

# CALVARY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## GREETINGS FROM THE 2024 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OF CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Calvary Episcopal Church,

Grateful to the Bishop and Staff of the Diocese of Kentucky for continual support of Calvary Episcopal Church,

Gratified by the personal interest manifested by the Right Reverend Terry Allen White, Bishop of Kentucky,

Expresses its warm GREETINGS to the Bishop of Kentucky and his staff; and,

Expresses its APPRECIATION for the work of the Bishop of Kentucky and his staff throughout the Diocese;

THEREFORE: May God bless our Bishop, his staff, other clergy, and all the people of the Diocese of Kentucky. May God grant that we may fashion our lives according to the example of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior so that we may show the power of His love to all among whom we live.

### **Annual Parish Meeting Agenda**

January 21, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. Vestry Election
  - a. Present nominees
  - b. Nominations from the floor
  - c. Voting
3. Rector Remarks
4. Finance Report
  - a. 2023
  - b. 2024 Budget
5. Music Program
6. Christian Education
7. Committee Reports
8. Questions and Answers
9. For the Good of the Church
10. Announcement of Vestry Election Results
11. Adjourn

### **Rector's Remarks**

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 3rd, 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 Mardi Gras gathering for Calvary under 40, apple picking, a pumpkin patch trip followed by pumpkin carving, Friendsgiving, and more. 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!

Another new committee was formed this year, Arts at Calvary. 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 through 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 has escaped the bitter cold and gone to Florida, was at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of Gene Robinson in Washington, DC and 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. When you do the right thing, people notice and want to be a part of it. Not only was Drag me to Church an act of Love for our LGBTQIA family, it was an act of love from our LGBTQIA family to our Food Ministry. \$9000 was raised for our Food Ministry in that one event. This year the plan is to have two events back to back.

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. Meg Scharre will talk more about that in a minute. Because there is such wide spread interest across the Church in Drag me to Church, we have decided to have one event on the evening of June 28th, the closing day of Convention, and another on the 29th 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 that wants to.

Other events from 2023 included the Messiah Sing along, the YPAS choral concert, and Advent Lessons and Carols, Evensongs and more. Arts at Calvary 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 the way that food is distributed to be able to get food to folks without their having to stand outside in the bitter cold. 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 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.

You have a copy of the treasurer's report and can see that we ended 2023 in good stead with a \$49,000 surplus. Thank each and every one of you 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 is going to be chairing the newly formed Organ Committee and will speak more about that project in just a minute.

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 but in an effort to keep this meeting short I will attempt to be brief. At this point in time I want you to know that we not only have the A team in our staff we have the A++ team. Terrance our do it all guy is much beloved by you all, no small feat indeed as is Taylor, 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'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.

We 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 for 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.

### **Senior Warden Remarks**

Reflecting on this year, I cannot think of a better theme than Beverly Haverstock used in her senior warden report last year, which is “gratitude.” I am grateful first and foremost for the people of Calvary—our church family, as well as the guests we have had during many community events this year at the church. I appreciate especially the many volunteers from Calvary, through CLCM, and from elsewhere outside of the church as well. In all of the churches I have been a part of, I do not think I have ever seen such a high percentage of a church involved in regular volunteer work as at Calvary, and for that I am grateful. I am grateful for our beautiful space to worship and am frequently reminded of how fortunate we are to have that space when I see the faces of newcomers and visitors entering the nave for their first time. I am also grateful for all of the people who help maintain that physical space, especially during these past several years when we have been able to take many steps to preserving the physical property and completing vital maintenance. I am especially grateful this year for many new parishioners, which I know is in no small due to Calvary’s commitment to being and continually growing as a space where all are welcome with no asterisks or strings attached. I am grateful for the members of our Calvary staff who keep the church operating smoothly, including of course the leadership of our rector, Lee+. Due to these and many other gratitudes, I have been very grateful to serve in the role of Senior Warden this year!

Thank you,  
Joseph Reese

### **Treasurer Report**

Please see attached [Budget vs. Actuals Report](#).

### **Christian Education for Children and Families**

Highlights in 2023: a Prayerground was added near the north ramp for families with young children who may need a bit more space during worship. The Children’s Worship space was moved from Room 205 to 204 where there is more space to spread out for responses, music, discussion, and worship. The Children’s Choir under the direction of Katie Cook sang four times during the year. Next year the children will be wearing robes when they sing in church, thanks to the help of several people, including Burnell Esbenshade for altering almost every children’s choir robe. Also, thanks to Burnell and Don Esbenshade, we now have banners for almost every liturgical season of the year. Also new this year was the return of the Christmas Pageant, thanks to the parents and the children! This Fall we had an Advent Event, including a visit from St. Nicholas. I was thrilled to see so much participation from the congregation, not only in sharing their prayers in the Advent Prayer Chain, but also in wreath making, decorations, gift items for our Food Pantry clients, and welcoming St. Nicholas.

Just as important, if not more so, are the Sunday morning lessons that are taught during class time and during Children's Worship. Calvary has some very bright children who enjoy discussing and adding to the lessons we hear each week from the lectionary and from other stories that have relevant themes. If you wonder how Calvary is doing, you can be assured that the children attending Calvary are engaged, curious, intelligent, enthusiastic, and are thoughtful caring persons. They inspire me every day.

A typical class begins with a welcome and each person sharing a disappointment and something for which they are grateful (or made them happy), followed by a prayer. We then gather to hear a story (or possibly act out, etc.) and respond. Then it is time to join Miss Katie for music. After music we return to the classroom if there is time and then proceed downstairs to the narthex to gather for the procession. Children eagerly take turns serving as the cross bearer and sometimes as a banner bearer.

Children's Worship begins by lighting the candles, Salutation, Collect for Purity, a song, and a reading of the Gospel (or occasionally one of the other scriptures) with discussion and responses during snack time. Usually there is an option to create a prayer/s for the Prayer Basket to be presented during the Offertory. The children return to join their family during the Peace, and one or more of the children carry the Prayer Basket during the offertory, so that it can be blessed by Rev. Lee. This Fall we have given special focus to prayers and are creating a Prayer Book for the children to eventually take home.

Lastly, I would like to share my gratitude for the amazing staff who help make everything happen: Darlene Clay who has been at Calvary over 20+ years and Joann Wingfield who has been at Calvary for at least six years. This Fall Avery Washem and Lilly Howay joined us and assist with the class and Children's Worship and special projects. We have had several other assistants in December who hope to help in the future as needed. We were sad to send off Cori, but happy for her future and grateful to have been able to share Sundays through June. And we couldn't flourish without volunteers like Burnell and Don, and Donna Duvall, and so many others, including committee members and chairs, the vestry, and Calvary's staff, especially Rev. Lee, Taylor, and Terrence. THANK YOU all!!!

Peace,  
Callie Hausman  
Director of Children's Education

## **Music**

As I reflect on 2023, I am filled with a sense of excitement about the future and with a feeling of gratitude over what has happened over the past year. The biggest news for the music area in 2023 was the hiring of organist, Owen Sammons. From New Year's through Easter Sunday, Margaret Dickinson, our Organist Emerita, voluntarily filled our great need as interim organist. I thank Margaret for not only ably filling the bench, but also for becoming a good friend as we worked together for so many months. Margaret made it possible for us to be patient and wait on the right organist for us, which we have found in Owen.

Since Owen's arrival we have made strides in developing our musical offerings into something special for our church. We are always working to be more and more impactful through our music planning for services and for outreach in our community. We worked together this year to bring interesting concepts such as the Kentucky Lessons and Carols, special services and performances such as Evensong, Messiah-sing-a-long, collaborations with outside groups (YPAS and Louisville Guitar Society), and collaborations with choirs of the Urban Partnership. We are also continually working on making sure the caliber of music at Calvary is to the utmost of the ability of those sharing their musical gifts. Our goal to be the very best we can be is an act of praise to the Creator of the arts.

Some of the highlights of 2023 were, a very good collaboration with churches in the Urban Partnership for Holy Week, regular Evensong Services on 5th Sundays, the joint Messiah Sing-a-long, the Kentucky Themed Lessons and Carols, and the regular participation of our Children's Choir.

The adult choir and the children's choir continued to add new participants. One recent Sunday we had 22 adult choir members in the chancel, and our children's choir presented with eight singers. Thanks to Callie and Katie for organizing and working with the children in music. Music has brought new people through our doors and is continuing to make our church a more beautiful place.

We look forward to continuing our growth in 2024 and bringing more opportunities through collaboration and outreach. One such event will be held at the end of April this year when we welcome the Voices of Kentuckiana choir to Calvary to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the group's founding. In fact, 30 years ago, Calvary hosted the first concert of the Voices of Kentuckiana choir. So it will be a full circle moment for the group and a testimony to the impact they have in their goal of celebrating diversity and fostering social change through the arts. We also look forward to making progress on our campaign to fund the organ project. Owen will share much more about this project throughout the year, but we are grateful to the Vestry for approving the project and their commitment to its success.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Abby's Library**

Abby's Library is named in memory of Abigail McLemore Hernandez, a splendid young soul who lost her battle with cancer at the age of 27. Its purpose is to provide free books to the clients of the Food Closet, especially for children, but for other ages too. A fairly steady stream of donated children's books from Half Priced Books sustains the library, but books from the shelves of parishioners are always welcome as well. We are most grateful to families that have donated books this year, including the Esbenshades, the Hensleys, the Waltons, and no doubt others as well. Books may be left near the book carts in Parker Hall. —Jonathan Smith

### **Altar Guild**

The Calvary Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar for services and maintaining the linens, as well as arranging flowers for the altar and chancel. We decorate the church for

Christmas and Easter. We invite you to come and join us. You will find Altar Guild a rewarding ministry that is easy and takes only about one hour per month.

I am grateful to all who have served on the Altar Guild throughout 2023: Margaret Dickinson, Donna Duvall, Glenna Harris, Lynne Lyndrup, Ben Sanders and Mary Sanders. We are delighted to have three new members: Lauren Anderson, Jeff Pellman and Andrew Weinberger. And we look forward to welcoming Ally Mason, who will join us in 2023. A big thank you to Art Dietz for helping us procure supplies.

Special thanks to all Calvary parishioners who donated flowers in 2023. If you are interested in donating flowers for the altar and/or chancel in memory of or in thanksgiving for loved ones, to celebrate a special occasion, or simply to the glory of God, please contact Taylor Howell, Calvary Administrative Assistant.

The members of the Altar Guild look forward to serving Calvary throughout 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Meg Scharre

### **Arts at Calvary**

In 2023, the Arts at Calvary Committee was formed and we had our first meeting in November. We formed our mission statement - to extend the mission of the Welcome Committee by fostering the arts at Calvary. We developed an approval process for those wishing to host a performance at Calvary and began laying out a calendar of performances and events for the 2024 year. The members of the Welcome Committee are excited to continue the tradition of the Episcopal Church of facilitating the arts here at Calvary.

### **Calvary's Well**

Restarted 9-14-2022;

2022 Total = 446, Average = 34 per week

2023 Total = 1394, Average = 30 per week

James Moody

### **Community Grants**

Calvary, along with several other Louisville Episcopal churches, sponsored a Habitat home in 2023. The home is located at 745 John Little St. about 8 blocks east of Calvary. Construction began April 22 and the final dedication and home blessing was held October 7. Our homebuyer, Olivia, and her daughter have moved in to their new home, thanks to all of you.

A big thank you to all who volunteered their time and talent to help build this home.

The Habitat for Humanity program helps meet the need for affordable housing by building modest energy-efficient homes and by providing interest free mortgages to home buyers who qualify. Criteria is based on need, finances and willingness to partner. Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville builds about 30 houses each year and relies on help from churches and other community partners. If any of you would like to volunteer for Habitat, please see me.

Meg Scharre

## Endowment Advisory

2023 presented attractive transitions for the Calvary Endowment:

- 1) Investment returns came back from the previous year to match the 10-year average annual rate of return of 8%.
- 2) The withdrawals for the year totaled approximately \$650,000 of which 70% went to Parish operations and the balance primarily going to extensive interior and exterior repairs.
- 3) After a year of discussion and interviews the Advisory Committee engaged two financial institutions to manage a majority of the Endowment's assets.

The CEAC - current members being Jim Hill, Jamie Hendon, Lynne Lyndrup, Joseph Reese, Stephanie Smith, and Lee Shafer – will continue the fiduciary oversight of funds founded on the generous gift's, aka Planned Giving, of previous Calvary members and shepherd these for the future of Calvary.

## Lectors

Lectors read two lessons and the prayers of the people from the lectern each Sunday, and at other special services during the year. Lectors receive a rotation schedule covering roughly half a year, on which they will be scheduled to read three different times. This is our roster of Lectors as the year ends:

Lauren Anderson	Linda French	Ruth Robins
Susan Baker	Jamie Hendon	Bill Schauf
Jim Barnes	Ally Mason	Jon Smith
Sandra Cherry	Matt McGarvey	Pat Vaughn
Anne-Marie deZeeuw	Mary Redden	Ian Walton
Larry Frederiksen	Larry Reining	Andrew Weinberger
Dean French	Barry Richardson	Wilma Wilson

A few others have volunteered to substitute as needed, but the regular schedule is built around these folks.

Thanks to all who volunteer, prepare, and show up to make this contribution, and to Taylor Howell who passes along texts and the bulletin so that I can distribute the readings ahead of time. If you wish to volunteer to read lessons and prayers at the 10:30 service, please share your email address with me at [smith@hanover.edu](mailto:smith@hanover.edu).

Jonathan Smith

## Outreach

The Calvary Food Pantry continues its longtime ministry of feeding the poor in our neighborhood. To do so now, it takes a village of volunteers, donors, groceries, collegial pantries, budget item, cash, jelly projects, and the faith of all of us that we can make a difference. At present we have 53 on site volunteers doing everything from daily hour operations to grocery shopping. While our morning open hours dictate that many of these volunteers are retirees (bless them all!!!), we are still able to include and inspire our younger volunteers on other tasks such as

Sunday collections, summers, and school vacation times. Volunteer age range goes from 9 to 87 and all points in between. And for those stat enthusiasts who can stand to read on, here are the staggering numbers for 2023 alone: 27,294 bags given; 28,867 served. For the month of December, we did 2165 bags serving 2552 people. AND finally, since Covid began in March 2020, our response has been the giving of 54,977 bags serving 66,107 people!!! Soooo many people from sooo many places have come together to make this possible. And the wonder of food and help appearing just when we think we have nothing left, has left us all in awe of how this ministry works and the certain help from above that has to be guiding us. “WOW” is our Motto. Thank you, one and all!!

Burnell Esbenschade, with Margaret Dickinson

### **Parish Life/Hospitality**

The Welcome/Evangelism/Parish Life Committee had a busy year with several big events. We hosted a chili cookoff, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, the annual picnic, The Blessing of the Animals, the Bishop’s visit, celebration of Lee’s fifth year anniversary at Calvary, the Urban Louisville Community Ministries coffee hour and 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 Griffiths, our Operations Assistant for all his help and keeping the kitchen so well organized and stocked.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pattie Davidson  
James Moody

### **Property**

The Property Committee had been busy in 2023. There were several projects that needed to be completed and new ones that arose during the year. One of the main projects was to complete the tuckpointing of the exterior of the church. Once that was completed, it was noted that the plaster next to the Good Shepherd window at the Elliot Baker plaque continued to be wet. Once the source of the moisture was found and repaired, scaffolding was set up to begin the work of removing the wet plaster. This took several months. The old plaster has been removed, new plaster has been applied, and the Elliot Baker plaque has been rehung.

The leak in the roof of the choir loft has been repaired.

The Burial Ground and Courtyard are back in good shape, with the fountain having been repaired and weeds and lawn debris having been removed (see below for more details).

There is a new sign in the parking lot indicating that it is for the Unitarian Church and Calvary’s use only.

The hazardous hackberry tree that was in Spalding’s parking lot but overhung Calvary’s playground and Courtyard has been removed.

There are still several projects that need to be addressed in 2024: Ten windows need to be replaced on the parking lot side of the two-story office section of the building, the marble floor in the Chancel and parts of the Nave must be repaired, the flooring in the large second-floor classroom needs to be replaced, among others.

The members of our committee are Ruth Robins, Jamie Hendon, Jacob Middleton, Stephanie Smith, Lynne Lyndrup and co-chairs Will Cary and Jerry Lyndrup.

### Landscaping: Calvary Courtyard and Burial Ground, 2023

Both the Calvary Courtyard and the Burial Ground areas suffered very serious damage to the landscaping caused by the drastic drop in temperature (in a less than 24-hour period), and by the associated snowfall, a year ago at Christmas time 2022! Mature and relatively newly planted hollies and boxwoods were decimated. The mature crescent-shaped hardy rose borders in both the courtyard and Burial Ground were killed to the ground, allowing the nasty vining weed (that must be regularly battled in the best of times) to grow to do an amazingly accurate imitation of kudzu and even the tall eponymous Manhattan hedges in the courtyard (usually pretty much a cousin to cast iron) were severely killed back. Poison ivy, always a challenge, really took over in the Burial Ground. And between the ravages of the weather and the ravages of the tuckpointing and roofing repair crews, the butterfly habit behind the handicap ramp leading to Parker Hall was beaten down to bare dirt!

Thanks to the coordination of Will Cary and the crew from Korfhage Landscaping, however, the good news is that much has already been done to rehabilitate these areas AND to improve the landscaping on the west front and the north entry side of Calvary's property. Some of the plantings and shrubs (the boxwoods, in particular) will undoubtedly have to be completely replaced in the years ahead as they suffered the kind of damage that only replacement can remedy, but the butterfly habitat should be a relatively "quick-fix space" once early spring arrives, and perennial herbs and milkweed can be reintroduced.

One more piece of good news. Jacob Middleton, the newest member of the Property Committee, arranged to have the hackberry tree in Spalding's parking lot taken down before it did any more damage to our courtyard. Thank you, Jacob!

Extra pairs of hands are always needed (and welcomed) to help with regular maintenance of our grounds and it would be GREAT to get the LAYWEEDERS guild going again! Please let Ruth Robins or Will Cary know if you would be willing to sign on, we'd love to add you to the roster of earth-ly saints (pun intended) doing good for God's creation here at Calvary!

Ruth Robins

### **Stewardship**

As the year 2023 ends, I remember and wish to thank all the Calvary members who participated and worked on the stewardship committee—Bart Brown, Elyse and Mike Hensley, Louisa Henson and Andrew Weinberger - for the time well spent planning, participating and celebrating the Stewardship campaign for 2024 pledges.

A special coffee hour was held to kick-off the campaign with the help of James Moody grilling hot dogs and hamburgers. During the October campaign, parishioners of Calvary were blessed with some testimonies from members--Will Cary, Jonathan and Stephanie Smith, and Andrew Weinberger—who shared their history and feelings about Calvary Episcopal Church.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, thank you to the members of Calvary Episcopal Church for helping make this a successful year of Stewardship through your pledges. This very special commitment on everyone's part will help sustain the life and growth of our beautiful Calvary Episcopal Church family.

Donna Duvall, Vestry Stewardship Liaison

## **Welcome**

What a big year it has been for Calvary! As chair for the Welcome Committee, I am running over with gratitude for all of the new and remaining faces in our pews and events. On behalf of the entire Welcome Committee, we would all like to send our most sincere thanks to our Rector, Lee. In conjunction with several committee's efforts, we all pulled off an entire drag show that packed our church with an event full of love and God's absolute acceptance of all people. The idea and determination were our very own, Lee, THANK YOU! I would also like to thank our lovely, Ally, for putting together many events throughout this year including apple picking, pumpkin picking and carving, Friendsgiving, and others. THANK YOU, Ally! In the weekly procession and during the announcements on Sundays we have all noticed the many new children moving about! What a blessing! Even with all our combined efforts it does appear that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves. For these gifts we are humbled and grateful. In the year ahead, a few changes are in the works. One, for example, is rearranging the Welcome Committee a bit and combining Arts at Calvary. A few folks are working on events in that department. We have been given the momentum and it is our duty to keep it going! As always, if anyone has an idea for an event, a way to make newcomers feel welcome, or an improvement, please let our committee know.

**THANK YOU!**

Derek Inghram