

The Gift of Easter

In the early church Easter was the only time of adult baptisms. Most of the baptisms were for adults who were new to the Christian experience. Those seeking baptism were called “Catechumens” from the catacombs in which the instructions for baptism often took place. The catechumens received instruction and formation usually lasting three years before their baptism. During their time as catechumens, they were allowed to only attend the worship that included the readings and the sermon. They were then “invited out” while the community shared in the Eucharist. Some of the Orthodox liturgies still maintain a phrase of “the Doors, the doors” indication that the catechumens were now outside of the doors.

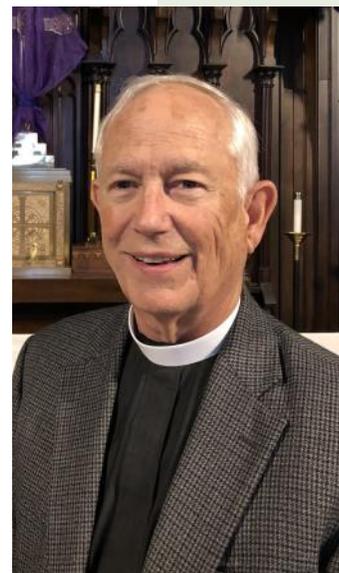
When Easter arrived, they were gloriously baptized and welcomed to join in with the whole congregational life of the community. This period of the Great Fifty Days from Easter until Pentecost was one of joyous celebrations of welcome. The newly baptized received further instructions on the nature of their new community. For many of us this Easter Season or Great 50 Days involves little more than the return to the use of “alleluia” in worship. For others there has become an increasing desire to make more of this season by the use of “holy habits” to give focus to our lives.

To help us envision what these “holy habits” might be the Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Newark, has done some writing. The following is a portion of one of his articles.

“Easter is pure gift, but it takes some discipline to live into that gift. First we need to receive the gift, which requires more than restoring some Alleluias into our lives, celebrating the return of baseball and basking in the blossoms of Spring. We are given fifty days – which, tellingly, is longer than Lent – to allow the Easter gift to be absorbed into the depth of our souls. Absorbed deeply enough so we can get beyond merely proclaiming the words of Easter to be more completely transformed by the new life that Easter brings.

The holy habits provide the foundational discipline for us to fully receive the abundance of the Easter blessing. The holy habits involve worship, prayer, study, and giving of self and treasure. Engaging the holy habits provides an Easter spiritual practice of *via positiva* – a practice which requires its own discipline. The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development will present a resolution at General Convention commending the church to observe the holy habits during the Great Fifty Days of Easter. This will challenge us to develop a spiritual discipline for the Easter season that will enable us to become bearers of God’s abundance.”

I hope that we can make use of some of these ideas in our Adult Forums and other occasions.



Fr. John Allen—Interim Priest

Calvary Connection

2018 Lenten Recital and Lunch Series

On March 21st, Calvary's Lenten Recital Series wrapped up with a great performance by the Bellarmine Schola Cantorum, directed by Dr. S. Timothy Glasscock. As it celebrated the 333rd birthday of a little-known organ composer, J.S. Bach, Margaret Dickinson was on hand to accompany the Schola.

This Lent, Calvary has been blessed with the organ music of other fine, local musicians:

February 21st Glenna Metcalfe, Broadway Baptist

February 28th Dan Martin, St. James, Pewee Valley

March 7th Margaret Dickinson, Musician Emerita Calvary Episcopal Church

March 14th, Shawn Dawson Interim Director of Music at Calvary Episcopal Church

For each recital, attendance ranged between 40-70 people and over \$800 was raised for the Sacred Arts Series. After each recital, lunch was served. Many volunteers assisted in making the recital series a success. Sincere thanks go to Dean and Linda French, Linda Klein, Bill Garnar, Bonnie Fritschner, Laina Brown, Larry Brown, Leroy Malone, Jim Barnes, Pat McHugh, Judy Lawson, Lois O'Hara, Margaret Dickinson, Harvey Turner, Tim Duncan, Ben Sanders, Larry Reining, and John Allen.

Penny Brisson



Calvary Connection

Adult Forum Schedule

April 1: Tim Duncan—Experiencing God in an Age of Distraction: A Look at Thomas Merton's 'New Seeds of Contemplation.'

April 8: Tim Duncan

April 15: Tim Duncan

April 22: Suzuki Violin Class & Judy Wilson.

Please join us at 10 a.m. for a time of studying and learning.

Coffee Hour Schedule



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| April 1 | Easter “Eggster” Sunday: Deviled Egg Smorgasbord (All!) |
| April 8 | Mary & Alex Redden |
| April 15 | The Shelton Family |
| April 22 | Susan & Nick Baker |
| April 29 | Wilma & Mike Wilson |
| May 6 | Derby Sunday Leftovers from All |
| May 13 | Mother’s Day--- Sarah Riggle, Britt Shelton & Aunt Lou Henson |
| May 20 | Pentecost/Ascension Day---Carolyn & Don Snow |
| May 27 | Memorial Day---Larry Reining & Shirley Leach |
| June 3 | Mary & Alex Redden |
| June 10 | Whitney Hardy & Frances Lewis |

(Please see Lou Henson to host a Coffee Hour. Volunteers needed!)

Please join us at every Sunday at 12:15 for coffee, snacks and fellowship.

Calvary Connection

New Beginnings

Despite all the nasty weather, March has been a busy and eventful month hasn't it? Don't you feel so much has been packed into the month that you can hardly imagine it's over before it seems to have barely begun?

So, what does this say about Calvary? Well, it says that we're a vibrant, alive parish. But it's not busy for busy's sake. Instead, it's busy in faithfulness, devotion, and service to Christ. Love and laughter abound. Humility in our walk and prayer through Lent, calling us to be still, to listen, becomes a core theme.

There's an excitement in the air. Easter is upon us. Ministries are thriving. Parishioners are pitching in like never before. Our Interim Rector, Rev. John Allen, has already demonstrated his wisdom and leadership. Calvary representatives to the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes have come back enthused by the messages heard and lessons learned. A committee has been formed (but there is room for you too) for CEEP 2020 to begin planning for Calvary to host that year's conference. On and on it goes.

Yes, March has been busy. If this be March, may April be the same.

Peace,

Don Snow—Senior Warden



Calvary Connection

The Vestry Voice

The Vestry met on March 20. There were the following items of note:

- Father John greeted the Vestry at his first meeting and expressed appreciation for the easy transition he is experiencing. He reviewed his plans for services in the upcoming months. The use of incense (planned for outside on Palm Sunday) and related issues were reviewed.
- Our February financials showed revenue of \$45,618 (of which \$27,916 was investment income from our endowment) against budget of \$47,125 and expenses of \$34,305 against budget of \$47,125--for a net positive of \$11,312. YTD we are at a positive \$7,309 against a net 0 budget. We discussed variances from budget, including the effect of pre-paid pledges, as well as higher than budgeted expense areas, which we will continue to monitor and potentially adjust.
- The Search Committee reported that the posting for our new Rector will go up on April 3, for four weeks, closing May 1. The Diocese will give us a list of viable candidates on May 16. The Search Committee is preparing for the interviews which will then take place, in teams of 3 from the Committee, afterward.
- We may extend child care into the Coffee Hour so parents can be offered the option of enjoying the time after church without need for supervision.
- An Ad Hoc Committee to begin addressing the CEEP (Conference of Episcopal Endowed Parishes) meeting which we will host in 2020 is formed, starting with co-chairs Bart Brown and Meg Scharre and member Jamie Hendon.

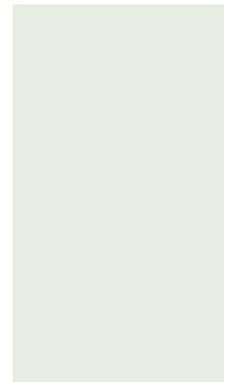
Stephanie Smith—Secretary To the Vestry



Calvary Connection

Calvary's Well

Our special Thursday afternoon Calvary volunteers minister to the homeless waiting for the Salvation evening meal and lodging with love, friendship, hot chocolate, water, cookies, PBJ sandwiches, and clothing. What wondrous experiences we have!



Thank you!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the *beautiful* reception on March 11. What a shining effort from Lou's team! The outpouring of gifts and affection felt like a birth-day party. From the sparkly crystal cross to the healthy Vitamix to the Chick-Fil- A gift cards from the nursery and don't forget the sardines (Margaret never forgets!) and ALL the many cards as well as the generous purse I felt so loved and appreciated and I hope you feel the same as we both move forward. I trust our paths will converge on Diocesan and Consortium opportunities.

With love,

Elizabeth

Calvary Connection

Rector Search Committee

A Call for Prayer

On April 3, 2018, the Parish Profile and Narrative Portfolio of Calvary will be posted on the Episcopal Church Data Base announcing our quest for Calvary's next rector.

This posting will remain open for four weeks, ending on May 1st. At that time, Canon Amy Coultas will review the candidates who have expressed interest and check with each of their dioceses to confirm their eligibility. Then on May 16th, Canon Coultas will meet with the Search Committee to present the candidates who have provided their profiles.

It at this point that interviewing will begin. In the meantime, if anyone knows of a candidate who might be interested in Calvary, please provide their names and contact information to the Search Committee and we will pass this information along to Canon Coultas.

Deborah Stewart – Chair Rector Search Committee



Calvary Connection

Calvary Attends CEEP 2017 in San Antonio

Calvary Attends CEEP 2017 In San Antonio

In February, four members of Calvary: Mother Elizabeth Back, Bart Brown, Art Dietz and Don Snow, along with 550 other participants from across the nation, attended the annual meeting of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP) in San Antonio, Texas. People from 127 member congregations from 30 states were present. The Consortium exists to facilitate communication among members and to give us the information and inspiration we need in order to maximize our endowments for the ministries to which we've been assigned by Jesus. People from 127 member congregations from 30 states were present.

In her sermon on February 25, Mother Elizabeth described one of the sessions she attended:

Samira Page was born in Iran. She was a Muslim. As a child her school was bombed in an attack from Iraq. She endured a day in the basement surrounded by body parts. Her 20 year old uncle spent months of agony dying from the chemical poisoning Saddam Hussein released. She married a Muslim. They had two children with whom they fled walking two days in winter to safety. She moved to Dallas, divorced, became a Christian, then founded a ministry called Gateway of Grace to welcome refugees and help them settle in Dallas. The very first family to arrive was from, you guessed it, Iraq. She tells how she struggled because although she was a Christian she felt nothing but hatred and hoped nothing but death for her enemy. The Iraqi women who met her at the airport embraced Samira saying, "Hello, my sister." That's all. But in that embrace Samira felt all her hatred and pain healed. And then she said she felt shame. Here she was a Christian, knowing the expectation to forgive and she had spent years entrenched in not forgiving. And here was a non-Christian who was able to reach out to her in humility. Samira went on to recount other stories of how she and others died to their entrenched lives and were raised to new, unrecognizable lives, drenched in compassion and in connection in practical ways with people they once would never have shared the time of day.

Bart mostly attended sessions in the Stewardship track at the conference where he learned about narrative budgets and constantly communicating stewardship opportunities to the parish. Would an extra \$10,000 make a considerable difference to a particular ministry? Share it with the parish. Would an extra \$100 make a difference for a particular ministry? Share that too. Are volunteers needed for a regular commitment or a one-time event? Let everyone know. One of the sessions that Bart attended recommended setting up a *Commission on Ministry* to review the parish ministries on an annual basis to confirm that each ministry is still aligned with the church's mission and vision and is still sustainable with the existing "energy" levels.

Art attended several sessions on the topic of clergy transition. He was surprised to learn that the average tenure of clergy is now 4.5 years. He felt that his time at CEEP was well spent. Art had the opportunity to meet several priests from around the country, as well as, other attendees. He found those encounters to be very enlightening in a number of ways. He attended all of the sessions regarding rector transition. Those sessions included topics such as intentional interim work and interim priest responsibilities, lay leadership of a rector transition and current trend in transitions. Don, Bart, and Art conducted the Adult Forum on March 25th and discussed all that they learned at the conference in detail.

Don focused mostly on the Leadership and Transformational Change during church transition. While this can be a stressful period for a congregation (60% of all churches suffer serious difficulties in transition), it can also be a time

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Calvary Connection

Calvary Attends CEEP 2017 (continued from Page 8)

of rediscovery, rededication, and reimagined future. A hopeful message was enunciated that, “You are not alone.” Many parishes, big and small, are right where we are.

Another session emphasized the importance of dialogue versus discussion; taking time to just listen, not pushing one’s own ideas. Instead, asking questions to draw out the ideas of others.

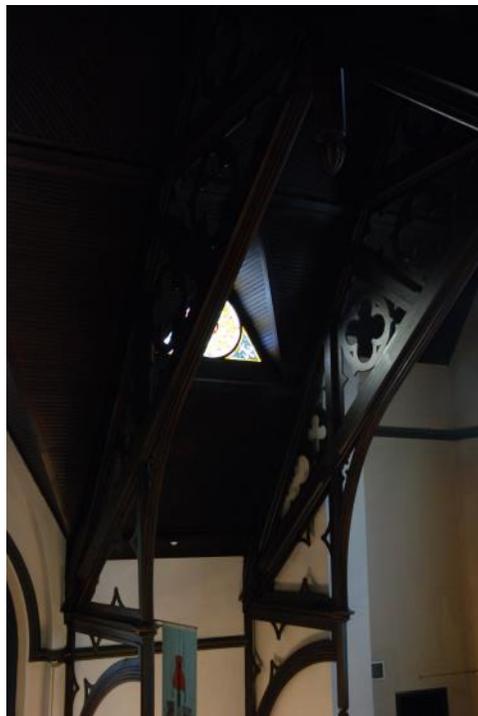
Still another session Don attended was “Engaging Millennials”. Those in that generation would now be between the ages of 18 and 38 years. Don found this to be a very helpful session with particular importance for Calvary.

Don, Art, and Bart are all excited about Calvary’s role as the host parish in 2020. In that year, the Conference will take place at the newly constructed Omni Hotel on Second Street. Calvary will have many responsibilities:

Calvary will host an evensong for the about 500 conference attendees.

Calvary will be responsible for organizing a Eucharist – likely somewhere in or near the Omni hotel.

Calvary must select the theme for the conference



Calvary Connection

Meet Our Staff: Darlene Clay

On March 4th, Darlene Clay celebrated her 20th anniversary as the Nursery Coordinator at Calvary. A full generation of Calvary grew up in her care on Sunday mornings! I spoke with Darlene, as well as three of her former charges who are now adults, to revisit some memories of Darlene's time at Calvary.

Darlene filled a great need for us. I remember vividly before she came we had a different nursery person every week at widely varying levels of competence. Several Sundays I ended up bringing one or both of my children into choir rehearsal with me because I wasn't comfortable with the care giver in the nursery. (Thank God for Margaret and Melvin's patience!) Darlene was a true god-send, bringing stability and safety to our youngest members.

In 1998, Darlene answered an ad placed by then Christian Education Director Callie Hausman in the Catholic Record. Callie had the good sense to snap her up immediately. A year later in 1999, her husband Jake joined her in the nursery, where he became a favorite of the children for the next 15 years. (Jake retired in 2013).

Darlene has seen many changes over the years. She vividly remembers years of a Sunday morning parade of children to their various Sunday school classes, followed by a short period of no Sunday school at all. She's very glad that Britt Shelton has been able to coordinate Sunday school for elementary school students again and looks forward to that program growing even more.

As for memories, she treasured time spent with McKenna and Haley Webb, Sarah Logan and Emily Redden, Prescott, Lyman, and Grafton McLeod; Ella, Anna, and Lilah Frasier; Charlotte Brisson, Henry, Anna, and Edith Vail; and many other children who have passed through the nursery doors. She especially loved Christmas Pageant time – how some children would ONLY be sheep, and other children would be anything BUT sheep, and shepherds trying to sword fight with their crooks when the adults weren't looking.

While nursery age children are too young for formal Sunday School, they hear a short Bible Story every Sunday morning (sometimes twice!) and have a coloring page that reinforces the story. They also have a snack, but most of their time is spent in free play. On nice days they may even go outside to the playground area.

For perspective from the children's side, I spoke to Logan Redden (age 23), McKenna Webb and Emily Redden (both age 21) about what they remembered from their days in the Calvary Nursery.

McKenna: "I remember Darlene getting out the boat with steps so we could sing "Row, row, row your boat" (in a round of course), or 'the ants go marching' while parading around in a circle and stomping on the boat turned upside down into stairs. Over and Over and Over!"

Emily: "I remember Darlene always said she had to ration me on snacks..."

Logan: "Oh yeah! I remember that too! Emily always tried to get more snacks. Some things never change..."

Emily: "And I remember McKenna, Haley, and I always fighting over who got the two pink sippy cups. Poor Darlene!"

McKenna: "We would 'cook' meals for Darlene and Jake in the play kitchen and create a picnic for them to eat with the plastic food."

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Calvary Connection

CalvaryEpiscopal.org Gets a Facelift

Over the last few months, a small team has been working with focus on developing a new website for Calvary. The new website will be launched before Easter, as we prepare for the Risen Lord as well as the public phase of our Rector Search. The objective of the website is to show Calvary's vibrancy through ministry, music, outreach and architecture.

For this effort, Calvary should be indebted to Andy and Carrie Frazier for lending their website, photography, and advertising knowledge to Calvary. Andy has been instrumental taking photographs and creating the website frame, Carrie evaluated websites from other churches to design what the website should incorporate. The new website will showcase Calvary's unique ministries, openness and our beautiful music and worship. A social media stream and choir recordings have been embedded.



David Stewart, also a photographer, gave his photography skills in many ways. While he also contributed beautiful photos to tell Calvary's story, he also developed a "[3D Tour of Calvary](#)" that is not to be missed. Bishop White and Canon Coultas thought this virtual tour was amazing and unique.

As I was generally the liaison between The Vestry/Search Committee and the development team, my role incorporated sourcing content for each page. To this end, I am grateful to everyone who provided feedback, especially Michael Patterson, Brian Peel, Wanda Watkins as well as the Communications Committee. When I was deep in content creation, I greatly appreciated the "grammar police" as well as those with fresh eyes, not just to Calvary but to the Episcopal Church.

I invite you to take a look at the new website and enjoy the experience. It will be an incredible tool to tell Calvary's story, inviting all to enter and experience God's love here at 821 South Fourth Street. [Click here to see the website.](#)

Penny Brisson

Meet Our Staff (continued from Page 10)

Logan: "Sometimes when I got uncomfortable in Sunday School I would go back to the nursery, even when I got older. I remember Darlene sitting down at the table with me and getting out all the coloring stuff and watching me draw. She was always so interested in anything I was drawing. She would ask me questions and I would explain it to her. Once when I came back and visited she said she had saved a couple of the things I drew for her."

Emily: "Yes, I remember Darlene always being excited to see us come back for a visit when we were in high school or college."

Thank you, Darlene Clay, for your many years of service to the children of Calvary!

Mary Redden

Calvary Connection

Calvary is Reading

Mary Redden is re-reading “*A Wrinkle in Time*” by Madeliene L’engle with her book club in preparation for seeing the movie. Her book also club just finished “*The Spirit Catches You (And You Fall Down)*” by Anne Fadiman. It’s about a child in the Hmong immigrant community in Merced, CA who is diagnosed with epilepsy, and the challenges of providing care when communication between the medical community and the family/community of the patient is nearly impossible. Mary also read the **POLDARK** series by Winston Graham. It has been turned into a popular series on the BBC and PBS.

Linda French recently read “*Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint*” by [Nadia Bolz-Weber](#). Linda says this book has an excellent, strong message of total inclusion; however, she adds a strong language warning.

Jonathan Smith has been really busy reading several books during his forced inactivity. “Earlier this year I finished one of the best books I’ve read in a while: “*Americanah*” by C. N. Adichie. It’s fiction, but with wonderful insights on America by the author, an African immigrant who combines perception, honesty, and eloquence, and will be heard from a lot in years ahead, and not just in fiction. I was somewhat disappointed by “*What She Ate*”, by Laura Shapiro, though I learned interesting things about Barbara Pym (a favorite author), and (oddly) Eva Braun. I am just finishing “*Manhattan Beach*” by Jennifer Egan, whose earlier book *Visit* “*From the Goon Squad*” was mind-bendingly visionary. *MB* is (so far) less obviously post-modern, using a more traditional narrative style, and is set in 1930’s-40’s New York, the time and place when my parents’ marriage and family got started. And just for fun, following a friend’s recommendation, I’ve started reading mysteries by Carl Hiaasen, which are light, jokey, sexy, etc.

When I last checked in, I was about to read an advance copy of “*Tornado Weather*” by Deborah Kennedy. Debbie is a former student of mine, and this is her first novel--and it is doing very well, receiving a positive review in the Times Book Review, recently being nominated for an "Edgar" (for mystery writing--though it is not a mystery in the usual sense), and soon to come out in paperback. It is set in Indiana (Debbie grew up in Fort Wayne), has a lot to say about modern Hoosier issues, and is often laugh-out-loud funny. Get it!

Whenever I ask people what they are reading I am always amazed at the breadth of subject and authors and hearing what we read I think gives us more insight into our fellow parishioners and friends. Keep on reading and sharing your favorite, or least favorite books.

Carolyn Snow





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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. Click on the button at the bottom of the page that reads, "Get Updates From Us."

You may 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..."