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February 2024

# Sharing in the Gospel—Very Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector (The Rector's Address to the Annual Congregational Meeting.)

After the standard greeting of First Century Antiquity, St. Paul opens his letter to the Philippians with the words:

"I thank 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."

That is what immediately came to my mind as I began to think about what I would say to you all today at this Annual Parish Meeting. Not wanting to sound overly saccharine, but these words of Paul to the church in Philippi are very fitting for how I feel about the good people of the Church of Calvary today.

2023 was an incredibly good year in our shared life and ministry. I don't have an exact number, unfortunately, but I do know that we have had and continue to have a steady stream of visitors, many of whom

have stayed and are now here with us today. On All Saints Sunday, the bishop confirmed 6 folks, and received another, each of whom have brought unique gifts and enthusiasm for ministry in this Calvary family.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, just a month after their parents were confirmed, we baptized Opal, Mabel, and Jude Walton. Another glorious event in our life together. I anticipate more baptisms later this year as well.

Community events have taken place throughout the year including:

A Chili luncheon for Calvary and the surrounding community A Mardi Gras gathering for Calvary under 40 Apple picking A pumpkin patch trip followed by pumpkin carving Friendsgiving



Look for more events like these throughout the coming year. This is a great way to get to know folks and just have a good time together.

In 2023 we began quarterly Newcomer Dinners at my house. These have been very well attended, with the average number of attendees being 17, including some longer time members as well. The next Newcomer Dinner will be on February 11. All are invited; let me know if you are planning to come. (Do note—we have two dogs and two cats so if that's a problem maybe we can go out to lunch sometime).

Speaking of lunch, a faithful group who has named itself "We're going places," joins for lunch together every other month at various restaurants around town. If you'd like to know more about that, see Ruth Robbins. If you don't know who that is, see me. I'll introduce you!

We are committed to bringing folks into the church in a variety of ways. Coming into our beautiful space is a moving experience even if you never attend a service, and we want to share this beauty, along with our radical inclusivity, with the world.

In 2023, we threw the doors wide open in June with Drag Me to Church, which was a huge act of love that was noticed by many. Matt McGarvey, who was at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of Gene Robinson in Washington, DC, was asked by a priest in attendance (when she discovered that he lived in Louisville), if he was a member of the Church that "did the Drag show." I had a call from a priest in California who wanted to replicate what we had done. Not only was Drag me to Church an act of Love to our LGBTQIA family, but it was also an act of love *from* our LGBTQIA family to our Food Ministry. Nine thousand dollars was raised for our Food Ministry in that one event.

When you do the right thing, people notice and want to be a part of it.

In June the General Convention of the Episcopal Church will descend upon Louisville. It is a wonderful event that I encourage all of you to be a part of. Because there is such widespread interest across the national Church in Drag me to Church, we have decided to have two events back-to-back. One event on the evening of June 28th, the closing day of Convention, will be for convention attendees, and another on the 29th will be primarily for the community. Anyone can come either night, but we want to make sure that there is an opportunity for everyone to take part in Drag me to Church.

Other events from 2023 included a Handel's Messiah sing-along, a YPAS choral concert, Advent Lessons and Carols, Recitals, Evensongs and more. **Arts at Calvary** (a new committee formed in 2023) will be scheduling events throughout 2024 in conjunction with our wonderful Music Ministry. Look for at least one event a month. Be sure to invite your friends. This is a good opportunity to bring people into Calvary in a variety of ways.



As you know, our Food Ministry continues to grow. That is not necessarily a positive thing but what IS positive is the way that our Volunteers, wonderfully led by Margaret Dickinson, have risen to do whatever it takes to meet the rising needs. Just last week they totally changed distribution, so folks don't have to stand outside in the bitter cold to be able to get food.

Our food shelves are pretty much bare at the end of each day. Feel free to donate at any time or offer to go shopping. Margaret ends up going to the store about 6 days a week. Shopping can be done in the evening or early morning so even if you have a full-time job there are wonderful ways that you can be a part of our food ministry. Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up in December. Stock up and bring in cans of soup. If you're new here, you need to know that Margaret loves a huge soup pyramid so don't miss out on being a part of that.

The clothes closet continues to be diligent in providing clothing for our neighbors each Wednesday. They too have nimbly adjusted to assure that no one must stand in the cold, bringing folks here into Frazier Hall and offering them a cup of coffee and muffins if they are available. Men's clothing is always in high demand. If you have any clothing that you'd like to donate, please take it to First Unitarian to be sorted prior to coming here.

Our treasurer's report shows that we closed 2023 in good stead with a \$49,000 surplus. Thank you all for your generosity. Not many churches are as blessed as we are, and we give thanks indeed. We will soon ask you to be even more generous as we begin our **organ and chancel floor restoration project**. This is phase two of Calvary for the Future which began with the accessibility project in 2021. Owen Sammons is going to be chairing the newly formed Organ Committee and we will hear more about it in the days to come.

I could go on for hours and hours about all the wonderful things happening here at Calvary and what a blessing it is for me to be your rector. At this point in time, I want you to know that we not only have the A team on our staff we have the A++ team. Terrance Griffith, our "do it all guy" is much beloved by you all, no small feat indeed, as is Taylor Howell, who, like everyone else here, goes above and beyond over and over. She and Joseph Reese, our Sr. Warden, have the incredibly daunting job of keeping me somewhat sane, and I value them both more than I can put in words. Jacob and Owen are musical giants who have brought gifts of great talent along with joy and kindness and a desire to include the breadth and depth of music available in the 21st century along with all the centuries prior. Callie Hausman's return to Calvary and to our children has been a blessing to us all. Her love of God and all God's children is evidenced by the number of children who are now taking part in the children's ministry. She and her mighty crew do a fantastic job of bringing the love of God to our children and deeply impacting their lives.

# © CALVARY Connection

We also have an incredible group of volunteers, which are all of you and more. I am deeply grateful for each and every one of you. I want to sincerely thank the outgoing vestry members: Will Cary, Pattie Davidson, Burnell Esbenshade, Beverly Haverstock, and James Moody. They have each brought wonderful gifts to offer our church family and I know they, like you all, will continue to do so.

This is what church is.

This is church at its absolute best.

One of the things that I have consistently heard from Newcomers over the last year is how **welcomed** they have felt when they have visited Calvary; what a friendly place this is. And what I have to say to that is "**Well done good and faithful servants!**" Do you remember the second part of that verse from the Gospel of Matthew? It is this, "You have been trustworthy with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things." We are seeing that to be true.

Continue to be trustworthy.

Continue to offer radical hospitality and radical love.

This is gospel living.

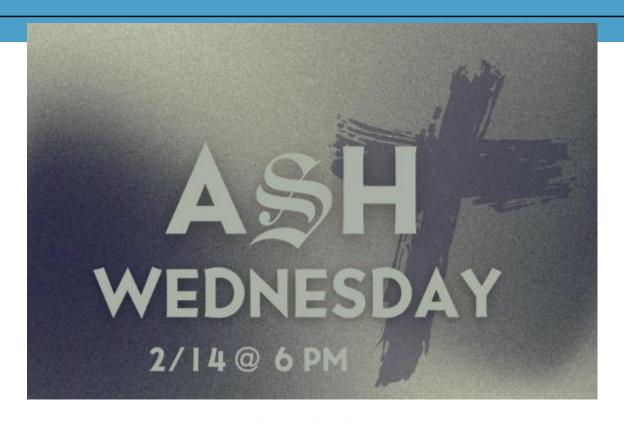
This is the kingdom of God.

Lee+

# NEWCOMER DINNERS Hello We're glad you're here!

### **Newcomer Dinner**

The first newcomer dinner of 2024 will be a Mardi Gras gathering at the home of Tom and Lee Shafer on Sunday, February 11, at 6 pm. If you are new to Calvary and would like to join us (or have been here for a long time and just want to come) please let Lee or Taylor know at rector@calvaryepiscopal.org or office@calvaryepiscopal.org. Please also let us know of any dietary restrictions.



# Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 13th, is Shrove Tuesday. Join us at 6 p.m. for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. In addition to delicious food, there will be a few Mardi Gras festivities, including decorating an Alleluia Banner, mask decorating, games, a photo booth, etc. The following day is Ash Wednesday. The service for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes will be at 6 p.m.





# Music Matters—Jacob Cook, Director of Music

### **Greetings Calvary!**

I'm excited to share some upcoming music news with you as we head toward Lent and Easter. This season of the year is always one of the best musically. Yes, Lent is a penitent time, but there is so much rich music to share that makes it one of my favorite seasons of the church year.

This year, we will begin our Lenten season with the **Ash Wednesday service on February 14**<sup>th</sup> where the choir will sing Richard Lloyd's beautiful setting of Thomas Campion's poem "View Me, Lord." This is a lovely poem that I think is a perfect way to express the grace that has the power to redeem. The poem is below for your contemplation leading into Lent.



View me, Lord, a work of thine; Shall I then lie drowned in night? Might thy grace in me but shine, I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel At thine altar, pure and white; They that once thy mercies feel, Gaze no more on earths delight.

Worldly joys, like shadows, fade When the heavenly light appears; But the covenants thou hast made, Endless, know nor days nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust, To thy mercies fast I fly. Though I am but clay and dust, Yet thy grace can lift me high. We then have our **Choral Evensong on February 18th** where we will be singing music by Betty Jackson King and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor. Ms. King was the daughter of a pastor and an opera singer from Chicago exposed her to hymn and spiritual-style singing and classical singing from a young age. She studied music at Roosevelt University of Chicago and has numerous compositions. She wrote mostly for voice or choir, including our anthem for Evensong "Psalm 57." One of our choir members, Martha Ottaviano, will also be singing one of Ms. Jackson King's solo voice compositions. Be sure to come hear these selections from this interesting composer.

You will also not want to miss the **organ recital by Wolff von Roos** preceding the choral evensong. Here is a brief bio of our guest organist:

A native of Germany and raised in Indiana, Wolff von Roos is a young and active concertist and has performed in venues in the United States and Canada. Wolff has studied with renowned organists such as former Ball State University Professor Raul Prieto Ramirez (now the current San Diego Civic Organist), International Concert Organist Katelyn Emerson, and Internationally renowned Professor Hans-Ola Ericsson of McGill University in Montreal, QC. Wolff was also a student at McGill University for the academy for organ. Wolff is now currently pursuing his Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance at Ball State University in Muncie, IN. Wolff is most known for his interesting musicality in improvisation, which he has studied from the music of improvisers such as Olivier Messiaen, Pierre Cochereau, Jean Guillou, and others. He uses that skill often to accompany black & white silent movie films like *Nosferatu*, *Phantom of the Opera*, and more. In addition to organ, Wolff also is a Jazz guitarist, and enjoys writing tunes with his trio, Von Roos & The Wolffpack.

After this recital, we look forward to our preparations for Holy Week with our Urban Partnership colleagues. We will once again be hosting Maundy Thursday, which always has some of the most beautiful anthems. We'll be doing a contemporary setting of *Ubi Caritas* (Where charity and love dwell, God Himself is there...) as well as John Ireland's *Greater Love*.

Longer term, we look forward to a big musical event as one of our Arts at Calvary presentations occurs on **April 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>** by the **Voices of Kentuckiana Chorus**. It is their 30<sup>th</sup> season, and one neat thing about this concert is that their very first concert thirty years ago was also held at Calvary. It is a full circle moment that will be a great opportunity for us to welcome the community into our church. It's going to be an exciting spring!





# New Member Spotlight—J. C. Phelps

In this Calvary Connection feature, J.C. Phelps interviews new members of the Calvary congregation. This issue we welcome Hunter Lumbatis.

We are so thankful that Hunter decided to call Calvary his church home. He is the featured interview in the second installment of the newest feature of the Calvary Connection, New Member Spotlight.

We look forward to introducing the newest members of our congregation to the entire Calvary family in future issues!

### Please take a minute to introduce yourself.

My name is Hunter Lumbatis (the "a" in my last name is pronounced as in "bat," not like a sheep's "baa").

I'm the insufferable high church-y liturgy geek that makes Lee's life "fun" by pointing out what she did "wrong" during Sunday Mass. I'm also a student at U of L, majoring in history, and hoping to teach history at the college level one day.

# How did you discover Calvary? What made you decide to make your church home with us?

I discovered Calvary right after I moved back to this area from Cincinnati, where I had lived off and on for a couple of years. After a couple of weeks here, I decided upon making this my home church due to the beautiful music and liturgy, as well as how welcomed I felt by the people here.



# Are you new to Louisville? If so, where did you live previously?

In a sense, yes, and in another sense, no. I currently live in Shelbyville, where I also grew up. Though, like I said, I spent a lot of time in Cincinnati before coming here.

### What's your favorite part about the city?

I appreciate how Louisville is more of a progressive area than other areas of Kentucky that I'm familiar with. I feel more at home here because of that.

### What Calvary ministries are most meaningful to you?

I really value the LGBT+ inclusion and support that Calvary offers, which has helped me personally since I started attending here. The music ministry that our choir and organist offer has also been meaningful, as their "joyful noise unto the Lord" never fails to facilitate my worship of God.



## What's an interesting fact about you?

I really do enjoy being a history/liturgy/theology nerd and am known to ramble about such things from time to time. So, if you have a question about some obscure theological controversy that nobody talks about anymore, I'm your guy!

## What lesson most significantly guides your religious/spiritual journey?

The one that I continually keep coming back to is that God is infinitely bigger than any box we may try to put Him in and that the limitations we often put on ourselves do not limit Him or His love for us. "Your ways are not My ways, nor your thoughts, My thoughts."



# Hospitality News—Patty Davidson and James Moody, Hospitality Committee

The Parish Life Committee has been busy the last few months with organizing the Bishop's visit, celebration of Lee's fifth year anniversary at Calvary, hosting the Urban Churches coffee hour and providing soup and salad lunch for the choir and volunteers for Advent Four/Christmas Eve preparations.

We've had a great year with so many people volunteering to host coffee hour.

As always, we are so grateful for Terrance Griffith, our Operations Assistant for all his help and for keeping the kitchen so well organized and stocked. We work closely with Terrance to keep kitchen supplies stocked and equipment up to date.



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

Christmas was truly full of gifts of love. Calvary's children were very excited about participating in the

"Pop Up" Christmas Pageant. Every one of them was very engaged, earnest, and devoted to the role they played in presenting the Christmas Story to you and all visitors. I felt the love that permeates and shines through the story from their faces.

Now that we are in a new year, and yes, a new liturgical year too, we will work on finishing up our special emphasis on prayer through the Spring (though prayer will always be a part of class and worship time). And during Lent we will use a new curriculum to explore Acts supporting the Gospel readings from the Lectionary.

Look for a few fun Mardi Gras activities during the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Peace,

Callie









Pop-Up Pageant on Christmas Eve







# Food Closet Spotlight—Margaret Dickinson, Food Closet Coordinator



Why does the traditional SOUPer Bowl Pyramid now look more like the Roman Colise-um? It's because we now have so many food clients for each session that we have to keep raiding the pyramid in order to supply the bags we give out! The soup keeps coming... and going, with the goal 901 this year. By the time you read this, we will know whether the goal was met. One thing is certain—much of it will already have fed those in our neighborhood who needed soup, as well as other items we gladly provide (meat, sweets, spaghetti, vegetables, bread, fruit, cereal, peanut butter, and anything fresh we can find!). Super Bowl will be over, but hunger remains. So keep the soup coming, along with anything you would put on your own table!



# General Convention 2024: Call for Volunteers

The 81st General Convention for the Episcopal Church of the U S will be held in downtown Louisville June 23-28, 2024. This will be a very large convention, with approximately 8,000 people in attendance. The Convention is set to be filled with exciting events, starting with a revival hosted by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on Saturday, June 22 at the YUM! Center. A significant event to look forward to is the election of our next Presiding Bishop, which occurs only once every nine years.

Volunteers are needed to help make this event happen and to welcome attendees to Louisville. There is work available for individuals of all abilities. The areas where help will be needed include:

- Registration
- Volunteer Headquarters
- House of Deputies
- House of Bishops
- Legislative Committee
- Worship
- Hospitality
- Episcopal Church Women Meeting
- Language Services (Spanish, French, Creole)
- Public Safety
- Virtual Binder Support (technology help)

Most shifts will be during the day, but a few evening and weekend shifts will be available.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Meg Scharre, who is the volunteer coordinator for Calvary. Her contact is <a href="mescharre@twc.com">mescharre@twc.com</a> or (502) 777-6416. Or use the link on the diocesan website below to sign up.

https://www.episcopalky.org/81st%20General%20Convention/GC81.html



# **Ideas For Lent**

(Excerpted from 'A Lenten Message' by St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Florida.)

Lent is the 40-day season of fasting and prayer leading to Easter. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English "lencten," referring to Spring and the "lengthening" of days that occurs at this time of year. Why 40 days? Because that's how long our Lord fasted and prayed in the wilderness after his baptism. During this season, our worship adopts a uniquely reflective and penitential tone. In place of our typically festive approach to worship, these changes allow us to experience a different side of the Christian life as we journey with Christ to the cross.

This time of year, you often hear Episcopalians declare, "I'm giving up \_\_\_ for Lent." Sometimes it's a favorite food like chocolate or pizza. Other times it's a leisure activity like watching television. Those who are truly austere may go so far as to refrain from eating altogether on certain days such as Fridays, though that is always best done in consultation with a physician.

Giving something up for Lent is intended to be a continual 40-day mini-fast, a denial of something unnecessary in order to create new space for God in your life. Whatever you give up, be sure it's for the right reasons. It is well and good to refrain from eating cheeseburgers during Lent, but your motivation should have less to do with watching calories and more to do with pursuing God. Lent is about sacrifice and prayer; don't cheapen it by giving up that which is trivial.

Here are some suggestions on things you could give up during Lent:

- Give up dining out and use the money saved to buy food for Calvary's Food Pantry.
- Give up Netflix, Hulu, TV, movies, or other media and use the time for prayer, spiritual reading, or meaningful time with your loved ones.
- Give up Facebook, Instagram, or other time-consuming social media and use the time to visit (in person) with friends or to write real cards, letters, and thank-you notes to loved ones.
- Give up sleeping in on weekends and offer your time to organizations that need it.

Instead of giving something up, some people elect instead to "take something on," adding a discipline to their lives that will deepen their spirits. This is a great practice for those who don't know what to give up. Some suggestions for added disciplines:

- Commit to a Bible study.
- Commit to weekly worship. If you're not already in the habit of regular weekly worship, Lent is a fine time to recommit.
- Take a prayer walk every morning to clear your mind, invigorate your body, and spend time with God.
- Set aside a specific time each day to pray.



# Suggested Reading for Lent

Have you considered adding a daily devotion to your Lenten practice? Here is the book currently being used as the topic for Adult Christian Forum on Sunday mornings:

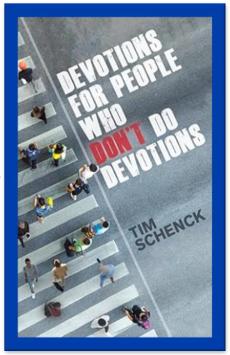
### Devotions for People Who Don't Do Devotions by Tim Schenck

"If you're looking for a daily dose of saccharine-sweet devotions, this isn't the book for you. And if you crave a spiritual taskmaster, devotions that ladle out guilt and reward in equal measure, move on to the next set of devotions. These are devotions for people who don't do devotions.

They are stories about everyday life--and how we can seek and find the divine in the midst of it all. The words are meant to be starting points, not megaphone-style declarations of certainty, and you're invited to bring your own experience and imagination to these reflections. The hope is that they will help you see God's hand at work in both the mundane and miraculous day-to-day interactions of our lives." - Amazon

The Rev. Tim Schenck is an avid coffee drinker, Episcopal priest, author, and creator of the wildly popular online devotion, Lent Madness (think saints doing battle in basketball-style brackets).

Tim serves as rector of the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida. He previously served parishes in Maryland, New York, and Massachusetts.

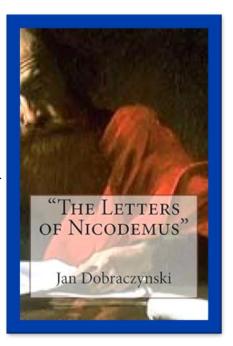


### The Letters of Nicodemus by Jan Dobraczynski

Another good Lenten season read is this fictional account of the minor biblical character, Nicodemus.

"Nicodemus is presented as a man of intelligence and great learning, devoted to the law of Moses and to the conventions of his sect, but drawn to the compelling personality of the miracle-worker from Nazareth through the lingering illness of a favorite daughter. Against a convincing and vivid background of Jewish and Roman politics and known Biblical events, Nicodemus' letters to his former teacher, Justus, reveal the subsequent bitter and bewildering struggle his frank incredulity in a Messiah who could never conform to the expectations of the Jewish priesthood, and his deep need to know and to accept the mysteries of Christ's words and deeds.

Jan Dobraczynski, one of the leading contemporary novelists in Poland, has written a moving and scholarly interpretation of the growth of belief amongst those in direct contact with Christ. "The Letters of Nicodemus" is a novel which in its profound religious sense and breadth of imagination will appeal to readers of all denominations." - Amazon





# The Vestry Voice—Lynne Lyndrup, Vestry Secretary

### December, 2023, and January, 2024

The Vestry has been busy in December 2023 and January 2024 with working on the budget. Owen Sammons, our choir director and the Vestry will begin a fundraising campaign for the restoration of our organ. The Property Committee is busy getting bids on the repair of the marble floor in the Chancel and replacing ten windows in the office area and classroom areas on the first and second floors.

The Food Ministry continues to hand out several bags of food each day they are open and continue to seek more funds to purchase what is not donated.

The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting was held on January 21, 2024. The reports can be found on the website, titled Calvary Annual Report 2023.

Five Vestry members completed their three-year term. They are:

Will Cary
Pattie Davidson
Burnell Esbenshade
Beverly Haverstock
James Moody.

Those in attendance voted for **four new Vestry members**. Newly elected Vestry members are:

Lauren Anderson Don Esbenshade Ally Mason Jacob Middleton.

The Rector thanked the out-going Vestry members and welcomed the new members.

The new Vestry members as well as the current members met briefly after the meeting to elect the Executive Committee.

Joseph Reese will remain the Senior Warden Derek Inghram was elected Junior Warden Stephanie Smith will remain as our Treasurer Andrew Weinberger will serve as our Secretary.

The first Vestry meeting of the year with the new members in attendance was held on January 23. The Treasurer went over the financial documents for the new members for their information and understanding of the Church's finances. Vestry members volunteered for committees and liaison positions. Members were also elected to the Endowment Advisory Committee.

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# Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Parker Hall 10:30 Live service and Facebook feed

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



Calvary Episcopal Church 821 S. Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203 502.587.6011 calvarychurch@calvaryepiscopal.org

### **Parish Staff**

Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector Cell phone: 256-452-9941

Jim Barnes, Verger

Jacob Cook, Director of Music Owen Sammons, Organist

Taylor Howell, Office Administrator

Callie Hausman, Christian Education Director

Terrance Griffith, Operations Assistant

Joanne Wingfield, Darlene Clay, Child Care Providers

### Lay Leadership

Joseph Reese, Senior Warden Derek Inghram, Junior Warden Stephanie Smith, Treasurer Andrew Weinberger, Secretary

### Communications

Mary Redden, Chair of Communications and Calvary Connection Editor



View map for location

rector@calvaryepiscopal.org

verger@calvaryepiscopal.org music@calvaryepiscopal.org owensammons@gmail.com office@calvaryepiscopal.org cedirector@calvaryepiscopal.org

joseph.steven.reese@gmail.com derekingrham@gmail.com stephanie.smith@UnistarPurchasingSolutions.com andrew.weinberger@louisville.edu

mary@parts123.com

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