Some are students. Some have partners. Others are single. Gender identification and lifestyle vary. The vestry is as varied as Calvary is as a church.

Kat asked that this not be a day of setting an agenda for the coming year—or crafting a five-year plan—but a time of visioning, exploring possibilities, and considering what we would like to see for the coming year.

The question of how we define the vestry arose. Several key elements were initially set down:

- a decision-making, representative body;
- that conducts the business of the church;

- who knows the dirt, and;
- can answer and ask questions.

By the end of the day—after thought exercises led by Kat, much discussion, and breaking apart and meeting in small groups—the list expanded dramatically:

- a listening body that is non-reactive, respectful, empathetic, and calm;
- that is open to and expects surprises, particularly within our new space, a clean slate—a tabula rasa—which will begin to be filled in unexpected ways;
- while unified in our diversity;
- striving to understand patience and urgency and knowing the difference between the two; and,
- are better friends at the end than at the beginning.

Plus elements within our church life to foster:

- community—both internal and external—recognizing big communities are made up of many small ones;

- continuing as a safe place of acceptance that prizes love over hate;
- that values our worship, liturgy, sacraments, and music;
- is open to mystery and thanks; and,
- receives communion, as well as gives it.

This was not the first Calvary vestry retreat that Kat has led. She facilitated the January 2020 retreat. At that retreat, she asked the vestry to imagine every possible thing they wanted to do if money or feasibility were not factors.

“She then asked us to imagine if the floor fell out, and none of it was possible,” said Scott, our rector. “She asked, what is at the core of all the plans you created?”

Neither Kat nor the rest of the world could have imagined that the floor would fall out. In March of that year, the COVID-19 pandemic struck. “We could not even meet together physically as a church,” said Scott. “The vestry did indeed have to fall back on the core of the plans that Kat asked them to create.”

Scott described Kat facilitating this year’s retreat as fitting—putting a bookend on the past five years—the challenges of COVID-19 met and the renovation of our building nearing completion.

When the retreat ended, most of the vestry lingered. Some stood talking in groups of two or three. Others roamed our newly renovated building together. For Senior Warden Jessica Flynn, the retreat went beyond her expectations.

“I’m so happy with how this year’s vestry retreat went,” she said. “Everyone was so engaged and thoughtful.”

“I’m really excited about the year ahead for Cavalry and our greater community. We’ve laid the foundation for the essential work of this coming year—and most importantly—laid the foundations of friendship among the vestry members.”

EMMANUEL MEAL THRIVES IN NEW SPACE

by Nathan Brasfield



This past fall, the 2024 Emmanuel Meal approached us in a way it hadn't for the many years that the Calvary community has put it on because we

weren't sure where to have it! Due to ongoing renovations inside the church building, spaces in other church buildings in the area were considered as possible venues for this annual holiday meal for our downtown neighbors who appreciate a warm meal. But after kicking around possibilities for a little while, an impromptu meeting in the staff break room one day sparked an idea: "What if we had it outside?"

So, this idea became a reality on December 16 from noon to 2 p.m.—still in the season of Advent but with the Christmas season rapidly approaching. As an alternative to the traditional

turkey dinner with all the fixings served in previous years, Chef Mary O'Brien and her team prepared a delicious turkey chili that was warmed in big pots over propane and served with cornbread and a few other snacks distributed in paper sacks decorated by our youth.

Coffee and hot chocolate were made available to the guests as they came to line up where they were able to check in and receive a name tag, pick up their reusable grocery bag containing a beanie, gloves, and hand warmers, receive their meal, and sit down to enjoy it under the big tent covering the grassy area filled with tables and chairs. Inside, the Deborah Swiney Trio (booked for the occasion by Organist and Choirmaster Dr. Kristin Lensch) provided live music, including some holiday tunes. All of it was contained in just about a perfect set-up in the courtyard between the Welcome Inn and the main building, all envisioned and executed by Manager of Facilities Richard Hendricks.

Upon finishing their meal, some guests took advantage of resources made available by the Shelby County Health Department and the

Hospitality Hub. These resources included information about local health services, mental health support, and housing assistance. Some guests also received flu and COVID vaccines from representatives from Walgreens.

As we cleaned up and in the days that followed, the resounding sentiment was one of joy and warmth. Guests appreciated the outdoor setting and departed with smiles on their faces. Volunteers and Calvary staffers alike remarked on the communal spirit that permeated the event. It was a truly enjoyable, fun, and joyful experience for all.

The 2024 Emmanuel Meal was truly a community ministry at Calvary in action. It was generous and thoughtful, and it was an exercise to meet our neighbors where they are. We aim to do this as well as we can every Sunday morning when our volunteers open the clothes closet and serve breakfast for approximately 200 people.

I give thanks to the many volunteers who signed up and showed up for the guests by taking care of various jobs to make the meal a smooth process, and I give thanks to everyone who donated so that we met our goal of \$7,000 to cover the costs of the meal, the gift bags, and other materials—including the big tent! And I give thanks to everyone, especially the Calvary staff, for their flexibility in ensuring that the 2024 Emmanuel Meal lacked absolutely nothing—even when we were without a kitchen and dining room! I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our guests, whose presence and participation made the event truly special.

It is really amazing what happens when this community comes together to give with generous hearts. May that same spirit see us through the rest of the year to the 2025 Emmanuel Meal!



A NEW SEASON IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

by Jocelyn Busby



As Calvary's breathtaking renovations end, new spaces inspire expanded Children's and Family Ministry offerings. Beginning in March, the children's wing will welcome those aged 0-5th grade in fresh and intentional ways. When lecturing on Bible pedagogy and Christian formation for children and youth, Dr. Roger Nishioka of Berkeley Episcopal Seminary at Yale explains that "The power of small groups creates a sense of belonging and enables connection." This driving principle is the basis for our vision and design on the reinvigorated second floor.

A team of reliable and faithful leaders will teach Godly Play on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. Godly Play is a group

effort and consists of four steps: listening, wondering, reflecting, and feasting. Just as Early Christians met to gather, pray, eat, and share, we invite your child to join us! Children will be grouped with age-mates to explore the stories of our faith. Grades K-1 will meet in Room 203 and will be led by Karyn Bondi and Jordan Edmundson. Second and third graders will gather in Room 202 and be guided by Casey & Logan Graves, Dana Sue Percer, and Greg Busby. Fourth and fifth graders will convene in Room 201 and will be led by Emily Smith, Jennifer Shiberou, and Rachel Welcher. Our devoted volunteers have committed to an increased frequency to strengthen the relational

aspect of children's formation at Calvary. They are revving up to welcome your children, explore the Bible, and form connections.

Additionally, our experienced nursery team will tailor their program to small groups. Babies aged 0-2 will enjoy free play, songs, and stories in the new Church Nursery, where a beautiful glass wall provides welcome and visibility. Children aged 3 through 5 will gather in Room 204 for Little Lambs, a new Sunday School program for preschoolers led by Robbie Phillips. Little Lambs will provide an enriching space for older nursery children to grow together and with God. Both spaces will be open from 7:45 a.m. to noon on Sundays. The Nursery will also be available on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Calvary's Children and Family Ministries look forward to providing new opportunities for families at Calvary. On February 9, we hosted the Special Friends Fellowship Group at their Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance. Thanks to Ainsley & Battle Beasley, Karyn Bondi, Greg Busby, Emily Smith, Rhoda Smith, and Scott Walters for their dedication and support! On March 22 and April 26, Sun and Fun: Parents' Coffee and Playdates will resume at Overton Park from 10 to 11:30 a.m. We are grateful to Molly & Wes Nelson for serving as our playdate hosts. On Easter morning, April 20, we will host an Easter Egg Hunt on Calvary's new green space following the 9 a.m. worship service. Many thanks to our Egg Hunt committee, Bailey Fountain, McKenzie Scofield, and Maggie Morgan-Smith!

Lastly, a new living room dedicated to welcome, comfort, and conversation has been added in Rooms 205/206. It will serve as a multi-purpose space for groups, families, and individuals and will be a permanent home for Children's Chapel.

With hope and love, we invite you to join us for any and all of the offerings described above. We are confident that you will glory in the fabulous, soothing, eye-catching renovations, and we offer this new programming to live into them fully. It is our credence that faith formation and family fellowship events cultivate belonging and provide fondness and celebration for all! We welcome all who are interested to join us as we grow in faith by gathering in God's name.



HAPPENINGS AT CALVARY

(top row): Volunteers and guests at Calvary's Emmanuel Meal

(middle row, from left): Emmanuel Meal volunteers Margaret McLean and Elizabeth Colbeck; Acolytes on Christmas Eve; the blessing of the stuffed animals on the Feast of St. Francis

(bottom row, from left:) Calvary Off-Campus gathering at the home of Kate & Coleman Connell; children and youth participants in the Christmas Eve pageant



IN CALVARY'S PRAYERS

Great Expectations

Ainsley & Battle Beasley

Saints Departed

Becky Adams, friend of Martin Jellinek
 Sandra Askew, friend of Kendra Martin
 Steven Bercier, friend of Kendra Martin
 Breen Bland, friend of Sarah Squire
 Michael Brown, partner of Cary Schwartz
 The Rev. Margaret Burnett, friend of Katherine Bush
 Dale Charlton, friend of Martin Jellinek
 Gus Denton
 Arthur Fizer Fulmer, Jr., father of Arthur Fulmer
 Dr. Melvin Goldin, friend of Leslie & Les Smith
 Jimmy Hearn, brother of Jackson Hearn
 Steve Hedgepeth, brother of Beverly Hedgepeth
 Mike Hoekstra, friend of Heidi & Dave Rupke
 Holly Newman Johnson, friend of John Denton
 Peggy Jones, mother of Margaret Jones Fraser
 Hal Lane, friend of Betsy Kelly
 Rosa Lunares, friend of MC Hitt and Jennifer Hitt
 Eddie McDoniel, friend of Kathy Williams & Mary Nease, Debbie Kinard & Mary Jane Viar, and Bob Carlile
 Kirk Hudson Neely, uncle of Susan Neely-Barns
 The Rev. Nancy O'Shea

New Life

Eleanore Logan Solum Ball, daughter of Sarah & Erik Ball - 12/4/2024
 Isla Elizabeth Barzizza, granddaughter of Tom Barzizza - 12/9/2024

David Ousset, husband of John Palmer
 John Owings III, uncle of Reed Waldrop
 Gary Stuart Parks, friend of Michelle Pelay-Walker
 JoAnn Perse, friend of Laura Trott and Sarah Squire
 Martin Piecuch, father of Chris Piecuch
 Mandy Ploch, cousin of Bill Etnyre
 Ryan Poag, brother of John Welcher
 The Very Rev. Harry H. Pritchett, Jr.
 Robert Schwarz, friend of Michelle Pelay-Walker
 Margie Smith, mother of Lynn Barton, grandmother of Franklin Barton
 Aubrey VanBuren Spear III, son of Julie & Van Spear
 Glenna Spears, sister of Diane Spears
 Peter Andrew Turnbull, brother of Stephanie Cheney
 Jane Genette Twist, mother of Jane Slatery and Madeline Genette
 Guy Allan Tynes, husband of Karen Tynes
 Charles Michael Wade
 Kathleen Price Watson, friend of Christine Todd
 Carolyn Wills, mother of the Rev. Ed Wills
 Suzy Young, friend of Nancy Manire

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



CHRONICLE

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Robyn M. Banks, editor

Chronicle (USPS 085-900) Copyright ©2024 by Calvary Episcopal Church is published four times a year by Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103. Application to mail at Periodicals postage prices is pending at Memphis, Tennessee. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Calvary Chronicle, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, TN 38103.

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HOLY WEEK AND

Easter

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13 8 & 10:30 A.M.
LITURGY OF THE PALMS AND HOLY EUCHARIST

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 17
5:45 P.M. AGAPE MEAL • 7 P.M. MAUNDY THURSDAY LITURGY

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18
10:30 A.M. STATIONS OF THE CROSS LED BY THE DOK
12 P.M. GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY
12:45 P.M. WAY OF THE CROSS IN DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS

EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 19, 7 P.M. LITURGY

EASTER DAY, APRIL 20
7:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
9 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II WITH CHILDREN'S CHAPEL
11 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II WITH CHILDREN'S CHAPEL



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

Summer 2025





making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

5 p.m. Evensong first Sundays, Sept.-May

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

Example: swalters@calvarymemphis.org

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf
Bishop, Diocese of West TN

The Rev. Paul McLain
Associate Rector

The Rev. Audrey Gonzalez
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Scott Walters
Rector

The Rev. Katherine Bush
Associate Rector

The Rev. Mimsy Jones
Deacon

VESTRY

Jessica Flynn
Sr. Warden

Bill Bangham

MC Hitt *

Allison Parker
Jr. Warden

Franklin Barton

Matt Seltzer

Christina Ross
Warden at Large

Zoe Bondi *

Mary Jane Viar

Madge Deacon
Clerk

Kate Connell

Reg Udoj

Erik Ball
Treasurer

Terri Dulaney

Ginny Webb

Andy Estes

Clay Woemmel

Barbara Etheridge

* youth representative

Bill Etnyre

STAFF

Robyn Banks
Director of Communications

Jackson Hearn
Associate Organist

Monica Marshall
Sexton

Nathan Brasfield
Director of Youth and Community Ministries

Richard Hendricks
Facilities Manager

Margaret McLean
Finance Manager

Jocelyn Busby
Director of Children & Family Ministries

Mary Honey
Information Officer

Mary O'Brien
Parish Chef

Mak Clayton
Community Liaison

Dr. Kristin Lensch
Organist-Choirmaster

Ebet Peoples
Welcome and Community

Connie Marshall
Information Officer

Steve Smith
Director of Finance & Operations



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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
38103



901-525-6602



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People are doing other things, going about their lives together, when the risen Christ appears.

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As first-time offenders, a judge offered them an option: attend this meeting called Lives Worth Saving and the arrest will be expunged, or go to jail.



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This year's speakers came from across the country and across traditions, each bringing their own voice, their own story, and their own call to action.

IN GRATITUDE

by the Rev. Paul McLain

As most of you have heard, I will transition soon to serve as lead chaplain and director of spiritual care services of Trezevant, a retirement community with Episcopal roots here in Memphis.

As I reflect on our 9-1/2 years of ministry together at Calvary, much of what I feel is gratitude. It has been a blessing to be a part of the important markers of your life journeys—births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, deaths, and funerals.

I am grateful to Martin Jellinek and Len Grice, co-leaders of our pastoral care ministry, for their faithfulness and friendship. My prayer life and spiritual journey have been enriched by serving as chaplain to the JOY chapter of the Daughters of the King. And it has been exciting to help start a new ministry, Arrival Angels, to support families of newborns as we welcome our newest parishioners!

Much of what I am grateful for is that we have learned and grown together day after day. It has been a joy to lead and participate in book studies with you, ranging from Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory* to our own Jim Bailey's *The End of Healing*. Your curiosity has been contagious, and we have found illumination not so much in definitive answers but through a shared experience of living the questions. A

favorite hour of my week is being one of the Baguette Brothers, the men's Bible study group in which we feast on the Word and on each other's love and support.

Ruthie and I will cherish the memories of our time together with you at Calvary—making balloon hats at picnics, delivering Thanksgiving meals during the pandemic, offering blessings to your very enthusiastic pets, and even blessing horses and Rocky Redbird!

The gratitude we feel is best summed up by the Apostle Paul: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share God's grace with me." (Philippians 1:3-7a)

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!!

Love,
Ruthie & Paul McLain



“It has been a blessing to be a part of the important markers of your life journeys—births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, deaths, and funerals.”



THIS SUMMER @ CALVARY

Fun and Familiar Faces

This summer while our rector, Scott Walters, is on sabbatical, we will see some fun and familiar faces at Calvary. Help us welcome them each Sunday!

The Rev. Eyleen Farmer

Eyleen served as an associate rector at Calvary from 2012 to 2017 and has joyfully returned several times since. In addition to being here on Sundays, she will share in pastoral care.

The Rev. Jim Boyd

Jim is the former president and CEO of BRIDGES, an organization that empowers youth to raise their voices, build connections, and lead transformative change in their communities. Jim and his wife Martha are members of Calvary.

The Rev. Buddy Stallings

Buddy is the former interim rector at Calvary, serving from 2016 to 2017. He has since served as priest associate and returned to preach on several occasions, including as part of our Lenten Preaching Series. **Buddy will preach on June 22 and July 27.**

The Rev. Alvin Jackson

Alvin Jackson is the former beloved senior pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in Memphis and is pastor emeritus of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York. He is a friend to Calvary and has preached in our Lenten Preaching Series. **Alvin will preach on July 13.**



Summer Scripture Sundays, June 8-Aug. 24 | 9:15 a.m.

Each week, we'll take a closer look at the readings for that Sunday. Come dig in to some good conversation and learn more about the stories we hear in church. No homework required in advance, but you'll walk into the 10:30 liturgy with extra insight and maybe your own ideas about what the preacher could say!

Summer of Service for Children & Youth Sundays, June 1 - Aug. 24 | 9:15 a.m.

Children and youth in grades K-12 will complete service projects that give back to the church and city we love. Come make cards for hospitalized children, assist the Altar Guild in preparing for worship, plant flowers on our campus, decorate placemats for Room in the Inn, sort clothes for Calvary's Clothes Closet, paint watercolors for the homebound, and much more! We will welcome special representatives of each of Calvary's departments and partners in mission. Come join the fun as we practice our faith "not only with our lips but in our lives!"

Children's Coffee Hour Sundays, June 1-Aug. 24 11:30 a.m.-Noon

Children in grades K-5 are invited to their own Coffee Hour following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays this summer. Please join us for kid food, Bible activities, and summer fellowship on the staff patio while parents enjoy coffee hour in the Calvary Commons.

Sun and Fun: Parents' Coffee and Playdates

Parents and children are invited for family fellowship offering on select Saturdays this summer! Come to enjoy some downtime with other adults while your children play. Locations, times, and dates will be provided at the beginning of each month. If you are interested in hosting one of the playdates, contact Jocelyn Busby, director of children and family ministries, for more information by emailing jbusby@calvarymemphis.org.

Check out the back page and save the dates for our summer fellowship gatherings!





YOU'RE VERY WELCOME HERE

by Ashley Baker

“Whoever you are, whatever gifts or burdens you might be bearing into this place today, you’re very welcome here...” Familiar words said frequently from the Calvary chancel on Sundays, and words I have come to find not only true, but so very comforting.

Our family came to Calvary in the latter part of 2022. My husband Ryan and I have three children: Louis (11), Frances (8), and Agnes (6). Back in 2022, we had entered a space of being spiritual nomads in this city, having departed a church home where we had deep roots but knowing we needed to move in a different direction for our children and family values. We also were crawling our way out of the pandemic (like so many of you), reeling from the loss of my father to cancer, and navigating difficult waters with our oldest child’s autoimmune disease, PANS.

My husband Ryan and I grew up in local churches and know the bounty that comes

from a church’s community and love, as well as the gifts of spiritual formation found within a church home. We were longing to find a place to land. To say we came first to Calvary in quite the ragged state is an understatement. But despite being worn down and adrift, Ryan and I both knew immediately that we had arrived somewhere very special.

We have continued just showing up, and as a result, we’ve slowly built relationships with so many of you across all ages. We have developed a deep sense of belonging. Over the course of the last three years, it’s the tiniest and sometimes most hilarious moments that have stitched us back together and, by grace, woven us deeper into the tapestry of what is Calvary.

The “tiny moments” that have knitted us tighter and tighter here vary depending on which family member you might ask within the Baker clan. For me, I’m continually challenged by our priests to consider what I am paying attention to, God’s boundless divine love for us, and my inner mystic. I can recall Ryan saying over and over again when we first started visiting, “Everyone there is just SO smart!” (so pat yourself on the back if reading this!). We both deeply enjoy the various adult formation classes offered throughout the week and on Sundays.

For our children, the list is endless. They have had many positive experiences and opportunities to learn about God, build relationships with others, consider the value of love, patience, and kindness, and much more. There have been the hilarious moments I mentioned earlier. Like playing bingo one Wednesday night and our oldest winning a full-size rat trap from the prize table. “Dollar store gifts” was the theme for the gift table. Guess who contributed the rat trap prize? Yep, our very own rector, Scott Walters! (We had a nice little chat!)

I love the kind and amused eye contact from the communion rail with the eucharistic ministers when our youngest child dips “maybe” her whole hand in the chalice. I love the sweet friendships our middle child has made and the whispers they exchange



photos courtesy of Ashley Baker

during the church services, trying their best to be quiet and not too squirmy. We are big fans of the delicious Wednesday night dinners, children’s choirs, and youth group opportunities. These tiny moments are creating space in our children’s lives, drawing them into a faith-filled life, and hopefully laying down a solid foundation for a fruitful future for each of them.

Oftentimes, in this current stage of “mom life,” I don’t have the space or feel called to be doing much more than trying to show up and show up with these above-mentioned other Bakers. But it has been the showing up that has made all the difference. And so many of you faithfully showing up for us. We are here today because you all have shown us time and time again, as the hands and feet of Christ, this balm and truth: “Whoever you are, whatever gifts or burdens you might be bearing into this place today, you’re very welcome here...” Thank you so much for this gift of love.

LIVES WORTH SAVING

by Bill Bangham



When the woman rises to speak, the room falls silent. She's tall. Her voice commands attention. She needs no microphone. She was once a sex worker. Now, she is a survivor trying to help others escape the sex industry. There are five women in the room today who she hopes will listen to what she has to say.

"I've walked the streets just like you," she begins.

At age 8, she was sexually abused by a relative. She was a child. She didn't know how to talk

about it. No one would listen. When she said she didn't want to go to that relative's house anymore, she was told to hush. Behave. She was going anyway. She was left to endure the abuse alone.

It continued until she was 13.

"At a young age, wine and marijuana helped me step out of what was going on," she continues. "At some point, I figured if you're going to touch me, you have to give me something in return."

Eventually, she crossed the line. "Without realizing it, I became a child prostitute."

As the years passed, she became hard. Once abused, she became an abuser. Tough on the outside, on the inside, she felt so alone, burdened with shame and guilt, "Just like you," she says.

The five women are here because they were arrested as sex workers. As first-time offenders, a judge offered them an option: attend this meeting called Lives Worth Saving and the arrest will be expunged, or go to jail.



Venicia Patterson, associate district attorney for Shelby County, addresses women attending Lives Worth Saving. She reminds them the consequences of life as a sex worker, that they are at a crossroads and at a time to choose a different path.



Madge Deacon, who is the contact person from Calvary for Live Worth Saving, helps one of the participants understand the opportunities available to her.

"Lives Worth Saving is not a punishment," continues the survivor. Two of the five sit forward in their seats. "It's an opportunity. We don't have to look ashamed to say we walked the streets. We can get out of it. We can use our experience to help others."

In 2014, Chris Moffatt, a police officer working vice, was asking hard questions about how the justice system addressed the sex industry, particularly how it dealt with the women

trafficked. Over the years he had arrested some of them so many times they called him by his first name. He questioned if it was possible to break the cycle of arrest-prosecution-imprisonment-release-arrest again they were caught in. The question led to discussions with the Rev. Eyleen Farmer and Rachel Haaga.

At the time, Farmer was a priest working in pastoral care at Calvary Episcopal Church, and Haaga was the executive director

con't on p. 14



Tunnisha Deer of Shelby County Rape Crisis Center tells women of opportunities available for them through her agency.



Diane Outland is offering seconds of the meal prepared by Calvary. Madge Deacon is helping one of the women attending Lives Worth Saving understand opportunities available to her.

of RestoreCorp, a Memphis non-profit working to eradicate human trafficking by empowering survivors, equipping communities, and changing systems. Together, discussions between the three of them led to Lives Worth Saving.

Lives Worth Saving is a cooperative effort between local police, the Shelby County District Attorney's office, County Court Pretrial Services, the Health Department, the Crime Victim and Rape Crisis Center, Calvary Episcopal Church, and a number of non-profits, including RestoreCorp and Thistle & Bee, among others offering residential programs, job training skills, individual and group counseling, safe sex education, access to health care, insurance, and other services to help pull women out of the sex trade.

Calvary member Madge Deacon had recently retired from Federal Express and was exploring ministry opportunities when Lives Worth

Saving began. She worked with Farmer as it unfolded. It was a good fit and Farmer quickly turned responsibility for Calvary's participation over to her. She's been involved ever since.

Calvary provides the meeting facilities, Mary O'Brien, parish chef, a meal for those attending, and church members greet participants as they arrive and later serve the meal. Ellen Hammond is a good example. She began volunteering seven or eight years ago. Her easy manner with the women, interacting with them as they enter a space in which they have little or no knowledge, staying beside them throughout the session, and helping them with the schedule and forms they are required to fill out speak volumes.

Her actions are louder than words: This is a safe place.

There are armed female detectives in attendance. In the past, attempts have been

made to disrupt the meeting and intimidate the women. Pretrial services monitor those attending. Those who agreed to attend and don't come are issued bench warrants for their arrest.

There are no grand statistics here or stories of successes and the heartbreak of failure. Lives Worth Saving is a one-time event. It's a portal, an introduction to persons and resources available to help people change.

"Today is all about you," says a member of RestoreCorp. She then points to information sessions by the District Attorney's office, the Crime Victim and Rape Center, and the time set aside for the women to explore the non-profit community partners who have resources to offer.

Venicia Patterson, associate district attorney for Shelby County, tells the group she became an attorney because "I want to help people who

are hurting and beaten down.

"No little girl thinks she wants to be a sex worker someday," she continues. "This isn't what you wanted. This doesn't have to be who you are. Prostitution is a one-way street. You're at a crossroads. You can continue down that road, or you can choose a good life.

"Are you ready to make that choice right now?" Patterson asks. "Nothing is more vulnerable than a woman a man can do anything with. I don't want your name to come across my desk. I don't want to see you as a homicide victim.

"You can be a survivor. It's your choice."

Dianne Outland, Ellen Hammond's sister, moves among the tables where the women sit with a tray offering seconds from the meal. "If just one of these women makes that choice," she says, "it's worth it."

OPENING OUR DOORS AND OUR HEARTS

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2025 LENTEN PREACHING SERIES

by Katy Leopard

This year's Lenten Preaching Series began on a day of celebration—a day two years in the making. Just hours before the first preacher stepped into our pulpit, we welcomed the city of Memphis into Calvary's newly renovated home. After scaffolding, dust, and months of anticipation, the space was finally light-filled, open, and beautiful. A transformed home. And what a way to begin our 102nd year of the series: with fresh paint on the walls and the renewed spirit of a community eager to be together.



It felt so right that our first post-renovation gathering was this series—something deeply rooted in our Calvary identity and reaching far beyond our walls. Each year, the Lenten Preaching Series and our beloved Waffle Shop open their doors not only to our parish but to the entire city. In times when headlines often feel heavy, and hope can feel out of reach, it is no small thing to gather for good news. And that's what the Lenten Preaching Series gave us this year—good news, spoken clearly and courageously, from a pulpit that has stood for more than a century, now glowing anew with natural light and sacred intention.

People often ask me what it's like to coordinate the series. The truth is, I love it. I love the slow and steady rhythm of reaching out to potential preachers months—sometimes a full year—before they ever arrive at Calvary. I love hearing them say yes. I love the emails exchanged, the arrangements made, and the schedules finalized. And most of all, I love the moment

they walk through our red doors, and we meet face-to-face. There's something holy about that moment—like welcoming an old friend I've somehow never met.

And this year, I found a surprising blessing in an unexpected place: our shuttle van. When the doors broke on the van (graciously loaned to us by Idlewild Presbyterian Church), someone had to ride the van with our driver and manually open and close the doors! But what first felt like a frustrating burden became one of the high points of the series for me. Riding back and forth gave me the chance to visit with the early morning volunteers—folks from churches all over the city who help make Waffle Shop possible. I chatted with long-time guests who've come every Friday for 30 years just for the fish pudding. I sat beside people glowing with enthusiasm about the speaker they had just heard, still processing the sermon as we made our way back to the parking lot. Those shuttle rides



photos by Bill Bangham

"And that's what the Lenten Preaching Series gave us this year—good news, spoken clearly and courageously, from a pulpit that has stood for more than a century, now glowing anew with natural light and sacred intention."



turned out to be tiny sanctuaries of their own—full of stories, laughter, and shared tradition.

This year's speakers came from across the country and across traditions, each bringing their own voice, their own story, and their own call to action. I found myself taking notes during every sermon. Not just for the logistics of hosting but for my own heart. I walked away each time with a nugget of wisdom—some new way of looking at the world, some small shift in thinking, some big challenge to do better, to love better, to live with more intention and grace.

In one particularly delightful twist, I also walked away with a sourdough starter from a preacher who happens to bake bread as a spiritual practice. I've been feeding it and baking with it ever since—a tasty reminder that nourishment comes in many forms.

Meanwhile, down in the Waffle Shop, volunteers pulled chicken, made mayonnaise, served plates, poured coffee, and welcomed regulars and newcomers alike. I saw hugs exchanged between people who might only see each other during Lent. I heard stories told over fish pudding and tomato aspic. I watched friendships rekindle and new ones formed across the tables. For many of us,

this space has become a kind of sanctuary, too.

As I look ahead to next year, I'm already thinking of who we'll invite, what voices we'll lift up, and what stories we'll share. But before I get too far ahead, I'm holding tight to the gifts of this season: the sounds of stirring sermons, the smell of Waffle Shop chicken hash, the joy of full pews and full hearts, and the privilege of helping make this sacred gathering possible.

Thank you to everyone who preached, served, listened, ate, prayed, and showed up. You made this season holy.



by Mike Stanley

HAPPIEST PLACE IN MEMPHIS

I am a Texan by birth and a New Yorker by choice. I am relatively new to Memphis and decided to spend my winters and springs here about four years ago, shortly before the pandemic began.

I moved here not knowing a soul except my wonderful realtor, a lifelong Memphian. She knew I wanted to make friends and guided me to the Brooks Museum, where I became acquainted with one of the staff members of Calvary, Steve Smith. We became close friends, and he suggested I have lunch at the Waffle Shop. He thought I would love the food, which I did. Did someone say fish pudding? It was only later I learned that a dish with a name like fish pudding had achieved mythical status for all those who grew up going to the Waffle Shop! The food served here is a delicious combination of southern cuisine and "ladies who lunch" fare. I love it!

I was lamenting to my friend Steve that I really wanted to volunteer somewhere during my time in Memphis. He suggested I volunteer as a cashier at the

Waffle Shop. With trepidation and a lack of experience, I signed up for several days. My "boss" is a wonderful woman named May Todd. She taught me everything I needed to know, and I hit the ground running.

I can honestly say that I have loved every minute at Calvary. I have grown very attached to May and all of my coworkers. We have had the best time getting to know one another. There are times when we are under the gun from a wave of diners and times when we have the leisure to relax and visit with one another and discuss what we are thinking about eating that day. As a Tennessee newcomer, an added bonus was learning so much more about the many things happening in and around Memphis and what a special place Calvary plays in the Memphis community.

It may seem funny (as Lent is a time of introspection and mindfulness), but during these weeks of Lent, Calvary is the happiest place in Memphis. The volunteers who prepare and serve

food are delighted to be helping and reconnecting with volunteers from previous years. Some diners come daily or weekly for the delicious food, and others come for spiritual sustenance from our many speakers representing the best of various faiths and walks of life. The diners happily pay their checks and, in addition, leave very generous tips for the Calvary outreach ministry. All leave with a smile on their face!

I am lucky to have been invited to participate in something that means so much to so many. People have been coming to the waffle shop for generations, and there is truly a sense of homecoming in joining in with your fellow Memphians for food, kindness, spiritual sustenance, and fun.

I hope to participate for many, many years. If you're considering volunteering for Waffle Shop, DO IT! I can guarantee you will have fun surrounded by wonderful, happy people. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve. It's been a true joy!



photos by Bill Bangham

CALVARY CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF RENOVATIONS: MARCH 2, 2025

On Sunday, March 2, 2025, Calvary celebrated the completion of our capital campaign: Arise! And be radiant! We blessed our new spaces, welcomed the return of Parish Breakfast, and came back in the evening for a festive hymn sing led by the Calvary Choir and featuring guest organist Walden Moore. A delicious dinner followed.



VESTRY UPDATE

by Jessican Flynn, Senior Warden



“Welcome!” It’s a simple one-word greeting we hope you hear when you walk into Calvary—whether you’ve been a member for thirty years or it’s your first time walking through the big, red Second Street doors. Doesn’t it feel nice to be welcomed? To feel you belong? That you showed up to the right place at the right time? That’s why our vestry named inclusion and community as areas where we feel Calvary shines. But Calvary doesn’t just happen—we, as members of this community, through Christ, make Calvary happen. Because of that, we chose welcoming as one of our initiatives for 2025.

Third-year vestry member Clay Woemmel graciously offered to continue Newcomer Parties, welcoming newcomers into his and his husband Brooks Terry’s home to give them a chance to meet and mingle with the vestry, staff, and clergy. Clay is also leading, along with several other vestry members, a new LGBTQ+ inclusion initiative to ensure Calvary continues to be a shining star for this community.

This vestry also named community outreach as a way Calvary shines. Second-year vestry member Bill Etnyre wonders how Calvary “can make a dent”

in our community’s poverty at a systemic level. Bill sees how impactful Calvary is with the acute needs in our neighborhood, but inspired by the Community Ministries Book Club with Director of Outreach Ministries Nathan Brasfield, Bill is curious if 2025 may be the year we can think on a systemic level. He is currently teaming up with other Calvary parishioners and MICAH to explore these issues more specifically.

The third vestry-identified focus in 2025 is listening and will be led by Junior Warden Allison Parker. In 2024, through transition and construction, our vestry listened. What, you ask, were we listening for? I may be a pessimist, but I was nervous. Would people complain about bathrooms under construction? Missing parking spaces? But what we heard was a downright buzz (and it wasn’t all coming from the drills). People were ooh-ing and ahh-ing, pointing and perusing the new spaces, the nooks and crannies they didn’t know existed. And that these spaces were part of their church, which was evolving right in front of their eyes. Now that we’ve hurdled over this era of construction, this vestry of 2025 wants to continue to listen. What now? I’ll leave that to you.

Note from Treasurer Erik Ball:

To express our deepest gratitude for everything Scott has done for the Calvary community, earlier this year, Calvary’s vestry and finance committee voted unanimously to grant Scott a special one-time bonus allocated to a dedicated sabbatical fund. While Calvary has not historically supported clergy sabbaticals directly in this way, the vestry determined that Scott’s extraordinary contributions warranted extraordinary recognition. Please join us in thanking Scott for everything he does. Parishioners wishing to make any additional contributions to Scott’s sabbatical fund are invited to contact the finance office, finance@calvarymemphis.org.

IN CALVARY'S PRAYERS

Wedding Bells

Mary Jackson & Doug Black - 3/6/2025

Francis Chandler & Peter Stephens - 4/26/2025

Great Expectations

Ainsley & Battle Beasley

Miller & Hunter Cowan

Bridget & Clay Crenshaw

Caroline & Cameron Ellis

New Life

Millie Ray Angelo, great-grandchild of Gayle & Raymond Spence - 2/13/2025

Nalu Riyo Dos, grandson of Marci Sweeney - 2/9/2025

Beron Elliot Rogers, great-nephew of Kendra Martin - 03/04/25

Saints Departed

Betty Jane Anderson

Jean Beggs, grandmother of Austin Smith

Anne Sheffield Carter

Mary Carolyn Cotton, goddaughter of Laurie & Brooks Monypeny

Pitt Derryberry, friend of Stella Blocker

Peggy Lee Eddins, mother of Tommy Parker

Gene Fulghum, friend of Raymond Spence

Patsy Fulghum, grandmother of Jeff Etheridge

Billy Joe Geddie, grandfather of Liz Jones

Keith Kays, husband of Jackie Kays

Owene Moore Lewis

Dave Lillich, friend of Scott Walters

Bobbie Pugh Lovelace, friend of Laurie Monypeny

Billy Sam Martin, uncle of Jim Martin

Walter Mischke, husband of Linda Douty

Dan Oppenheimer, husband of Susan Oppenheimer

Marshall Phillips, cousin of Sherry Compton

William R. Rice

Parker Alexander Roll, friend of Adam Cruthird

Stanley Sacks, father-in-law of Sid McMillan

Michael Sizemore, friend of Kendra Martin

Sheri Tallent, sister of Dianne Bangham

Christopher Vargas, friend of Stella Blocker

Emily Vick, mother of Michelle Fulmer

Luke White, nephew of Lisa Abell

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



CHRONICLE

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Robyn M. Banks, editor

Chronicle (USPS 085-900) Copyright ©2025 by Calvary Episcopal Church is published four times a year by Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103. Application to mail at Periodicals postage prices is pending at Memphis, Tennessee. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Calvary Chronicle, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, TN 38103.

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SUMMER FUN @ CALVARY

June 11

TRIVIA NIGHT

Come with a team, or create a team when you arrive. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 teams. Dinner will be served from 5:15 to 6 p.m., followed by trivia.

TRIVIA

July 9

GAME NIGHT

This is a board game potluck, so if you have a favorite board game, please bring it! Dinner will be served from 5:15 to 6 p.m., at which point the games will begin.

GAMES

Aug. 13

BINGO & ICE CREAM

Join your Calvary parishioners and friends for our annual night of Bingo & Ice Cream. Dinner will be served from 5:15 to 6 p.m., followed by bingo.

BINGO



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRONICLE

making God's love visible in downtown Memphis

Fall 2025





making God's love visible
in downtown Memphis

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

8 a.m. Rite I Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist
5 p.m. Evensong first Sundays, Sept.-May

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf
Bishop, Diocese of West TN

The Rev. Katherine Bush
Associate Rector

The Rev. Audrey Gonzalez
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Scott Walters
Rector

Wesley Rowell
*Minister for Congregational
Care*

The Rev. Mimsy Jones
Deacon

VESTRY

Jessica Flynn
Sr. Warden

Bill Bangham
Franklin Barton

MC Hitt *
Matt Seltzer

Allison Parker
Jr. Warden

Zoe Bondi *
Kate Connell

Mary Jane Viar
Reg Udoj

Christina Ross
Warden at Large

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*Director of Youth and Community
Ministries*

Richard Hendricks
Facilities Manager

Margaret McLean
Finance Manager

Jocelyn Busby
*Director of Children & Family
Ministries*

Mary Honey
Information Officer

Mary O'Brien
Parish Chef

Mak Clayton
Community Liaison

Dr. Kristin Lensch
Organist-Choirmaster

Ebet Peoples
Welcome and Community

Connie Marshall
Information Officer

Steve Smith
Director of Finance & Operations



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Learn about upcoming classes, events, and fellowship opportunities this Fall at Calvary.

Cover photo: a piece of our Mural that hangs in the newly renovated Mural Room.

The Capacious Hand of God

by the Rev. Katherine Bush



Capacious: *adjective* having a lot of space inside; roomy.
“She rummaged in her capacious handbag.”

I was in my forties when I learned the word “capacious” while listening to a podcast with children’s author Kate DiCamillo. Maybe it had been on a vocabulary list when I was in middle school, but it struck me as a brand-new word. Kate DiCamillo, in turn, learned the word from the author William Maxwell, who ended a short story of his with this sentence: “And I think that if it is true that we are all in the hand of God, what a capacious hand it must be.”

Capacious means ample and generous; it rhymes with its synonym, spacious. DiCamillo invoked the word capacious in her 2014 Nerberry Medal acceptance speech in which she told a roomful of librarians, writers, and readers, “We have been given the sacred task of making hearts large through story. We are working to make hearts that are capable of containing much joy and much sorrow, hearts capacious enough to contain the complexities and mysteries of ourselves and of each other. We are working to make hearts that know how to love this world.”

I can’t think of a better job description, not just for librarians, but for all of us. Making hearts large is the work of parenting, the work of friendship, the work of citizenship; it’s the work of the church at the core. We are drawn into community with each other and with God to make our hearts larger, “capable of containing much joy and much sorrow, hearts capacious enough to contain complexities and mysteries.”

And this capacious word showed up again for me this summer, reading some reflections by former Archbishop Rowan Williams. He describes his growing up in the church, and then as a

“...our faith not only ‘allows us to engage at depth with people,’ it encourages and demands such depth.”



university student “coming into contact with ... human need and human suffering that I hadn’t quite registered before, meeting homeless people ... the sense that you needed to have quite a capacious picture of human nature in order to see the dignity and the need—that reinforced my feeling that the faith I’d grown into was something which actually allowed you to engage at depth with people.” He needed a capacious, larger picture of human nature that encompassed both need and dignity. And he celebrates the fact that the faith offered to him had the capacity to hold all of that, the capacity “to know how to love this world.”

There are days when it’s hard to figure out how to hold all that. There are days when my heart feels small, shriveled even, and I can’t make room for mystery or

complexity, much less the dignity of every human being with all their neediness, nor all the world along for the ride, too. And this is one of the reasons that I keep coming to church. Because our faith not only “allows us to engage at depth with people,” it encourages and demands such depth. And though that is hard work, being reminded of the capacity of my heart and mind is the antidote I need to combat the temptation toward small living and small-mindedness so that I can love the world.

As you turn through this capacious magazine, I hope you’ll read the stories about the arrival of Wesley Rowell and of the return of Samaritan Counseling to Calvary. And maybe you’ll take note of a new class or a new opportunity to serve. And we honor the very large-hearted work of Margaret Craddock, David

Lusk, and Charles Shipp. We have a sacred task of making hearts large through story and through conversations, through worship and through service. This work is part of our calling as Christians in this time and place.

And whether here in these pages or when you walk through the doors of Calvary into our bright, newly wide-open and spacious hallways and rooms, I hope we are also reminded about the capacious hand of God. “And I think that if it is true that we are all in the hand of God, what a capacious hand it must be.” One of the few things I know for sure is that God is always bigger than my mind and soul can comprehend. In that huge embrace, there is room for me regardless of the shape and size of my heart, and in that capacious hand, we are all held.

Who are you?

by Wesley Steven Rowell
Minister for
Congregational Care

Who are you?? It's a question I've been asked more times than I can count. In church basements and airport terminals, by bishops and by baristas, and most recently by the woman taking my barbeque order in Memphis. We were chatting, just making small talk. I suppose I was wearing one of my more outré outfits, and when I mentioned I worked at Calvary, she paused and said, "Wait, **you** work at a church?" before blinking and adding, "You don't look like it."

And there it was again. The question under the question. Who are you? Really?

For most of my life, I've been composing an answer. I grew up a queer Black boy in the South, trying to find room to breathe in a world that kept insisting there wasn't space for all of me. I learned early on how to read a room, shape-shift, and soften my edges. I became a master storyteller, sometimes even to myself. My identity was something I protected, performed, and occasionally pretended didn't matter. But of course, it did. As I got older, I told myself new stories. That I was accomplished. That I was strong. That I was called. And all of those were true. But underneath them all, I was still trying to answer that quiet, aching question. Who am I? And even more deeply, who does God say that I am?

I came to seminary in midlife, not as a bright-eyed 24-year-old, but as someone who had already lived, loved, and grieved. I've lived through the AIDS



top two photos courtesy of Wesley Rowell;
bottom photo by Bill Bangham

epidemic, 9-11, and a pandemic. I've also lived and loved and celebrated and rejoiced. And then came seminary. Mine was a second-career call that was persistent, and sometimes painful. There were moments when I felt too late, too tired, too different. But God never stopped whispering, insisting, demanding even: *You are mine*. And I'm still, always, figuring out how to tell the truth about who I am, with no filters, no edits, just the Wesley that God already sees.

Because here's the thing I'm learning: the stories we tell about ourselves are powerful. But they are not always true. Some of them are stitched together from fear. Some are old hand-me-downs we never asked for. And some are just... incomplete.

But there is a deeper story. One that began long before we could name it. Genesis tells us, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). That's the first truth about you. And me. That we are made *Imago Dei*, in the image of God. Not as a metaphor, not as a theological concept, but as a spiritual reality. That means that every one of us carries a divine fingerprint. Every curve, every scar, every laugh line. Holy.

I think I knew this once, before I had the language for it. I remember being a little boy, maybe 5 or 6, standing in the backyard in the late afternoon Carolina sun. I had a towel tied around my neck like a cape, convinced I was Superman with

my cape fluttering, bare feet in the grass, heart wide open. I wasn't performing for anyone. I wasn't hiding anything. I just felt free. Alive. Whole. I didn't know yet what the world would try to take from me, or what I'd be told I had to hide in order to be safe. But in that moment, I knew who I was. I belonged. I was made for delight. I know God was smiling.

Augustine, in all his searching, wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." That line has walked with me through so many chapters; when I was unsure if the church could love someone like me, when I was waiting (and waiting) to find out if I'd been accepted to seminary, when I felt like the story I was living didn't match the one I hoped for.

And yet, even in those restless spaces, God was there. Not waiting for me to earn anything,

spoken over you before you could even speak.

So, who **am** I? I am a Christian. I am queer. I am Black. I am middle-aged and just starting to feel like I'm truly stepping into my own voice. I love Diana Ross, mid-century design, Beyonce, Howells, sushi, Stevie Wonder, catfish, Bach, and James Baldwin, not necessarily in that order. Back in my drinking days, I once got drunk with the late Jeff Buckley, and we sang Cher and Liza together. And now I live just a few blocks from his final home. My version of heaven is one where he sings 'Hallelujah' to me. I am someone who still sometimes wonders if he belongs, and who knows, deep in his bones, that he absolutely does. And, oh yes, my oh my, I love Jesus. And Jesus loves me.

And who are you? You are beloved. You are *Imago Dei*. You are not too much or not enough.

And who are you? You are beloved. You are *Imago Dei*. You are not too much or not enough.

but reminding me: *You are already mine*. Paul says in Galatians: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26, 28). And that's the core of it. Child of God. That's the name that holds all the others. That's the identity that doesn't change with your zip code, job title, or relationship status. It's the one that was

You are not behind. You are not broken. You are God's own. That's not just a nice idea. It's the truth. It's your truest name. And no one can take it from you. Not even you. My hope is this: that you'll tell your story from that place. From the sacred, simple truth that you are a child of God.

Start there. Everything else will follow. Tell **that** story.

Welcome Back to Calvary!

by Mary Fortin

Calvary is glad to welcome Samaritan Counseling Centers of the Mid-South back into our midst. Historically, Samaritan had an office at Calvary from its early days to the late 2000s. With the completion of our renovation, Samaritan's therapists will be serving clients out of office spaces on the 4th floor of Calvary and will be well-positioned to support those who desire to meet in a downtown location.

professional counseling services and educational programs to all in our community who are in need of high-quality, affordable care, respecting the spiritual and personal values of all individuals served.

There is clearly a demand in our community for mental health

sessions, serving clients from all economic and racial backgrounds across 71 zip codes throughout the Mid-South, and hosting three Community Lunch and Learn educational events. In addition to their new offices at Calvary, Samaritan's eight clinical therapists see clients at Germantown Presbyterian, Church of the Holy Communion, First Baptist, and Idlewild Presbyterian.

Over the organization's 44-year history, many at Calvary

have served on the board of directors—including, most recently, Will Hayley, the Rev. Paul McLain, Margaret McLean, and me.

Calvary is honored and deeply grateful to welcome this long-serving mental health organization back to our sacred space!



services. Tennessee ranks 43rd in access to mental health care nationwide. One out of five adults in the U.S. experiences mental health challenges, and suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth, ages 10-14. Less than one-half of those diagnosed with mental health conditions can access care. The average cost of a therapy session in Tennessee ranges from \$130 to \$150, creating a financial barrier for many individuals and families. (Source: 2024 Community Report, Samaritan Counseling Centers of the Mid-South)

Some of Samaritan's recent highlights include: providing 3,249 financially accessible counseling

For 44 years, Samaritan Counseling Centers has been providing high-quality, affordable mental health counseling and educational resources for children, adults, couples, families, and groups.

Samaritan was initially founded in 1981 by Calvary Episcopal Church as the Episcopal Counseling Center to serve the needs of the Episcopal congregations. In 1987, the Episcopal Counseling Center became the Samaritan Counseling Centers of the Mid-South, to shift the scope of the work to include the broader Mid-South community, and has been committed to providing

Something Holy

by the Rev. Gabbie Munn

There is something holy about learning the customs and particularities of a new place. For example, Memphians use the river as a navigational tool. "Drive on Poplar Ave. towards the river, then turn South on 2nd St."

When I arrived at the Seminary of the Southwest, I found that in seminary, you introduce yourself by making your diocese a sort of last name. For example, I wasn't just Gabbie Munn; I was Gabbie Munn, Diocese of Mississippi. While it was true, it always felt as if it were missing something integral about how I ended up on a seminary campus on the track to ordination in the first place.

After all, I did pack up my belongings in Cooper-Young, wave goodbye to the Bass Pro Pyramid, and take with me memories of four years at Calvary Episcopal Church, located at 102 N. 2nd St., Memphis, Tennessee. Y'all know the one.

So, I began introducing myself as Gabbie Munn, Diocese of Mississippi, by way of Memphis, Tennessee. It was a bit of a mouthful—and possibly more for me to cling to the place that formed me deeply—but it felt more true to what I desired people to know about me.

My four years spent at Calvary as your director of youth ministry were a bit like being a rock in

the Mississippi River. I spent four years on the Calvary block and with the Diocese of West Tennessee, learning and serving alongside the curious and creative Calvary youth, hard-working and enthusiastic volunteers, incredibly gracious and patient colleagues, and all of the vastness of God's children that came through our doors. I didn't go far, but every encounter at Calvary left me different from what I was before.

From Neighborhood Breakfast to EYC, to serving at the altar as a chalice bearer, to having a cup of coffee in the old staff kitchen, I was transformed by the steady stream of God's people entering my life at 102 N. 2nd St.

There is surely something holy about learning the customs and particularities of a new place, particularly one like Calvary, where difference is celebrated, burdens are shared, and people are left transformed by the Holy Spirit working through an eclectic bunch of Memphians seeking to serve Christ in one another.

To be transformed by encountering Jesus Christ is not a new story—Zacchaeus, the Samaritan woman at the well, and Paul would all testify to that Gospel truth. I didn't meet Jesus Christ in a sycamore tree, by a well, or on the road to Damascus, but I surely met Jesus in an

Episcopal Church just a few blocks east of the Mississippi River—and was transformed.

On Pentecost, I started my curacy at St. Columb's Episcopal Church in Ridgeland, Mississippi, just a few hours south of Memphis and east of the Mississippi River. I hope I bring some of the customs and particularities—the deep care for those around me and the courage to respond to their needs, the hospitality and good cookin', and the abundant love made visible by each person at Calvary—to the people I serve.

It is holy, indeed.



Calvary members at Gabbie's ordination from l-r: Carter Webster, Ella Peebles, Katie Owen, Gabbie Munn, Ebet Peebles, Gayle & Raymond Spence

Discover JOY with the Daughters of the King

by Lynda Gayle Deacon and Dana Sue Percer



At Calvary, the Daughters of the King (DOK) live out a sacred commitment to prayer, service, and evangelism—a quiet yet powerful ministry of support and faith. This lay Episcopal order of women is recognized by the distinctive cross they wear daily, a symbol of their life-long vows and a visible reminder of their dedication to Christ, the Church, and one another.

and Tuesday evenings in members' homes, creating space for both structure and intimacy.

Each woman who joins DOK begins with a season of discernment, a time to listen, learn, and reflect before choosing to take life-long vows. This fall, a new discernment group will begin, and we invite you to consider whether God might be calling you to this path of devotion and community.

To learn more, reach out to Lynda Gayle Deacon, Nina Grice, Renee Patey, or Ginny Webb—we'd love to talk with you.

Calvary's chapter is called JOY—short for Jesus, Others, and You—a name that beautifully reflects the spirit of the group. Our 30 members gather monthly to pray, share tools for spiritual growth, and offer encouragement through fellowship. Meetings alternate between Wednesday evenings at Calvary

Guild of the Holy Spirit Theresa S. Hardison Award

by Laurie Monypeny
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. Teaching children to be prepared to further their education and embrace learning, both physically and spiritually, was one of her most important goals. 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 as well as teaching classes to our many children.

in recognition of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to Calvary as well as the diocesan Episcopal community. This year's recipient of the Theresa S. Hardison Award is Morgan Thompson, whose participation in all levels of church activity has been truly impressive. The Guild of the Holy Spirit is so proud of Morgan and wishes her the best in her college career at Northwest Community College.



After Theresa died in 2013, the Guild of the Holy Spirit established the Theresa S. Hardison Award to be given to a graduating high school senior at Calvary Episcopal Church. This award of \$500 is presented annually to one of our outstanding seniors

Phase II of Calvary's Columbarium Coming This Fall

A second phase of Calvary's columbarium will be installed this September in the church courtyard, located between the Church and Great Hall. Originally built in 1990, the columbarium offers a sacred and serene final resting place for those who choose to be interred at Calvary. The new installation will extend along the remaining length of the south wall of the church building and will match the existing design, with elegant black polished granite niches.

This new addition will include 192 new niches and is made possible through the generosity of the Calvary Endowment Foundation. Each niche is available for \$3,500, of which \$550 is retained by Calvary for engraving. The remaining \$2,950 is a tax-deductible donation to the Endowment Foundation, helping ensure Calvary's ministry continues far into the future.

For more information or to purchase a niche, please contact Steve Smith, ssmith@calvarymemphis.org.

Walking Through Grief: A New Group at Calvary

by Robyn Banks

When my husband, Bill, died at age 49 in December of 2022, my world cracked open. Grief didn't arrive politely or in stages—it was a tidal wave that knocked me off my feet. As the days and months went on, I learned what so many of you already know: that grief doesn't go away, it just changes. Sometimes it softens. Sometimes it flares. It lives beside us in ways we never expected.



Since Bill's death, I have been reminded time and again how much we need each other. We need a place where we don't have to pretend. A place where we can speak our person's name out loud. A place where faith doesn't offer tidy answers but holds space for the mystery of it all.

This fall, I'll be facilitating an 8-week grief group. We'll gather on Tuesday evenings at Calvary, from Sept. 16 to Nov. 11, to share stories, silence, laughter, scripture, and whatever else shows up. You don't need to be "ready." You don't need to know what to say. Just come.

Whether your loss is recent or long ago, whether it's a spouse, a parent, a friend, or another kind of heartbreak—you are welcome. There will be no right way to grieve, just room to breathe, and companions for the road.

If you'd like to know more, please reach out at rbanks@calvarymemphis.org. I would be honored to walk this part of the journey with you.

CALVARY CELEBRATES EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

by Bill Bangham



Long gone are the days when horse-drawn carriages discharged their passengers at 2nd and Adams, and parishioners entered through the red front doors of Calvary Episcopal Church. For decades, they have parked their cars in the lot behind the church, crossed the alley, and entered through the nondescript back door.

There, they were greeted by a dismal hallway. It was dim with closed doors at the far end.

To the left were other closed doors. To the right, an open hallway that led to an elevator on the right, stairs to the left, and a ramp ahead, down to the kitchen and Mural room. For visitors to get to a worship service meant reading signs, and/or depending on others, to direct them up the stairs or elevator, then weaving through a rabbit's warren of twists and turns to get to the Nave.

Until recently.



photo by Robyn Banks

with more beautiful, backlit stained glass, rescued from the former chapel. The old chapel had become a storage area few ever saw. On the second floor, a large floor-to-ceiling window wall of an upstairs meeting area called the Emison Room looks down on The Commons.

All this is stunningly beautiful, elegant, and inviting, and functional.

When Calvary began this nearly \$9 million renovation and reconstruction, Rector Scott Walters asked three Calvary members—Margaret Craddock, David Lusk, and Charles Shipp—to work with him and the architects, designers, and builders to bring the project to fruition.

It would be hard to choose four better people to shepherd it.

Now, an elegant porte-cochère with a cross on its roof-line reaches out to the parking lot; a two-story shelter to discharge passengers, a statement that this is no longer a back door, but a primary entrance to the church.

Double doors lead down the long hallway that now explodes with light. At the far end is a common area—which has quickly become a favorite gathering place for Calvary—and a stairway leading up a level toward the Nave. To the left, a

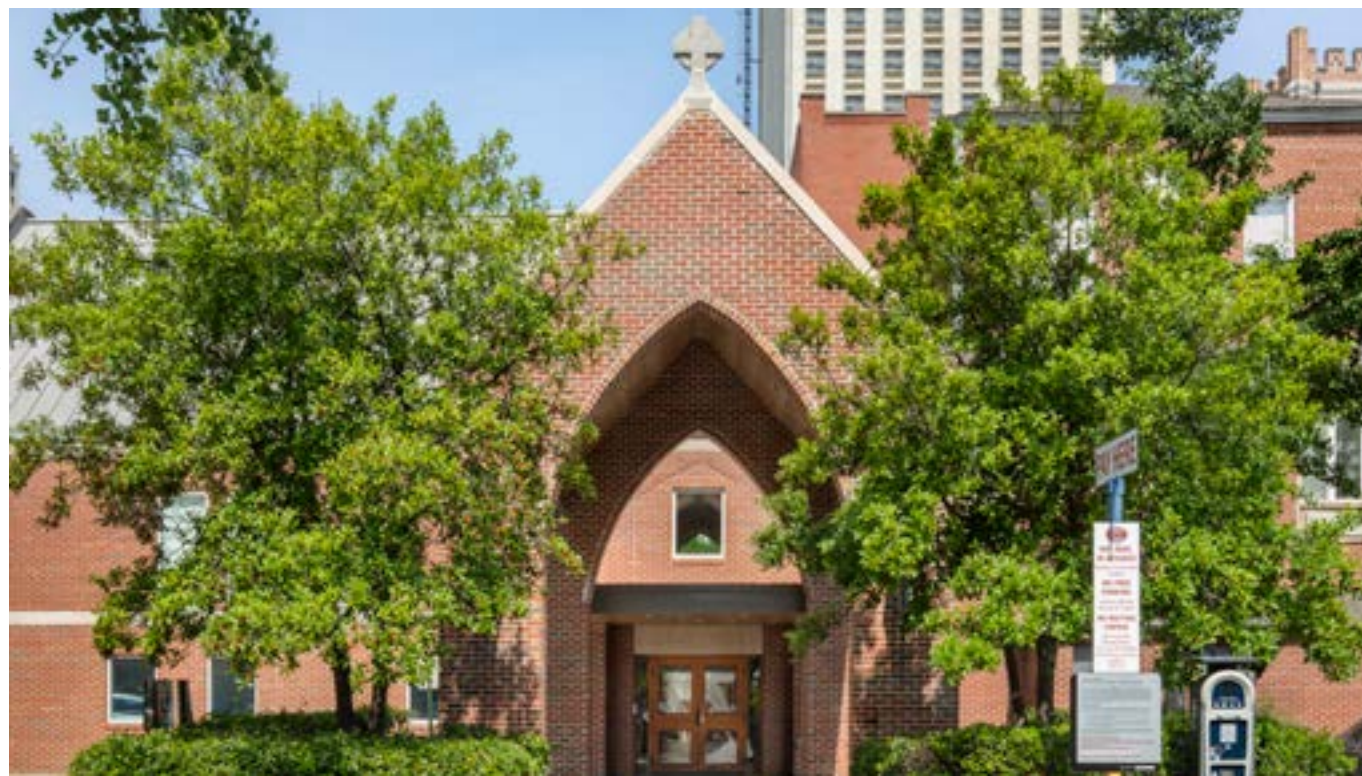
large glass wall brings in more light. Behind it are the church offices, easily accessible now, where once they were on the fourth floor and required a key for the elevator to access.

Along the right wall, a series of backlit, stained-glass windows, taken from Montgomery Foyer, adds further light. Light floods The Commons from skylights in the roof. There are four double doors, large entryways leading down into the Mural Room and the reconfigured kitchen area. Off to the left is the new chapel

Charles is an architect, David an art dealer, and Margaret an activist who is involved in and has quietly driven several of Calvary's outreach efforts. Scott was a carpenter and builder before becoming a priest and helped a church in Little Rock go through a renovation before coming to Calvary.

"We had started twice before," said David. "The economy, leadership, timing, people's experience doing it ... it all came together. We knew we were ready. We were just waiting for

photo courtesy of Mellon Studio



photos by Bill Bangham



the right time.”

“Someone said, ‘We should be thinking like Crosstown Concourse,’” continues Charles. The million-square-foot, deteriorating warehouse had been transformed into a vibrant community of apartments, businesses, stores, medical offices, a radio station, a high school, a theater, and a YMCA with a pool.

“Margaret had a contact,” said Charles.

It was quickly decided, like the Concourse, another addition to Calvary was not needed. “We didn’t need to add to our footprint,” continued Charles. “We had to use our space better. There were three separate buildings with little interaction between them. We could have three things going at once, and one would not know the others were there.” The first year focused on the church—flow, acoustics, pew spacing, a ramp to the communion rail, handicap access, renovating and

restoring the organ. The second year focused on the rest of the facility.

The old Orgill Room—which would become The Commons—with skylights in the ceiling, became the hub. A new staircase leading to the second floor and walkways overlooking The Commons would transform the three buildings into one. Turn right or left at the top of the stairs; either way would lead to the Nave in a loop, past—depending on which way one turned—classrooms, the nursery, the Great Hall, the Emison Room, and Crook Auditorium.

“David and Charles could visualize all this,” said Margaret. “I couldn’t.”

What she could visualize was what was needed in the kitchen and Mural Room.

Getting in and out of that area for Waffle Shop during Lent was a mess. At times, hundreds of people, coming

and going, would be crammed together on the stairs and elevator, trying to negotiate a single, narrow, slanted hallway that led to the kitchen, serving area, and seating in the Mural Room.

The four large, double doors from The Commons, with steps leading down into the Mural Room, resolved that. The kitchen was redesigned with new, needed equipment and a better workflow.

“I wouldn’t want anyone to think I did this all on my own,” said Margaret. She worked with architects, designers, and construction people. “But most importantly, I worked with our Parish Chef Mary O’Brien, her kitchen staff, and volunteers.”

For their efforts, Margaret, David, and Charles were honored earlier this year with the Calvary Medal. It’s been nearly 20 years since the medal was last awarded. Joe Clift, a Calvary parishioner and metallurgist, designed and crafted the new medal. Joe

took a different approach. “No one wears a medal anymore,” he said.

A round, enameled Calvary logo sits on a small bronze column with the recipient’s name engraved on it, perfect for sitting in any number of places in a home or office.

As for the project, “I’m very pleased how things turned out,” said Charles. “The building feels like it’s been here for a long time, yet it’s up-to-date and pleasing.”

In a sense, the renovation continues. It seems that each week, a new work of art—a painting, rendering, poster, or architectural element—appears as David sifts through the storage, closets, and attics of Calvary, looking for treasures to display and add to the elegance.

Calvary gives thanks to these three, and to all who made this project possible.



photos courtesy of Mellon Studio

Fall 2025 Formation at Calvary



Sometimes people ask why we use the word “formation” instead of just saying Sunday School or Christian Education. It’s a bit more Episcopal, sure—but it also points to something deeper: the way we’re shaped, and even reshaped, by encountering new ideas, different perspectives, and glimpses of God. It suggests growth and a kind of structure—not rigid, but like a cloud formation: always changing, expanding, becoming. Come and be formed, re-formed, maybe even made new.

The Rev. Katherine Bush

ASSOCIATE RECTOR FOR FORMATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:15

SEP
7

What I Did on My Summer-Vacation Sabbatical

THE REV. SCOTT WALTERS

We’ll launch the fall season with some storytelling and reflection from Scott Walters on his sabbatical journeys.

SEP
14

A Slightly Belated Introduction

WESLEY ROWELL

Wesley arrived at Calvary mid-summer and is already deep in the work of this place. Come hear a little bit of his story and how his winding path to faith and church brought him to Memphis.

SEP
21

Spirituality of Giving

A conversation about how to live generously now and how to continue to give beyond your mortal years. We often avoid conversations about money and death. Come participate in a joyful reflection about these realities that we’ll all navigate.

SEP
28

Wisdom Then & Now

DR. CATHERINE MEEKS

Dr. Meeks is the author of *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning* and was the founding director of the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing. She is a favorite Lenten Preacher, and we’ll be in dialogue with her as a teacher this morning.

OCT
12

Samaritan Counseling Returns to Calvary

KRISTIN FOX-TRAUTMAN AND JEREMY PITZER

Calvary was a founding supporter of the important work of the Samaritan Counseling Centers. We are delighted to host an office on-site again, an outpost of support and care in downtown. Meet Jeremy Pitzer, LCSW, who will serve here at 2nd & Adams, and hear from Executive Director Kristin Fox-Trautman about this renewed partnership.

OCT
19

Faith at Home

ALLISON PACE

Local author and Episcopal leader, Allison brings wisdom and lived experience to a conversation about faithfulness in our households at every stage of our lives. She’ll be speaking today about lessons applicable to just about every home.

Following this conversation, Calvary will offer follow-up small groups for fellowship and connection on Sundays and Wednesdays with her workbook, *The Sacred Order of Parenthood*.

OCT
26~
NOV
3

The Sacred Order of Parenthood

A SMALL GROUP MEETING IN THE CORNER ROOM

Following the wisdom of local author Allison Pace, we’ll offer a series of conversations using her text and learning about seven truths of parenting. Parents, godparents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends at every stage are invited to connect with one another about this blessed and difficult work. This will also be offered on Wednesday evenings.

OCT
26

The Art of Calvary

DAVID LUSK AND FRIENDS

Have you noticed all the beautiful artwork bringing our new spaces to life? Come hear about the historical pieces we’ve brought forward and the new commissions for this next chapter of Calvary. David, the Rev. Katherine Bush, and some of the artists will be in conversation on this Sunday morning.

NOV
2

The Enneagram for All the Saints

THE REV. SANDRA SMITH

The Rev. Sandra Smith is a certified Enneagram teacher. Her 25 years of teaching the Enneagram as a tool for personal, professional, and spiritual growth gives her a solid foundation of the system as well as a fluidity in her teaching. She teaches internationally and is the author of *The Enneagram Map to Your Deeper Self: Living Beyond Your Type*.

Sandra will offer a day-long workshop at Calvary on Saturday, Nov. 1. See back page to learn more.

NOV
9~16

Sacred Secular Texts

DR. TIM HUEBNER

Dr. Tim Huebner, Rhodes Provost and History professor, guides us through a close reading of the *Declaration of Independence*. As we approach America’s 250th year, what does this secular text have to say to us?

NOV
23

The Inner-life and Inner-workings of the Organ

JONATHAN AMBROSINO

For our recently-completed organ restoration, Jonathan Ambrosino of Boston directed the project’s artistic side. Jonathan will discuss the original sound and some of the remarkably low-tech yet detailed ways that sound is achieved.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:15

SEP 3-DEC 25
Sacred Ground
PAIGE WHITTLE AND STEPHEN BUSH

Sacred Ground is a soul-shaping, perspective-changing series of conversations about race and faithfulness. This carefully created, eleven-session curriculum offers readings, videos, and rich discussions to open up new ways of thinking about where we've been and where we are going. *This is a commitment class, and participants are encouraged to commit to the group for the duration.*

SEP 3-MAY 13
Education for Ministry
RICHARD HENDRICKS AND FRED PIPER

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 a morning and evening option of EfM. This is a commitment class, and participants are encouraged to commit to the group from September through May.*

SEP 3-OCT 1
Craft of Calvary

What we do and make at Calvary can help make and shape our lives in the world. Flower arranging, being a friend in a crisis, knitting, and more. Join us for some very hands-on opportunities to practice the art and arts of being church.

SEP 3-OCT 1
Theologians in the Wild
THE REV. KATHERINE BUSH

Well, not the wild-wild, but the wild internet. Learn about the theology and thought of former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams (with a side of Nick Cave) from recent interviews and articles. One of the wisest Christian leaders we've ever known gets down to earth.

OCT 8
Games and Fellowship

It's a night for fun and games! Bring your favorite board game to share or come learn a new one. After dinner, we'll have an array of opportunities from Catan to Rummikub, and maybe even a Mahjong tutorial table.

OCT 15-NOV 19
How We Learn to be Brave
WESLEY ROWELL

Mariann Budde is the Bishop of Washington DC, and her sermon on mercy went viral this past winter (at least by Episcopal standards). Join Wesley in reading her *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith*, and glean more of her wisdom for the living of these days. *You are encouraged to get a copy of the book from novel., Burke's, or your favorite bookseller.*

OCT 22-NOV 19
The Sacred Order of Parenthood

Following the wisdom of local author Allison Pace, we'll offer a series of conversations using her text and learning about seven truths of parenting. Parents, godparents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and friends at every stage are invited to connect with one another about this blessed and difficult work.

OCT 22-DEC 3
Confirmation Class

Engage in a journey alongside Calvary clergy, staff, lay leaders, and our bishop to discover more about the way of love in the Episcopal Church and a deeper life at Calvary. This class is open to all who wonder about their own faith and is also a path toward confirmation and fuller membership in the Episcopal Church through Calvary. *The Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered on Sunday, Dec. 7, when the bishop is our preacher and celebrant.*

MORE SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

High School Bible Study Group: Mondays 6-7 p.m. at Panera on Union
NATHAN BRASFIELD

High schoolers, join us for a Bible study at the Panera Bread at 1961 Union Ave. on the second, third, and fourth Mondays of the month (excluding holidays and school breaks) beginning Monday, Sept. 15 You don't need to bring anything, and your attendance secures you a Panera cookie of your choice! We will send a text to those subscribed to youth ministries text messages each Monday morning to ask for RSVPs and will confirm that we're on. Email Nathan at nbrasfield@calvarymemphis.org to be added to the text group.

Women's Bible Study Group: Tuesdays 8-9 a.m. at Barth House
THE REV. KATHERINE BUSH

Join Calvary women and friends at Barth House, 409 Patterson on the University of Memphis campus, for a lively and life-giving conversation. Together, this open-hearted group of women examines the biblical stories, discovering their relevance and wisdom.

Grief Support Group: Tuesdays 6:15-7:30 p.m. | Sept. 16 - Nov. 11
ROBYN BANKS

Grief changes everything. Whether your loss is recent or long ago, you are not alone. Led by Robyn Banks, with occasional guest professionals, this group will offer space to tell our stories, reflect theologically and emotionally, and gently hold both sorrow and hope. We'll explore the many faces of grief, the presence of God in our pain, and how we live into love as we continue on the way. *No meeting on Oct. 14*

Education for Ministry: Wednesdays 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
RICHARD HENDRICKS AND FRED PIPER

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 and engage in theological reflection together. Participants are encouraged to commit to the program from Sept. through May.

Men's Bible Study: Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 a.m. at Barth House

The Baguette Brothers gather at Barth House, 409 Patterson on the University of Memphis campus, to read and discuss the Gospel passage for Sunday to discuss the appointed readings for the upcoming Sunday, preparing our hearts and minds for worship ... and musing about what the preacher will say. All men are invited.

Gleanings: Thursdays at Noon Online
THE REV. SCOTT WALTERS

Join Scott Walters for an online conversation this fall as we read and pull meaning from a variety of essays and texts. All are welcome, and newcomers are invited to join the conversation at any time. To receive the weekly email with Zoom link and reading assignment, contact Scott Walters at swalters@calvarymemphis.org.

SUNDAYS

Nursery Care

AGES 0-5 | 7:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.

Calvary maintains an excellent nursery facility staffed by trained, professional caregivers. Nursery Manager Robbie Phillips and Cassandra Booker provide a loving atmosphere, personal attention, and age-appropriate toys and activities, all designed to make the nursery a safe, nurturing place for your child.

Children's Formation Classes

SK THROUGH GRADE 5 | 9:15-10:15 A.M.

Children in grades SK through 5th grade are invited to join us for Godly Play, a Montessori based faith formation curriculum led by the children's formation team. Children are grouped by the following grade levels: K-1 in room 203, 2-3 in room 202, and 4-5 in room 201.

Youth Formation Classes

GRADES 6-12 | 9:15-10:15 A.M.

Middle and high school meet in separate rooms on the 4th floor with Nathan Brasfield and adult volunteers. Middle schoolers collaborate on themed activities geared to engage their creativity, and high schoolers focus on connection and conversation about topics related to scripture, theology, belonging in the church, and being teenagers approaching young adulthood. Let Nathan know if you need elevator access to the 4th floor because it requires a key!

Children's Chapel

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

At the beginning of the worship service, children follow the banner out of the church to Children's Chapel, which is currently held in The Corner Room, adjacent to the nursery. There, children experience the liturgy of the word in an interactive and child-friendly manner. Children are escorted back to church at the time of the Peace to join their families for Communion.



Jocelyn Busby
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAYS

Nursery Care

AGES 0-5 | 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Calvary maintains an excellent nursery facility staffed by trained, professional caregivers. Nursery Manager Robbie Phillips and Cassandra Booker welcome children ages 0-5.

Gathering

6:15-7:15 P.M. | MURAL ROOM

Gathering is an opportunity for children and adults to "sit and stay a while" after dinner for an hour of fellowship. Games, books, puzzles, and coloring materials will be provided. Mrs. Jocelyn and friends will supervise children ages 5 and up if parents wish to attend a class. Look for the EpiscoPals table to sign your child in.

Wednesday Night Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

GRADES 6-12 | 5:15-7:15 P.M.

Middle and high schoolers meet in separate rooms on the 4th floor from 6:15 - 6:55 p.m. for community-focused activities like games and service projects. At 7 p.m., we walk to the nave together to join Children's Ministries for Compline until 7:15 p.m. Parents of middle schoolers will pick students up in the church.

**** See also Music Formation Opportunities on p. 23 ****



Nathan Brasfield
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

St. Cecilia Choir

GRADES K-2 | WEDNESDAYS | 6:15-7 P.M.

The St. Cecilia Choir sings periodically at the 10:30 a.m. worship service and at special services. Using a variety of activities, the choristers learn to use their voices by means of hymns and other sacred songs. At the conclusion of rehearsal, they have the opportunity to join their friends for Compline in the sanctuary. The St. Cecilia Choir is directed by Mary Jackson.

The Boys and Girls Choir

STUDENTS WITH UNCHANGED VOICES IN GRADES 3 & UP | WEDNESDAYS | 6:15-7 P.M.

The Boys and Girls Choir sings at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Using the *Voice for Life* curriculum established by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch promotes a complete and quality approach to children's music ministry that is as much a Christian education experience as it is musical training experience.



Dr. Kristin Lensch
ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER



Mary Jackson
ST. CECILIA CHOIR DIRECTOR



Jackson Hearn
ASSOCIATE ORGANIST



Joseph Powell
CALVARY RINGERS DIRECTOR

Calvary Friends of Music presents

An Evening of Grace & Jazz on Friday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m.

In the heat of summer, come cool off with American Idol finalist (and Memphis local) Alexis Grace and the Pat Fusco Trio as they play some of the greatest hits of Ella Fitzgerald and other jazz singers. Small bites and beverages served in the Commons.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

Sundays

NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKFAST BLESSING

Year-round, Calvary volunteers prepare and serve a hot breakfast to approximately 200 neighbors experiencing homelessness in our community. A member of our clergy team leads everyone in prayer. Volunteers are always welcome.

8:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

This service uses more traditional "Elizabethan" language in a contemplative and intimate setting, with traditional hymns.

10:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II WITH CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

The 10:30 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Chapel attracts a varied congregation of all ages, including a strong contingent of young families. The semi-professional Calvary Choir leads music with participation from our Boys and Girls Choir, St. Cecilia Choir (second grade and younger), and the Calvary Ringers handbell choir.

5 P.M. EVENSONG

EVERY FIRST SUNDAY, SEPT.-MAY

A service with ancient roots, Evensong is a 40-minute choral-led service of prayers and scripture. If you need to sit and reflect, if music feeds your soul, if you can't quite make it in the morning, if you believe that beauty is a portal to heaven, this is a service for you.



Wednesdays

NOONDAY PRAYERS

Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing is offered at noon on Wednesdays and features a reflection by one of our clergy.

Wednesdays & Fridays

6:30 A.M. EARLY MORNING PRAYER (ONLINE)

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 pray together.

8 A.M. MORNING PRAYER (ONLINE)

Morning Prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer* is offered at 8 a.m.



GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD

Fall at Calvary brings many opportunities to love and serve our neighbors. Take a look at some of the opportunities below and contact Director of Youth and Community Ministries Nathan Brasfield, nbrasfield@calvarymemphis.org, to sign up for weekly email updates or for more information on how you can get involved.

September Book Club

INVISIBLE CHILD BY ANDREA ELLIOTT

Add to your summer reading Andrea Elliott's Pulitzer Prize-winning nonfiction book *Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival, and Hope in New York City*, then join us for a discussion the week before MIFA's Our City, Our Story luncheon on Sept. 18 when Elliott and the subject of this book, Dasani Coates, will both appear as the event's keynote speakers. Contact Nathan Brasfield to sign up for the online Zoom discussion on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m.

MICAH

Calvary is a partner congregation of MICAH (Memphis Interfaith Coalition for Action and Hope), which is a vibrant, active organization bringing together members of different churches and religions to address housing and neighborhood liveability, transit equity, and transformational justice. We need more parishioners interested in this kind of work to serve as delegates and/or to serve with certain task forces or initiatives.

Neighborhood Breakfast

Every Sunday morning we continue to welcome around 200 people from 6 to 7:45 a.m. for a free to-go breakfast, clothes closet (including toiletries and other items), and a variety of healthcare services. Neighborhood Breakfast is a longstanding volunteer-led initiative at Calvary so please come help distribute clothes and toiletries, prepare and hand out breakfast items, or simply help everyone feel welcome.

Welcome Inn Lunch Bags

Lunch bags for our downtown neighbors are handed out at the door of the Welcome Inn Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donate sandwiches (or other items which must be either ready to eat or require very little preparation) and help serve!

Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn (RITI) is dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter and meals during the hottest and coldest months of the year—May through August and November through March—sharing the love of God through holy hospitality. There are many ways to help with setup, providing food, serving dinner, and hosting overnight as well as with other tasks the next morning and during the week such as cleanup and laundering bedding.

Emmanuel Meal

MONDAY, DEC. 22 AT 12 P.M.

Emmanuel Meal is our yearly Christmas dinner for our neighbors experiencing poverty or homelessness. You can volunteer to cook, serve, clean up, and more. The Emmanuel Meal depends entirely upon donations, and opportunities to donate on Sunday mornings will begin Nov. 30.



Nathan Brasfield
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH
AND COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

3 Early Morning Prayer and Morning Prayer Return

Join Calvary's Facebook page or YouTube channel for morning prayers at 6:30 and 8 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Wednesday Evenings at Calvary Resume

Dinner (\$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and \$25 family max), choir rehearsals, and formation and fellowship for all ages return this fall. Come be fed in more ways than one!

6 Invite • Welcome • Connect

Want to help Calvary become even more welcoming, connected, and spiritually vibrant? Invite Welcome Connect is a one-day workshop that equips congregations to build deeper hospitality, belonging, and evangelism—moving from maintenance to mission. RSVP to Ebet at ep Peoples@calvarymemphis.org by Aug. 25.

7 Evensong

Evensong is a 40-minute choral-led service of prayers and scripture. If you need to sit and reflect, if music feeds your soul, if you can't quite make it in the morning, if you believe that beauty is a portal to heaven, this is a service for you.

EYC at Amuse Adventure Park

Students in grades 9-12 are invited to Amuse Adventure Park at 3115 Walnut Grove from 2 to 4 p.m. RSVP to Nathan at nbrasfield@calvarymemphis.org by Thursday, Sept. 4 with subject line: Amuse.

8 EYC Office Hours at Sugar Ghost

Drop by Sugar Ghost (2615 Broad Ave.) anytime between 3-6 p.m. for free ice cream or bubble tea—Calvary's treat! Hang

out with Nathan Brasfield and whoever else stops by!

11 Community Ministries Book Club: Invisible Child by Andrea Elliott

Learn more on p. 23



13 Royal Renaissance: Music for kings, queens, princesses and dragons

Join us Saturday at 10:30 a.m. for a fairy tale journey with lute, flute, trumpet, and drums! Come in costume, play make believe, and enjoy Renaissance fun. Peanut Butter & Jam brings families together for joyful, hands-on music—perfect for ages 2-6. Wiggles welcome! Sponsored by Calvary's Friends of Music.

14 Coffee with the Clergy

New to Calvary or coming back after time away? Bring your coffee and questions to the Memphis Room after the 10:30 service for a relaxed chat with one of our clergy. Curious minds and open hearts welcome!

Memphis Pride Festival

Join us Sunday, Sept. 14, 2-8 p.m. at the Levitt Shell. Sign up for a shift at Calvary's booth and help us share the message: God loves everyone—no exceptions. calvarymemphis.org/event/pride

15 High School Bible Study Group Begins

Learn more on p. 19

19 High School Retreat at Snow Lake

Grades 9-12: Wrap up summer with an overnight escape full of fun and meaning at Snow Lake, just an hour from Memphis! Join Nathan and amazing leaders for the adventure—RSVP by Sept. 5 to nbrasfield@calvarymemphis.org (subject: High School Retreat).

20 Coffee and Playdate!

Join us for fun, fellowship, and connection! Kids play while parents relax and chat. Locations announced monthly. Questions? Contact Jocelyn Busby at jbusby@calvarymemphis.org.



24 Pilgrimage with Dr. Catherine Meeks

Join acclaimed author and activist Dr. Catherine Meeks for "Wisdom Then and Now," a Memphis pilgrimage Sept. 24-26, ending at Calvary. A powerful voice for racial healing, Dr. Meeks brings deep wisdom, faith, and activism to every space she enters. For details and to register, contact Tom Momberg at fathermom1949@gmail.com.

27 New to Calvary? Let's Celebrate!

If you've joined or visited Calvary in the past year, you're invited to a casual get-together at the home of Clay Woemmel & Brooks Terry. Enjoy snacks, drinks, and great company while connecting with other newcomers, staff, and vestry. RSVP: calvarymemphis.org/newcomer

OCTOBER EVENTS



Middle School Monster Mini Golf!

Join us from 2 to 4 p.m. at Monster Mini Golf (7990 Trinity Rd., Cordova) for spooky fun and friendly competition! RSVP to Nathan at nbrasfield@calvarymemphis.org by Oct. 2 (subject: Monster Mini Golf).

1 Family Feast Days Resume

Celebrate St. Francis with songs, stories, and a simple communion—designed just for little ones. Join us 5:15-5:45 p.m. on the first Wednesday of Oct-Feb. All ages welcome! Stay for dinner or head home after. Questions? Contact kbush@calvarymemphis.org or jbusby@calvarymemphis.org.



4 Blessing of the Animals

Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly friends to Calvary's South Lawn at 10 a.m. for a joyful worship and blessing. Stay afterward to connect with fellow animal lovers! Remembering pets who have passed? Email Clay Wommel at cwoemmel@gmail.com with subject: "2025 Pets Departed" and include the pet's name and your name. Let's celebrate all God's creatures together!

5 Evensong

Evensong is a 40-minute choral-led service of prayers and scripture. If you need to sit and reflect, if music feeds your soul, if you can't quite make it in the morning, if you believe that beauty is a portal to heaven, this is a service for you.

16 St. Clare Women's Silent Weekend Retreat

October 16-19, 2025 | St. Columba, Memphis
Escape the noise for a weekend of rest, reflection, and renewal. Open to women of all faiths, this silent retreat offers a sacred space to recharge and find peace. Led by the inspiring Rev. Sarah Cowan, promising a deeply meaningful experience. A shorter retreat option (Oct. 17-19) is available. Registration opens late August. Questions? Contact Heather at heartbrainbody@gmail.com. Mark your calendar—don't miss this chance to refresh your spirit!



17 Calvary's Friends of Music Present APOLLO5

The acclaimed British vocal ensemble, APOLLO5, consists of five voices (SATTB) with unparalleled individual talent create an immaculate blend that captivates audiences across genres including jazz, pop, classical, and early sacred music. As one of three principal ensembles of the VOCES8 Foundation, the APOLLO5 concert will be a choral tour de force and will celebrate the ensembles' 15th anniversary. A reception follows in the Great Hall.

18 Coffee and Playdate!

Join us for fun, fellowship, and connection! Kids play while parents relax and chat. Locations announced monthly. Questions? Contact Jocelyn Busby at jbusby@calvarymemphis.org.

19 YOUnited Diocesan Youth Event

Harvest Eucharist at Immanuel Episcopal Church in La Grange Join youth from other parishes in the diocese for a 45-minute drive from midtown Memphis to one of the oldest parishes in our diocese. We will participate in a service project for the community and enjoy lunch together. RSVP to Nathan at nbrasfield@calvarymemphis.org by Thursday, Oct. 9 with subject line: Immanuel.

22 Adult Confirmation Classes Begin

Learn more on p. 18

26 Youth Confirmation Classes Begin

Confirmation meetings for youth in grades 10-12 who aren't yet confirmed will be held Sundays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m., from Oct. 26 to Nov. 23. Bishop Phoebe will confirm all youth and adult confirmands at the 10:30 a.m. service on Dec. 7. Confirmation lets those baptized as children make their own personal commitment to the church's life and mission as they grow into adulthood. Nathan will send a registration form in Sept.

29 Fall Jamboree

Help us celebrate the changing of the seasons at Calvary's themed dinner, Fall Jamboree. Parish Chef Mary O'Brien's delicious cooking will be accompanied by seasonal decorations, candy centerpieces, music, lights, and a photo-op! Wear your favorite fall colors or a family-friendly costume.

VESTRY UPDATE

by Clay Woemmel



I am writing to you this morning from the beautiful town of Durham in northern England, as Brooks and I join the Calvary Choir during their residency week at the local cathedral. Many thanks to Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch and Associate Organist Jackson Hearn for all their work planning and organizing a fabulous trip, and to the Calvary choir for all the beautiful music this week and always.

Back at home, the Calvary vestry has been working throughout the summer to help things run smoothly as we settle into our newly renovated spaces and complete some small remaining renovation projects.

In May, we said goodbye to the Rev. Paul McLain and his wife, Ruthie, as they were called to a new ministry at Trezevant. Then, in June, we sent the Rev. Scott & Ardelle Walters on sabbatical with our prayers and blessings, wishing them a time of rest and refreshment. While Scott is away, we have greatly benefited from the Rev. Katherine Bush's leadership as we continue to move forward with all our summer programs.

We are also grateful to have the Rev. Eyleen Farmer with us once again, assisting with pastoral care and sharing her outstanding sermons. We are likewise thankful for the Rev. Mimsy Jones and her leadership of our adult formation class this summer.

The vestry members are thrilled to welcome Wesley Rowell as our new minister for congregational care. Senior Warden Jessica Flynn assisted the clergy with interviews, and the hiring recommendation was approved unanimously by the vestry. We look forward to Wesley's ordination at Calvary this fall.

Back in May, vestry members joined with staff and clergy to participate in a theologically-grounded safety and security training with guest presenter Jeanie Garrett. It was a great formation and learning experience, and we gained many excellent ideas from Jeanie. Some of these ideas have already been implemented by the Calvary staff in our refurbished spaces, and we will continue to move toward a comprehensive safety plan upon Scott's return.

We hope that you are enjoying a great summer! Please remember to send in your annual giving and capital campaign pledges as you are able. We depend on each of you to keep all the wonderful things at Calvary going. Together, we will move into fall with new formation opportunities, worship, music, outreach, diocesan convention (hosted at Calvary), and a newcomer welcome party, to name just a few.

IN CALVARY'S PRAYERS

Wedding Bells

Andrea Vancil & Luis Herrera - 6/14/25

New Life

Pallas Wilkerson Beasley, daughter of Ainsley & Battle Beasley - 07/09/25

Laurence Crenshaw Cowan, daughter of Miller & Hunter Cowan - 06/14/25

Edwin Pratt Crenshaw, son of Bridget & Clay Crenshaw - 07/17/27

Great Expectations

Caroline & Cameron Ellis

Elizabeth Parrish & Hazem Hassan

Brooke & Christian Man

Hudson Teague McFalls Deacon, grandson of Lynda Gayle Deacon and Madge & Whit Deacon - 04/30/25

Maddox Kash Markin, great-grandson of Gayle & Raymond Spence - 05/12/25

Ruby Frances Payton, granddaughter of Allison & Beau Peyton - 06/10/25

Saints Departed

Zach Brewer, friend of Crady Schneider

Michael Carter, friend of Nina Sublette

Bobby Clements, great uncle of Joseph Powell

Emma Flautt Crisler, friend of Len Grice

Dennis Whitehead Darling, friend of Sarah Squire and Joseph Powell

Minna Thompson Glenn, friend of many

Hilton Hallock, friend of Kendra Martin

Alyson and Josephine Hardin, friends of Gwen Owen

Ida Holmes, mother of the Rev. Julie McKenna

David Johnson, Sr., friend of Kendra Martin

Dr. Wilma Jones, friend of Bill Etnyre

Evelyn Long, great aunt of Clay Woemmel

Jerry Maulden, cousin of Robyn Banks

Charlene (Charlie) Moorefield, mother of Gaby Moorefield

Richard Murray, friend of Jackson Hearn

Dave Price, friend of Joseph Powell

Veda Reed friend of Carissa Hussong & David Lusk

Allen Riggins, brother of Mary Honey

Sally Embry Robertson, sister of Betsy Kelly and cousin of Louis Jehl

Debbie Scott, friend of Bill Bangham

Fred Smith, cousin of Mary O'Brien

Sylvia Strange, friend of Madge & Whit Deacon

Ygondine Sturdivant, cousin of Stella Blocker

Annette Pinkston Thorpe, mother of Edwin Thorpe

Lar'Juanette Williams, friend of Joseph Powell

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



CHRONICLE

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Robyn M. Banks, editor

Chronicle (USPS 085-900) Copyright ©2025 by Calvary Episcopal Church is published four times a year by Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103. Application to mail at Periodicals postage prices is pending at Memphis, Tennessee. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Calvary Chronicle, 102 N. 2nd Street, Memphis, TN 38103.

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

Enneagram Retreat with Sandra Smith Saturday, Nov. 1 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Join nationally recognized Enneagram teacher and spiritual director Sandra Smith for a transformative day of self-discovery and growth. Whether you're new to the Enneagram or seeking to deepen your understanding, this retreat will offer insights into how the Enneagram can illuminate your path toward greater compassion, clarity, and connection—with yourself, others, and God. Registration details coming soon.

Connect in the Commons

Looking for Rally Day? It's every Sunday! Connect in the Commons is an opportunity for you to get acquainted or re-acquainted with a different ministry every Sunday. Come to the Commons after the 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship services to meet leaders of various ministries and learn where your passions meet the church's needs! Questions? Contact the Rev. Katherine Bush, kbush@calvarymemphis.org.

