



Magnificat—Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Dear Friends,

I hope this edition of the Calvary Connection finds you well and in good spirits as we await the coming of our Lord. Advent is my favorite season of the Church year. The anticipation and expectation that accompany this season fill my heart. One of the aspects of Advent that I find most uplifting is the focus on Mary and her beautiful poem of praise, the Magnificat. The Magnificat is a wonderful reminder of the unfolding plan of God, a plan that is still being worked out. We are called to be active participants in God's plan for the world and this is a good time of year to be reminded of that. I hope that you will join me in meditating on the Magnificat, the significance of Mary's poem of praise and our part in ushering the Christ child into the world again:

And Mary said,

*'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*





*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'— Luke 1:46-55*

On Christmas morning may you radiate with the joy of Christ's return into our world!

Wishing you every blessing now and in the New Year!

Lee+



ANNUAL MEETING



Annual Parish Meeting

On January 14th immediately following the service we will have our Annual Parish Meeting and elect 4 new members of the Vestry. If you feel called to run for Vestry for the three-year term beginning in 2024, please see Beverly Haverstock, Burnell Esbenshade, Will Cary, James Moody, or Pattie Davidson.

These are our outgoing vestry members who make up the nominating committee. When you see them please thank them for their wonderful service and care for Calvary.

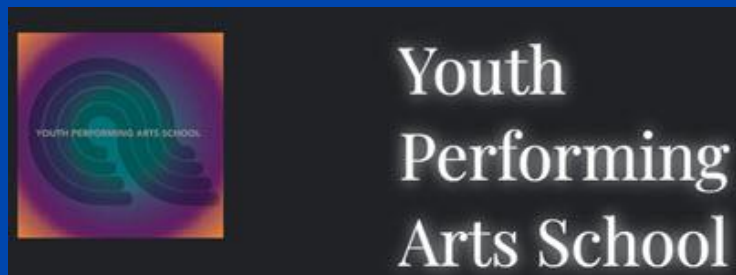
Music Matters—*Jacob Cook, Director of Music*

Advent and Christmas are always a time of extra festivity, and this year is no different, with a multitude of special concerts and services.

We opened our Advent season a bit early on **Nov 26th** - joining with the choir of Christ Church Cathedral to present the Christmas portion of **Handel's Messiah**. This year we were able to provide printed music scores for the audience to enhance the sing-along experience. I've received a lot of positive feedback from attendees who appreciated the opportunity to hear (and participate!) in this traditional musical offering.



On Thurs **Dec 14th at 7pm** we will welcome the **Louisville Guitar Society (LGS)** to the sanctuary to present a free concert. Director Ascher Taylor-Schroeder will lead the Louisville Guitar Orchestra, chamber groups and other local guitarists in an array of seasonal music. Stay after the main program for a special sing-along caroling session!



We are pleased to host the **Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS) Choirs** for their annual Winter Concert on Tuesday **Dec 19th at 7pm**. This free concert will feature Sing!, composed by Calvary's own Owen Sammons for Christ Church Cathedral as part of their 200th Anniversary celebration. Other featured works include Charpentier's *Messe de minuit pour Noël* (Midnight Mass for Christmas) and Kim Andre' Arnesen's *Magnificat*. All five of the YPAS choirs will perform (Concert Choir, Tenor Bass Choir, Soprano Alto Choir, Chamber Choir, 9th grade choir) accompanied by Owen

Sammons on organ and members of the Symphonic Arts Orchestra.

Calvary's Annual and much-loved **Lessons and Carols** service is set for Sunday **Dec 17th at 3:30 pm**. This year we are offering a 'Kentucky flavored' service featuring carols by Kentucky composers and poets including John Jacob Niles, Daniel Gilliam (a familiar voice on WUOL) Owen Sammons, Margaret Dickinson, and Jonathan Smith. We will also feature other familiar carols from around the world.

We culminate the season on **Christmas Eve** with special prelude music beginning at **3:30** before the 4:00 service.

We are excited to have a string orchestra made up of Calvary members Judy and Rosemary Wilson, Cynthia Racine, and Emery and Nino Tran, as well as Margaret Dickinson on the organ, and of course, Calvary's choir accompanied by Owen Sammons.

During the service, Calvary Children's Choir will sing the Offertory Anthems *Let There Be Peace on Earth* and *Noel! Sing Noel!*. The Children's Choir is directed by Katie Cook and will be accompanied by Jeremy Rhodes on guitar and Owen Sammons on organ.

Thank you to all the musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, sharing their talents during Advent!



The choir will have a well-deserved vacation on December 31, but stay tuned for information about an upcoming February Evensong featuring works of African American composers and a guest recital by concert organist Wolff Von Roos.

Music Notes—Owen Sammons, Organist

You may have noticed several occurrences in our recent bulletins where there is no prelude and/or postlude listed. This is not an omission but an allowance for liturgical and musical spontaneity. The pre/postludes in these instances are improvised musical meditations, usually borrowing melodic themes from the music planned for the service and stitching these themes together. These meditations are usually set in a particular style (baroque, romantic, modern, etc.) and introduce (in the prelude) or reinforce (in the postlude) particular moments of musical interest throughout the service. These are, effectively, new pieces of music, created in the moment, heavily influenced by the vibe of the room.



One of my earliest memories is of a plastic electric toy piano that could only play one note at a time. This toy piano was a true vehicle for learning, as it was the first time I experimented with playing “by ear.” And, although my parents recognized my affinity for keyboard instruments and put me in piano lessons at the age of seven, my inclination to play “by ear” has never wavered.

While my improvisations are highly influenced by my playing-by-ear abilities, it must be said that no successful improvisation is without preparation. I really try to bond with the music chosen for each service, which is aided by our Wednesday evening choir rehearsals. I’ve usually landed on specific themes and musical styles by the end of my practice time on Friday, and by Sunday morning, it’s “in God’s hands,” so to speak.

It is a true blessing to be the organist at Calvary, as this is such an open place—open to all people, and especially open to the arts and artistic creativity.



REMINDER: Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery

If you would like to contribute toward Christmas greenery and poinsettias, please use the attached link/form. You may make your contribution in memory or in honor of family or friends, in thanksgiving, or simply to the glory of God. Please consider a donation of \$35 or more, payable to Calvary Episcopal Church. The deadline to include your donation in the Christmas bulletin is December 20.

New Member Spotlight—*J. C. Phelps*

In this new Calvary Connection feature, J.C. Phelps interviews new members of the Calvary congregation. This issue we welcome the Walton family, Ian, Amanda, Opal (8), Mabel (5), and Jude (2).

We are so thankful that the Walton Family have decided to call Calvary their church home. They are the first interviewees in the newest regular feature of the Calvary Connection, New Member Spotlight. We look forward to introducing the newest members of our congregation to the entire Calvary family!



Please take a minute to introduce yourselves.

Ian was a chef for 15 years and now works as a manufacturer representative. Amanda is a stay-at-home mom. We have been married for 12 years. Opal likes LEGO, nature, and reading. Mabel loves all things sparkly and sugary. Both girls are learning to speak Spanish. Jude loves to be outside and to play with his sisters.

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

We had always attended evangelical churches and they felt increasingly like the wrong fit for our family. Ian learned about the Episcopal church through a podcast and we decided to give it a try. We googled the nearest Episcopal church and found Calvary. From that first Sunday, we knew that Calvary was the place for us. All 5 of us felt welcome, safe, and loved. We are very excited to be a part of this church family!

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

Ian has lived in Louisville for 17 years and Amanda has lived here for 14 years. We both come from small towns in Indiana and Louisville has very much become home to us.

What's your favorite part about the city?

It seems corny, but our favorite part of the city is Shelby Park, our neighborhood. We have lived here for 10 years and love it more with each passing year. Honorable mention goes to Iroquois Park and the Main Public Library!

What Calvary ministries are most meaningful to you and your family?

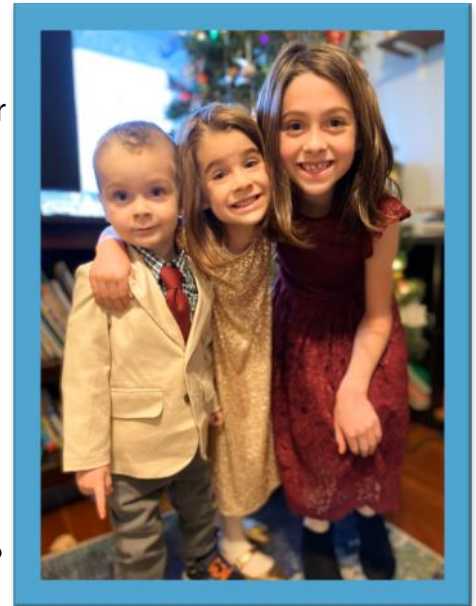
A good children's ministry is very important to us, and Calvary's is top-notch. We are also very excited to help with the food ministries. Serving our neighbors is an important value to our family.

What's an interesting fact about you/your family?

Ian and I met and fell in love while working at Lynn's Paradise Cafe.

What lesson most significantly guides your religious/spiritual journey?

Service and showing love to others is the greatest way you can be Jesus in the world. We look forward to growing in these areas!



Louisville Guitar Orchestra Winter Concert



Come join us for the new LGO's First Concert!

You'll hear an array of music, featuring the Louisville Guitar Orchestra, small chamber groups, and other LGS members!



Join us for a festive, Sing-A-Long Caroling Session after the main program!

LGS Members are welcome to sign-up to play along with the main caroling group. Please sign-up [here](#) to play along with us.

FREE CONCERT

Donations Appreciated

**Thursday, December 14th
7:00pm EST**

**Calvary Episcopal Church
821 S 4th St. Louisville, KY 40203**

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

November was a busy month for Calvary's children. We spent time learning about the Church calendar, gratitude, truthfulness, and much, much more. Church is one place we can be assured that we will see and hear about what is most important in our lives—our love for God, each other, and creation. When we hear about joy, hope, peace, love, kindness, and gratitude, through stories that often show perseverance, growth in character, making good choices, sharing and caring, we can carry this spirit with us everywhere, every day. We will make mistakes sometimes, but we know that we are loved and we are forgiven. A new day always brings new possibilities. We will continue learning about different types of prayers, when and how to pray, and much more, as we continue creating our own Prayer Book, eventually one that they will take home.



Also in November, children began rehearsing two songs to sing at the Christmas Eve service. New and special this year is having choir robes for the children to wear when they sing. We are grateful to Katie Cook for her outstanding guidance in teaching the children. We are also grateful to Burnell and Don Esbenshade who carried about eight robes home and back so that Burnell could hem and sew them.

We also began the process of preparing to offer a Christmas Pageant once again. We have a wonderful cast and look forward to sharing this year's Pageant at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service during the Gospel. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make this possible!

Many Sundays we have children carrying the Children's Cross (built by Don Esbenshade), and sometimes carrying a banner (made by the children under the guidance of Burnell and also Don who provided the frame). When the children write and/or color their prayers during Children's Worship, one or more of the children carry the basket with their prayers to the altar during the offertory to be blessed by Rev. Lee.

Children's Worship bags are provided weekly for the children to use in the pew to reinforce the messages they learn in Children's Worship and help them as they listen and absorb the service. There are many ways of participating in worship and formational experiences.

I am very grateful to be able to participate in the faith development of Calvary's children as they grow and deepen their understanding of God, Jesus, our church, and our faith. Thank you to Lilly Howay, Avery Washem, Darlene Clay and Joann Wingfield who support the children on their faith journey. We will be

seeing a few new faces soon. Please show your gratitude and welcome our staff members as they are always welcoming and caring for the children.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Advent Event possible this year. How wonderful to see so many of you participating, whether it was greeting St. Nicholas (thank you Alex Redden!), creating an Advent Wreath to take home, or creating a prayer for the Advent Prayer Chain, which will be available in Frazier Hall every Sunday during Advent. Let's all continue sharing our prayers throughout Advent for Rev. Lee to bless the Advent Prayer Chain on Christmas Eve.



Peace,
Callie

Introducing Lilly Howay

My name is Lilly Howay and I am a junior in high school. I participate in FBLA, NHS, and I am an elementary school cheer coach. When I heard about the job position of Children's Christian Education Instructor I was super excited! I love to work with kids and I also love teaching others about God and His love for us. I feel like this opportunity has really benefited me and I hope has benefited the kids as well!



One of my favorite parts of this job is just getting to answer questions about faith that the kids ask me, and seeing how they get excited about learning something new! I believe it is super important to teach youth about God and Jesus, and how He can teach important lessons through a variety of people and scenarios. It is amazing to get to see these kids grow through God!

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and God bless you!



Property Spotlight—*Lynne Lyndrup, Property Commit-*

The Elliot-Baker wall at the Good Shepard window is almost complete! The old, crumbling paster has been removed, a fresh coat of plaster has been applied, the scaffolding has been taken down, and The Rev. Elliot-Baker’s plaque is back in its rightful place. Once the new plaster has completely cured, the wall will receive its finishing coats of paint. Pictured are Will Cary, Nick Stouffer and Will from Minor’s Electric, a friend of Will Cary’s who volunteered to help hang the heavy plaque.

The hackberry tree in Spalding’s parking lot that was a threat to Calvary’s Parker Hall and playground has been removed. LimbWalker was able to complete the job in just a few hours on a Tuesday morning in October.



There is a new sign in the shared parking lot of the Unitarian and Calvary churches. It no longer mentions Presentation as they discontinued use of the lot.

The Burial Ground and Courtyard are now in good condition after not having been attended for some time. The fountain was repaired, weeds were pulled, and the grass mowed.

The choir loft roof that had a significant leak has finally been repaired by a reputable crew.

There is more work to be done in 2024:

- The second-floor classroom needs a new floor.

- There are ten windows in the office section of the church that need to be replaced.
- The marble floor in the Chancel is scheduled to be repaired.
- The organ must undergo a total rejuvenation. This is not a Property Committee project, but it is mentioned here because the floor beneath the organ must be repaired before the organ can be reinstalled.



Jams, Jellies, and More

Many thanks to everyone who has donated for the jams, jellies, and pickles I've made. More than 500 jars have been filled and over \$1500 dollars have been collected since May. All proceeds benefit Calvary's food pantry. There are still plenty of jars left, including lots of pickled okra. If you would like to give any jars as gifts, I have Christmas fabric and other fabric that can be placed under the rings and nice tags that can be pinned on.

If you need access to the jars on a day we are not at church, Terrance Griffith knows the closet where we keep everything and can give you access to it. (As always, you can donate using the QR code found on the front of the weekly bulletin. Scan the code and choose Calvary food ministry.)

Thank you for kind words and compliments. And thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

Elyse Hensley

Food Closet Spotlight—Margaret Dickinson, Food Closet Coordinator

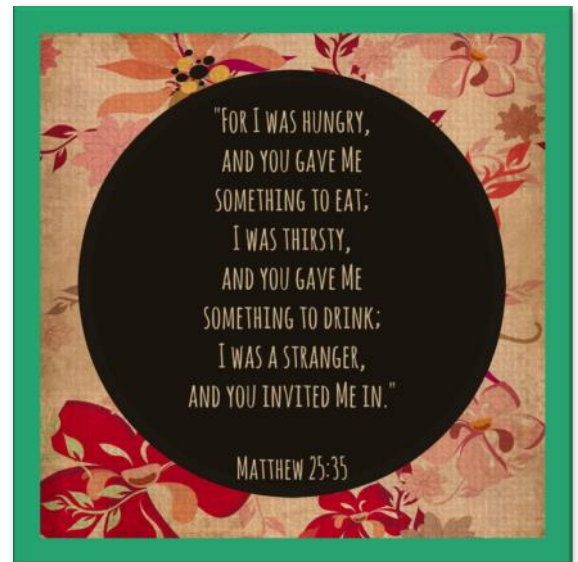
Want to know what goes on in the Calvary Food Pantry? Read on for a description of the last day of November:

- 106 clients received
- 212 bags serving
- 245 people.

It was super donation day that began with us being armed with great meats, sweets and breads provided by our super Brian. Tomato Baptists came early (8) with cabbages, collards, mustard greens, coats and hats; then David Gray with 13 bags of bagels; then Mark with 3 PB cases; then Joseph with 136 Macs; then St. Pauls with 596 items; then Kentucky Harvest with sandwiches; then Central Presbyterian with canned goods; then the St Paul's Plumber with homemade biscuits and cookies; then the second coming of Kentucky Harvest featuring 27 pizzas and unbaked cookie dough! Our faithful volunteers (now numbering 53 in various capacities) were hopping.

Monthly November stats include 2954 bags serving 3674 people. This includes our collaborative CLCM Thanksgiving giveaway with 250 turkeys and 43 hams. If you've read this far, you must agree it was another WOW day! As we finish off November, stats are 52,812 bags serving 63,555!

Editor's Note: As you do your holiday grocery shopping, please consider picking up extra items for Calvary's Food pantry to help those who are hungry. Tuna, peanut butter, cereal, and canned goods are always welcome.



A Cup of Cold Water—Burnell Esbenshade, Grants Committee

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward."

Matthew 10:42

The Calvary Grants Committee is pleased to announce that Calvary has responded to the great need of the people of the island of Maui, which has been largely destroyed by wildfires. A grant in the amount of \$3000 has been given to "A Cup of Cold Water" (ACCW).



"A Cup of Cold Water" is a volunteer, mobile ministry of the Diocese of Hawaii. Begun ten years ago as a ministry to the homeless, it is now serving the overwhelming number of those left homeless or needy by the wildfires. They have the benefit of knowledge of the destroyed neighborhoods and the trust of the people there.

ACCW addresses the most urgent needs:

- chilled water
- hygiene
- basic first aid
- food
- clothing

If you know of a community need that could be addressed by some support from Calvary, remember that you are invited to apply for a grant. See any member of the Vestry or Grants Committee for additional information.



Hospitality News—Patty Davidson and James Moody, Hospitality Committee

These past couple of months have brought some busy times to the Hospitality volunteers! The bishop’s visit with a reception honoring the new confirmands was very well attended. As always, we were delighted to have Bishop White with us, and it’s very exciting to welcome new members!

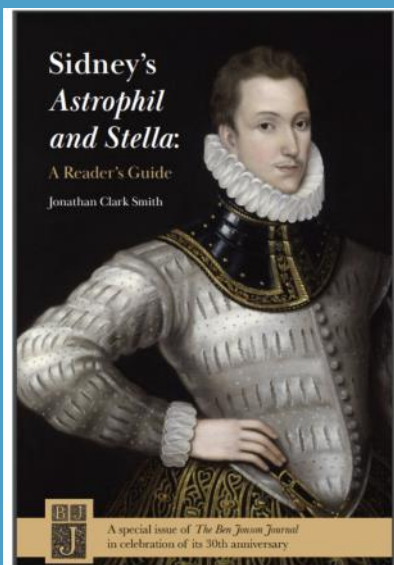
The Urban Partnership coffee hour was well attended, and it was wonderful to have so many visitors from our urban partners. This is an important part of our church community and ministry.

We’d like to thank all who helped with these events. And as always, a big thanks to all who volunteer to host coffee hour. This, too, is important to our ministry.

None of these events would be as well organized if it weren’t for our wonderful Operations Assistant Terrance Griffiths. Our sincere gratitude to him!

Editor’s Note: We wish to extend a joyous welcome to our October confirmands:

Justin Asher
 Hunter Lumbatis
 Jeff Pellman
 Jacob Phelps
 Ian Walton
 Amanda Walton



New Book by Calvary Author

Parishioner Jonathan Smith has authored a book just published by Edinburgh University Press, titled *Sidney's Astrophil and Stella: A Reader's Guide*. The book is written in “plain English,” and is based on Smith’s more than forty years of teaching poetry in college classrooms. It was selected for publication as a special “double issue” celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the *Ben Jonson Journal*, whose editor, Robert Evans, writes that this is the first time anyone has ever attempted a close reading of all 108 sonnets and eleven songs in Philip Sidney’s masterpiece, which was first published posthumously in 1591. The book is available to order from Carmichael’s Bookstore. The author, who has written frequently for the *Calvary Connection*, said he was glad to have the Sidney project completed so he can give full attention to a book on Calvary’s stained glass windows.

The Vestry Voice—*Lynne Lyndrup, Vestry Secretary*

Third and Fourth Quarters, 2023

Outreach

- The Food Ministry continues to hand out groceries to an increasing number of recipients. Donations of canned goods are appreciated, as well as money donations. Grocery runs occur almost every day.
- The Thanksgiving turkey giveaway was successful again this year. Not only did recipients receive a turkey, but trimmings were also included.
- Calvary's Well continues to serve sandwiches and puddings, as well as hand out socks, once a week. Volunteers would be appreciated.

Property

- The scaffolding was finally removed from around the Good Shepherd window and the Elliot Baker plaque reinstalled.
- The hackberry tree that was in Spalding's parking lot but overhanging into Calvary's courtyard and Parker Hall, has been removed.
- A new sign, indicating that the parking lot between the Unitarian Church and Calvary is for the church's use, has been installed.
- The Burial Ground and Courtyard are back in good shape.
- The choir loft roof has been repaired.

Stewardship

- The Stewardship Committee kicked off their month of gathering pledges with a horse race theme and special coffee hour.
- At the time of this writing, 90% of pledges have been received.

Parish Life

- The Bishop's visit with Welcome Confirmands and Urban Partnership combined with coffee hour and was well attended.
- The Blessing of the Animals was held in the Courtyard this year with a few well-behaved animals in attendance.

Christian Education—notes from Callie Hausman to the Vestry

- A few young women have begun helping with Children's Worship.
- Classes and music rehearsals began on September 10.
- The class moved to Room 204 because Room 205 became too crowded.
- Christmas Pageant rehearsals have started.
- Planning and organizing for acolytes have started.

A Kentucky-flavored Service of **Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 17, 3:30pm

Featuring carols by
Kentucky composers and poets
in company with carols and readings
from all over the globe,
both ancient and modern.



Calvary Episcopal Church
821 South Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203

Diocese of Kentucky 196th Annual Convention—*Barry Richardson*

The Diocesan convention was held in Bowling Green on November 10-11.

This link (<https://www.episcopalky.org/Diocesan%20Convention/about.html>) is to information about Convention. You can also find Bishop White’s sermon from the Opening Eucharist, which I hope you will enjoy.

Several workshops were given and attended, two in particular; Safe Church, Safe Communities program has been revamped with Whit Stodghill as the Coordinator. This is a more structured approach from the National Church, and we can expect to see more about it in the coming months. Second, in case you didn’t know the 81st General Convention (of the Episcopal Church) will be held in Louisville on June 23-28, 2024. As we can expect around 8000 Episcopalians to descend on Louisville, there are many opportunities to volunteer to help with this event. Meg Scharre is the volunteer coordinator for Calvary, so please line up to offer your help!

Here is the link for the actions of the convention (https://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3313603/Convention_Actions_196th.pdf); to summarize, Rev. Lee was commissioned by Bishop White as Dean of the Metro Deanery, James Moody to Trustees and Council, Joseph Reese to Trustees of the Bishop Dudley Memorial, Ally Mason to the Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board and Meg Scharre to the Church Pension Fund Committee.

Convention was well organized and ran smoothly; there were no “issues” and it all went quite fast. Many thanks to Christ Church Bowling Green for hosting.

The 197th Annual Convention will be held at St. Luke’s church, Anchorage on November 8-9, 2024.

Thank You

To all those who submitted content for this issue:

**Jacob Cook, Pattie Davidson, Margaret Dickinson,
Burnell Esbenshade, Callie Hausman, Elyse
Hensley, Lily Howay, Lynne Lyndrup, J.C. Phelps,
Mary Redden, Barry Richardson, Owen Sammons,
and Very Rev. Dr. Lee Shafer**

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



[View map for location](#)

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

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