

Calvary *Connection*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

August 2020

What Can I Do?—Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Dear Friends,

The oft-quoted opening line of the Charles Dickens classic *A Tale of Two Cities*, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times” ran through my head today as I thought about what I would say to you right now. I wondered if we could think of our time as ‘the best of times’ in any way, given our current situation of living in the midst of a pandemic with the infection rates and death rates in the United States soaring daily past every other country in the world, and racial turmoil that we have helped create. And if certainly far from the best of times, can we see this as anything but the worst of times? I think we can if we look at this new, strange, and daily-changing time as giving us an opportunity.

As in any situation, if we look for the bad or the negative we will always find it, but if we look for the good or the positive we will find that too. How we live and how we respond to a situation and to each other is fully dependent on the lens through which we view the world. As Christians, followers of the Lord of Love, our lens should always be focused on love, specifically love of God, neighbor and self.

A phrase that I have heard repeated lately, specifically relating to the racial tension and unrest in our city, is “What can I do?” When problems loom large we may feel overwhelmed and convince ourselves that any efforts we could make would be so insignificant that they aren’t worth making. While I don’t believe that is true, we have an opportunity to join with others to make a real and tangible difference in our community and in our Diocese. Certainly when we join together the effects of our efforts are multiplied.

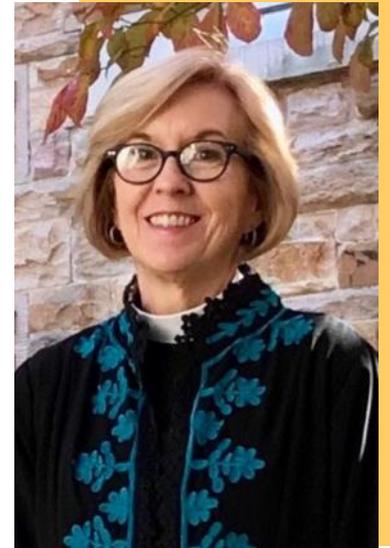
Calvary, as you know, is part of the Urban Partnership with Christ Church Cathedral, St. George’s, and Our Merciful Savior. In recent years the activity of the Urban Partnership has primarily focused on Laundry Love, which is not functioning currently because of COVID. That said, there is a renewed engagement in the Urban Partnership and a call for the help of the sister parishes and their members. Valerie Mayo has been hired to be the Priest-in-Charge of St. George’s (she is currently a transitional deacon but should be ordained a priest in six months). She will also be the Urban Partnership liaison and the Chaplain at the University of Louisville. Valerie has hit the ground running in these various positions and I am looking forward to strengthening our relationships with our partner parishes. We already have plans for pulpit swaps and you may remember that we had begun shared Coffee Hours just before the pandemic. We will be able to do that again when the crisis is past.

The way you can help make a difference right now is to commit to support the West Louisville Now initiative. This initiative was launched by the Diocese to raise \$200,000 to provide capital support for St. George’s and Our Merciful Savior, both of which have some very real structural needs and are hubs of support for the neighborhoods they serve in West Louisville. Calvary has given \$10,000 out of our operating budget in support of West Louisville Now. Tom and I have given \$1,000 and I am aware that other members of Calvary have contributed as well. If you have not and have been wondering what you can do to make a difference in our community, this is your opportunity.

We can be the silver lining to the seemingly constant dark cloud that hangs in the air most days. We can make a difference for good, a difference that shows our love.

God’s peace,

Lee+





The Vestry Voice—Donna Duvall, 2020 Vestry Secretary

Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, the Vestry met on June 23, 2020 on Zoom, with the following items of note:

Cleaning Service: Coverall (recommended by Christ Church Cathedral) is now our cleaning service.

West Louisville Now Campaign: The Diocese is working to raise \$200,000 to help maintain St. George and our Merciful Savior. Calvary donated \$10,000 using our surplus funds.

Outreach: 650 masks and 1,475 bags of groceries to feed 2,465 people have been distributed to the needy.

Finance: May had a revenue to \$49,124, expenses of \$51,058 with a net loss of \$1,934. YTD is positive at \$36,800.

Forum and Church: Forum will be at 9:00 a.m. using Zoom. Church service will follow at 10:15 a.m. using Facebook Live.

Urban Partnership: Valerie Mayo had been appointed the new Urban Minister and U of L Chaplain; she now serves as priest at St. George.

Property: Bathrooms are being updated with sensor faucets and soap dispensers. The family bathroom is still being assessed. We will place a monument-style sign in front of the church. It will be of stone similar to the church's and be visible from both directions.

Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, the Vestry met on July 28, 2020 on Zoom, with the following items of note:

Outreach: Calvary has continued to provide food, including from the Garden of Goodness, for the needy while maintaining Covid-19 regulations.

Staff Positions: Four positions are being filled. Margaret Bond is our new Administrative Assistant; she will be in the front office Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. until noon. Jacob Gary is now our Communications Coordinator. Candidates for Bookkeeper are now being interviewed. An Operations Assistant will be hired when it is appropriate.

New Recording System: This was purchased for \$3,160.99. It will include four I-Pads, the Switcher Studio software and enable us to produce more sophisticated, attractive online services. Several people, including our new Communications Coordinator, will be trained to use it.

Organ: Shawn Dawson presented a contract that, with down payment, would enable us to get on a three-year waiting list for organ work. Various options and issues were discussed, and the matter was referred to the Stewardship Committee for input on funding.

Finance: June reports are delayed with the Bookkeeper vacancy. Hiring the new employees should not increase actual expenses beyond budget, since the money is there from existing positions and replacing the full time Sexton with a cleaning service.

Property: The proposed monument sign for the front of the church requires a waiver from the zoning board since the district does not allow free-standing signs. We are hopeful that it will be approved, since the sign is in keeping with the church and neighborhood.

Upcoming Schedules

Watch Calvary emails for opportunities to come together online in these extraordinary times.



Love in the Time of Covid—Linda French, Senior Warden

The title of this article is blatantly copied from Gabriel Garcia Marquez' 1985 book *Love in the Time of Cholera*. Cholera was the pandemic passing over the earth in 1885. In our times, we have a new pandemic changing our lives forever.

I know you will relate to my situation. My love and caring is generally shown "in person" with a warm greeting or a hug or the delivering of homemade food to someone. I am a "hands on" type of person.

But now, when we must distance six feet from each other and never touch, how do we show our love?

Calvary's Care Committee is doing a fine job with contacts using the internet, the phone, and the U.S. Mail. It is necessary because, even with COVID-19 everywhere, our people still have surgeries and still have chemo treatments and serious doctor appointments and there are funerals to be attended. We let our members know we are thinking about them and praying for them. We don't want anyone to feel abandoned during this time.



Please consider our parishioners who live alone. A lady I phoned recently kept clearing her throat as we talked. I asked if she were well and she replied that she just isn't used to speaking aloud anymore and she was surprised that her voice was so weak.

These are heart-breaking situations and ones that we can alleviate by reaching out. We don't want anyone to feel lonely or forgotten. God has given all of us the ability to feel love. We need to show that love as we are able.

We all knew the pandemic was coming. We prepared slightly, not knowing what else to do, but it hit us with grim reality. Corky Sachs quotes her father saying, "Even when we can see the train headed at us, it still hurts when it hits." We all know that there are Calvary parishioners hurting right now. They are hurting because they are lonely.

Please give them a cheery phone call. Or, if that isn't your manner of communication, send them an email or mail them a card. You can contact me if you need addresses or phone numbers.

One more thing: Join the Calvary Care Committee and learn how to help. Contact me at lfrench444152@gmail.com for more information.

In the meantime, wear your mask, keep yourself socially distanced, wash your hands frequently, and view Calvary's Sunday service on FaceBook. It sounds strange because it is strange!

With much love in this time of COVID.



Meet Our New Staff!

Calvary is adding new staff members to fill important roles and make significant contributions to our parish life now, despite the complications of COVID-time. This month, we are introducing you to two of them, our new Administrative Assistant and new Communications Coordinator. Next month, we'll bring you information about two more, the new Bookkeeper and Operations Assistant. All are part-time positions assisting the Rector—who is delighted to have their help!

Meet Margaret Bond, our new Administrative Assistant, working with Lee on general office and parish matters. She's the new "face" of the parish, responding to the phone and the door (safely) as well as handling myriad administrative tasks. You'll find her in the first office inside the door from the North Entry on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to noon. When we are more open, she will add hours. To contact her, call the church during those hours or email office@calvaryepiscopal.org.



Margaret grew up on the west coast and came to Louisville in 2007 from the Washington DC area, where she worked for the Environmental Defense Fund. She has been at St Thomas (with our own Katherine Doyle!) in their office for six years so she knows the ropes—and she's been teaching yoga at St. Matthew's, as well. She and her husband have twins who just graduated from college and are headed to New Jersey and Minneapolis. She said she's "very happy to be working with Lee and all the staff at Calvary and looking forward to a time when I can meet more of the Calvary family in person." We'll all be happy for that time to come! And in the meantime, as Lee put it: "I could not have possibly imagined what a gift Margaret Bond would be to our day-to-day operations here. She is nothing short of Mary Poppins—practically perfect in every way! The minute Margaret walked through the door on her first day she began to organize and straighten the office areas. She has had one good idea after another and just gets things done."

Meet Jacob Gary, our new Communications Coordinator. Much of his work is done remotely, but when he is at Calvary (usually Mondays), his office is on the second floor, next to Shawn Dawson. To contact him, email Jacob@calvaryepiscopal.org.



Jacob grew up in Oldham County. He graduated just last December from Western Kentucky University and came back to Louisville to live and work—just in time for Covid to complicate that, of course. He will use the skills he gained as an English major to help us with the various aspects of communication, inside and outside the Calvary community. He has lots of plans—ranging from upgrading our online service technology, to starting a twitter feed or podcast, updating our branding, and keeping Facebook and the website up to date. As he put it: "My vision for Cavalry is to expand the use of social media and streaming services to make it easier to be more inclusive and help grow our family! The more outreach we have, and the more awareness we can generate of who we are and what we stand for, the better!" Lee observed that she hadn't known how she could possibly replace Britt, who had done such a wonderful job, but "Jacob bounced into this role with an energy and enthusiasm that is contagious. He has great ideas about increasing and improving our face to the world through a wide variety of social media outlets as well as increasing our in-house communication to keep us ever up-to-date as our world continues to change."

Please welcome Margaret and Jacob as you meet them—whether in person or virtually—and stay tuned for news in the next edition about the additional staff who join us to enable Calvary to function smoothly and effectively (and keep the Rector from tearing her hair out!).



“Death and the Maiden”—Ben Sanders On the Death of Old Ways and Resurrection to New Ways

Way back, BC (Before COVID), I busied myself planning a program for the retired clergy on the above theme, part of which would entail listening to a portion of Schubert’s Quartet in d minor, titled “Death and the Maiden.” Why Schubert designated that title is a mystery to me, but references to that work formed part of the reading material I assigned before our program. Needless to say, the virus prevailed. The program never happened.

The music remained in my head, though, and it seemed to provide structure as I experienced the phases of this viral period. The following represents my thoughts upon listening to Schubert at this time in life.

Allegro. The Quartet’s first movement develops a vigorous theme denoting purpose and certainty. A driving tempo matches roughly the pace of a dynamic city and society at work and play before a virus and social upheaval strike. Events flow in and out, some good, some not so much. As this movement continues, I note how reluctantly Schubert approaches its conclusion, returning again and again to its vigorous theme, not wanting it to end. So too did I want the normal pace of things to continue. I had a sermon already written for the Third Sunday in Lent, and it was a good one!

Andante con molto. Then came a dramatic slowing of pace, our “safe at home” time. Highways and streets quieted, sidewalks emptied, grocery shelves grew bare. A new set of slower and quieter routines appeared. A different rhythm prevailed. The cello plucks a quiet beat, while the first violin ascends in flights of fancy. So did I experience the fullness of Spring. Carpets of flowers and swelling buds on trees welcomed the return of warmth, a counterpoint to the steady beat of news regarding infections, ICU beds, ventilators, and PPE shortages. These told the tale of the sick and dying. Restrictions, closings, and rising unemployment beat away at us, while birdsong surrounded our homes.

Scherzo. Allegro moto. We made it to plateau! Doors opened to the outside. Work started afresh. Pools filled. Summer vacation announced itself. Hope sprang forth, and complacency with it. In a scramble of sound and movement people engaged again in a spiraling ecstasy of vitality. Parties broke out. Protests did too. Not forgotten were those aching troubles long ignored by some. A video goes viral: knee on neck. I cannot get that image out of my head. For whatever reason, the plateau climbs towards a new crest and we storm about, full of renewed disappointment and anger. We will not be able to recover what we had before. We must stay the course. Face, hands, space (six feet apart that is). I have to see smiles in eyes alone. Crash, bang, the party must subside.

Presto. I and everyone I know want a vaccine and a reliable treatment. I and everyone I know want peace, equity, and justice on our streets and among all races and peoples. We just don’t know how long it will take or how to get there. As for vaccine, our federal government pours billions into something called “Warp Speed,” ostensibly applying supersonic terminology to development of a vaccine. Meanwhile the energy of protests contrasts with the lethargy of governing response at all levels. A syncopated energy thrums the beat of an unknown and uncharted way forward, much the way Schubert’s music careens to the end. On the edge of my seat I sense that the way does not lie with recovery of the beginning but the beginning of a strange new path. What do we do now? Where do we go from here?

I don’t know. As always I walk only by faith and not by sight. May God help us to remember our baptismal death to death and our rising in Christ to life after life. And the people say, Amen.

To see and hear a performance of Schubert’s Quartet No. 14 in D Minor, [click here](#).



Spotlight on Calvary's Youth — Deborah Stewart

Charlotte Elisabeth Hay Brisson was born on June 8, 2011 and has attended Calvary since her birth. She is the daughter of Dr Philip and Penny Brisson. Her mom has attended Calvary since 2001. Her father is the Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Assumption so, she says, "He's always working on Sundays. That's why you won't see him at Calvary on Sundays."

Charlotte and her family live in Old Louisville within walking distance of Calvary. She is a fourth grader at Sacred Heart Model School and wants to become "a famous singer" when she grows up. Her favorite color is turquoise, and her favorite song is "Count Me In" from Liv & Maddie.

In her free time, she likes to watch TV. She is also taking horseback riding lessons and learning to canter. In addition to that, she is running to prepare for the start of the Cross-Country season.

Among Charlotte's earliest memories of Calvary is the presence of Harold and Marion Six. As a three-year-old, she sat with them while her mom sang in the choir. "Miss Marion would secretly give me a bag of candies and cookies."



Charlotte Brisson



St. Baldrick's

When Charlotte thinks of Calvary, she says she "thinks of Church, God and fashion, because people at Calvary dress fashionably." If she could change one thing about Calvary, she would like to have "more Sunday School activities that are more fun."

Earlier this year, Charlotte had her head shaved for charity. She explains, "I watched a Netflix show about two friends called Alexa and Katie. Alexa had cancer and her best friend, Katie, shaved her head in support." With the help of her mom, she registered on St. Baldrick's Foundation and raised over \$1600 for the childhood cancer research. She was the youngest girl to get her head totally shaved.

Charlotte's favorite season of the year is June because that is her birth month and since it's summer, she doesn't have to go to school. Her favorite holiday is Christmas because "we get to celebrate Jesus' birthday, and everyone knows I like birthdays! I also like to make cookies for Santa."



More than 4,000 Fed Since March—Margaret Dickinson

Being a "stat freak," I have kept our fantastic volunteers and others informed daily as to the amount of ministry we have given to our neighborhood clients. We have journeyed to the end of Week 24 with:

1340 masks
2680 bags
4118 fed

Please note that we have fed well over 4,000 people just since March 16.

In the midst of this terrifying pandemic, our food ministry has been a bright spot for our volunteers and a lifesaver for those we feed. A constant source of wonder has been the overwhelming amount of donations that have come from both expected and unexpected sources. One day when we were out of cereal, St Paul's Episcopal showed up with 22 boxes, part of two carloads of groceries generated by an [article in the Courier-Journal](#) highlighting their "Service in the Shade" ministry that funnels the groceries to Calvary every week. We had no more bottled water that we usually give to each warm client. SEVEN cases of vitamin water appeared! I could list at least 18 examples along these lines of rescue donations. Somebody up there is paying attention and we are so grateful.



Summer brings fresh produce

This past week, St. Paul's again led the way in enthusiastic donations, with almost 1,000 items! Our eight volunteers were kept running, but we loved it.

Won't you be a part of this ministry? Peanut butter, jelly, canned chicken, fruit, vegetables, cereal, water, toilet paper... everything you eat (or use) is welcome!

Please drop off your donations of groceries at the north entry, Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, 9:00 AM-noon, or call 502-587-6011 to arrange to have them picked up.

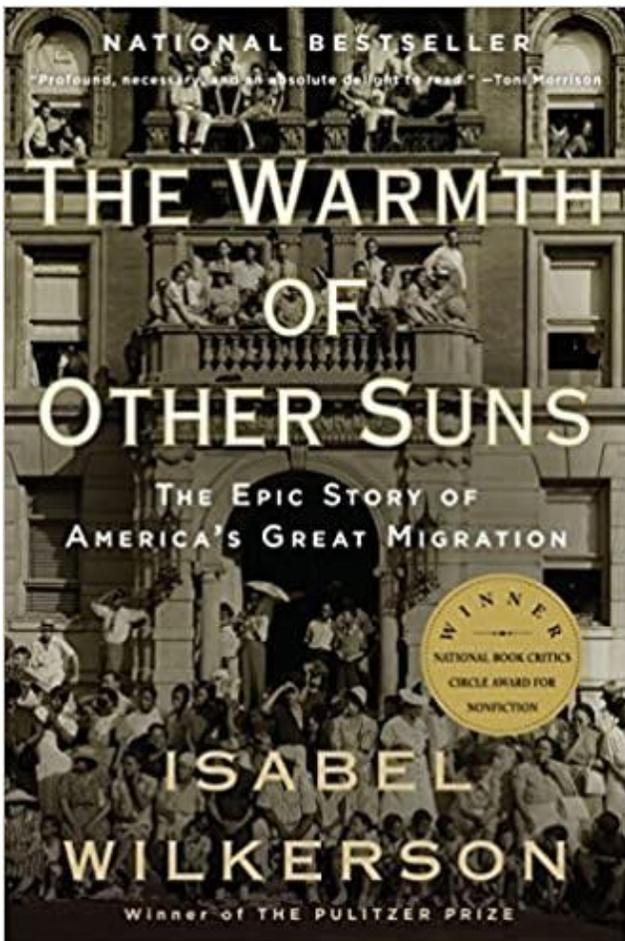


Two Important Books for Our Time — Mary Redden

I was leaving the South
to fling myself into the unknown...
I was taking a part of the South
to transplant in alien soil,
to see if it could grow differently,
if it could drink of new and cool rains,
bend in strange winds,
respond to **the warmth of other suns**
and, perhaps, to bloom.
— Richard Wright, *Black Boy*, 1945

For this month's article, I recommend two books, both by author Isabel Wilkerson:

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration
and
Caste: The Origins of our Discontents



Published in 2010, *The Warmth of Other Suns* tells the epic true story of the migration of American Blacks out of the rural south and into the urban north and west. In the period from World War I to 1970 over 5.5 million Blacks fled along the bus and train routes, settling in areas where they hoped to have greater economic opportunity, greater freedom, and greater safety. Ms. Wilkerson tells this story of migration primarily through personal accounts of three individuals:

Ida Mae Brandon Gladney, a sharecropper who left Mississippi in 1937 and settled in Chicago.

George Swanson Starling, an orange picker in Florida, who narrowly escaped lynching by fleeing to New York in 1944.

Dr. Robert Joseph Pershing Foster, a physician in Louisiana, who migrated to Los Angeles in 1953.

Each of their stories is unique and personal, but with larger themes that hold true for all of those leaving the south during the resurgence of Jim Crow and before the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and 1970's.



Ms. Wilkerson's latest book, *Caste*, was just released this month. In it, Ms. Wilkerson compares the U.S. system of institutional racism to India's caste system. She describes the eight pillars of a caste system and how they are borne out in our society:

Divine will: the belief that social stratification is beyond human control, either divinely ordained or a natural law, as in the Biblical story of the curse of Ham that was used to justify Black inferiority in the U.S.

Heritability, the belief that social status is acquired at birth and immutable, as codified, for example, in the U.S. "one-drop rule" that determined Black ancestry.

Endogamy: the prohibition of sex and marriage between castes, as in the former U.S. anti-miscegenation laws.

Purity and pollution: the belief that the dominant caste is "pure" and must be protected against pollution by the inferior castes, as shown in the segregation of facilities for bathing, eating, education, and so on, in the U.S. Jim Crow era.

Occupational hierarchy: the reservation of the more desirable occupations for the "superior" castes, as enshrined in U.S. Jim Crow laws that restricted Black people to farm or domestic work.

Dehumanization and stigma: the denial of individuality and human dignity of lower-caste individuals, as through the various arbitrary punishments and restrictions to which enslaved and free Black people were subject in the U.S., or racist carnival games.

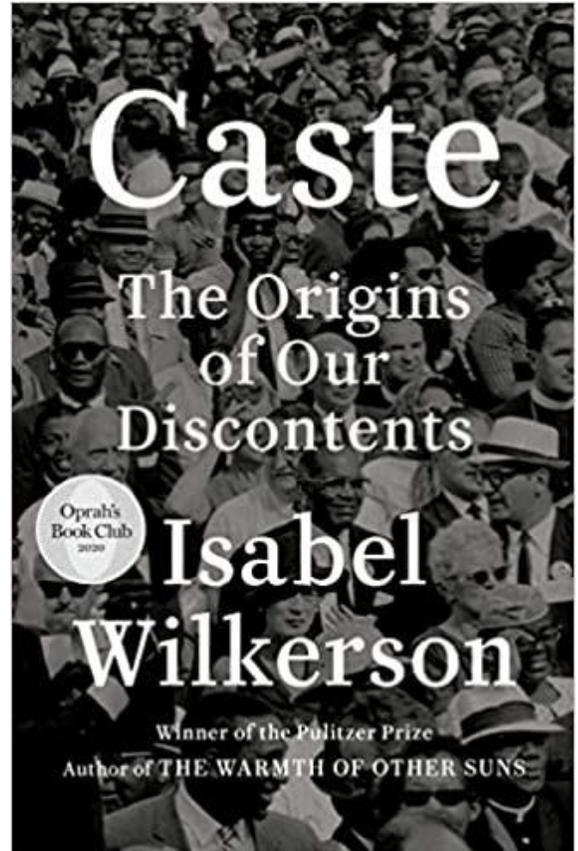
Terror and cruelty as means of enforcement of the caste system and control of lower-caste people, as through the whipping of slaves or the lynching of Black people in the U.S.

Inherent superiority and inferiority of castes: the belief that people of one caste are inherently superior to those of other castes, expressed, for example, in restrictions on clothing or displays of status by lower-caste people (such as driving a car).

Wilkerson illustrates these pillars through examples from three caste systems: those of India, Nazi Germany and the United States.

Both of these books are tremendously informative while also being inherently 'readable'. I highly recommend both to you!

(What are you reading right now? Send your choices to Book Editor Mary Redden at chesteralways@yahoo.com. Thanks!)

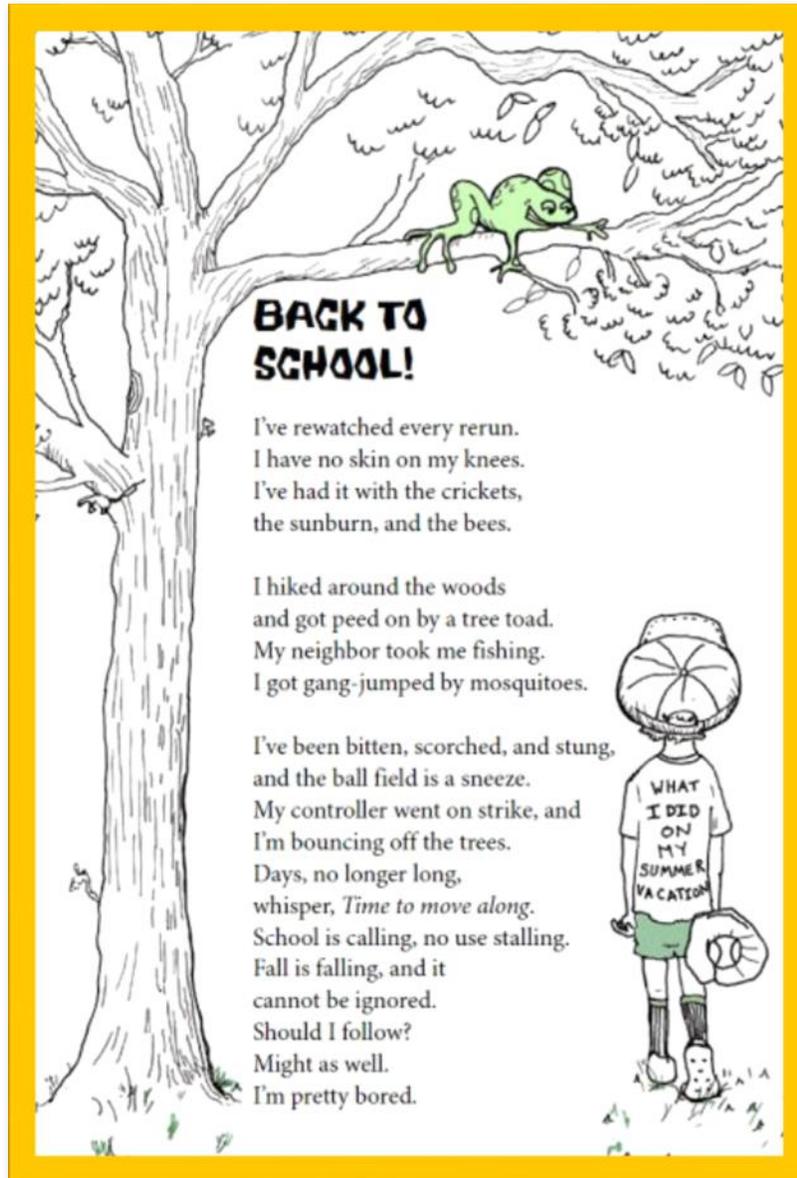




CHILDREN'S

—please share with the children in your life

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Poem by Sara Holbrook, from her book *Zombies! Evacuate the School!*, illustrated by Karen Sandstrom

If you are reading the Calvary Connection online, click [this link](#) to go to Bible Stories for Kids on YouTube. Enjoy!

Children's Corner is a regular feature of the Calvary Connection. Submissions and suggestions are welcome.



Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

Facebook feed of services only

Thursdays

12:05 pm Holy Eucharist with Anointing (**suspended**)

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm (**suspended; Mon.,**

Tues., Thurs. 9-noon during pandemic)

Food and Clothes Closet (**food only, MTT**)

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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.