

Discovering the Parish's Unique Identity with its Dreams

There is light at the end of the tunnel! The Search Committee has worked diligently to determine the candidates that they will be visiting during the next six weeks. They have worked around vacations and other items in the lives of the candidates to establish these plans. They will then invite some of them to visit Louisville and Calvary. Following these visits, the Search committee will make a recommendation to the vestry. Then the vestry will issue a call and particular preparations for the coming of the new rector will begin.

But, until then, we will continue with our general preparations. There are six items in the guidelines for the Interim Period established by the diocese. One of these includes the phrase: *"discovering the parish's unique identity with its dreams"*. There has certainly been significant dreaming going on here during the last year or so, but we now have the opportunity to express some of those dreams as we engage the fall planning cycle. The school season seems to guide us in many ways. JCPS classes resume in less than a month with the first day for students being August 15th.

Let us look at a few recent dreams. Last year at this time **Calvary's Well** was about six weeks old and was only giving out water. Last Thursday they give out 240 cups of pink and yellow lemonade and 200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches along with cookies. There were also bags of popcorn as well as 40 items of clothing given out. Last year at this time there was only a dream for a **Sunday School**. In November Britt Shelton came on board and a Sunday school is now available during the school term and it will be expanded when it resumes in a few weeks. We also hosted our first **Vacation Bible School** in a long time last week with great support from so many parish members. **Shawn Dawson** is now with us fulltime as our Director of Music and Organist. He and his family have moved into this community and he is planning events for the coming year. Within the last year, the vestry has developed Calvary's **Strategic Plan** which is now being implemented. We began an **English as a Second Language** program about two months ago. There is the emerging ministry coordinated by Judy Wilson to sing at a Long-Term Care facility. And there is, of course, the **Search Committee** as was mentioned above which was formed not quite a year ago.

So, what are your dreams and hopes for the season ahead? What would you like to be a part of creating? Which of the possibilities above might you like to join? There are so many opportunities to move from the pew to following your passion.

Peace

John+



Fr. John Allen—Interim Priest

Calvary Connection

The Calvary Well

A Man of Many Vestments

How blessed Calvary has been by the interim leadership of Father John Allen. He asks to be called “John,” and, as time goes by, it seems the only right name to call such a friend.

We of the Calvary’s Well Thursday crew have all grown to know him and appreciate his cheerful help at any occasion. If anyone is working, he will be participating with them.

When we first met, he said he had felt a genuine call from God to come to us at Calvary. It has been evident again and again as he has worked with us to solve problems and to “keep the peace.” As he frequently states with a smile, “This is not my first rodeo.”

I have many photos of John working at Calvary and at The Well. Here are four of my favorites:

Go to him with your problems and your concerns. He was sent to help us and that is exactly what he does. May God bless his every endeavor.

Linda French—Junior Warden



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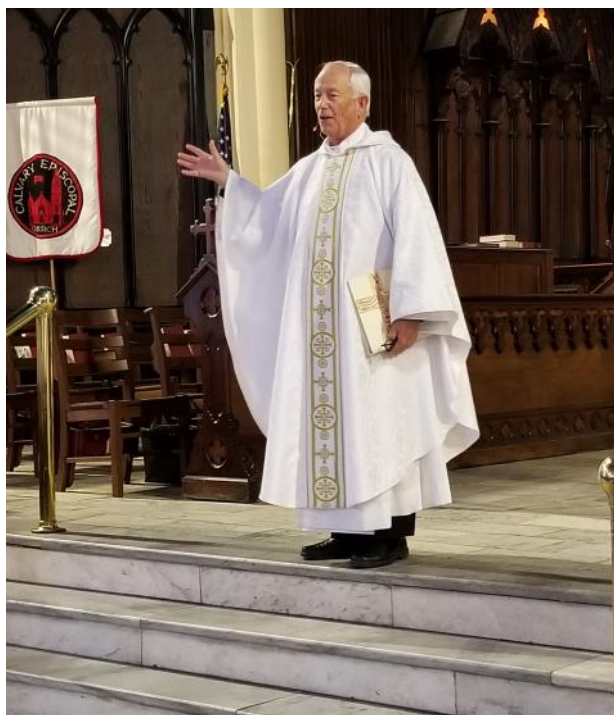
The Vestry Voice

The Vestry met on July 19. There were the following items of note:

- The importance of providing access and accommodation to those in wheelchairs or with mobility issues led to directing the Property Committee to provide a proposal and budget for a ramp, seating and related requirements at the August Vestry meeting. We want to act as soon as possible on this basic aspect of being a Welcoming Community.
- Vacation Bible School with other parishes has been a success and 43 people were present for the session at Calvary.
- We will have a deep cleaning day for the church and parish hall before Labor Day and will be asking for volunteers to help us make our church home sparkle.
- We reviewed our financial position. Our June financials showed revenue of \$44,743 (of which \$27,916 was investment income from our endowment) against budget of \$47,125 and expenses of \$39,063 against budget of \$47,125 for a net positive of \$5,679. YTD we are at a positive \$58,226 against an even \$0 budget.
- We will participate in the national church's program of Sharing Faith Dinners, to take place September 14-30. Stay tuned for news!

Stephanie Smith—2018 Vestry Secretary

The Calvary Well (continued)



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Coffee Hour Schedule

Join Us Every Sunday at 12:15

- Aug. 5 Penny and Charlotte Brisson
- Aug. 12 Lynn and Jerry Lyndrup
- Aug. 19 James Moody
- Aug. 26 Mary and Alex Redden

(Please see Lou Henson to host a Coffee Hour. Volunteers needed!)

Adult Forum Schedule

Sundays, 10:00-10:45

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- Aug. 5: Jonathan Smith---Poets of the Hymnal, Series 2
- Aug. 12: Ben Sanders---The Wild and Wooly Mountain Religion of the 19th Century
- Aug. 19: Sandra Cherry---Faith, Democracy, and the Supreme Court (Chautauqua Lectures, 2017)
- Aug. 26: Sandra Cherry---Faith and The Constitution: The Justices & Religion (Chautauqua, 2017)



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Rector Search Committee

Calvary's Search Committee Takes To The Road

Recently, Calvary's Search Committee concluded their ZOOM [Internet Video] interviews with candidates who have expressed interest in serving Calvary. The interviews were held in Father John Allen's office and involved seeing the candidates face-to-face on a large-screen television. As you can tell from the accompanying photo, those conducting the interviews could only be seen from the waist up.

The next step in the process of selecting a rector involves traveling to interview the candidates in their respective parishes. We will travel three by three, conduct an in-depth interview with each candidate and attend a worship service and coffee hour. This process will conclude by the end of August.

As always, your prayers are appreciated and very much needed. We feel the guiding hand of the Holy Spirit.

Deborah Stewart – Chair Rector Search Committee



Interview set up in Fr. John's office. People responsible for interviewing a specific candidate would sit in the three chairs facing the camera and monitor. The other Committee members sat off to the sides of the room out of sight to the interviewee. Committee members who were unable to be at the meeting could join remotely via the Internet with special the "ZOOM" app.

Dean French in his interviewing outfit. With Ted Mussler and Art Dietz. Thanks to Bart Brown for this eye-catching photograph.



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The Good People of God's Earth

Most of you know that Dean and I were married in Thailand and lived many years in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. We have talked for years of retiring in Thailand because it is dear to our hearts.

Is this why I found myself so bound to the recent news of the soccer team trapped in a cave in northern Thailand? Is this why I was unable to pull away from the rescue news on TV and radio? No, it was something more that held me.

It began when I read an article in The Bangkok Post about the poor farmers whose land is around those caves. Their fields were planted in rice and that crop would be their year's income. Yet, without hesitation, when the rescuers needed to pump water from the cave onto the fields in order to have a chance of getting through, the farmers told them to continue. They stated that the boys' lives were more important than their own income.

Later, I read that the young coach had refused his portion of the food they had with them in order to share it with his team as they waited for help in the dark. He did not eat until a rescuer arrived with food and other provisions.

This is sacrificial giving at its best. I, too, believe in this kind of giving, at least in theory. But have I ever been asked to give sacrificially? And if I were, what would I do? The majority of Americans have more expendable funds than much of the world and we are more than amply fed. Would we have been as generous?

The Thai have an expression that translates, "I am not rich with money. I am rich with generosity." I definitely am not rich with money, but am I rich with generosity?

Jesus calls us to care for others. He asks us to do it with open hearts and open hands. Please pray for me as I struggle to become rich with generosity. And let us pray for each other that we may always follow Jesus' example of unconditional love and generosity to all.

With love and prayers,

Linda French - Junior Warden

Read the Bangkok Post article: [A Rice Gesture Despite the Risk?](#)

Thai rice farmer Pairoj, who lost his entire crop to the rescue of the soccer team. "Rice can be grown again."



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Ruffles & Flourishes!!!!

As of July 1, 2018, Shawn Robert Dawson assumed the role of Music Director at Calvary!!

After becoming acquainted with the choral/music tradition of the parish as an occasional guest accompanist, Shawn has served as Interim Director of Music since 2016. He received his Bachelor of Music degree at Baldwin Wallace University (where he also met his wife, Audrey, a mezzo-soprano voice student whom he accompanied in lessons/recitals and who joined in the student Bible studies he co-led with a close friend). He subsequently received his Master of Musical Arts in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music and is currently pursuing his Doctorate in Musical Arts in Organ Performance with a cognate in Sacred Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. We at Calvary are beneficiaries of Shawn's expertise in not only accompanying our liturgical worship, but also in his performance of the voluntaries which begin and end each service which reflect his skills as an active recitalist!

In recounting his being drawn to organ music, Shawn related that his father served as organist in the Methodist church in Ohio where he grew up, and "it did not take long before I developed a desire to learn to play the organ and I began piano and organ lessons in late elementary school." He noted that "Faith and music have always been key aspects of my life, but it wasn't until I was in my last year of my undergraduate degree that I discovered the beauty of the music and liturgy in the Episcopal Church. These factors are what caused me to feel led to ministry through church music."

Shawn expressed anticipation for his new position, stating "I am looking forward to continuing to grow the music program at Calvary, exploring the depth of wonderful sacred music to the Glory of God! Calvary clearly has a strong history of great music, and I hope and pray I can carry on the tradition in a new way and a new time."

The Dawsons -- including Elizabeth, their 21-month-old daughter -- are now settled into their new home in New Albany, IN. According to Shawn, 'Audrey and I are looking forward to this next chapter of our lives and trusting God to guide our family and our work.'

Please welcome these new members of our Calvary family!!!

Cindy Curry



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Calvary Is Reading

Linda French recommends **“Walk in Love”** by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. She says “I am painfully aware that I am painfully unaware on particular topics. There is much to learn! With Father John’s assurance that they were reputable authors, I read the **“Walk in Love”** book. It teaches the Anglican way of Christianity. It explains Sacraments and Rites, Basic Beliefs and how to enjoy a spirit filled life. Being a practical person, I enjoyed learning the Liturgical Calendar and the seasonal colors. If you are not a cradle Episcopalian, this book may also be for you. I hope you will find it as useful as it has become to me.”

Supporting Linda in her recommendation of the book the following excerpts are from *an article originally appeared at The Black Giraffe blog on Tuesday, April 17.*

“Three qualities make *Walk in Love* particularly valuable to anyone looking for a book about the Episcopal Church. First, this volume focuses on the key elements of who we are from the perspective of what is most important to us, instead of trying to differentiate us from other flavors of Christianity. The book opens with the liturgy and the sacraments, which are the central elements of our worship and a key experience for our common life.”

“Second, this volume is thorough, covering a lot of ground to describe many important aspects of our faith. After the sacraments, Gunn and Shobe look at how we pray at different times, our basic beliefs, how the church is structured, the Trinity, and how we live out our faith more deeply. At 338 pages, the book is long, but the chapters are short, with each section broken up into easily digestible pieces.”

“Finally, the book is accessible, with a clear organization, personal stories, reflection questions, pull-out boxes, and a writing style that doesn’t assume any particular background. Reading *Walk in Love* is like having two dedicated guides leading you through their favorite community, explaining what is happening, why it is happening, and why it is so important to them. Gunn and Shobe are sharing how the Episcopal Church embodies and proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ. Their work is generous and expresses the breadth of our traditions, lifting up aspects of our life that could be recognized in almost every Episcopal congregation.”

The Rev. Adam Trambley is rector of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Sharon, PA.

Carolyn Snow



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From the Brennan Lecture Series

Storytelling as Evangelism

I have tried to show that religion itself has always performed two very important, but very different, functions. One, it acts as a way of creating meaning for the separate self: it offers myths and stories and talks and narratives and rituals and revivals that, taken together, help the separate self make sense of, and endure, the slights and arrows of outrageous fortune. This function of religion does not usually or necessarily change the level of consciousness in a person; it does not deliver radical transformation... Rather, it consoles the self, fortifies the self, defends the self, promotes the self.

But two, religion has also served—in a usually very, very small minority—the function of radical transformation and liberation.

For authentic transformation is not a matter of belief but of the death of the believer; not a matter of translating the word but of transforming the world; not a matter of finding solace but of finding infinity on the other side of death.

Translation vs. Transformation by Ken Wilbur from One Taste

The Layers

By Stanley Kunitz

I have walked through many lives,
some of them my own,
and I am not who I was,
Though some principle of being
abides, from which I struggle
not to stray.

When I look behind,
as I am compelled to look
before I can gather strength
to proceed on my journey,
I see the milestones dwindling
toward the horizon
and the slow fires trailing
from the abandoned camp-sites,

over which scavenger angels

wheel on heavy wings.

Oh, I have made myself a tribe

out of my true affections,

and my tribe is scattered!

How shall the heart be reconciled

to its feast of losses?

In a rising wind

the manic dust of my friends,

those who fell along the way,

bitterly stings my face.

Yet I turn, I turn,

exulting somewhat,

with my will intact to go

wherever I need to go,

and every stone on the road

precious to me.

In my darkest night,

when the moon was covered

and I roamed through wreckage,

a nimbus-clouded voice

directed me:

“Live in the layers,

Not on the litter.”

Though I lack the art

to decipher it,

no doubt the next chapter

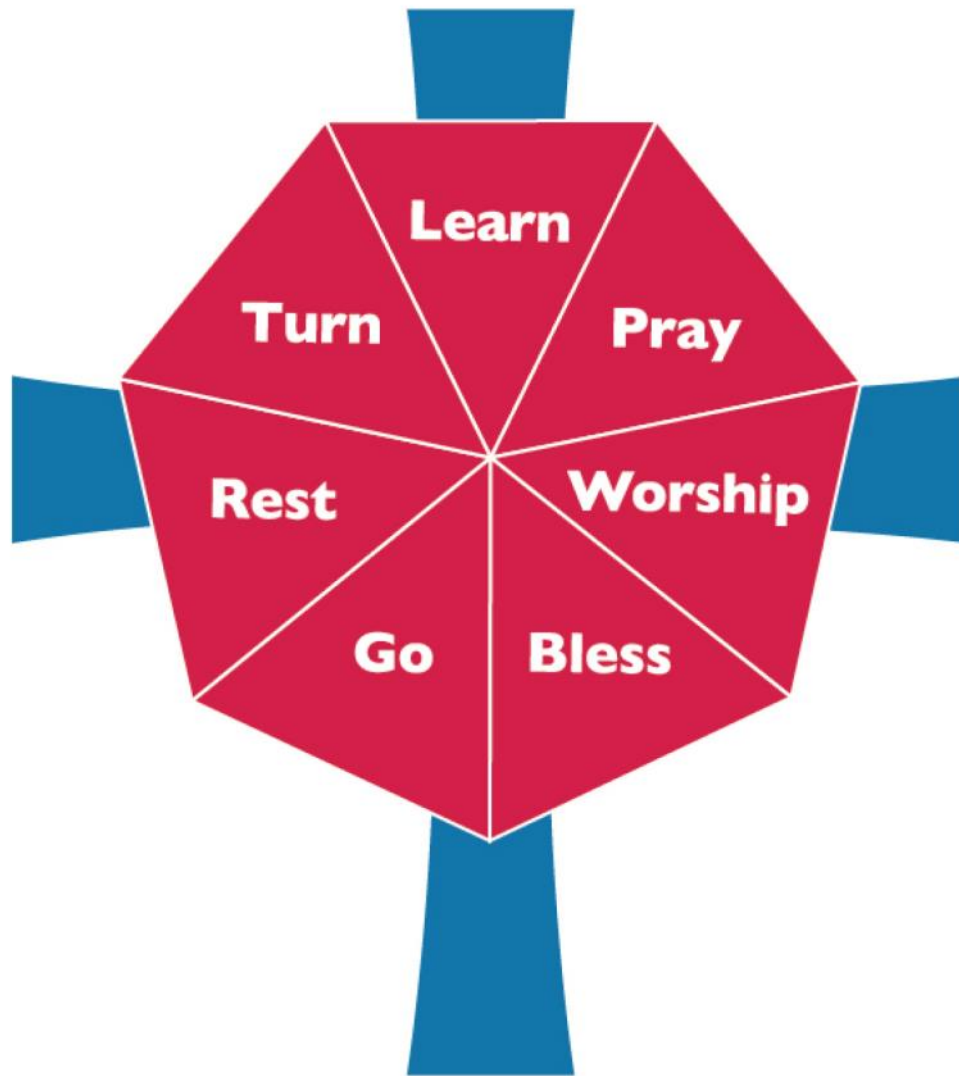
in my book of transformations

is already written.

I am not done with my changes.

Presiding Bishop Curry's invitation

episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/invitation



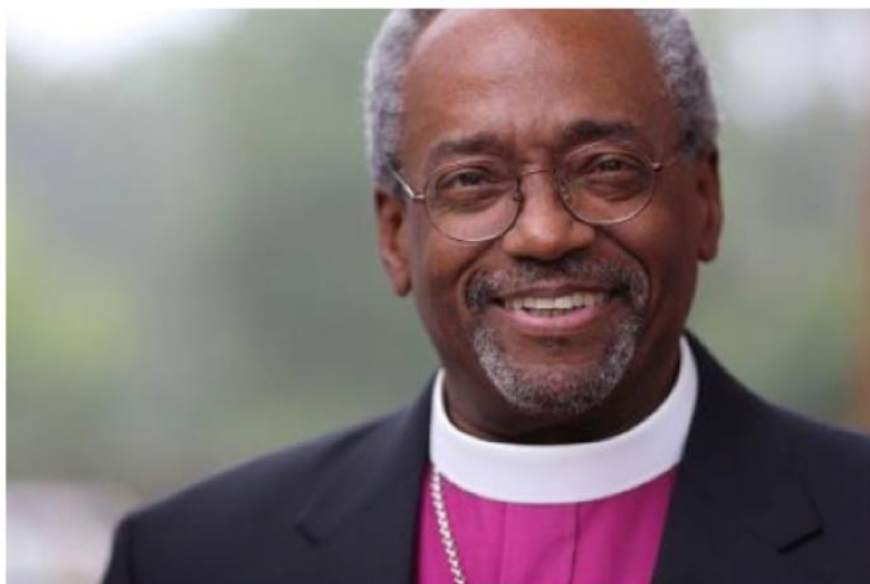
THE WAY OF LOVE *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

An Invitation from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry to Practice the Way of Love

I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:17-19

In the first century Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way."

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Today I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. But how can we together grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world?

The deep roots of our Christian tradition may offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and disciplines for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a “Rule of Life.” The framework you now hold – **The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life** – outlines a Rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

It is designed to be spare and spacious, so that individuals, ministry groups, congregations, and networks can flesh it out in unique ways and build a church-wide treasure trove of stories and resources. There is no specific order you need to follow. If you already keep a Rule or spiritual disciplines, you might reflect and discover how that path intersects with this one. By entering into reflection, discernment and commitment around the practices of **Turn - Learn - Pray - Worship - Bless - Go - Rest**, I pray we will grow as communities following the loving, liberating, life-giving way of Jesus. His way has the power to change each of our lives and to change this world.

Your brother in the Way of Jesus,

+Michael

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Primate and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church



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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 reflection 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 else at 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..."