

# Calvary Connection

Calvary Connection

October 2017

## Welcome to In-gathering Sunday

**Calvary's Every Member Canvass Campaign Concludes Sunday, October 22.**

**Are you thankful for the colors of fall, the abundance you enjoy, the blessings you feel, the work of God in Christ at Calvary, the joy you feel in community?**

Sunday October 22 at 11:00 a.m. is the festive conclusion of Calvary's Every Member Canvass. While Stewardship continues all year long, this campaign, which determines the budget for your favorite ministries, is coming to an end. Now is your chance to express your gratitude, take a stand for the ministries that stir your heart, and make a commitment to the community you've come to embrace and love.

Commitment cards and envelopes are available in the back of the church and in the library. Please use them to help us set our 2018 budget. **Calvary is counting on you!**

The goal of your Stewardship Committee is to have every commitment card submitted before or on **THIS** Sunday so that the budgeting process can be based on accurate projections.

You can pledge online!  
<http://www.calvaryepiscopal.org/>

Are you a newcomer and wondering, "How do I start giving?" Start with your heart. Make a list of the reasons you value Calvary. How would you express your gratitude for the blessings you experience here so far? What gift can you give to ensure new newcomers have the chance to discover God's work at 821 S. 4th Street?

As of October 11, 2017, Calvary has received 41 commitment cards for a total of \$129,396.00. What a fantastic beginning!!

To compare: Last year, 2016, Calvary received a total of 81 pledges for a total of \$201,113.00. This is well below a 10-year average of 138 pledges for a total of \$331,194.20.

*Reminder: individual annual commitments are confidential.*

*Only the book keeper knows the amount designated on each card by name.*

For those who have already submitted your Commitment Card, "Thank you!" For those still discerning, "NOW is the time to decide boldly, faithfully and with confidence." The Stewardship Committee and I look forward to a strong finish.

With blessings and sincere thanks to all,



H. Elizabeth Back—Priest-in-Charge

## Calvary Connection

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### Calvary Rector Search

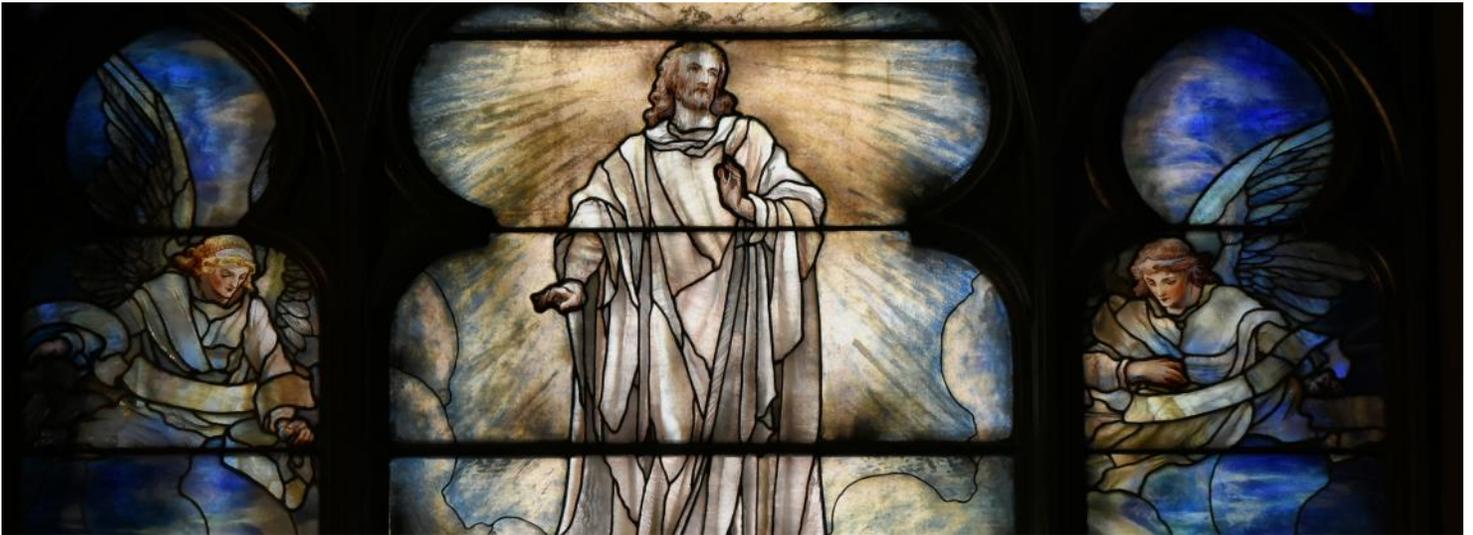
The Calvary Rector Search Committee will reconvene on Wednesday night, November 1st, to review the results of the Calvary Conversations conducted by the Vestry while creating our Strategic Plan. We hope to glean from these conversations a clearer vision of who Calvary is and the direction the Church wants to take.

Then, the following Wednesday, November 8th, we will review the Strategic Plan created by our Vestry. From this document we hope to learn the broad outreach of Calvary and the hopes and wishes for our future together as a "community of people who seek to make the church a place of welcome, service, and beauty."

The Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/calvarylouisville>) will close on Monday, October 23rd. HolyCow!, our consulting firm, will evaluate the results and send the conclusions of its study to the Bishop's office. On Wednesday, November 15th, we will meet with our Vestry and The Reverend Canon Amy Real Coultas to review and discuss the results.

It is our hope that by reviewing these three sources of information, we will be better equipped to write a profile for our next rector. Our goal is to post the profile in early January. Please pray for us as we endeavor to listen to God's voice in discerning the path Calvary should take.

Deborah Stewart—Chair—Calvary Rector Search Committee



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### Calvary Vestry to Review Draft Strategic Plan with Parish on November 5

Calvary's Vestry has been hard at work developing a Strategic Plan to guide in shaping Calvary's future. We would like to share our draft plan with you, the members of the congregation, and get your feedback and input before we finalize it.

#### ***Parish meeting:***

- Sunday, Nov. 5 in Parker Hall, following the 11:00 am service.
- We will review the Draft Strategic Plan with you and ask for your suggestions. Please plan to attend and participate in shaping Calvary's future.

#### ***Why a Strategic Plan?***

- Our Strategic Plan serves as a guide to help us achieve our mission to serve God.
- The plan presents our Mission, Vision, Core Values, Goals, Objectives, and also lists specific Benchmarks we can use to measure our success. It is meant to be a living document to guide us in developing our programs and in deciding where to invest our time, talents and resources.
- This plan will serve as a key pillar for the Search Committee's development of Calvary's profile. The Search Committee will use this as one resource when interviewing rector candidates, to help ensure our next rector will embrace the plan and enthusiastically lead us in implementing it.

#### ***Calvary's Mission***

In thanksgiving for having been called as children of God to a life of service, we share with one another the love and obedience of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Calvary Church is a liturgical church seeking to bring Christ to a world in need.

#### ***Calvary's Vision***

Calvary Church is the heart and face of the Episcopal Church, providing spiritual growth and ministry in the renaissance of downtown Louisville and surrounding neighborhoods.

#### ***Goals – at a high level, what we wish to accomplish.***

1. Sustain integrated ministries of worship and music, Christian Formation, and parish life and care.
2. Deliver comfort for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of our neighbors and beyond.
3. Connect with and be accepted by the surrounding community as a gracious and openhearted neighbor.
4. As a part of the larger Episcopal Church, pursue relationships with the Diocese, Episcopal organizations, and other churches that further mutual values, missions and goals.
5. Encourage and cultivate leadership, stewardship, and parishioner engagement to support Calvary's ability to grow and pursue its mission.
6. Pursue relationships with educational institutions and civic organizations that further mutual values, missions and goals.

Within each of these 6 Goals, we have drafted Objectives and Benchmarks.

Here is a link to the full Draft Plan. ([Calvary Strategic Plan DRAFT](#)) Paper copies will be available at Church, starting October 22.

Meg Scharre – Senior Warden

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## New Sunday School Coordinator!

Greetings Calvary Parents,

My name is Britt Shelton and I am the new Sunday School Coordinator at Calvary. We are very excited to start Sunday School again at Calvary. The nursery will still be available for parents that have babies and/or very young children. However, if you feel your child is ready to be in a Sunday School environment or they are school age, they are more than welcome to attend class! The start date for Sunday School is November 5, 2017. However, the success of our children's church will not be possible without the help of volunteer Sunday School teachers! I am looking to fill the first several Sundays of the Sunday School calendar with volunteer teachers. I am reaching out to parents first on my volunteer search. I know there are a couple of parents trained in Godly Play curriculum. Beyond that I will have a very simple, straight forward curriculum for Sunday School teachers to follow that require minimal/no planning on the teacher's part, and I will provide all materials for activities. Ideally, we would like to have a Sunday School teacher and a Door-person in the room every Sunday, however, just having a Sunday School teacher will work just fine if that's all that's available. I am very excited for what the future holds for Calvary and our children's church :) Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering by emailing me at [britt.shelton@calvaryepiscopal.org](mailto:britt.shelton@calvaryepiscopal.org). Thank you in advance!

My Bio:

Britt Shelton is a Louisville native. She recently moved back home with her son Darin after many years in Los Angeles, California. She studied business management at the University of Louisville where she won multiple National Championships on the Ladybirds Dance Team. She graduated from University of Texas at El Paso with a bachelor's degree in business. Prior to joining Calvary, Britt was brought up in the Lutheran Church. She continued her Christian education at Calvary from the age of 10 years old. She attended Sunday school and then was confirmed at Calvary. She also spent a lot of time with the children in the nursery assisting for many years until she left to attend UTEP. Britt continued her journey of involvement with children in church through teaching Sunday School while living in Los Angeles. Britt enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and going on adventures around town with her son. She has a heart for serving children's ministry and looks forward to all the fun experiences and growth at Calvary.



Britt Shelton - Sunday School Coordinator

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## The Vestry Voice

The Vestry met on Tuesday, October and discussed the following topics:

- The Ferguson Fund was closed and remaining monies were moved into Calvary Preservation account. The soon-to-be installed water fountain will be paid for in part with these funds.
- The parking lot was paved on October 12<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Church next door contributed 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the cost for this project (Calvary and the Unitarian church own the lot jointly). Many thanks to Clyde Warner for overseeing this project and working with our neighbors.
- The 2018 budgeting process is underway. The Budget Committee met on October 12<sup>th</sup> and is working through each line item. Some have been referred to the Vestry to provide a recommendation, in particular staff salaries. We are expecting to use the full 5% endowment draw, with 90% going to operating expenses and 10% going to building preservation. The outreach budget is under review. Since there was a substantial gift for the use of Outreach, funds allocated to Outreach in the operating budget have been zero in recent years. With new ministries emerging, such as the Garden of Goodness/Lay Weeders, there will be costs associated with them so Jamie Hendon will communicate to the Budget Committee the Vestry recommendation of \$5,000 for this budget outside the grant money.
- The Every Member Canvass has one more week and has collected pledges of \$129,000 to date. Please submit your commitment cards so the budgeting process can work off the most accurate projections.
- In the Adult Forum, the newcomers “Episcopal Church 101” classes have been very popular. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Brian Peel will be baptized and welcomed into Calvary’s community in Christ.
- The Communications Committee has been working on website upgrades in preparation for our Rector Search. Feedback is welcome! Many thanks to Carrie and Andy Frazier for their assistance to redesign the website. Also, the Committee asks that if you have a Facebook account, please share Calvary’s events and posts often! The more people we share our activities with, then we will have a larger presence in the community.
- Thanks to Jim Barnes for organizing a presentation by Diane Mouton from Jefferson Street Baptist Community at Liberty to talk about safety issues when ministering to those who are homeless and mentally ill.
- There was discussion around the personnel committee, with advice to add one more person to the current committee, to be consistent with the Calvary By-Laws. Meg Scharre will work on developing a roles and responsibilities description for this committee.
- A draft of the Strategic Plan was approved at the September Vestry meeting and the next step is to present it to the Congregation for further feedback. Please make every effort to come to the Parish meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> after the 11 am service. (See the article in this Connection on the Strategic Plan for more information.)
- To date, 97 out of 250 have returned the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). This is very important to inform the work of the Rector Search Committee. The Vestry will be meeting with the Search Committee to review the findings on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Penny Brisson, Secretary To the Vestry

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### Stewardship & Outreach at Calvary

I don't know whether you have reached the same point in life I have that when I do something today that requires physical exertion, I know I'm going to feel it tomorrow - sore muscles, maybe a bruise or two, for sure a worn-out body. Not that I'm getting old; I've just reached a particular stage in life. That's what I tell myself anyway.

I've been graciously asked by the Stewardship Committee to speak this morning about community outreach ministries at Calvary. Two Sundays ago, John Hale eloquently reminded us that Calvary is called by God to be the body of Christ to our community, to be the face of Jesus to the people living in the neighborhood around us. John pointed out the vital ways that Calvary takes that call seriously by distributing bags of food and items of clothing, providing music lessons to neighborhood children, handing out water and sandwiches to the homeless, forming an urban partnership with other Episcopal churches, organizing free laundry nights for our neighbors, and maintaining a garden of vegetables and flowers for our community. Jim Hill last Sunday challenged us to expand our vision of outreach even further by partnering with organizations and ministries to help people in crisis in ways that Calvary is unable to do alone. Jim and John's testimonies of Calvary's outreach ministries resonated with my experience at Calvary. This congregation profoundly understands the challenges we face in striving to be the body of Christ, the face of Jesus, to the people who come to us and to those we reach out to. That this congregation does not back off from that challenge is certain. We are unafraid to do the hard work that is necessary in being an active and compassionate downtown church. And it is hard and tiring work, and for me, at times, it's overwhelming to face the great and growing needs, the desperation and sadness of the people we seek to love and minister to.

So, it was that a few weeks ago on a Sunday morning I sat in this church - a bruised soul with a heart and a mind that wanted, needed to feel some assurance that 'God, you are still here, still with us in the midst of the suffering we see and seek to ease.' I thought about staying home and not coming back to church for Evensong. I was tired and sore. But a small voice, a feeling, something nudged me to go back, and so that afternoon I helped to hand out bulletins and then sat in the back of the church. At first I heard, but then as the inspired music of Calvary drew me in, I listened; to the choir of the Youth Performing Arts School, who then joined Calvary's choir to sing Evensong. And each time as the music climbed and soared, I too was lifted up, taken to another place - sacred and holy. I heard the beauty of God, and my bruised soul was touched and healed.

Benedictine monks stop whatever they are doing and gather seven times a day to sing the Psalms and their prayers. When asked the reason for singing rather than reciting the daily services, one monk responded that Benedictines believe that the angels in heaven never stop in singing praises to God. By singing, the monks are joining their voices with the voices of angels in an unceasing heavenly choir.

Thank you, Calvary members and leaders of Calvary's choir, as you lifted your voices to join the angels in heaven in praising God during Evensong, and for taking me along with you. The music at Calvary is special, blessed by God.

Outreach ministries and music at Calvary Episcopal Church - together we are one, a living part of the body of Christ, the face of Jesus.

Tim Duncan – Stewardship Committee

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### Calvary is Reading

Novels and the latest best sellers are not the only thing Calvary members are reading. There is a lot of variety in this month's books.

Beth Collier Vail recently read ***The Miracle Morning: The Not-So-Obvious Secret Guaranteed to Transform Your Life (Before 5AM)*** by Hal Elrod and comments "while it's not a novel, it's given me some ideas on facing my days with a refreshed attitude!"

Denise Snow Wilson had been reading a lot of textbooks while finishing up her Master's degree but before that she read and enjoyed: ***Mr. Pip*** by Lloyd Jones, ***Beautiful Ruins (P.S.)*** by Jess Walter, ***The Telling Room: A Tale of Love, Betrayal, Revenge, and the World's Greatest Piece of Cheese*** by Michael Paterniti, ***Dream of Scipio*** by Iain Pears and "my all-time favorite" ***The God of Small Things*** by Arundhati Roy. This novel has been compared favorably to the works of Faulkner and Dickens, and is described by a reviewer as a modern classic that has been read and loved worldwide. Equal parts powerful family saga, forbidden love story, and piercing political drama, it is the story of an affluent Indian family forever changed by one fateful day in 1969.

Jim Barnes is reading ***The Liturgical Mysteries*** by Mark Schweitzer. The author is an American musician, composer, writer, and music professor and according to a reviewer his books will have "you rolling in the aisles".

Ginger Ray has been a member of a book club for many years and not only enjoys the fellowship but also because it prompts her to read books that she might have selected otherwise. She has been reading: ***The Hillbilly Elegy*** by J.D. Vance, ***A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel*** by Amor Towles, not only a New York Times bestseller but selected as book of the year by NPR and several leading newspapers. Also, ***Cathedral of the Wild: An African Journey Home*** by Boyd Varty who grew up Londolozi Game Reserve in South Africa, and ***The Signature of All Things*** another NYT bestseller by Elizabeth Gilbert who also wrote ***Eat, Pray, Love***.

My most current plane book was ***The Snowman*** by Jo Nesbø Norwegian crime-writer Jo Nesbø. It is the seventh entry in his Harry Hole series. It is a dark and explicit novel that is being into a movie. It is first time I had read this particular author and it is not for the faint of heart.

Carolyn Snow



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### The Garden of Goodness



Photo from the Garden of Goodness

What is the spiritual value of a garden? How can gardening be a religious expression?

Thomas Berry, Catholic priest, theologian, and author of *The Sacred Universe: Earth, Spirituality, and Religion in the Twenty-first Century*, explains that religious experience emerges out of the wonder we feel when we encounter the inexplicable grandeur of the natural world - the artistry in a flower, the hymns of birds and bees, the greenness of a garden. And he warns us that we are in danger of losing our souls when we lose a sense of the sacredness of the Earth's creative processes. For at the center of the natural world and the cosmos is God's beating heart of life, love, and compassion. 'Greening Power' is the term coined by Hildegard of Bingen to describe the spirit of life found in all the beauty of this world. "There is power in eternity, and it is green. The Spirit goes out, grows, and produces fruit. This is life!" It is that life we see, hear, feel in a garden - a dwelling place for God.



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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 Rev. H. Elizabeth Back., our Priest-in-Charge. 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.*

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.

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Go to [www.CalvaryEpiscopal.org](http://www.CalvaryEpiscopal.org). Click on the button at the bottom of the page that reads, "Get Updates From Us."

You 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..."