



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connection

821 South Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203 | 502.587.6011 | calvaryepiscopal.org

August 2023

Back to School—Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Dear Friends,

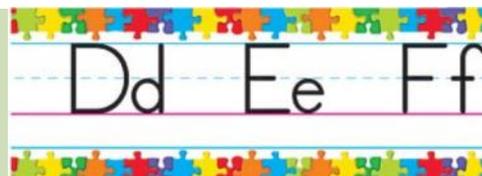
Just a couple of weeks ago we blessed backpacks and school supplies and offered prayers for our children and teachers as they anticipated the start of the school year. There is always so much excitement mixed with a hint of anxiety when a new school year begins. I still have fond memories of back-to-school shopping dating back to my own childhood and moving on to my children's school days.

This year the excitement of beginning anew was quickly overcome by the anxiety of a failed bus schedule which has caused our public schools to be closed many days more than the one day they were open. It is my sincere prayer that by the time this issue of the Calvary Connection gets to you this episode will be behind us and the solution to the problem will have been a beaming success. If that is not the case the stress will continue to rise and people will continue to be living with a lot of anxiety. It is our role as followers of the Lord of Love to offer help in any way we can. I trust that you are doing just that.

It is also my sincere prayer that our program year here at Calvary, our Christian Ed classes for people of all ages, begin without any upheaval whatsoever. I trust that they will. As you look through this Connection edition you will see articles written by several new names and faces. These are very exciting times at Calvary with a lot of exciting events happening. I hope that you will engage in a variety of events and will invite your friends and family to join us. If you have ideas for more ways for us to engage with our community, please let me or our Welcome Committee know. As Ally Mason has so aptly reminded us 'let us provoke one another to love and good deeds.'

Peace and Blessings,

Lee+



Drag Me to Church—J. C. Phelps

A drag show in a place of worship? *Yes, we did that – and we did it quite well.*

Calvary hosted the inaugural **Drag Me To Church** on June 30 to celebrate the end of Pride Month. To say that we simply hosted an event would be a hyperbolic understatement. **We filled the pews**—there wasn't an empty seat in sight, as over 500 individuals joined us for the evening! Thanks to everyone who made this evening possible, especially to Lee and our outstanding performers.

The event served a bipartite purpose. We wanted to host an event in our historic space that proclaimed God's love for all. As the Episcopal Church so often says, "God loves you, no exceptions." This proclamation embodies the Episcopal Church's legacy of inclusion and our ongoing aspiration to exemplify God's love for every human being. That love reigns true throughout Calvary each Sunday—and we made that abundantly clear at Drag Me To Church.

Secondly, we leveraged the event to raise awareness and funds for our beloved Food Ministry. The financial need to support the feeding of our neighbors continues to grow. The need is immense—and Calvary steps up to the plate. **Drag Me To Church donated all proceeds to the food pantry, which totaled over \$8,400, along with over 400 individual food items.**

Why a drag show? *While this article is far too short to explain the significance of drag, know this: if we're going to reach out in love to all, that means all—and by all, I also mean drag queens and the entirety of the LGBTQ+ community.*

An event of this nature certainly meant a lot to many people. It certainly meant a lot to me. It was unlike anything that I've ever witnessed. The significance manifested differently and individually, largely contingent on the person's life story before sitting in our pews.

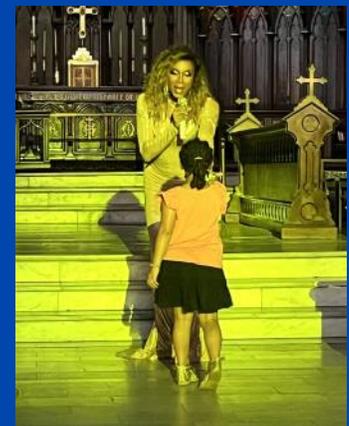
Representation matters. There's power in seeing someone like you represented in a space that historically has not boasted your identity. We accomplished just that with Drag Me To Church: a representation of a beautiful group of God's children and a display of God's welcoming and loving nature.

I was raised as both a preacher's kid and the grandson of a pastor in Southern Kentucky. The most ingrained lesson from my Christian education and foundation is that of the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. I experienced these fruits—these emotions—during the planning and execution of Drag Me To Church. Each fruit reminded me of God's unwavering love and our daily covenant to display that love.

I'm proud to love my neighbors. I'm proud that Calvary loves its neighbors.

I've never been more proud to be a Christian.

A drag show in a place of worship? *I can't wait to do it again.*



New Feature: Community Days—Alexandra Mason

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.”
Hebrews 10:24-25a, NRSV

A welcoming community. We all want it, but **how do we become it?**

As anyone who’s ever tried making a house of cards will tell you, when something we’ve precariously balanced and planned falls apart, it can be crushing. On top of that, there’s no telling *what* will make it fall. Will it be your nervous and shaky hands? A slight breeze? The ultimate destructive force of a toddler, or worse—a vengeful sibling? The final blow, no matter how it's delivered, can leave us with a feeling that we’ll never build anything again, and *certainly* not with playing cards.



Making connections in church can feel like that fated house of cards. People come and stay for a few weeks then vanish, never to be seen again. Long-standing members can relocate across the country. Anyone can have a series of life events that gets so overwhelming, they barely have the energy to attend Sunday service, let alone stay for coffee hour or go to a potluck. After a while, discouragement seeps into even the tenderest of hearts. But what would it look like if we showed up for each other outside of Sunday? How would our community be shaped differently? Would our connections to each other feel fleeting, like the house of cards, or would they feel stronger?

After seeing the turnout for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Drag Me To Church, it's clear that in this era of too much social media and impersonal online interaction, we're hungry for more real connection, and a stronger sense of community.



In that spirit, please accept our joyous invitation and join us in our upcoming Community Days! We will have events both onsite and offsite on a variety of dates and times, averaging one to two a month, celebrating each unique time of the year. These gatherings are not only open to our Calvary community, but to our friends, neighbors, and families. As always: *all* are welcome.

Our upcoming events this year will be highlighted by apple picking, pumpkin carving, pie socials, craft days, Friendsgiving, and wreath making. Announcements will be made well in advance, giving everyone a chance to plan, prepare, and invite those who need more connection in their lives.

Our goals are simple: **Welcome everyone and share the love and fellowship we have to give.**

We believe this will lead to something truly great, and something that takes each one of us to create—a united and welcoming community.



Introducing the first Calvary Community Day Event—Apple Picking!!

Unleash your inner Johnny Appleseed and join us for some classic fall fun!

In this free, family-friendly event, we'll have tractors for the kids to play on, ponies to feed (be sure and bring carrots!), and as many apples as you'd like to pick.

Depending on attendance we may be treated to a heritage apple tasting, with unheard of varieties in today's market, like Spitzenburg, Newtown Pippin, and Winter Banana (yes, an apple that smells like a banana!) to name a few.

There are a few picnic tables and areas for picnic blankets so feel free to pack a lunch, and we'll have a group photo at 3pm to show off our haul.

See you in the orchard!

When: Saturday September 16th, Noon-3pm

Where: Hidden Hollow Orchard, 3200 Apple Hill Road, Louisville.

www.hiddenholloworchard.com/map_and_times.html has full driving directions. Call 502-767-5245 if you feel lost!

Cost: None, except for apples. \$.35/apple, \$5 /med bag, \$7 / 10-lb bag. Cash preferred.

Extras: Bring buckets or wagons to haul your apples, and shoes that are good for wet grass. Bring carrots to feed the ponies!

RSVP: Text Ally Mason at 502-501-7095, or the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour



The Vestry Voice—*Lynne Lyndrup, Vestry Secretary*

Summer, 2023

Outreach

- The Food Ministry continues to hand out groceries to an increasing number of recipients. Donations of money are greatly appreciated.

Property

- The tuckpointing project is complete on the north side, but there are issues on the south side which have not yet been explained. This is keeping the plaster wet, and the job cannot be completed until the roofing company can discover the source of the water.
- One side of the choir loft roof had been repaired and the other side is under repair.
- A replacement sign for the parking lot is still in the works.
- Will Cary and Terrance Griffith have been able to come up with a solution to stabilize the handrails that lead to the rail.
- The Burial Ground and Courtyard is in terrible shape. We need new people to volunteer to help as the former volunteers are either of an age or no longer physically able to do the work. We also need a larger budget in order to pay Korhage to help with the more strenuous work.
- There is concern about the tree in Spalding's parking lot that has had rotten and weak limbs fall into our courtyard and damaged our patio furniture. Spalding is not willing to work with Calvary to remove the tree. We will investigate another solution.

Organ Update

- The Vestry met with Owen and Jacob for a session on the organ rejuvenation project. Owen proposed a much larger scope for the renovation and the Vestry approved.
- Due to the busy schedule of the Schroth Organ Builders, work on the organ cannot begin until the spring of 2024.
- As a side note to the organ repair, the Property Committee attendees brought up the subject that the marble floor in the choir and organ areas is in such bad shape that it must be repaired prior to the order rejuvenation.

Miscellany

- Calvary had a book reading in June; "Sparring in the Dark: The Art and Life of Henry Strater" by Michael Culver.
- Calvary was able to hire a new CPA.
- The annual picnic was well attended, and the Rector thanked all who helped set up, cleaned up and brought food.

- “Drag Me to Church” was a huge success with a full house of attendees. Calvary’s Food Ministry received over \$8,200 in donations and \$400 in canned goods.
- On August 6, Calvary held a backpack blessing during the service.
- The Adult Forum starts back the Sunday after Labor Day, September 10, as do the full choir and Adult and Children’s Christian Education.
- The Newcomers get-togethers are beginning again. They will be quarterly dinners rather than monthly lunches. The first dinner will be held at the Rector’s home on August 20.
- The Master Chorale will be meeting at Calvary on Tuesdays.
- Many groups would like to meet at Calvary, but Tuesdays are too busy to accept another group. We welcome groups on other days of the week; the groups must include a Calvary member and must vacate the building by 10:30 PM.
- The General Convention will be held June 22-28, 2024. Meg Scharre is Calvary’s coordinator and is looking for volunteers.
- Calvary is planning many fun events for the fall, including apple picking on September 16, and the annual St. Francis Celebration with Blessing of the Pets on October 4. Pumpkin carving, Friendsgiving and Evensong are also planned for the fall.

Habitat for Humanity Episcopal Churches Home Build

Calvary is co-sponsoring a Habitat for Humanity home, along with several other Episcopal churches. Construction began in April and is progressing very well. The home is about eight blocks east of Calvary, on John Little St. This picture shows Olivia, the homebuyer, at the home on August 12.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help build this home! There is still work to be done, as we push toward completion. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Meg Scharre at mes-charre@twc.com. Habitat supplies all the tools and no construction experience is needed. Come and join with others from Calvary and other Episcopal churches to help meet the need for affordable housing in Louisville.

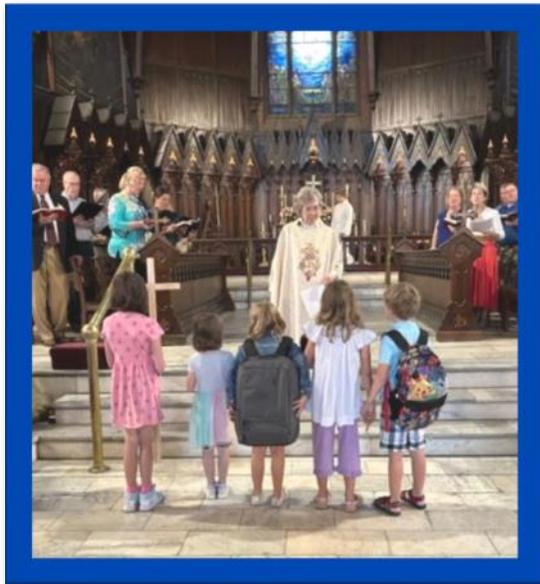
Meg Scharre



Calvary's Children—*Callie Hausman*, Christian Education Director

Summer is flying by, and school has begun. The first weekend of August we honored those returning to school with the Blessing of the Backpacks (tags are still available on the table with the Worship Bags).

Beginning on September 10, classes will resume. The Children's Class will resume at 9:30 a.m. in Room 206 on Sunday, September 10, as well as Children's music rehearsal which will take place at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Loft. Class time gives children the opportunity to go into depth on the weekly lectionary material in creative ways to learn and apply the lessons to their daily lives. This time also gives us the opportunity to have special lessons related to Calvary's ministries, includ-



Blessing of the backpacks

ing outreach, and more. We look forward to learning and growing together, deepening our understanding of Jesus' lessons.

This Fall we will have several special events, including an Advent Event with wreath making, a visit from St. Nicholas, and much more. We will also

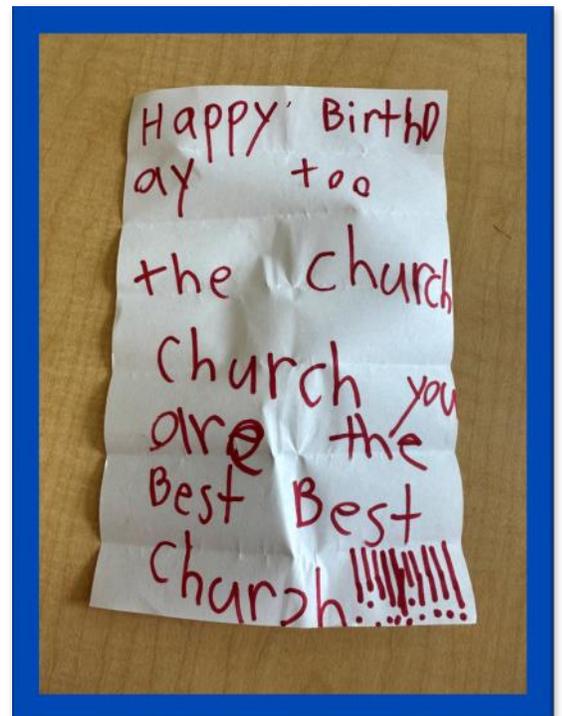
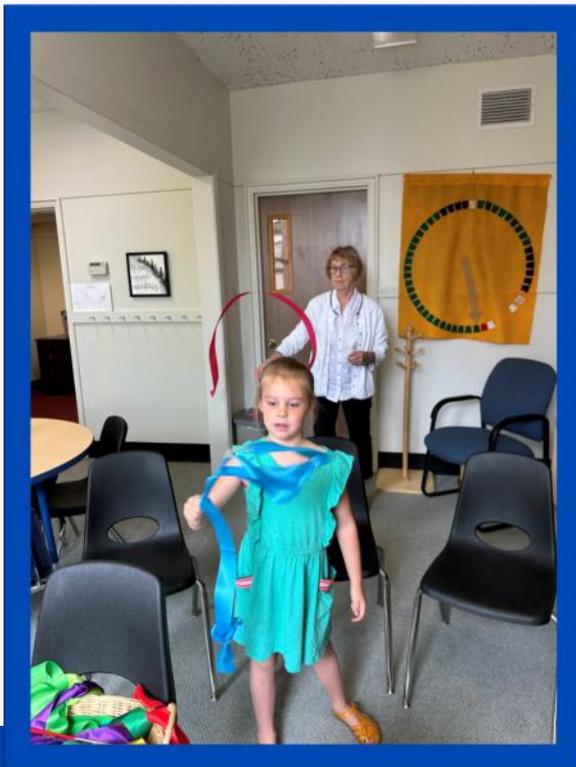
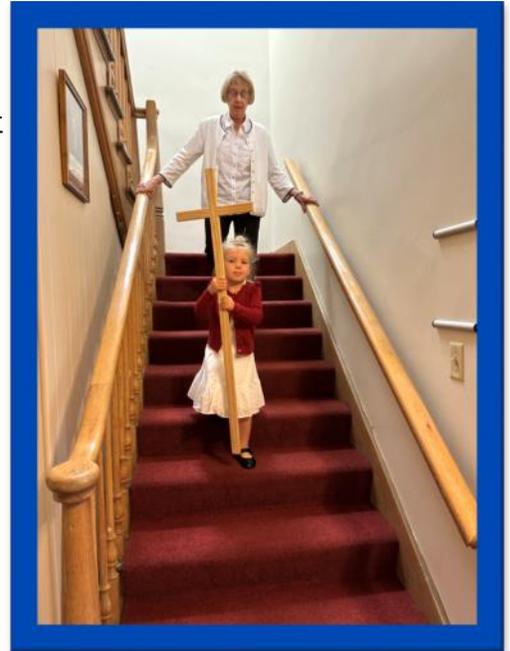


participate in a celebration of All Saints, Blessing of the Animals, and we are especially excited to announce that we will have a Pop-up Christmas Pageant this year at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Children's music rehearsals will take place following the class, leading up to worship time. We are grateful to Katie Cook for leading this, and to Jacob Cook as they plan four times when the children will sing during the service, including Christmas Eve.

Please mark your calendar for September 10 for a brief overview of the Children's Programming. Details will be forthcoming. We would love to hear from you if you have ideas, questions, or concerns.

Peace,
Callie



Music Matters—*Jacob Cook, Director of Music*

Hello Calvary!

I'm writing this with a great sense of excitement about this coming year of music and worship at Calvary. First and foremost, as I enter my third year at Calvary, I'm excited to be partnering with our organist, Owen Sammons, to bring thoughtful and interesting programming to our church and community during our first full year of work together. We hope that you will find the music on Sunday morning to be a special part of your experience with Calvary, and we strive to bring the community into our doors through special musical offerings throughout the year. I want to highlight a few of the offerings that are coming up this semester.

First, on October 29th we will be presenting **Choral Evensong** with a focus on women composers.

We will follow this with a second annual joint **Messiah Sing-a-long** with Christ Church Cathedral and other invited churches on November 26th.

On December 17th we will be presenting “**Kentucky Lessons and Carols**” that will be in the format of the traditional Advent Lessons and Carols service with musical contributions from Kentucky affiliated composers. Kentucky Lessons and Carols will also seek to highlight composers from diverse backgrounds who will bring their unique voices to the music.

Finally, on December 19th Calvary will host the **Youth Performing Arts School Choirs** in concert that will bring the opportunity to open our doors to a large audience from the community.

I look forward to sharing more about these events as they near through this newsletter, Facebook page, emails, and in the bulletins.

Please save the dates and times listed above and share with anyone you may think would be interested. We hope to honor the rich musical history of Calvary by presenting the highest quality music week in and week out to bring beauty to the service and illuminate the Word. We also hope that we can bring creative offerings that will engage our members and community in new and meaningful ways. We are excited about the coming year and look forward to sharing with everyone.



Property Spotlight—*Lynne Lyndrup, Property Committee*

The **south side of the Nave around the Good Shepherd window** continues to contain vast amounts of moisture. Merrick Kemper continues to seek out the source of the water that is leaking into the tuckpointing. The scaffolding will stand until the plaster can dry out enough for the workmen to finish the job.

The **choir loft roof** was significantly damaged during one of Louisville's wind storms. After some time, a more efficient crew was sent to correct the initial problems with the repairs. One side has been completed and the other will be completed soon.

In July, a survey of the **Burial Ground and Courtyard** revealed many overgrown shrubs and a multitude of weeds and vines. Unfortunately, our team of volunteers have not be able to work the areas due to age and physical limitations. We are asking the Vestry for additional funding to hire more help from Korfhage.

We have discussed the **old tree in the Spalding parking lot** that has dropped large limbs into our Courtyard, damaging our patio furniture. Spalding is not willing to work with us in removing the tree, such as splitting the expense. We are looking at other alternatives to protect our Courtyard from further damage and the safety of our congregation.

Thanks to Will Cary and Terrance Griffith, the **handrails leading to the altar rail** have been stabilized! This has been an ongoing problem and we are thankful that these two have found a solution.

The committee also discussed other needed repairs to the church.

- Some of the gutters and many facia boards need to be repaired or replaced,
- the choir loft trim is rotting as are all the new window trim in both Parker Hall and Frazier Hall.
- Stephanie Smith is working on appropriate wording for a new sign for the parking lot.
- A huge safety concern is the Chancel marble floor, especially in the organ and choir areas. This expense was put off to accommodate the expense for the accessibility projects, but must be addressed soon.

We plan to ask for a larger budget from the Vestry to help make the needed repairs.

Food Closet Spotlight—*Margaret Dickinson, Food Closet Coordinator*

The Food Closet has been the beneficiary of hundreds of pounds of tomatoes and collards over the last month! Don and Susan Shepherd of Buechel Park Baptist church have been delivering to our food pantry as part of their Church Garden Ministry. It has been a major (and healthy) blessing. Suzanne writes:

"I retired at the end of 2011 and in the months before that I kept seeing news reports about food deserts in Louisville, so I got the idea for a Garden Ministry that would partner with local non-profits to provide fresh vegetables to low-income persons. We started with one garden at our church in 2012 and a couple years later expanded to three gardens. Church members with a double-wide lot offered half their lawn to us to turn into a vegetable garden. Another church member offered a ¼ acre garden on her property. Every year of the Garden Ministry has been different as some doors close, but other doors always open. Getting in touch with you at Calvary Food Pantry is an example of a door that has opened for us. As some Buechel Park Baptist Church members have become unable to work in the gardens, mostly due to age, members of other churches have stepped in, so that over the past several years this ministry has been an inter-faith effort. The Garden Ministry includes people from two Catholic churches and another Cooperative Baptist Fellowship church. Since we started our Garden Ministry, we've grown, harvested, and delivered over 170,000 lbs. of vegetables. Tomatoes and collards have been our most popular vegetables".

Please keep your donations coming, as the need in our community never ceases!



Volunteer Lauren Anderson,
with regular assistant Abby



Diocesan Events at Calvary: Sacred Ground Circle

The Urban Partnership, together with the Commission on Racial Healing of the Diocese of Kentucky, will sponsor a Sacred Ground Circle for study and transformational conversation on racial healing and justice. The study is offered to any persons interested in engaging in small group dialogue and learning about the racial history of the United States. The group is limited to twelve people.

The Circle will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-8:30 PM at Calvary Episcopal Church, Louisville, beginning on September 5, 2023. There are eleven sessions with some homework requiring some reading of articles or viewing of videos.

For information on the curriculum click [here](#). The facilitators will be the Rev. Karl Ruttan (karlruttan@gmail.com) and Cam Norman (c.normanrnc@gmail.com).

To register email Karl Ruttan at karlruttan@gmail.com.



Hospitality News—Patty Davidson, Hospitality Committee

The Parish Picnic in June was a great success! We lucked out with good weather (having thought it was going to be a rainy day!), It was a wonderful day for visiting with one another and enjoying the delicious food from everyone. Many thanks, too, to our meat cooks!

Our committee was also happy to be involved in the reception for the Drag Me to Church event. The event was a smashing success, and we were very grateful for all who volunteered to help! Many folks from other congregations showed up to help as well!

Pattie Davidson



Rev. Lee Shafer with Linette Lowe, Director of Central Louisville Community Ministries at the Drag Me to Church reception.

NEWCOMER'S DINNER

On Sunday, August 20, 12 of Calvary's newest members gathered with Joseph Reese, our Sr. Warden, at the home of Tom and Lee Shafer for dinner and an evening of getting to know one another and make connections.

Coco, the Shafers' newest four-legged family member, was thrilled to have such a great gathering of folks to play with him and Carly, who is recovering nicely from her June injury, soaked in a lot of attention as well.

The conversation was lively and the group enjoyed themselves so much that no one remembered to take photos! The Shafers will plan to host newcomer dinners quarterly and promise to do a better job of capturing the evening on camera.

Much thanks to Donna Duvall for the two wonderful lemon cakes! If you'd like to be a part of a newcomer dinner (even if you've been at Calvary for a very long time) please let Lee know at rec-tor@calvaryepiscopal.org. Let's continue to make our new folks feel very welcome!

Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Parker Hall
10:30 Live service and Facebook feed
7:00 PM Compline

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am – noon
(at other times, call Rector's cell phone, below)

Food Closest

Monday , Tuesday, Thursday 9:30–11:30 am



[View map for location](#)

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Would you like to get emails from Calvary? We send them out regularly to list the schedule for the week or happenings within the parish such as marriages, births and the passing of our members.

Go to www.calvaryepiscopal.org, Under About Us, select Contact Us and fill out the form to request digital communications.