

## Self-reflection into Joy—Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

I am writing this to you on Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season of Lent. This year the penitential season of Lent may seem like adding insult to injury in some ways. Since the beginning of the worldwide pandemic, right at a year ago now, we have already given up so much. In many ways it feels like we have lived a full year of Lent already. So we might reason that it would be fine to ignore this season of “self-examination, and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial” as Lent is defined on page 265 in the Book of Common Prayer.

Perhaps rather than ignoring Lent this year or giving up more creature comforts we should really enter into this season as a season of self-reflection and prayer, meditating on God’s holy Word, which is always a word of love. Perhaps this year we can reflect on those things that bring us joy and try to enter more fully into those. I realize that some of what bring us joy are things like being together and that is on hold for now, but soon, very soon, we will be able to return to being with those we love, and for now we hold on to that hope and cherish those memories. Focus on that. Focus on letting go of those things which cause you stress, things like putting unrealistic expectations on ourselves, and feeling guilty when we don’t live up to those unrealistic expectations.

Take care of yourself, not just physically but spiritually and emotionally, too. Give yourself, and those around you, more grace. There can never be too much grace given. And remember, God loves each of us, just as we are, imperfect and trying to be the wonderful folks that God created us to be. Reflect on that and have a Lent full of grace and love.

Lee+



**Upcoming Schedules:** Watch Calvary emails for opportunities to come together online in these extraordinary times.

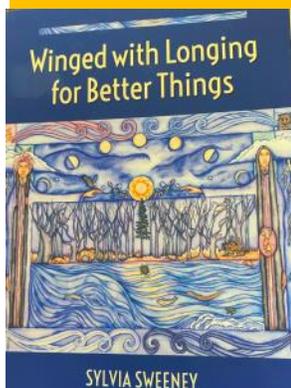


## The Vestry Voice—Donna Duvall, 2020 (extended) Vestry Secretary

The Vestry met in a Zoom Room on January 21, 2021, with the following items of note:

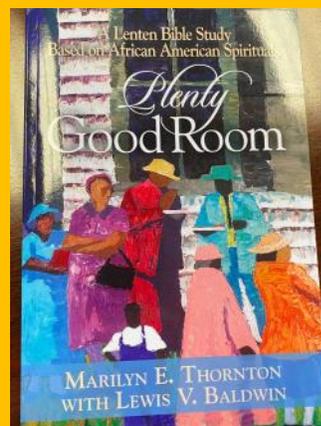
- The Calvary Accessibility project: Work on the ramp in the Nave is expected to begin in March and be completed by June, along with completion of the outdoor ramp. A Capital Campaign Committee has been formed. Members include Susan Baker, Marilyn Bryant, Molly Isaacs-McLeod (liaison to the Vestry), Jim Hill and Harvey Turner.
- Food Closet: During Covid19, we have been averaging between 20 and 50 clients a day. As of last week, 2,979 masks have been distributed, and 5,551 bags of food have been given to feed 8,795 people. Cabinets to store food will be installed in the hallway outside of the kitchen. They are funded by the Food Ministry account, including a bequest from Lois O'Hara.
- Financials: We are transitioning to a bookkeeping service rather than continuing to try to hire part-time staff. Both the 2020 yearly report and January month-end report are delayed. However, at year's end, we are more than \$20,000 ahead of operating budget, with the Endowment in excess of \$9.3 million.
- 2021 Pledges: To date \$181,350 has been pledged from 62 pledging units. Last year it was \$205,000 from 70 units. We do have six new pledgers.
- Services: We will have an Ash Wednesday liturgy on February 17 but online and without ashes. When we return to Calvary in-person services (hopefully June), the Sunday Forum will continue to be at 9:00 am, followed by worship at 10:00 and coffee hour at 11:00. This would fit better into many schedules and provide for a true Coffee Hour rather than a Lunch. These changes are planned to encourage greater participation, both in attendance and recruiting volunteers.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFLECTION IN LENT



**A Lenten Study Offering:** Join with your Calvary family in reading *Winged With Longing for Better Things* by Sylvia Sweeney. This book offers daily readings, prayers and poems for a Lenten Study focused on 'actively loving our neighbors with renewed level of intentionality and focus.' The book is available on Amazon in either Kindle format or Paperback. We will discuss our readings each Sunday during Forum beginning on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Urban Partnership Lenten Study:** This year members of the Urban Partnership will come together each Wednesday evening on Zoom from 6:30-7:30 during Lent to discuss the book *Plenty Good Room*, a Lenten Bible Study based on African American Spirituals. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.





### It's Not About Doughnuts!— *Linda French, Senior Warden*

Dear Friends,

Lent 2021 is here! It is a solemn season when there will be no “alleluias.” There will be a 40-day season of sacrifice and sadness until it is nearly unbearable emotionally, when we have the congregation calling “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

Admittedly, we have all heard the humor when someone says, “Lent is a time for giving up something. I gave up chocolate and alcohol as my New Year’s Resolution. Having failed, I can start over by giving up chocolate and alcohol for Lent!” I have a confession, too. When I was twelve years old, my friends and I who walked to school together each morning decided to give up our daily chocolate-covered Heitzman’s doughnuts. I was broomstick-skinny, and neither health nor drawing closer to God entered my mind. Week one was fine, but by week two, we discovered the joys of “wiggle room” and found ourselves buying “plain” doughnuts. We reasoned we were still giving up our favorites! By week three, we ordered what we wanted and tried not to look each other in the eye. We knew we had failed.



While it is humorous, it missed the point of the season altogether. Now that I am “older and wiser,” I’ve learned that God wants us to consider “doing” rather than “not doing” for Lent. We are to be proactive in establishing a closer relationship with God during these 40 days and to enjoy the gift of a deeper spiritual life. What could we do to establish this as a permanent step of growth in our spirituality?

For starters, it is important to create a dedicated time for studying God’s word and for having daily prayer with God. If you have met someone you would like to know better, wouldn’t you call (or ZOOM!) to spend time getting to know them better? It is a natural occurrence of events, isn’t it? It is the same in our relationship with God. Time spent with God through prayer and reading the Bible draws us closer. This is where we find the direction for our lives and how to react to the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus gives us our guidelines. He clearly tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. There’s no “wiggle room” there. Could we volunteer with help organizations or work privately to help the less fortunate of our society? Do we have expendable funds? How could they be used to God’s glory? Do we give our “leftovers” or do we actually give of our time and our concern?

Later, when Lent has ended, if we can feel thrilled that we have enjoyed fulfilling our Lenten commitment, we are on the right road. That means we have drawn closer to God and we will have the desire to continue our spiritual journey with Him. Let’s pray for each other that we will find and treasure this blessing from God.

I’ve missed all of you this past year and I’m hoping to see you soon!

Linda

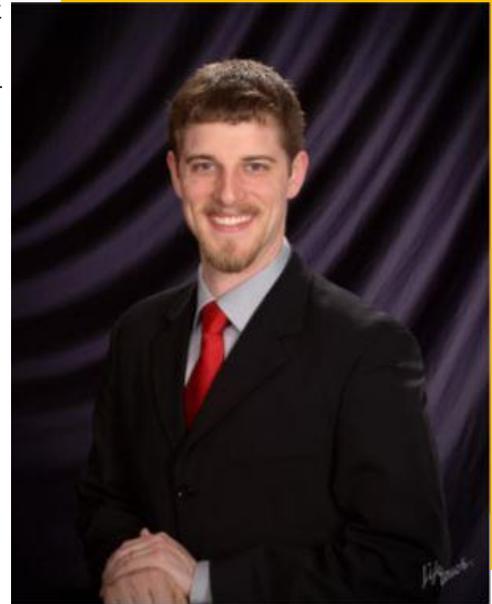


## Calvary Connection

### The Lenten Recital Series, 2021— Shawn Dawson, Organist and Director of Music

Lent is here and along with it Calvary’s thirty-second Lenten Recital Series. Last year the series just got started before we went into lock-down, and our own Margaret Dickinson rounded it out with her originally planned recital given virtually. This year, all five recitals are planned for virtual performances streamed on Calvary’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryLouisville>) on Wednesdays at 12:05, as we did with the Fall Recital Series in October.

This year’s series boasts a variety of performers. On February 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr. David Lamb, Director of Music at Trinity United Methodist Church in New Albany, will be in organ recital. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Drew Sarette, local teacher and graduate of U of L, will be in violin recital. On March 10, Audrey Dawson, section leader in the Calvary Choir and soloist with the Master Chorale, will be in voice recital. On March 17, Calvary’s *Musician Emerita*, Margaret Dickinson, will be in organ recital. Finally, on March 24, Elliot Eckel, graduate of U of L and section leader in the Calvary Choir, will be in piano recital.



We are very grateful to our *Calvary Music Donors* who make these recitals and other music events at Calvary possible. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, checks can be sent to Calvary with the Memo: Sacred Arts Fund. *Calvary Music* also supports Calvary’s Outreach Ministries by raising awareness and funding for the ministries.

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**David Lamb**



**Drew Sarette**



**Audrey Dawson**



**Margaret Dickinson**



**Elliot Eckel**

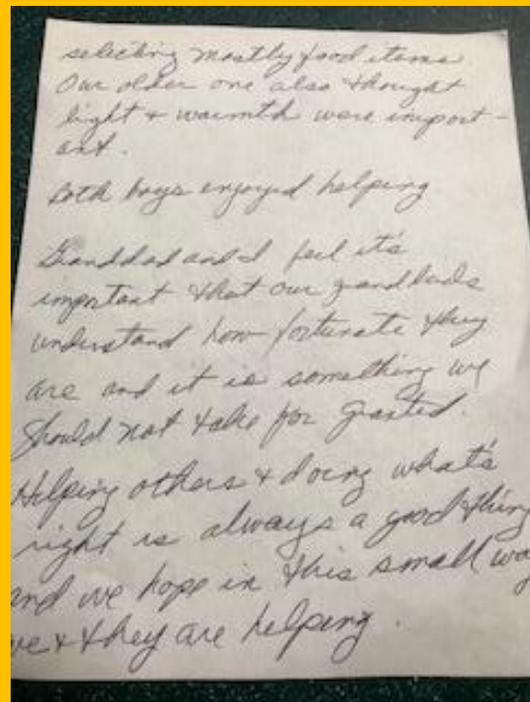
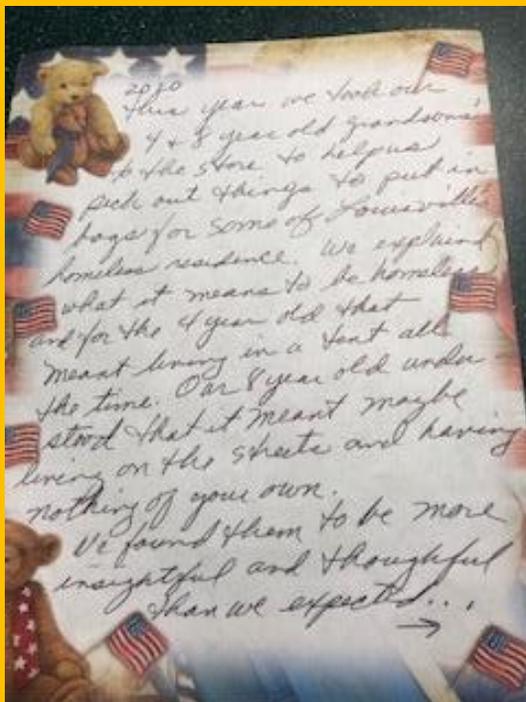


## Food Closet Update—Margaret Dickinson

Since March 16, 2020, when we switched into pandemic mode, the Calvary Food Closet has fed 9,238 people with 5,781 bags of food, and given out 3,122 masks. On “Souper Sunday” (a Calvary tradition) we took in 393 cans of soup for the Food Closet. Thanks to all who make this ministry possible!



A neighbor of John and Cindy Allen took her grandkids shopping for the homeless and donated six big bags to our Food Closet. Her heart-warming note is below.





# CHILDREN'S

—please share with the children in your life

# ORNER

## Aesop Be-bop

(The Fables of Aesop versified by Jonathan Smith)

### The Rabbit and the Turtle

The rabbit, you know, is lightning-swift,  
While the turtle is slower than glacial drift.  
Bet Turtle: "I'll beat you in a run";  
And Rabbit accepted the bet, for fun.

Fox, who agreed to judge the race,  
Marked off the course in a woodsy place.  
Rabbit shot off at blinding speeds,  
And soon disappeared beyond the weeds.

But then, halfway along the mile,  
Rabbit decided to stop awhile:  
"I'll wait here to laugh at my dawdling foe."  
Before long he slept like a baby, though . . .  
And Turtle slipped past at his snailish gait;  
When Rabbit awoke, he was just too late!

By now I'm sure you've got my drift:  
Success is not always for the swift.  
Slow and steady wins the race,  
While vain and lazy gets stuck in place.



If you are reading the Calvary Connection online, click [this link](#) to go to delightful Aesop-related coloring and age-appropriate printable lessons. Enjoy!

Children's Corner is a regular feature of the Calvary Connection. Submissions and suggestions are welcome.



## Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

Facebook feed of services only

Thursdays

12:05 pm Holy Eucharist with Anointing (**suspended**)

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm (**suspended; Mon., Tues., Thurs. 9-noon during pandemic**)

Food and Clothes Closet (**food only, MTT**)



[View larger map](#)

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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](http://www.calvaryepiscopal.org), Under About Us, select Contact Us and fill out the form to request digital communications.