

Calvary *Connection*

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

821 South Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203 | 502.587.6011 | calvaryepiscopal.org

December, 2020

O Come, O Come, Immanuel!—Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Wow! What a year this has been! If I think back to this time last year, or any year before, I realize just how different this season of Advent/Christmas is to all the years that have gone before. It has been a year of firsts, and firsts always leave one feeling a bit off-balance, whether they be good firsts like your first kiss under mistletoe, or not so good firsts like holidays without friends and family. Firsts give us the opportunity for new learning, new ways of experiencing our lives and our world. Even if they are hard and uncomfortable, we can learn valuable lessons to take with us on this journey of life and faith.

One of the gifts of this season of gifting for me has been the opportunity to see the world around me with fresh eyes of hope, and to experience the Scripture that we read each Sunday from an entirely different perspective than I have ever had before. I know in a new way what it means to be wandering in a wilderness. I feel a common bond with our ancient ancestors who were traveling in the unknown. The anticipation of the birth of the Messiah and the once too-familiar words of Isaiah offering comfort to God's people ring in my ears now in a much more assuring way.



This year I am clinging to the hope that is offered in our Sacred text, hope for that which is crooked to be made straight, and I listen keenly to the voice of the one in the wilderness crying for the way to be prepared for the birth again of Love in our world. There are signs of hope all around us.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and every blessing in 2021!

Lee+





The Vestry Voice—Donna Duvall, 2020 Vestry Secretary

Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, the Vestry met on October 27, 2020 on Zoom, with the following items of note:

- We have hired a part time Operations Assistant. His duties include cleaning up the outside of the church as well as some on the inside (such as breaking down food ministry boxes and other things as needed that are not regularly done by the cleaning crew). He will also provide security from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. when the Administrative Assistant is present without the food crew, and on Saturday morning when the altar guild arrives.
- Turkey giveaways were planned for November 22.
- The upcoming Annual Parish Meeting in January is to include election of new Vestry members, although there may be an issue because we cannot meet in person to vote. Nominations should be received by December 1.
- An Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility has been formed to propose the best solutions for getting from the parking lot to the North Entry, from the Entry to the Nave and from the Entry to the second floor. They are working with Harry Dumesnil of K. Norman Berry & Associates Architects, which has been Calvary’s architect for many years.
- For the month of September revenues were \$40,782.30 (\$30,000 being investment income). Expenses were \$45,022.80. Net Operating revenue/expense was (\$4,240.50). The year-to-date actual revenues were \$432,321.09. YTD actual expenses \$421,755.59. YTD net operating revenue/expense was \$10,565.50.



Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, the Vestry met on Zoom on November 24, 2020. Matters of note included:

- be additional postings. We will also be showing an introductorThe Annual Parish Meeting will be postponed until June, with approval of the Bishop, due to Covid19. Members and officers have agreed to remain in place until then. Candidates have been notified.
- Turkeys (338) were donated for Calvary’s distribution to the needy, and the distribution went smoothly.
- Lessons and Carols will be on at 4 pm on the 20th of December. Christmas Eve service will be pre-recorded live at 4 pm and may be watched any time afterward. These services are being posted and are being shared through the Diocese.
- Calvary received a referral from Kentucky Refugee Ministries to help a refuge family from Guatemala celebrate Christmas with donations of gifts and gift cards.
- The Ad Hoc Committee for Accessibility reported its findings with Harry Dumesnil of K. Norman Berry & Associates, and made a recommendation to the Vestry which was unanimously approved. This project will include stairs and ramp from the parking lot into the North Entry, a ramp from the Nave to an expansion of the Baptismal font platform, and an elevator to the second floor from the hallway into Frazier Hall. The Stewardship Committee will present a plan at the December Vestry meeting for covering the costs.

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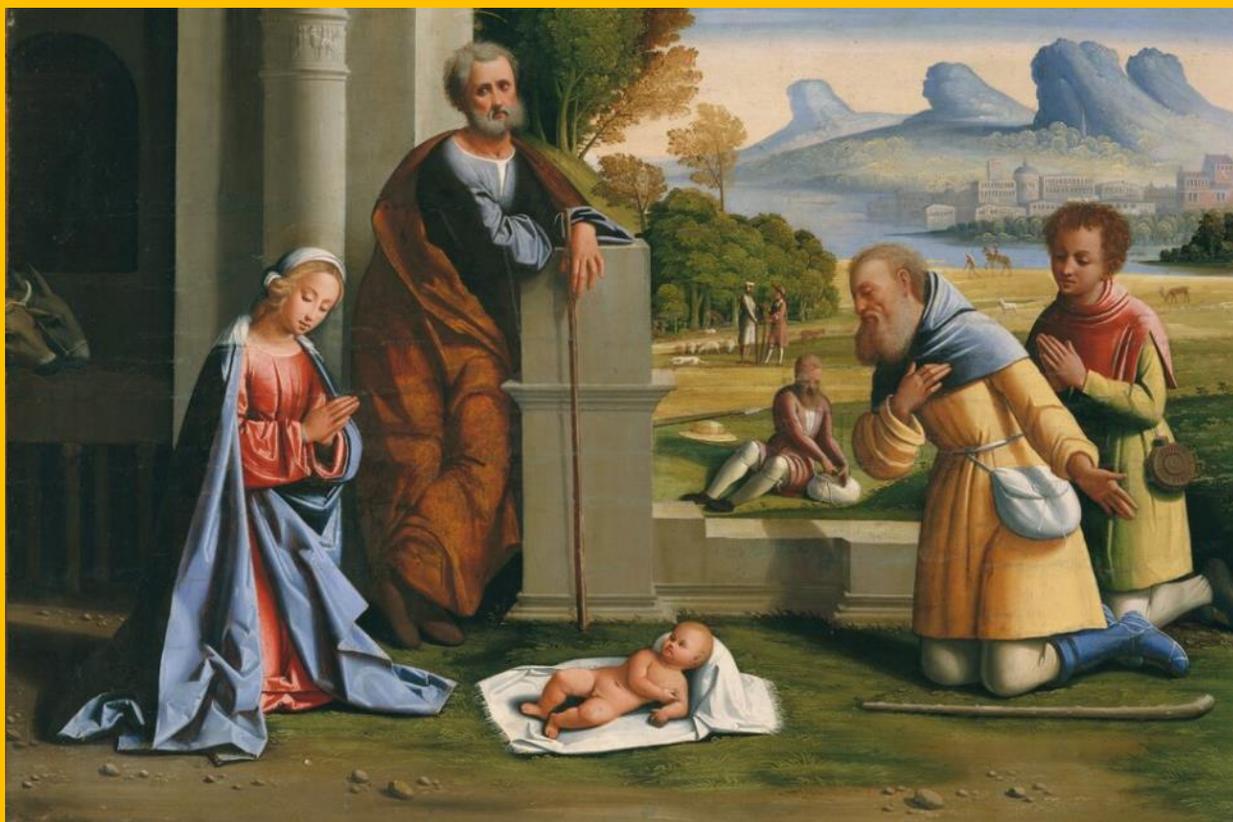


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- Significant progress has been made on the family bathroom in the hall outside the kitchen. It has been gutted, and the new tile, cabinetry, plumbing, changing table, and door closure are all in process.
- In Communications activity: A 3D tour of Calvary is now posted online. Facebook will add the following weekly feature: Calvary's Open Gate. Art and Poetry of the Indigenous community will be additional postings. We will also be showing an introductory video before each church service. Since our videographer, Andrew, has resigned, Jacob Gary, our Communications Coordinator, will take over.
- Our part-time bookkeeper, Teresa Mottola, has resigned; we will use a bookkeeping service, rather than replace her as a part-time employee.
- The Every Member Canvas continues. Pledges may be made on the website or by regular mail.
- The October revenues were \$43,488.33 (\$30,000 being investment income). Expenses were \$57,358.27. Net operating revenue/expense was \$13,869.94). The year-to-date actual revenues were \$475,809.42. YTD actual expenses \$466,329.86. YTD net operating revenue/expense was \$9,479.56.

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





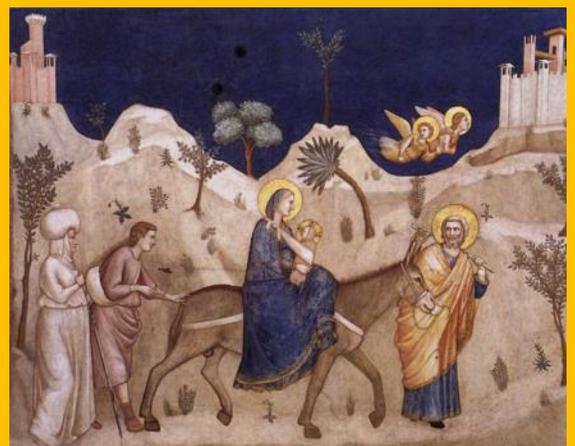
Welcoming Our Guests— Joseph Reese

Imagine you've travelled 3,000 miles with your spouse and three children to a foreign land as refugees, fleeing danger from a country where you had desperately hoped to raise your family, a place that should be a safe home for you. You've arrived in that country and feel fortunate to find employment in a hotel, with your spouse working in a factory. You're living paycheck to paycheck and struggling to learn the new language. It's hard to keep track of all the news because the whole world seems to be in chaos, but from what you can piece together, not everybody in this new place is always welcoming to people who look like you. Still, you're grateful to be here because you have worked so hard to build a better life for your kids. The news talks a lot about some kind of sickness that is spreading, and your employer is considering layoffs. Since you were only recently hired, you are among the first to lose your job. You were scraping by before, but losing half your family's income has made things pretty difficult. At least things will be back to normal soon. A month goes by. Two months. Three. The hotel still doesn't have many guests, and you haven't been able to return to work. You've spent your way through meager savings, and paying rent and utilities has become nearly impossible.

These are just a few of the things that have occurred in the life of our neighbors, a family with whom Kentucky Refugee Ministries has been working as they transition after moving to our community from Guatemala. Santa (pronounced 'Sawn-tuh' but certainly an appropriate-sounding name for the Christmas season) is a mother of three who has relocated with her family to the United States. Guatemala has been experiencing a surge of gang violence. With these highly organized gangs often holding more power and influence than the government, many families have decided the best way to protect and provide for their families is to flee their homes. Santa and her husband, Pedro, made that decision for their family. As is true for all of us, COVID-19 has changed the way Santa and her family live. She has lost her job due to difficulties in the hotel industry. KRM reached out in early November to our Calvary family with an opportunity to do something small for their family in the form of providing some Christmas gifts and help during this season. Fortunately, many members of our church responded to this request for help, and we have been able to provide many presents for Santa, Pedro, and their family. Maha, our contact from KRM, gave us the update that KRM has recently helped Santa to find a new job.

For me, the story of this family of refugees in need is a timely reminder of the first Christmas. It brings to mind the image of a young couple, Joseph and Mary, fleeing their home to Egypt in order to protect their child. I hope that the resident Egyptians were hospitable to their guests and am grateful for a church that, through serving refugees in our community, serves our young refugee Savior.

Who cries out as, one night,
Peaceful folk prepare for flight?
Hidden Lord, forced to flee
From the sword of tyranny.
Holy child, crying for
Refugees of strife and war. — *The Calvary Carol*





Calvary Connection

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 2020— Shawn Dawson, Organist and Director of Music

On Sunday, December 20, Calvary will continue its wonderful tradition of Lessons and Carols. It is a service that tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus through nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with carols and hymns sung by the choir and congregation.

The service, made famous by King's College, Cambridge, is now in its 102nd year at King's and celebrated by churches all around the world. This tradition was begun in 1918 by the Very Reverend Eric Miner-White who was Dean of the college at the time. Arthur Henry Mann was Director of Music when the festival first began. He was Director from 1876 to 1929. Boris Ord took the next nearly 30 years, serving as Director of Music from 1929 to 1957. Harold Darke substituted for Ord during the war (1940-1945). Sir David Willcocks, who added some of his own music to the festival and most particularly a plethora of beloved descants, served as Director of Music from 1957 to 1974. The shortest tenure was held by Sir Philip Ledger from 1974 to 1982. Finally, the latest Director was Sir Stephen Cleobury who retired in 2019 and was succeeded by Daniel Hyde.

At Calvary the carols will include composers both English and American, some of whom are still living. Among the composers are John Rutter, Vaughan Williams, Craig Phillips, and Sir Stephen Cleobury. The service begins at 4:00 p.m., with the organ prelude at 3:45. This year, sadly, we will not have a full Calvary Choir or an in-person congregation as in years past. As with our Sunday morning services, the festival will be streamed live on Calvary's Facebook page for all to enjoy and participate. The choir will comprise four singers.

I will highlight a few of the carols planned for this year's festival. In accordance with tradition, the festival begins with the hymn *Once in Royal David's City* – first stanza by solo soprano; second stanza by choir *a Capella*; the remainder with congregation. The familiar, dancelike tune for *Ding Dong, Merrily on High*, set by Wood in four voices without accompaniment, sets the mood musically for the service. The piece conjures up a vision of bells ringing to announce the joyous occasion. Each stanza ends with the florid *Gloria in excelsis deo!* The charming *Cherry Tree Carol* was composed by the late Sir Stephen Cleobury mentioned above. After his retirement earlier in 2019, he passed away in November of that year. Therefore, it is only fitting that we honor his legacy at King's by singing one of his own carols at Calvary. Darke's setting of *In the bleak mid-winter* is loved by many, yet simple. It features two solos – a soprano and a tenor. The two stanzas set for the whole chorus are unaccompanied, with stunning harmonies. The final carol is Rutter's sublime *Nativity Carol*. A memorable melody, this tune gently flows along, filling our hearts and minds with the love of Christmas. The service closes with the singing of two favorite Christmas hymns: *O Come all Ye Faithful* and *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*.

Come celebrate Christmas at Calvary this year with A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols!



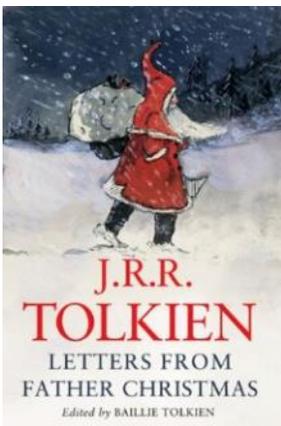
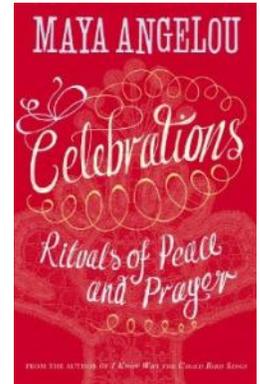


Selections for Holiday Reading— Mary Redden, Book Editor

Celebrations: Rituals of Peace and Prayer

By Maya Angelou

This book contains a selection of words on life, peace, love, marriage, God, and the acceptance of others. It includes 'Amazing Peace' which was written for the lighting of the National Christmas Tree at the White House in 2005.



Letters from Father Christmas

J.R.R. Tolkien

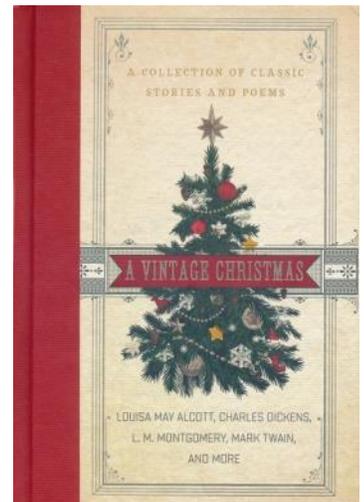
Beginning in 1920 and continuing every year until 1943, Tolkien wrote a letter to his children from Father Christmas. The letters, also illustrated by Tolkien, are either from Father Christmas himself, or from his elvish secretary. They were written to entertain his young children with adventures and misadventures of Father Christmas, the North Polar Bear, and other characters. According to the New York Times Book Review, "Father Christmas lives. And never more merrily than in these pages."

A Vintage Christmas

Various authors

This collection includes stories and Poems from Charles Dickens, L. M. Montgomery, Clement Clarke Moore, and many more. Here's a sample:

- A Christmas Turkey, and How it Came Louisa May Alcott
- Aunt Cyrilla's Christmas Basket L. M. Montgomery
- The Legend of the Christ Child Elizabeth Harrison
- The Cricket on the Hearth Charles Dickens
- A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens
- A Letter from Santa Claus Mark Twain
- Music on Christmas Morning Anne Bronte





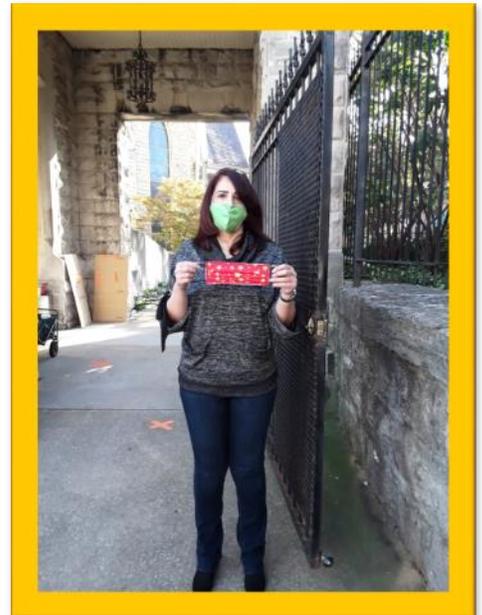
The Open Gate— Tim Duncan



(Every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday morning, from 9:30 to 11:30, Calvary Episcopal Church's food ministry offers bags of groceries, fresh produce in season, hygiene products, and household goods to people in our community. To keep everyone as safe as possible, the ministry operates outdoors, asks that people enter through the open gate that leads into the garden area, practices safe social distancing, and distributes face masks which must be worn. Since March, Calvary's food ministry has distributed 5,175 bags of groceries.)

"I am BLESSED!" It's taken this year at the open gate and all that has happened during this year for me to understand what was being said by our brothers and sisters when I ask, "How are you?" "I am "BLESSED!" It's a simple statement of faith, certainly, but it's also so much more than that. It's a declaration, a declaration of defiance, boldly stated when faced with the stresses, the trials, and the tragedies of life, "the tedious journey" as one gospel spiritual puts it. That's how I hear it now at the open gate. "I am blessed, for no matter what happens, I will not surrender because I know Jesus, the Son of God, born poor, lived poor, and died poor to show he is one of us, he withstood it all; it's that Jesus who walks with me every moment of my life, and I am grateful. I am BLESSED!"

One morning, just one morning, last week at the open gate: a gentleman stopped at the open gate for only a couple of items; it's all that he could carry. "I'm on my way to dialysis. I have to go three times a week," he explained, and then ended our brief conversation with "but I am blessed." Overhearing this, another man spoke of the stroke he suffered last year. "If my son hadn't found me, I would have died. But God blessed me and gave me a reason to live. I am blessed and here I am today to serve God." In addition to delivering groceries to people who cannot leave their apartment, this gentleman takes copies of the Episcopal Church's daily devotional booklet 'Forward Day by Day' that we make available at the open gate and hands them out to his neighbors at Puritan Apartments, down the street from Calvary. "God blessed me yesterday," a woman shared later that morning. "I'm looking at doing a year, but because the court system is so screwed up with this virus thing, they told me I didn't have to come back until February. I can be home for Christmas." And just as I was closing the gate, a man rushed up to hand me a Christmas card to share with everyone at the food ministry. Inside it read, "May the blessings of peace, love and happiness be yours this Christmas and always. Thank you all for being here and for your help."



If the storms don't cease
In case the wind keeps blowing
My soul, my soul has been anchored in the Lord.
-African American spiritual

"Blessed," we can say. "We are blessed."





Two Food Closet Reports—Margaret Dickinson

Turkey Give-away Day, November 24

Turkey Day and the day after saw us give out 338 turkeys, give or take a couple that flew in or out, escaping my eagle eye. Happy thanksgiving, everybody as we celebrate in a different and possibly lonely way! We DO have much to be grateful for and you all are at the head of the list.



December Update

Wednesday, December 16, marked exactly nine months we have been doing the Covid ministry! That's how long it takes to grow a human baby; we grew our own food baby instead and learned a lot! Thursday we gave out 36 bags in the freezing cold, along with many blankets, gloves, hats and scarves (31) not to mention 94 boxes of blueberries! Tim Duncan provided hot chocolate for all the cold clients, and that was much appreciated. We also reached new milestones of 5175 bags, feeding 8001 people. Add to that 2697 masks, so you can see why we need to be open just Monday and Tuesday the next two weeks! Thanks, everyone!

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”



CHILDREN'S

—please share with the children in your life

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Peanut Butter Honey Balls: A Recipe for Christmas—*Mary Redden*

Our family has made these every year since the children were small. My daughter Logan just called to ask if we could make them again this year. They are great for getting little hands involved in the work!

1 cup nonfat dry milk powder

½ cup peanut butter

½ cup honey

½ cup graham cracker crumbs

Optional for coating: sprinkles, powdered sugar, chopped nuts

In a small bowl mix the powdered milk, peanut butter, honey, and graham cracker crumbs until blended.

Shape into 2 inch balls and roll in optional coating. Chill.



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**)

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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.

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