

# Calvary Connection

Calvary Connection

April 2017

## Alleluia Christ Is Risen!

What makes Easter “Easter” for you, personally I mean? We all know what today means for Jesus. For me, it’s not Easter until I listen the Dolly Parton’s recording of *He’s Alive* with the gospel choir. That’s really a tradition handed to me from my mom.

My mom also provided my most memorable Easter weekend, the year I turned fifteen. She took me find a prom dress. Ever the bargain hunter, she declared we were going to find a dress on the sale rack which we did in under 15 minutes. The dress cost \$10 which meant we had plenty of time and money to shop for more bargains. Back in the 80’s you could buy pets in malls and there were crates of bunnies, chickies and duckies. The ducks were on sale so she bought two in one cage and one sack of pellets for food. My father squeezed his eyes tight like he always did when my mom came home with bargains like ducklings and they went to live in my baby brother’s room. He was 6 at the time. Did you know that ducks shake their bills when they eat? Did you know they can eat all night long? In the morning, George woke up completed covered in duck food. Freddy and Pauletta, as they came to be named, were sent to live on a farm where they later became a tasty Easter treat for a coyote.

Maybe it’s not Easter for you unless you take communion. That’s my most common response I hear. Or this is the day you choose to attend church, period? Of all days of the year I don’t blame you. It’s the splashiest. I mean the choir is going

to sing Handel’s Messiah for crying out loud. Is Easter the day your family gathers for a special meal? Do you dress up today? Do you say a prayer for those you love who have died in a way that makes you really hope Easter is what the church claims it is?

Be careful about that. The church doesn’t originally claim today as Easter Sunday.

The church originally calls today the Sunday of the Resurrection. The popular term of “Easter” is from the 7th Century historian [Bede] who wrote of Eostre, the goddess of spring during his report of how the date of Easter was historically set. The Greek word for today is *pascha*, the Hebrew is *pesach* both of which mean Passover. But no one I know says, “Let’s go shopping for a ‘resurrection’ dress,” or “Let’s hunt for ‘Pascha’ eggs.” Today is an honest blend of history and mystery and therefore it’s as mixed up as my mother’s prom dress and ducklings shopping spree.

You didn’t come here to hear me talk about ambivalence but I am. Of any holiday on the calendar this one gets the lion’s share of ambivalence. Maybe you came hoping to hear some persuasive kind of proof from this pulpit today. Some scholarly statistics or new archeological evidence that Jesus of Nazareth, a man who historically credited with being the Son of God was executed as a criminal and then-- here’s why you go up early to make hot cross buns for your grandkids -- God raised him from the dead.

Well, you are not going to hear persuasive proof, scholarly statistics, or archeological evidence from this pulpit. And beware of anyone out there who tells you they have that stuff. Some of them are good friends of mine and they are just making that stuff up. And they are

missing out on the gift that is ambivalence.

What I can give you is my hope for what God can do with the gift of ambivalence. Ambivalence is the state of having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone. Being on the edge of those mixed feelings or contradictory ideas, feeling the pull toward one side, then the other, one decision or another--that pull is where you and God can find one another.

Ambivalence about God raising his Son from the dead is most often challenged in medical moments: when a diagnosis is made or when end of life choices are made. Other occasions include major life transitions like when parents have a baby and decide they want God to be on the kid’s side so better get it baptized. Or when a couple is getting married and decide to have the wedding in a church with the rationale that if something is blessed

(Continued on page 14)



H. Elizabeth Back, Priest-in-Charge

# Calvary Connection

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## Save the Dates

### April and May 2017 Events at Calvary

There are plenty of activities to get involved with this Spring at or around Calvary:

#### April 23 “Hold on To Your Hats” 3-6 pm

Fundraiser event for Central Louisville Community Ministries. \$30. Held at Genscape’s Town Hall in Old Louisville. Contact Tim Duncan at [timandbev@bellsouth.net](mailto:timandbev@bellsouth.net) or call CLCM at 502-587-1999.

#### April 26 “We Are Going Places” Luncheon Dining Group

11:30am at 211 Clover Lane Restaurant. Derby kick-off luncheon. Limited to 15 people due to restaurant size. Derby Hats are encouraged. Contact Ruth Robins to RSVP at 502-727-3690 or [dachs@twc.com](mailto:dachs@twc.com).

#### April 29 KY Derby Mini/Marathon Water Station at Calvary 7am-noon

Hand out water to 20,000 runners as they run by Calvary’s doors. Contact Penny Brisson at 502-298-0557 or [penelopekbrisson@gmail.com](mailto:penelopekbrisson@gmail.com) Calvary T-Shirts will be provided.

#### April 30 Urban Partnership Fellowship Coffee Hours

12:30pm at Our Merciful Savior (Muhammad Ali Blvd and 11<sup>th</sup> Street) directly following services. Get to know the parishioners of each congregation in the Urban Partnership – Calvary, Christ Church Cathedral, Our Merciful Savior and St. George’s

#### May 7, Bishop White’s Annual Visit to Calvary

Bishop Terry White will attend the 11 am service on May 7<sup>th</sup> (also Derby Sunday).

#### May 11 Laundry Love

Our Merciful Saviour (Lead: Deacon Dru Kemp)

#### May 19 Episcopal Church Home Women’s Board Annual Luncheon

12-2pm at Wildwood Country Club. The speaker is Bob Valvano , ESPN Radio host and NIT game analyst. Tickets are \$45 and are available from Louisa Henson or Susan Baker.

#### May 19-21 Old Louisville SpringFest on First Street

Old Louisville’s Annual Street Fair with vendors, food trucks and artists. Rain or Shine. Penny Brisson is planning a Calvary dining group for late afternoon food and fun. Come make Calvary’s presence known in our immediate neighborhood. Contact Penny Brisson at [penelopekbrisson@gmail.com](mailto:penelopekbrisson@gmail.com) or 502-298-0557. Calvary T-shirts will be provided.

#### May 21 Urban Partnership Fellowship Coffee Hours

12:30pm at Calvary directly following services. It’s our turn to host and welcome our Urban Partners to Calvary. Get to know the parishioners of each congregation in the Urban Partnership – Calvary, Christ Church Cathedral, Our Merciful Savior and St. George’s

#### May 25 Ascension Day Service at Christ Church Cathedral.

The Calvary Choir joins with the Cathedral Choir to celebrate Ascension Day. Time TBD.

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### Episcopal Church Home Women's Board

Calvary is looking for some volunteers to represent us at the Episcopal Church Home. Please join the Women's Board of the ECH to be our liaison with ECH. The Women's Board meets the first Monday of every month at 10:00 am at the ECH on Westport Road. There you will meet other women from Episcopal churches in our area, have refreshments and learn of the good work of the Church Home. Volunteer opportunities include mail delivery, gift shop duties, assisting with Sing-alongs, and more. It is a great experience!

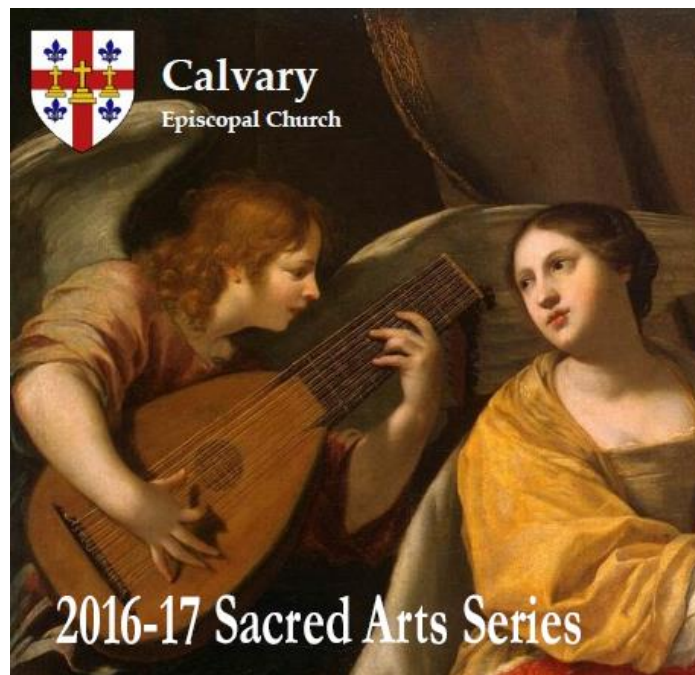
We would love to have you join us at the Spring Luncheon in May!

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The Episcopal Church Home has always welcomed a Calvary member to serve on its Women's Board. In recent years, we have not had someone in this position so if you are interested in serving, please contact Meg Scharre during church activities or at [mescharre@twc.com](mailto:mescharre@twc.com).

Susan Baker

### Upcoming Sacred Arts Series



**May 25 Ascension Day Service at Christ Church Cathedral—Combined Choirs**

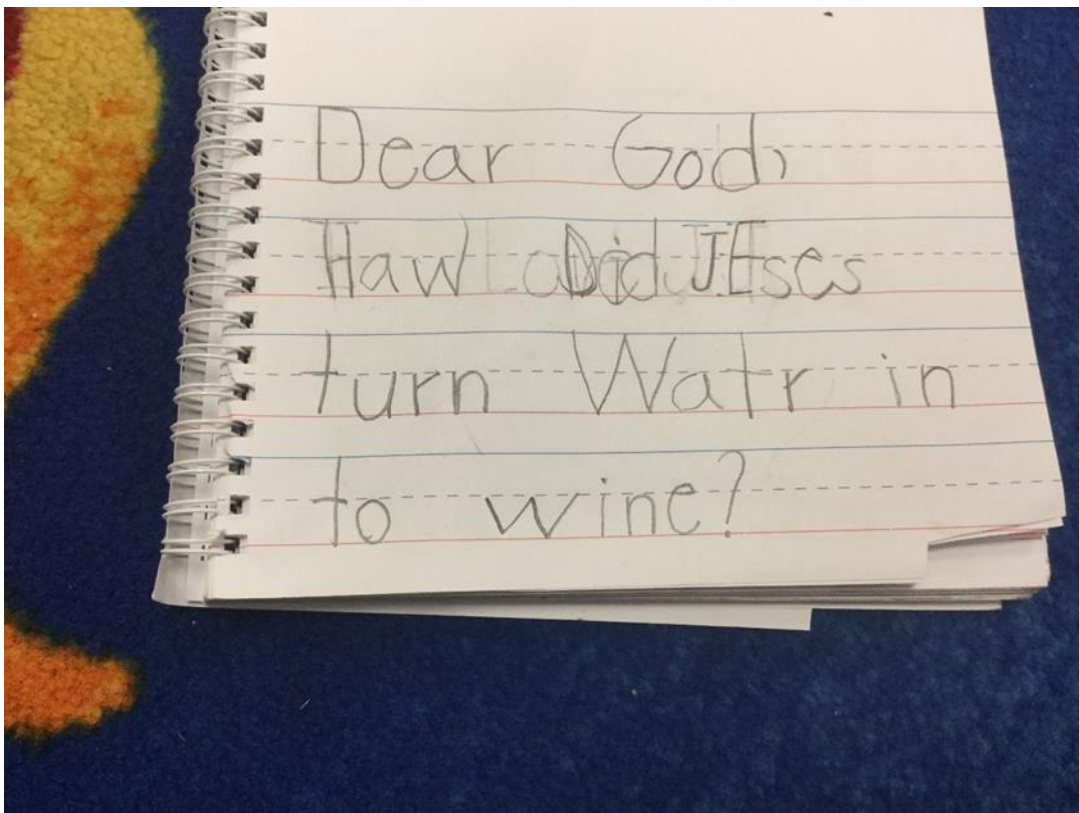
## Calvary Connection

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### Calvary in the Community

Charlotte Brisson (5 ½ yrs) is in Kindergarten at Sacred Heart Model School. As her mom, I thought I'd share a chuckle with the Calvary community as Charlotte asks an age-old question.....

Penny Brisson





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### Calvary is Reading

After years of chairing Book Aid, David Webb is retiring as chair but happily staying on as Committee Member. As the new chair, I will be working with the committee to continue the work that began with Timmons Owen and continued by David.

Please keep bringing your gently used books to share the joy of reading with our recipients. Also, don't forget the children's books for Abby's Corner, created by Stephanie Smith, in the North Entrance.

I thought it might be interesting to know what Calvary people are reading. To start us off, I have a couple of reviews to share:

**"Olive Kitteridge"** by Elizabeth Strout - A book about a seemingly placid New England town as seen through the eyes of Olive, a middle aged school teacher, who at best is difficult and at worst impossible. A Pulitzer Prize winner, the author writes about the ordinary things that happen in families and the emotions of those events. This author also wrote **"My Name is Lucy Barton"** a New York Times #1 best-seller.

**"Bel Canto"** by Ann Patchett - Bel Canto is about a kidnapping of group of important people, including a very famous opera star, at a dinner party in small South American country. The kidnapping goes on for many weeks with some surprising results. The book received the Orange Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction. According to article in NY Times it was loosely based on Renee Flem-

ing, a good friend of the author. Ann Patchett is one of today's most popular authors and also owns a book store, Parnassus, in Nashville. Other books by this author include **"Run"** and **"Commonwealth"**, both are excellent books.

**"Hillbilly Elegy – A Memoir of a Family and a Culture in Crisis"** by J.D. Vance – A very powerful account of a young man's life who is former marine and also Yale Law school graduate, about growing up in poverty in a Middlesboro, Ohio and an objective look at today's socioeconomic climate. Interesting reading regardless of where you sit on the political spectrum.

**"The Lightkeepers"** by Abby Geni – A book about Miranda, a nature photographer, who spends a year on a remote island just off California with six scientists who are the only other inhabitants. It is a study of whales, sea lions, birds, people, personal

loss and loneliness wrapped in a mystery.

Also reading the latest book by Michael Connelly, creator of the **Harry Bosch and Mickey Haller** series, and the most current **Jack Reacher** novel by Lee Child. Books by these authors are good airplane books to help pass the time assuming you get to keep your seat!

If you are a mystery book fan, I also recommend books by Ann Cleeves, a British writer, who writes about the Shetland Islands and **Detective Inspector Jimmy Perez**. In my opinion, these are her best books. She also writes about **Inspector Vera Stanhope** and **Inspector Ramsay** – all of her books have been made into mini-series but not sure how widely available they are in the US.

Please share what you are reading and also write a review for the Connection.

Carolyn Snow



## Calvary Connection

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### Help!!! We're Surrounded!!!!!!

*Therefore, since **we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses**... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith....*

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV)

In this issue of *Calvary Connections*, we continue 'making the acquaintance' of those less obvious in the 'Cloud of Witnesses' by which we are continually surrounded – yet always mindful of those who have gone before us, both those Saints as remembered in our Liturgical Calendar and saints – those believers who grace our lives throughout the centuries and in the present hour. As we explore facets of witnessing that may not readily occur to us when we gather in Calvary's beautiful sanctuary, our intention is to become increasingly aware of those faithful to their God-given gifts which surround us in the words of the liturgy, the meditative/glorious music, the crafting of wood, brass, stained glass, painting, and stitchery such as that found in the magnificent fabrics and embellishments of the Lanell Barnes vestments.

Lanell is well-remembered at Calvary for her magnificent soprano voice, which she contributed to its choir for many years – as well as to the Bach Society until its close in 2012. She and her husband, Jim, joined in both groups as well as the church's mission of outreach as an urban parish. He continues their legacy in these ministries as well as serving as the current Verger/Parish Administrator. Lois O'Hara, a long-time member of Calvary and close friend, commented that the gift of the vestments by Lanell's children's family would "...suit her to a T," because she greatly valued and appreciated fine craftsmanship, quality, and authenticity in all areas of creative endeavor. [Those who read the most recent issue of this newsletter may recall that her expertise was significant in Sandra Cherry's final decision to purchase/donate Calvary's Stations of the Cross.]

Mother Elizabeth commented that the vestments are not only beautiful, but that "They are the most 'user-friendly' I've ever worn." She noted that their weight ("They seem to breathe") and length allow much easier movement and less distraction, further enabling her Altar ministry. She added that, in addition to the Priest's chasubles and stoles for all the Liturgical Seasons, the gift also includes the dalmatics/tunics worn by Sub-deacons/Deacons, and the Eucharistic veils and burses.'

Indeed, we are the continuing beneficiaries of those who have preceded us as well as those who call them to mind and heart in their generous gifts wrought by unseen and unknown witnesses faithful to their callings.

Cindy Curry

NOTE: The vestments were purchased directly from Ars Sacra in Poland, reportedly one of the best known European creators/providers of liturgical vestments world-wide.





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### Girl Scout Sunday Was a Success!

On Sunday, March 12th, Calvary's Girl Scouts past and present celebrated the 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Girl Scouts of America. Girl Scouts of America was founded in 1912, by Juliette Gordon Low. The 11am service was preceded by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Girl Scout Law and the singing of the Girl Scout song, "Make New Friends." Current Girl Scouts, Charlotte Brisson and Ella Frazier participated in the Service reading the lessons and bringing forward the communion elements. Afterwards at coffee hour, Girl Scout cookies and a cake were served in honor of the day. A big thank you to those who made the occasion special, especially Rev. Elizabeth Back, moms Penny Brisson and Carrier Frazier, life-long scouts and the entire Calvary Congregation for their support of girl leaders of tomorrow.





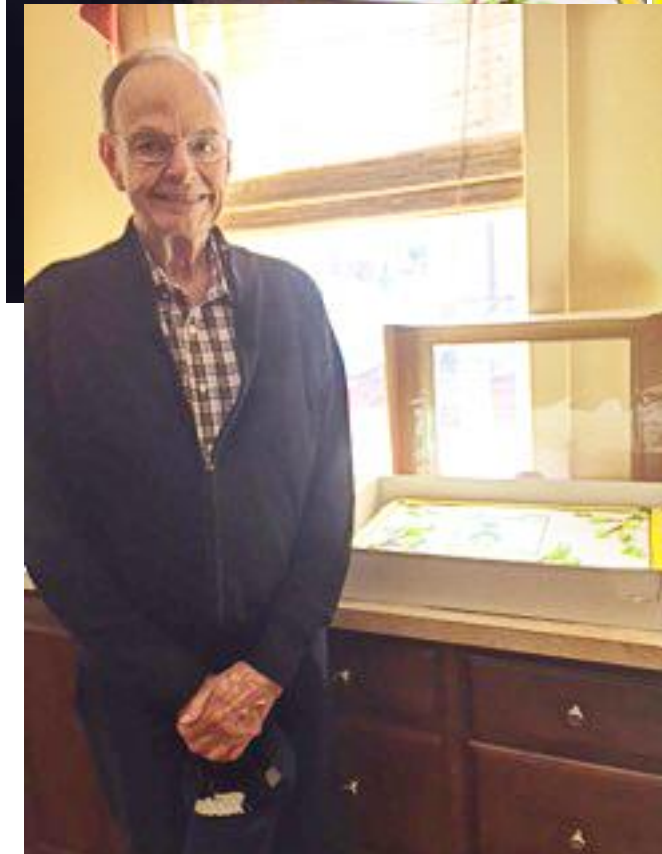
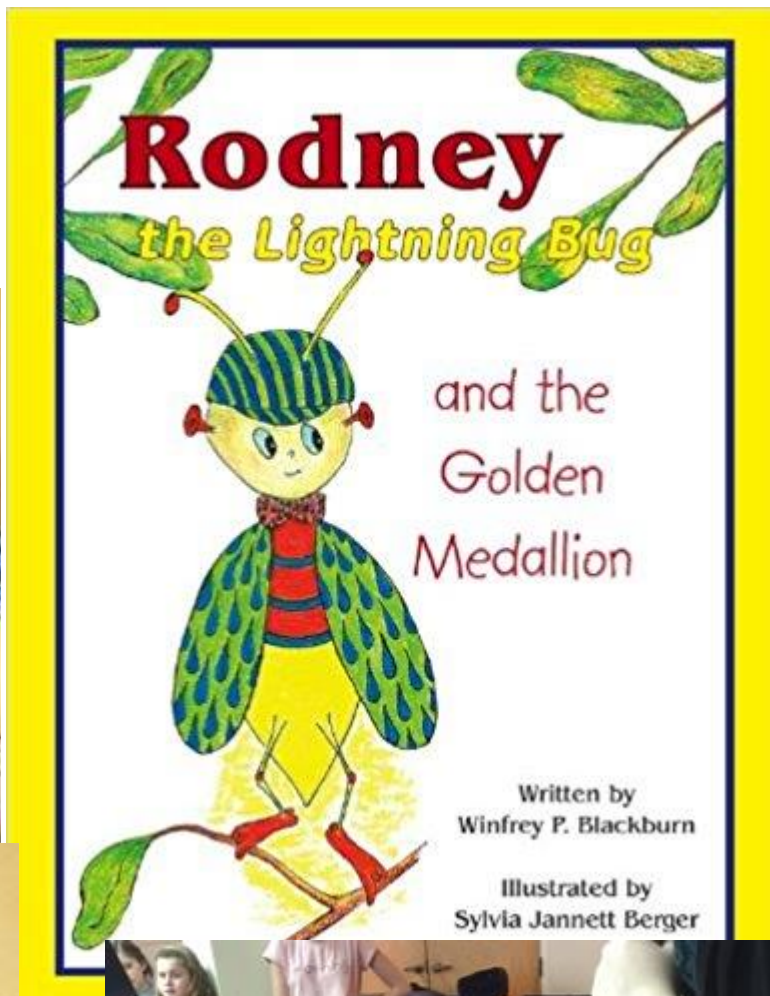
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### Lenten Recital 5

There were 84 people at the 5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Recital, with 17 violinists celebrating Winfrey Blackburn's book "Rodney the Lightning Bug and the Golden Medallion."

"Rodney the Lightning Bug and the Golden Medallion" is available on Amazon.





DIOCESE OF KENTUCKY

*urban partnership*  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOURS

**You're invited** to the Urban Partnership "Open House" Fellowship Coffee Hours. Get to know fellow Episcopalians within our Partnership and see our places of ministry within the urban community.

**Who is in the Urban Partnership?**  
**Urban Partners:**

- Calvary Episcopal Church
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Our Merciful Savior
- St. George's

**Supporting Partners:**

- St. Thomas
- Church of the Advent
- St. Clement's House Church



**Fellowship Hours begin 12:15/30 p.m. on the following Sundays and locations:**

FEB. 19	MARCH 19	APRIL 30	MAY 21
			
Christ Church Cathedral 421 S. 2nd St.	Calvary 821 S. 4th St.	St. George's 1201 S. 26th St.	Our Merciful Savior 473 S. 11th St.

## Calvary Connection

### Urban Partnership Fellowship Coffee Hour at St. George's —to Don Snow

“Dear Don,

I felt we all left church and the fellowship hour last Sunday with a renewed respect for one another. In my opinion, with the fellowship hours, we are having the opportunity to walk in the shoes that others are wearing. It is making us feel less isolated and alone in our struggles to remain viable as a church on the corner of 26th and Oak Streets...”



### Calvary Long Ago -April 1994

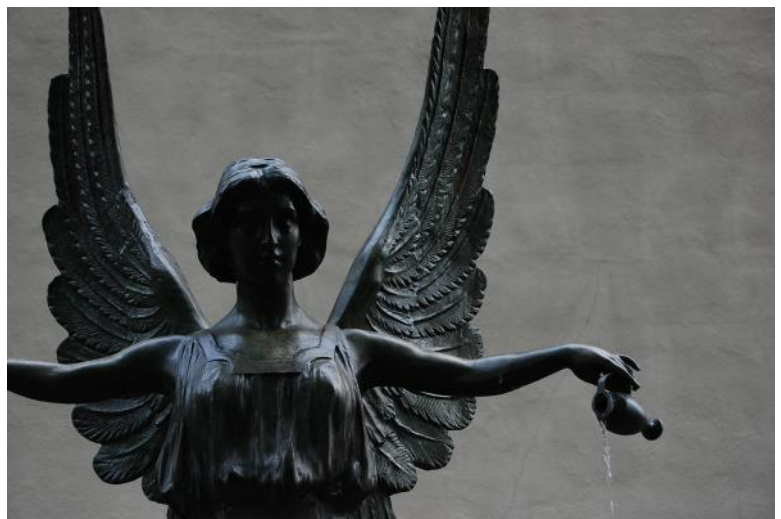
“Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly.”  
G. K. Chesterton


Inquiring (Episcopalian) Minds Want to Know...

Why do Episcopalians kneel in silence at the conclusion of the service?

The reason for it, according to Father Ben, is to mirror what people are supposed to do when they come into church. The first thing you're supposed to do when entering church is to kneel and pray, and offer yourself to God. At the end, the purpose of the moment of silence is to again offer yourself to God - but this time in service in the world. "I reverence those moments of beginning and ending, Father Ben says. "These are threshold moments - moments between parts of our life... times of great importance...and we should recognize that by a moment of silence and reflection."

John Cunningham





The Woman's Board of the  
Episcopal Church Home invites you  
to join us for our annual Luncheon

Wildwood Country Club  
5000 Bardstown Rd  
Friday, May 19, 2017  
at 12:00  
\$45.00

Guest Speaker - Bob Valvano

To purchase tickets contact:

Susan Baker - [nonnymomm@aol.com](mailto:nonnymomm@aol.com)



# Calvary Connection

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## The Vestry Voice

With Vestry Meeting minutes being approved at the following meeting, one month later, the Vestry would like to share more of its discussions with you, the members of the Congregation, before the full transcript of Meeting Minutes are made public.

Over the last few months, the Vestry has been working very hard on behalf of Calvary and below are some high-level synopses of what was discussed in the April 18 Vestry Meeting:

The Diocese of Kentucky did not receive the grant requested from the national Episcopal Church to fund the Urban Mission Enterprise Zone and Urban Missioner. See Canon Jason Lewis's statement also included in this issue of *The Calvary Connection*. Still, the Urban Partnership – including Calvary - is working to continue the momentum that has been generated in recent months.

The Finance is vetting CPA firms to conduct a review of 2015 and a full audit of 2016 church finances. This is routine and a recommended practice for all parishes in the diocese. Quotes from the firms have come in over the amount budgeted for 2017 and the Treasurer will continue to talk with other possible firms. There was a motion passed to conduct the review for 2015 and audit for 2016 with the acknowledgment that we will overspend the 2017 Audit budget; we can cover the expense with monies previously allocated to the Urban Missioner Grant above.

On Sunday, April 23, the Adult Forum will focus on discussing learnings from the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes Conference. Please make every effort to attend!

Meg Scharre, Sr. Warden, will start making monthly updates during the 11:00 am church service on Vestry discussions to keep the Congregation informed about strategic conversations.

The Vestry dedicated a large amount of time during the last meeting to open discussions on the Strategic Plan that was written in 2013 but never formally adopted. Once the Strategic Plan has been updated, then this will form the basis for a church profile to be used in the search for a new Rector.

An Ad hoc committee will meet in the coming weeks to work on and recommend an appropriate search process for Calvary's next Rector. This committee's objective is not to initiate a search, but evaluate what the best process is for Calvary and make a recommendation to the Vestry on its findings.

Penny Brisson, Secretary



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(Continued from page 1—Alleluia Christ Is Risen!)

it can't possibly fail, right?

Transitions are moments we feel forced into a doorway where the hinges are wildly swinging from "I can overcome this!" to "I surrender it all into God's hands." Some of us simply stand in the doorway wishing we knew how to cross from ambivalence to commitment. Today we observe a miracle that countless people over the last 2,000 years claim to believe. They have crossed the threshold of ambivalence to the kingdom of commitment. And how did they cross through?

Let's look at the first person to cross.

It was dark. She was standing at a tomb. Something wasn't right about it. She ran to get help. Two friends came running. When they saw for themselves that their loved one's body was gone they believed what Mary had said and then they went home. They still did not understand.

Mary meanwhile is weeping. When she looks in the tomb she sees angels who ask her why she is weeping. Then she turns around and sees someone who looks like a gardener who also asks her why she is weeping. And there is the clue, the *weeping* is the clue to crossing from ambivalence to commitment.

Mary's tears are where the ship of her faith sets sail. I don't know about you but when my tears start to flow I usually can't do much more than cry. If someone talks to me while I am crying they are just going to get a primal response of "I just stubbed my toe." Snort. Or "I just got some terrible news." Blubber, blubber, blubber. There is Mary, blubbering, remembering all the things she expected of Jesus and how all those expectations failed. And through her tears she decides to take this stranger on board with her sorrow. She invites him in with "Sir if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him and I will take him away." She is not thinking, "Before today I was ambivalent and now I committed." She is simply realistic. Jesus really died. He committed to death. Whether he had ambivalence about it or not he crossed the threshold from life to death.

And the next moment is where Mary, where anyone who wants to, can recommit.

She hears Jesus as Jesus. She hears someone to whom she had committed herself before his death. Now, after crossing the threshold of the tomb he commits himself to her by saying her name. "Mary."

That is how I hear God's voice. Speaking my name. And very often, your names. Whether it's during dedicated prayer time like my morning devotion, or unbidden while driving through traffic. I hear *Bruce, Don, Shirley, the vestry, my loved ones long deceased, Brook, Sharon, the names of the teachers at my kids' schools*. The list is so long of both the living and the dead whose names I hear spoken by God's voice. Yammering on.

God is not giving out proof or statistics or evidence of resurrection or anything else for that matter. God is just chatting away. Speaking names. Giving instructions like, "go and tell others what you have heard me say."

I hear this: Appreciate ambivalence.

Pick any day on my calendar, my hunch is that you can pick any day on yours, and I bet you can describe it as a blurred blend of Good Friday and Easter morning all combined into one confusing swirl. You got good news and you got bad news. Most days include such an odd combination you have to ask yourself questions like, "How can the world be so horrible that an innocent man is executed?" along with "How can the world be so wonderful that an innocent man would allow himself to be executed to exonerate the guilty?" How can it all be one and the same world? If only God made the world full of rotten people. We would have no need for ambivalence. But God didn't make a world full of rotten people. God made a world full of free people. Free to stand in the doorway where hinges swing wildly between heaven and earth, life and death, prom dress and ducklings. That's where you will hear God's voice: at the threshold where ambivalence meets commitment. If you want to hear God's voice you will have to meet Him at the crossing.

Sermon for Easter Sunday

The Rev H Elizabeth Back

April 16, 2017

Calvary Episcopal Church

Jeremiah 31:1-6 Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-17, 22-24, John 20:1-18





Phone: 502-587-6011  
E-mail:  
calvarychurch@  
calvaryepiscopal.org

*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.

Calvary Episcopal Church  
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Louisville, KY 40203

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..."