

Moving Beyond Numbers

Over the last several months we have experienced “new record” distributions of food in the weekday morning ministry. We have also seen a similar rise in the work of Calvary’s Well on Thursday afternoons. Early on there was a tendency to “celebrate” these records. We soon came to realize that this was not an occasion to celebrate. These growing numbers represent a growing number of real people who were in need. These numbers represented children of God who are hurting. It is cause for great concern and not a celebration of “our” numbers. It has become increasingly obvious that this is not about **us**. It is rather about those others who are in the category called the “least” in that twenty-fifth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew.

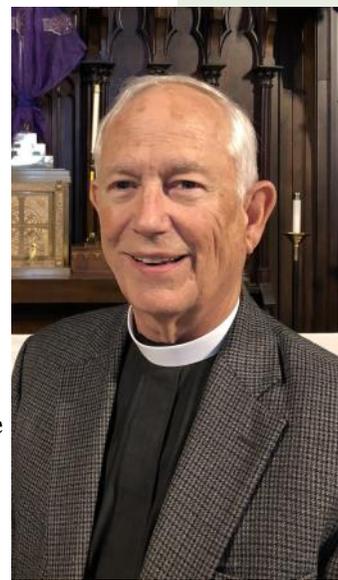
This morning I remembered about an urban St. Louis congregation that had discovered renewed vigor in its outreach ministries. This is St John’s Tower Grove, St. Louis, Missouri. On their web page they speak of their ministry in this way:

As Christians in the Episcopal Church, we believe that service to others - through direct action and advocacy - is a vital part of our faith journeys. Jesus Christ tells us that we are to feed the hungry, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison. (Matthew 25: 34-36) Through his example, Jesus taught us to work to eliminate injustice, rather than simply serve those who suffer from injustice. Jesus welcomed every outcast and every marginalized person in his society to be a part of his community.

In the Baptismal Covenant, we are asked, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?" Then we are asked, "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" Our response is, We will, with God's help!

Like this congregation, we have recognized that “Jesus Christ tells us that we are to feed the hungry, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison.” And except for the prison portion, we are doing these things well. Yet, what we have actually been doing is treating the increasingly obvious symptoms of a growing urban disease. The people of St. John’s added a THEREFORE to that passage from Matthew which they describe as “Through his example, Jesus taught us to work to eliminate injustice, rather than simply serve those who suffer from injustice. Jesus welcomed every outcast and every marginalized person in his society to be a part of his community.”

We certainly need to continue to serve those in need, but, is that a sufficient action in response to the call explicitly expressed in our Baptismal Covenant that is quoted on the St. John’s website? We presently are collaborating with Central Louisville Community Ministries for our weekday food ministry and with the Urban Partnership for Laundry Love, but these actions are only the treating of symptoms. A broader relationship with other non-profits and well as government agencies will be needed in order to more fully engage the deep causes of what we are seeing. Will we accept this opportunity before us? May we say together: **We will, with God's help!**



Fr. John Allen—Interim Priest

Calvary Connection

The Calvary Well

Tom Gift is at it again! Not content with providing popcorn to our clients at the Thursday Calvary's Well at Brook & Breck and waking up at 6 every Sunday morning to fetch Costco baked goods, he also decided to visit a peach orchard three weeks ago. He talked the owners into giving us their leftover peaches and they have obliged with at least a bushel every week. We are excited to add that super healthy item to our offerings of lemonade, bottled water, cookies, PBJ sandwiches, popcorn, and clothing. What next???

Our team is continually humbled by the grateful response of our clients to our small efforts to send a message that we care about them. They never fail to thank us and to bless us for treating them as equals. We in turn thank them for making our Thursdays so special.

The Well Team



Calvary Connection

The Vestry Voice

The Vestry met on August 21, 2018. There were the following items of note:

- The Search Committee attended to discuss its process and progress at length. They have almost completed the visits to the home parishes of the chosen candidates. In early September they will meet to choose those of the candidates who will be invited to Louisville for a visit, which will include hospitality, further interviews, some introduction to Louisville and an appointment with the Bishop. The Vestry expressed its desire to have the opportunity to meet candidates during their visits since it is the Vestry which will ultimately make the decision on calling a new rector.
- There was an extended discussion with the Property Committee about activity to improve accessibility for all in the Church property. The Committee stated that it is committed to this work and thinks it is the proper body to address it, though it does not yet have a response to the July Vestry request for a proposal and budget for a ramp and handicap access within the church. It is exploring options and cost estimates for handicap accessibility including a ramp from the nave to the parish hall and an elevator between the first and second floors. It proposes also to update the estimates on push button entry from the outdoor ramps into the church and Parker Hall. It is important for the congregation to know that the Vestry and the Property Committee are committed to making the church more handicap accessible and are currently working on plans to do so.
- We reviewed our financial position. The Treasurer reported that we continue to improve and bring clarity to our accounting. Our July financials showed revenue of \$43,758 (of which \$27,916 was investment income from our endowment) against budget of \$47,125 and expenses of \$40,944 against budget of \$47,125 for a net positive of \$2,813. YTD we are at \$61,039 against budget of \$27,219. The Treasurer also reported that we have received our Diocesan assessment, based on 13% of our operating revenue in 2016. It is \$73,468, virtually the same as last year. Our new administrator continues to shine. She questioned what we pay for Worker's Comp insurance, as a result of which we will save \$1400 on a different policy.

Stephanie Smith—2018 Vestry Secretary



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Coffee Hour Schedule

Join Us Every Sunday at 12:15

- 9/02 - The Hardy & Henson Team: Celebration of Labor Day
- 9/09 - Jean & Art Dietz
- 9/16 - Linda & Dean French
- 9/23 - The Bakers
- 9/30 - Sandra Cherry & Mike Patterson "Moonlite Barbecue"
- 10/07 - Glenna Harris

Adult Forum Schedule

Sundays, 10:00-10:45

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- Sept. 2: Matalia W ---Today's China---Information, Questions, Food Tasting
- Sept. 9: Tim Duncan ---Clarence Jordan and the Cotton Patch Gospels
- Sept. 16: Ben Sanders ---Jerusalem and the Holy Cross Celebration
- Sept. 23: Jonathan Smith ---Poets of the Hymnal, Series 3
- Sept. 30: Tim Duncan ---The Afrilachian Poets



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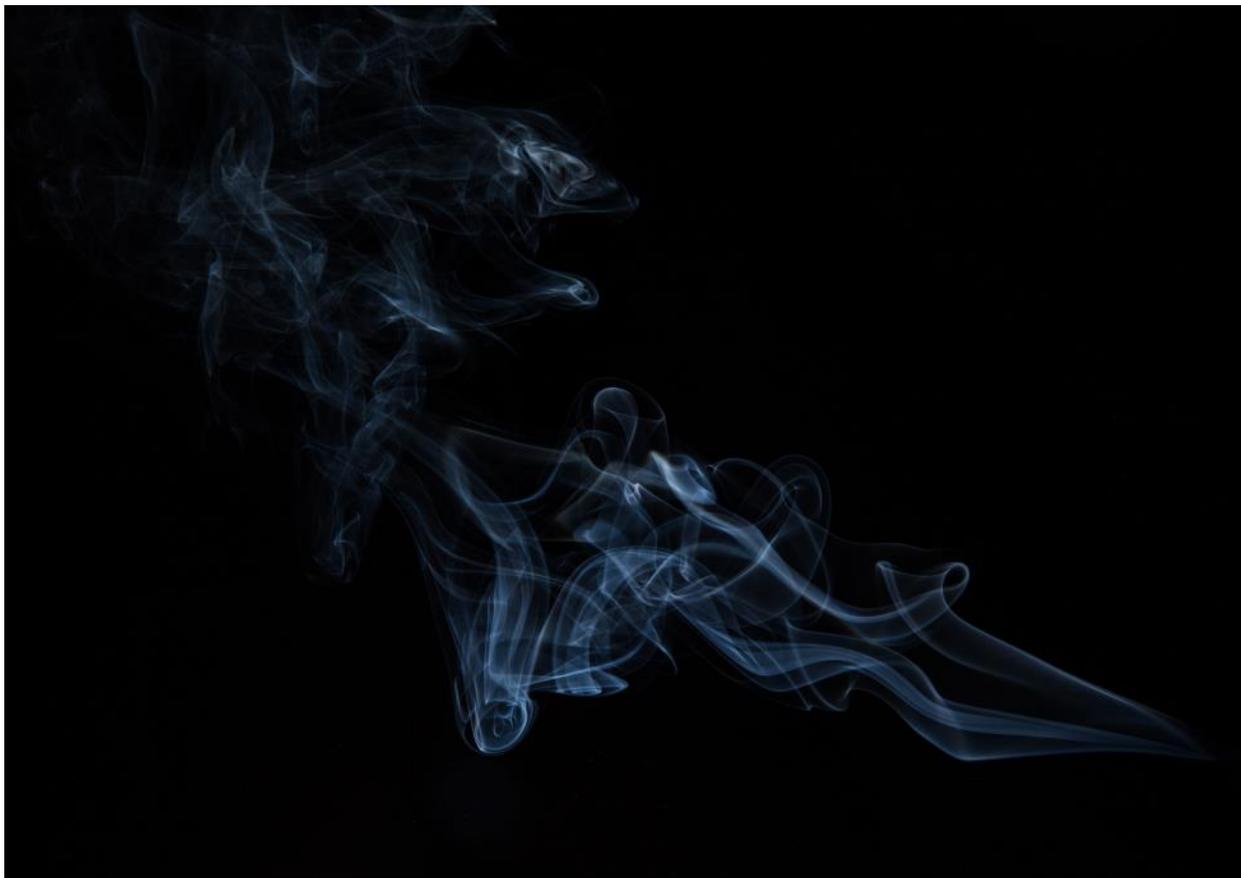
Rector Search Committee

Calvary's Rector Search has been in process for a year. Since its inception in August of 2017, the Search Committee of nine has met nearly weekly. During this ongoing discernment, the nine members of Calvary who comprise this committee have had the opportunity to speak openly with one another about the process. While much of our work has been and must remain confidential, we are in complete agreement about the nearness of the Holy Spirit. Calvary is a blessed community of God.

As we reach the end of this first year together, we will have concluded our on-site visits with candidates in their parishes by the end of August. Then we will move into the next phase of discernment which involves bringing candidates to Louisville for a visit.

As always, your prayers are vital and appreciated.

Deborah Stewart – Chair Rector Search Committee



Calvary Connection

The Blessing of Father John

It takes a special person of faith, wisdom, vision, steadfastness, and good humor to take on the role of Interim Rector. Wow! Did we hit the mother lode with Father John Allen or what?! Father John has shown himself to be all these things and much, much more.

All of us get to enjoy and learn from his insightful sermons. They are grounded in scripture while also giving us “life lessons” as a parish that will soon transition to a new, permanent rector. His gifts don’t stop there, however.

Another is that he leads by example. As soon as he learned of the Calvary Thursday street ministry at 911 Brook Street, he was off and scampering up the overpass to deliver food and clothing to some homeless, dispensing his brand of humor and hope to those stopping at the tables, and witnessing to the goodness of God.

Those might be enough for most mortals, but he doesn’t stop there either. He attends most committee meetings (and of course, Vestry), leading some and fully engaged in all.

He demonstrates his appreciation and affection for staff and volunteers regularly. He is supportive and lends his ear to needs and opportunities.

To top it all off, he attends to pastoral needs for parishioners.

Father John will be with us for a bit more time, but it’s never too early to let him know how much he has meant to us as a parish and as individuals. So, the next time you see him, tell him so. Tell him how blessed we/you have been that he came to us in our time of need and led us through to becoming better than ever as a Christian community of faith. Tell him that he will always have a place in our/your heart. Thank him and God that he accepted our call.

In deep appreciation for Father John,

Don Snow - Senior Warden



Calvary Connection

Sharing Faith Dinners

The “Selecting Your Date” opportunity for the Sharing Faith Dinners resulted in 43 immediate sign ups! The response to the Sharing Our Faith initiative throughout the U.S. has been exciting. At Calvary, we have a list of 52 names of those who would like to attend. However, anyone and everyone is invited to join us. In fact, we will gladly increase our host homes from five to six, if needed.

Therefore, be sure to sign up at the table inside Frazier Hall immediately after the 11:00 a.m. service this Sunday.

Check your calendars to see which date best suits your schedule:

- Sat., Sept. 15, 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 21, 6:00 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 22, Noon at Calvary’s Frazier Hall (Designed especially for those who walk to church or prefer not to drive after dark)
- Sat., Sept. 22, 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 27, 6:00 p.m.

If you can’t be at church on Sunday or if you have questions, please contact me:

Linda French - LFrench444152@gmail.com or 502-422-1980 (You may have to leave a message, but I will return your call) .

This will be a meaningful time to talk, visit with each other, and share our faith.

See you at the table!

Linda French - Junior Warden



Calvary Connection

Calvary's Clothing Closet

Meet Cathy Zirnheld and Carol Cook, two special ladies from St. Boniface Catholic Church, who have transformed our Calvary Clothes Closet! Two years ago, they responded to a request by Help Ministries to pick up beautiful excess clothing from Margaret's Consignment on Frankfort Avenue, and deliver the goods to Calvary.

At first, they intended to only drop the stuff off, but they soon realized that they were desperately needed to assist Bonnie Fritschner in organizing and displaying the clothing. So, our clothing ministry took on a whole new level of quality and quantity. We are now exceedingly proud to offer clothing once a week to all those in need in our neighborhood.

As our wares and clients have expanded, we have outgrown the North Entry site and have relocated in Parker Hall. More space, more clothing, more clients, and more excitement as we realize how much more we have to offer. The clothing racks take on a rather nomadic existence on the weekends, as we shove them into the Parish Hall closet to make room for all the other activities in Parker Hall.

Carol and Cathy, veteran volunteers for years at Wayside Christian Mission and other venues of help around the city, Bonnie Fritschner, and Margaret Schneider, owner of Margaret's Consignment, have been instrumental in making all this happen.

Margaret has a story all her own relating to her generosity in making sure our clients are well dressed. One of twelve children, she never had clothing she could call her own, or anything new, so she resolved that she would do everything in her power to make sure that others would not suffer clothing poverty as she had. Calvary's clients have now become the beneficiaries of her vision.

So, our thanks and heartfelt gratitude go to Margaret's Consignment, Cathy, Carol, Bonnie, and our daily food and clothing volunteers Dr. George Rudwell, Walt Morris, Andrea Morris, Lois O'Hara in memoriam, Millie Cary in memoriam, Margaret Dickinson, Jim Barnes, Judy Wilson, Sally Reisz, Jerry Lyndrup, Randy Peters, Linda and Dean French, Tim Duncan, Jonathan Smith, Father John Allen, Leroy Malone, and others who have made this ministry possible.

Margaret Dickinson



**THE MEASURE OF A
MAN'S GREATNESS
IS NOT THE NUMBER
OF SERVANTS HE HAS,
BUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE
HE SERVES**

John Hagee

ChristianQuotes.info

Calvary Connection

From the Brennan Lecture Series

Storytelling as Evangelism

1. Wash the feet of those who may not walk tomorrow.
2. Stand with the victim, the outsider, the left out, those different.
3. Refuse any sort of violence and refuse to react violently
4. Resist despair.
5. Scream silently in your prayer; remember the pain of others.
6. Bend the knees of your heart daily in conversion.
7. Learn to kneel and beg on behalf other other's lives and needs.
8. Let the Word of God in Scripture come true in you daily, weekly, as you pray the readings of Sunday with a small community intent on change.
9. Speak the truth to power and learn to do it in such a way that they can hear.
10. Pray for your enemies and the enemies of your nation and ask for forgiveness for them.
11. Absorb the international news and seek out alternative resources that give a more balanced and religious interpretation of events and why they happened.
12. Do not deny reality. Face it down and accept what is wrong with you, the groups you identify with, your economic and racial groups, your nation.
13. Live simply, abhor greed, trust other people, and live a life worthy of mutual trust; share as much as you can, live with as little as you can, and be grateful.
14. End war and talk of war: on drugs, terrorism, refugees, aliens, ethnic groups, preemptive strikes...
15. Learn a language that is nonviolent. Drop words and concepts that are militaristic, belligerent, aggressive, and disrespectful.
16. Live with invincible gentleness.
17. Tell stories of hope, of resurrection and new life, of justice and peace, and refuse to be caught in the trap of name calling or demeaning others.
18. Think in terms of us and we, and drop the ideas and phrases that prolong the dichotomy of us and them.

- "And Morning Came" - Megan McKenna

Calvary Connection

Calvary People



Who is a fan of Calvary's popcorn?!

What does a Verger do? With dogs?



Food Closet guests come in many forms

Calvary Connection

Sharing Faith Dinners



It's not too late. **YET.** Sign up for the Sharing Faith Dinners!



Reflection. Discernment. Commitment.

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Calvary Episcopal Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky. Calvary is a vibrant community of faith in downtown Louisville. We strive to make the Gospel known in worship, word, and action. Calvary draws its members from all walks of life, and many different neighborhoods in and around Louisville. We take great joy in the way our members join together in worship of God and in service, drawing on our many backgrounds.

For more information about Calvary Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. John Allen, our Interim Priest. For questions about this newsletter or to help with its production, please contact the editor, David Stewart. Contact information: (502)235-1628 or dstewart@adcatmedia.com.

Are you in discernment about ways to make a difference through Calvary?

The editor of the Calvary Connection has announced the intent to turn that position over to someone before the end of this year. Please enter into discernment about whether you would be willing to take over that effort in 2019. Any questions, please contact David Stewart or Penny Brisson. Training to allow a smooth transition between editors is offered.

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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. Click on the button at the bottom of the page that reads, "Get Updates From Us."

You may also scan the QR Code below with your smartphone.



"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love..."