

## Embracing the Unknown

One of the perks of being a band mom is having unlimited access to magazine subscriptions. One that never fails to confirm to me that investing money is tantamount to gambling. It's Money magazine. Cover stories for the November issue include: *Best places to retire*. *Best banks*. *10 Richest people of all time*, *How to donate wisely*. Most of each issue is dedicated to investing. Here are features on *Investing in Europe*; *Bracing yourself for lower returns because the stocks are soaring higher*; And *Can a once hot stock return to its former glory after a fall from grace*? Finally, there is an additional section on investing which confirms my hunch about how investing is gambling: The title is *When to bet on a lagging fund*? You have to do something with money but how can you know what kind of return money will give you? There are no guarantees. You are simply left with the choice to embrace the unknown.

Embracing the unknown is God's dilemma with the way God designed creation. God wants a return on God's investment. That is why, in the very act of creation, God makes it perfectly clear what that return looks like: God commands Adam and Eve: "Be fruitful and multiply." [Genesis 1:28]

Some of you know Beth and Will Vail who usually attend the 8:30 service. They have made a return on God's investment. Her name is Edith Elizabeth Vail. I got to meet her when she was only 90 minutes old. I can already describe her as innocent and sweet and strong. Seeing her so new and small provoked a surprise healing in my heart. I thought about the world she just entered. It was cold and raining and terrible news is bom-

barding every ear from every corner of the world. Her world is full of countless unforeseen risks and no guarantees.

Like a captain piloting a ship out to sea Edith will embrace the unknown. One of the first ports she docked in is the Thanksgiving holiday, the holiday when Americans take stock of returns by count our blessings. Whenever I count my blessing I inevitably see where God invests on my behalf. God invests the life of His Son on the cross of Calvary. It looks like a guaranteed loss. But three days later there's a return beyond all that could be imagined. On Easter morning we reap where God did work of sowing, and we gather where God did the work of scattering the seed.

God designed creation to be fruitful and multiply. Instead of guarantees God gives creation freedom. Freedom is way outside my comfort zone, but I am slowly learning to embrace the unknown. I am seriously critical of way the Episcopal Church invests and does not multiply. Why aren't the countless evangelism workshops we've all attended for decades working?? I have begun to doubt we want to multiply. After all, welcoming new people into community means embracing the unknown.

Recently, I heard these words, "It is never too late for this church to learn a new way." They were spoke by none other than Bishop Terry White at Diocesan Convention on November 11, 2017 when describing the Episcopal Church. When my ears heard those words, my heart got emotional whiplash. Of all people -if a Bishop can express hope for embracing the unknown then I guess can too.

God has our work cut out for us in this cold and rainy world. We all take a big gamble every morning when we put our feet on the floor and take God at God's

word that He really has our best interest at heart. God is taking a gamble on us. No one, not even Suze Orman, can guarantee what return God's investment is going to make. Thankfully for people like me who are afraid of freedom there are people like Edith who show just how sweet and healing it can feel to embrace the unknown.

"You really have to embrace the unknown. You can try all you want to script it - how you see the day going and have these plans. But the mountains don't care. They're indifferent to whatever plans, whatever hopes you have..." Timothy Olson 11th place at Hardrock 100 2015

Vernacular = mother tongue



H. Elizabeth Back—Priest-in-Charge

## Calvary Connection

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### Carols In The Courtyard



**Calvary**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Join us for  
**Carols in the Courtyard**

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**4-5:30pm**

**Hot Chocolate Bar, Live Christmas Tree  
and Carol Sing-a long**

Come join the fun in the courtyard on Saturday, December 9 from 4:00-5:30 pm. Wanting always to be good stewards of the earth, we will help Mother Nature take care of our bird and “critter” friends by decorating a live tree with a variety of song-bird seed treats in the shapes of pears, cupcakes, pinecones and large, multi-colored old-fashioned Christmas tree lights. There will also be a chance to make traditional strings of cranberries and popcorn, to enjoy some human treats (we’ll have a delightful hot chocolate, coffee and cookie bar) and to sing carols around the tree. Come one, come all -- young, old and in-between – hope to see you there “with bells on”!

Ruth Robins



# Calvary Connection

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## 2017 Diocesan Convention News

The 190<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky was held November 10-11 at St. Mark's in Louisville. Calvary was represented by Mother Elizabeth Back, our Priest-in-Charge, and by our delegates, Donna Duvall, James Moody and Corky Sachs.

The Diocese is made up of 34 parishes in Louisville and Western Kentucky, each of which sends a delegation.

Friday's session included a workshop on **Racial Healing**, with Calvary parishioners James Moody, Don Snow and Tim Duncan serving as panelists along with others from the Urban Partnership. Other workshops covered these topics:

**The Immigration Crisis: What People of Faith Can Do**  
**Adult Baptism – Congregational Evangelism, Formation in Faith**

**Project Resource** – covering annual giving and planned giving campaigns

**The 2018 General Convention of the Episcopal Church** - which will be held in Austin, Texas

**What is Justice?**

**Formation for Deacons and Lay Leaders – the School of Ministry**



Friday's events ended with Holy Eucharist and a reception for the delegates. In his homily, Bishop Terry White reminded us that Jesus wishes us to follow him away from the familiar settings that define and restrict our imagination and courage. He challenged the delegates with this question: *In our corporate life here, as a community of baptized people delivered from the power of sin and death by the grace of Christ, what are we together saying about Jesus? And what more should we be saying?*

Saturday's session started with Morning Prayer, followed by the business session, during which the 2018 budget was approved and elections to committees were held. The Convention adopted the following resolution concerning the Crisis of Abuse and Mental Illness; the resolution was referred to a task force that the Bishop will appoint, to report to the next convention.

**TO:** *The 190th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky*

**FROM:** *The Reverend Benjamin Sanders+*

**SUBJECT:** ***Crisis of Abuse and Mental Illness***

**WHEREAS,** *reports abound in all the media regarding the epidemic of opioid drug abuse, heroin addiction, and most recently the rebound of sexually transmitted diseases, sometimes linked with HIV infections; and*

**WHEREAS,** *hidden from view in this troubling scene is a long-standing persistence of profound mental illness: and*

**WHEREAS,** *together, these maladies strike all kinds of people at all levels of society. At their worst they ravage families and communities, outpacing resources and availability of effective therapies; and*

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## Calvary Connection

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### Calvary People

“Gotta focus on  
being good!”



The Senior & Junior Wardens. August  
2007

# Calvary Connection

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## The Vestry Voice

Greetings for a reflective Advent! As we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Vestry has met to discuss more temporal matters at its meeting on November 22, 2017.

### Finance/Strategic Planning

Regarding the financial statements year-to-date, Calvary is \$7,870.68 ahead of budget. As Calvary is without a staff bookkeeper at this point, a payroll service has been hired to process bi-weekly payroll. The Church will also look to hire a contract bookkeeper in the new budget year.

The Maney Fund, established in 1905, with approximately \$7,900 has been “found” and now is added as an asset on Calvary’s balance sheet.

The Vestry voted to approve a 6-month severance package for Anita House since it is extra to the 2017-2018 budget.

The Every Member Canvass came to a close recently. Pledged income for 2018, stands at \$202,846. Pledging units were the same as last year.

The Strategic Plan was approved with edits suggested from the congregational meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to everyone who provided feedback to this important document that will shape Calvary’s future and budgeting process.

The Budget Committee met on October 26<sup>th</sup> and plans to present a balanced budget to the Vestry at the December Vestry meeting.

The Vestry voted to approve a 6-month severance package for Anita House since it is extra to the 2017-2018 budget.

### Parish Life/Events/Communications

December 9<sup>th</sup> will feature a parish event “Carols in the Courtyard” from 4-5:30pm. More information to follow in the Connection, Website and Facebook.

Bishop Terry White is not slated to visit Calvary until late 2018, so if anyone wishes to be confirmed, there is an open invitation to participate in the Bishop’s visit to Church of the Advent on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Calvary is sponsoring the Holiday House Tour in Old Louisville. Calvary Logo will appear in tour brochure and on the website of the Tour. Penny Brisson’s house on Floral Terrace will be featured!

Important to note, that Sunday Attendance has been over 100 for the last two weeks – an upward trend!

Carrie Frazier and Penny Brisson provided the Vestry with an overview of the new website that is in development. Stay tuned in the new year for its go-live date! Many thanks to Carrie and Andy Frazier for helping with this important “first-line” communication tool.

### Outreach

On November 22, Calvary again distributed Turkeys to anyone who needed one for Thanksgiving. Our tireless Outreach team worked hard the whole day to make this event a success.

Calvary is starting to have conversations about working with Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Refugee resettlement services are shrinking in Kentucky and nationally. If anyone wishes to join this discussion, please contact Tim Duncan or Mother Elizabeth.

### Property

Will Cary replaced the ballast for the light in the stairway to the Sunday School rooms. Thanks, Will!

Penny Brisson, Secretary To the Vestry

# Calvary Connection

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## Stewardship & Outreach at Calvary

Calvary's Well – November 2017

To the NHS members of North Bullitt High School:

I was inducted into the National Honor Society in 1958 (!) at Lash High School in Zanesville, Ohio. At that time, it was only an acknowledgement of academic achievement, and I do not recall ever holding meetings or considering service projects. What missed opportunities we squandered!

With this background then, I am particularly pleased and gratified that you NHS members are not only academically gifted, but also mindful of the needs of others. Seventeen weeks ago, our Calvary Episcopal Well Team began visiting the Salvation Army Center on Brook Street each Thursday afternoon. Two of our team members, Dean and Linda French, spread the word to you of our goal to provide water, snacks, clothing, and comfort with listening ears to our less fortunate neighbors.

Our team is excited and pleased that you have become a part of this effort, and we look forward to distributing the 100 snack bags next Thursday that you so graciously have provided. We were also very pleased that you will be collecting warm clothing for these people as a Christmas project. Last Thursday was our first COLD Thursday and our friends were imploring us to bring hats, gloves, and scarves for them.

We thank each and every one of you for joining our team in our efforts to make things just a little brighter for those who have so little and deserve so much more. Together we may not be able to move mountains, but we can strive to take a few steps upwards in helping those who need us.

Margaret Dickinson

And our Team



## Calvary Connection

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### Calvary is Reading

The Holidays are almost here and books make terrific and thoughtful gifts. Here are some suggestions from various sources:

For the gourmand on your list - "France is a Feast" a visual diary of Julia and Paul Child's travels in France. Also, "My Life in France" by Julia and Alex Prud'homme – her 2006 memoir.

David Tanis "Market Cooking" by the former chef of Chez Panisse, this book features market ingredients and contains 200 recipes arranged by type of ingredient.

"Cook's Illustrated Cookbook" by America's Test Kitchen has over 2000 recipes covering 20 years.

Other suggestions include "Devotions" by Pulitzer Prize and National Book Club winner Mary Oliver.

Emily Fridlund has a follow up her Man Booker Prize winner "History of Wolves". It is a collection of short stories called "Catapult".

For the anglophiles among us there is "Wedgwood: A Story of Creation & Innovation" a history of the British ceramics maker by Gaye Blake.

Popular authors, John Grisham, Michael Connelly, Dan Brown, Ken Follett, John Sanford and Steven King all have new books on the New York Times best sellers list. One new author in the group is Tom Hanks with "Uncommon Type".

Don't forget to bring your previously enjoyed books to Book Aid and especially books for children for Abby's Corner or to share with Englehart School.

Happy Holidays and Happy Reading!

Carolyn Snow



## Calvary Connection

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### Upcoming Schedule of Events/Services

Sunday December 10—Sunday School—Visit from St. Nicholas

Sunday December 10—The Youth Group meets at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 6-7:30PM

Sunday December 17—Lessons and Carols, 7:00PM

Sunday December 24—Advent 4 HE Rite II, 10:00AM

Sunday December 24—Family Eucharist, 4:00PM

Sunday December 24—Concert and HE Rite II, 10:30PM

Monday December 25—No Services

Monday December 25 through Monday January 1—Office Closed

Sunday December 31—HE Rite I, 10:00AM

### Diocesan Convention—continued from page 3

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement lacks the ability to bring resolution to the crises that arise. Jail is seldom the place for addicts and mentally ill to find needed help; and

**WHEREAS**, churches, mental health professionals, medical institutions, and people of good will are falling behind in attempts to intercept the growing tide of dissolution. Therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, given the severity of the problems our society faces, the church needs to sound the alarm; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the 190<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Kentucky convey to the Kentucky Council of Churches, the Bishops of the Episcopal Church, and to the membership of the congregations within the Diocese of Kentucky, our profound concern about the crisis of abuse and mental illness in this country, calling on all and sundry to do the following:

- a. Assess the current situation regarding mental illness, drug addiction, HIV infection, and prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, noting especially how these interact in localities, regions, and nationally.
- b. Review the present state of efforts to prevent, intercept, and remediate these illnesses and the impediments that stand in the way of effective response.
- c. Challenge the civic authorities at every level to join with churches, charitable organizations, medical and mental health agencies, and the legal and law enforcement communities to take decisive action to provide resources, strategies, and personnel for addressing and remediating the broken lives of those who suffer with these maladies.
- d. Individually and corporately to minister to those who suffer in our several communities, offering welcome, assistance, prayer and counsel, not waiting on the civil authorities to act but doing what we can and inviting other churches and people of good will to join in this ministry.

The 2018 Diocesan Convention will be held November 9-10, 2018.



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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..."