



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connection

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

December 2024

Having It Both Ways—Very Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Dear Friends,

As we move into the season of Advent, we notice that once again the days grow shorter. While the light of the sun diminishes, the light of Christ becomes more of our focus. We eagerly await the return of Christ into our world as children eagerly wait for Santa Claus. Over the next Four Sundays we hear to prepare, be alert, pay attention, get ready, to get our proverbial house in order.

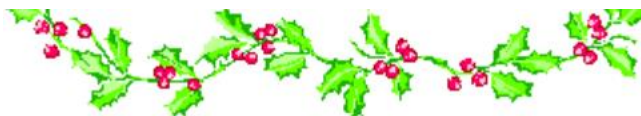
My hunch is that we will spend a good deal of time getting everything ready. We will prepare for what I have come to refer to as *secular Christmas*, the Christmas that everyone celebrates, not just Christians. The readiness for secular Christmas is probably what consumes most of our time between now and December 25, and maybe has begun to do so already. For most of my adult life my dander would be raised, and my frustration would mount upon entering a store in late October or even mid-November to discover Christmas decorations displayed and carols wafting through the air. A few years back I decided to let that go and let the world claim secular Christmas whenever and however that happens.

Christians have the beauty of being able to have it both ways in this case. We can enjoy secular Christmas with lights and trees and fluffy songs like “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree” or a favorite at my house, “Thistlehair the Christmas Bear.” But we also have the beauty of the origin of Christmas, Christ’s coming into the world.

As much as we prepare for secular Christmas, we are called to prepare for Christ’s return to our world, for the light of Christ to shine in and through us. We are to prepare our hearts and our lives so that Christ is again ushered into our very dark world. Be alert, watch and wait, but do so with joy. On the first Sunday of Advent, we hear these words from the Letter to the Thessalonians: “*May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all just as we abound in love for you.*” This is my prayer for us all this Advent season.

Wishing you every blessing of joy and peace this season and always,

Lee+



A Busy Fall—*Callie Hausman*, Christian Education Director

Advent is a season of preparation and expectant waiting. We are preparing to remember and to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time to practice waiting, a universal experience for people of all ages. During this time, we remember the prophets that foretold Jesus' birth (see Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:5-6) and the nine-month journey of Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus (see Luke 1-2, Matthew 1).

On Sunday Dec 1, we had the opportunity to prepare for Advent in our own homes. We met during Coffee Hour to make an advent wreath, with Calvary providing greenery and candles. Parishioners were able to pick up Advent Calendars and make Act of Kindness chains to observe each day. Some folks built the traditional Edible Creche. And, thanks to Burnell Esbenshade, we repeated her gift from last year—filling small stockings with treats to share with a few Food Pantry clients. We also had a visit from a very special saint: Saint Nicholas! (See pictures following.)



Clark Koch and Clara Cook

Junior Acolytes

Recently the congregation has delighted in seeing once again the young acolytes who carry torches at the front of the processional and recessional, and do other tasks at the altar. Under the leadership of Judy Wilson, this corps of Junior Acolytes presently consists of Opal and Mabel Walton, Nino and Emery Tran, Aurora and Clark Koch, Clara Cook, and Quinn Rhodes.

As we prepare for the Christmas Pageant, we are reminded of the joy that we have in sharing the Christmas story with the congregation. Children of all ages are invited to join us, even up to the last minute. Costumes for shepherds, angels, and sheep will be available at the service, so if you have guests at the service who would like to participate, we would love to have them join us—even if they prefer not to wear a costume. The Christmas story—and creche—are for everyone!

Reported elsewhere in this newsletter, Opal Walton, with the help of Margaret Dickinson, led the children during one of our special event classes we offer occasionally on Sunday morning in November. Opal did an extraordinary job, with assistance from her younger sister, Mabel. You will be able to read an article by Opal that will tell you even more. Every child who attended this class left being inspired to help pack food bags and serve clients, not to mention bringing food to share. Thank you to Opal and her family, and to Margaret, and to everyone who participated. We learn a lot about Jesus and his lessons and practices every week, and we also *experience* these lessons as we go forward, sharing acts of kindness, service, and generosity.

This Fall we offered classes from Mother Lee, who expanded on the Holy Eucharist, and Meg Scharre, who gave a tour of the Sacristy and had the children help clear the altar after a Sunday service. Thank you to all of them and the team who supports them. Hands-on lessons and demonstrations help us all learn about the details of preparing and leading services.

Enjoy the time together with your family and friends and, all month long, the activities and prayers as we await Christ's coming.

Peace,

Callie Hausman





ADVENT EVENT





ADVENT EVENT



Music Matters—*Jacob Cook, Director of Music*

Happy Holidays and a blessed Advent season to you all! The Calvary musicians are hard at work on our music for this Advent and Christmas season. Upcoming events are the Messiah Sing-along on December 1st at 3:00 at Christ Church Cathedral, Advent Lessons & Carols during the morning service on December 8th, and our Christmas Eve prelude and service.

The Calvary Children's choir and young instrumentalists will be participating in the Christmas Eve service during the prelude and the offertory. The choir will be joined by a brass ensemble for Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata. It will be a very festive and celebratory service as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

I hope that you find something that speaks to you this year as we await the coming of Christ this Christmas.

Jacob



New Member Spotlight—J. C. Phelps

This issue: Emily Young and Kathleen Wooldridge

We are so thankful that Emily and Kathleen decided to call Calvary their church home! They are the featured interviewees in this installment of New Member Spotlight.

Q: Please take a minute to introduce yourselves.

Emily grew up in southern Indiana and moved around extensively before opening her own physical therapy practice. She is now retired and is new to the Episcopal Church. Kathleen grew up in Western Kentucky and has spent most of her career in financial services. She is a lifelong Episcopalian.

Q: How did you discover Calvary? What made you decide to make your church home with us?

We first encountered Calvary at the inaugural *Drag Me to Church* event. Being in a packed church on a Friday night, surrounded by a warm and welcoming congregation committed to serving the larger Louisville community, made an impression on us. We returned the following Sunday and have been attending ever since.

Q: Are you all new to Louisville? If so, where did you live previously?

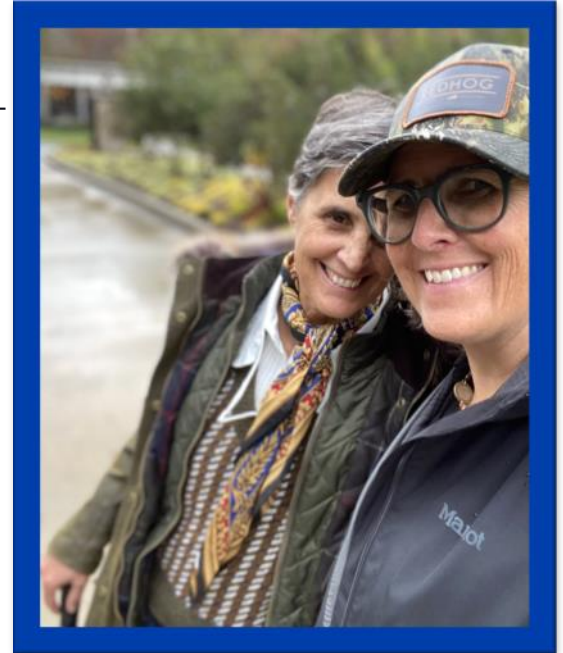
This is Kathleen's third time living in Louisville – hoping the third time is a charm! In addition to living in Louisville, Kathleen has lived in Paducah, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Nashville, Charleston, and Richmond, VA. Emily is new to Louisville. She previously lived in New Orleans, New Mexico, Chicago, and Washington, IN.

Q: What's your favorite part about the city?

We both love the park system, tree-lined streets, and unique neighborhoods. We often walk our crazy pack of dogs on the trails in one of the parks throughout town.

Q: What Calvary ministries are most meaningful to you?

Emily loves working with Margaret and all the food pantry volunteers. We both look forward to helping maintain the garden starting this spring.



Q: What's an interesting fact about you all?

We have three rescue puppies and a rescue cat that thinks he's a dog. Emily enjoys practicing guitar and gardening. Kathleen is an avid sports fan – she enjoys the thrill of competition, whether it's playing cards, sports, or board games. She played basketball in college and has been excited to see the growing momentum around women's sports in recent years.

Q: What lesson most significantly guides your religious/spiritual journey?

As we have moved through life's stages, one of CS Lewis's quotes resonates now more than ever for us:

"I have received no assurance that anything we can do will eradicate suffering. I think the best results are obtained by people who work quietly away at limited objectives, such as the abolition of the slave trade, or prison reform, or factory acts, or tuberculosis, not by those who think they can achieve universal justice, or health, or peace. I think the art of life consists in tackling each immediate evil as well as we can."

We strive to work in our own community, one interaction at a time, to make it just a little better.

Thanks to all who have made Calvary feel like home!



Christian Formation ‘Field Trip’ to the Food Pantry—Opal Walton

Editor’s note: Opal is a 4th grader at Goldsmith Elementary School.

On Sunday November 17th Margaret let the kids come down and learn about how we do things at the food pantry. I showed the kids how to pack bags.

First, I told them what’s in each cabinet. Step by step we each filled a bag, and then the kids did some on their own. My mom pretended to be a client so I could explain the questions we ask when we give out the bags.

I showed them how we sometimes put toilet paper and toothbrushes in the bags. We also have cat and dog food, and I showed the kids where they are kept.

Then I let them sit and ask me questions. I think that everyone enjoyed this event.



Le Petit Cabaret Brings Heartfelt Music and Community Generosity

On Sunday, November 10th, the Calvary Episcopal Church choir room transformed into an intimate concert space for *Le Petit Cabaret*, a memorable afternoon of music and heartfelt connection. Vocalist Emily Redden, accompanied by pianist Owen Sammons, captivated the audience with a two-hour performance that was as emotive as it was masterful.

Emily's performance took listeners on a profound journey through a repertoire filled with depth and passion. Her ability to convey a range of emotions was evident in the captivated faces of the attendees, who experienced joy, reflection, heartache, and inspiration throughout the afternoon. Owen Sammons' expert piano accompaniment provided a beautiful complement to Emily's soaring vocals, creating a rich and nuanced musical experience.



The event drew an enthusiastic crowd, filling the building with support for both the arts and a meaningful cause. **Through your generosity, *Le Petit Cabaret* raised over \$1,500 toward the restoration of Calvary's Casavant organ.** The success of the event underscores the strength of the Calvary arts community and the generosity of individuals like Emily, who selflessly give their talents to benefit the church family.



Le Petit Cabaret was more than a concert; it was a testament to the power of music to bring people together for a shared purpose. Thanks to Emily and Owen, this special offering will be remembered as a highlight of Calvary's ongoing efforts to preserve its musical heritage.

Editors Note: A heartfelt thank you to Will Cary who replaced several light bulbs in the choir loft just in time for the performance!

Hospitality News—*Patty Davidson, James Moody, and Scott Robinson,*
Hospitality Committee

Hospitality hosted a celebration to thank the Stewardship Committee for their hard work during the pledge period and to thank all those who made pledges for 2025. It was a wonderful fried chicken lunch with a beautifully decorated thank you cake from Plehn’s Bakery. Great food and lots of fun for the big crowd that attended.

Parish Life also sends a big THANK YOU to the Sunday School, who provided coffee hour on October 20th. They did a great job! (See pictures below.)



Diocesan News: Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe Installed—Meg Scharre

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe began his nine-year term as the 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church with an investiture service held November 2 at the Chapel of Christ the Lord at the Episcopal Church’s headquarters in New York. The service was livestreamed to 20,000 viewers in homes, churches and dioceses in the United States and around the world.

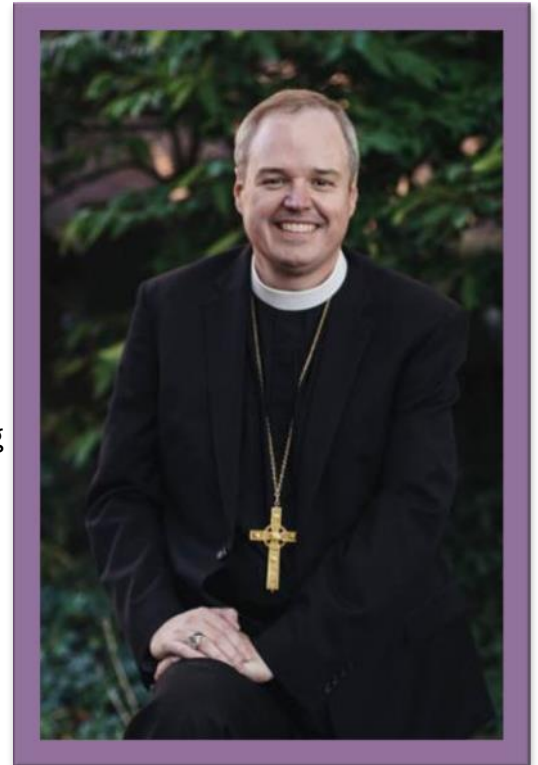
Rowe’s two living predecessors as presiding bishop, the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, elected in 2006, and the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, elected in 2015, were among the attendees. Presiding Bishop Rowe preached a message of Christian unity and purpose.

“We need to become one church, one church in Jesus Christ,” Rowe said in his 10-minute [sermon](#). He emphasized the importance of supporting the church’s ministries at the congregational and diocesan levels.

“That’s where ministry happens – where people are gathered today to be a part of this investiture,” Rowe said. “That’s where ministry is taking place. It’s in these places where faithful Episcopalians gather day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, to worship God, to celebrate and mourn their sorrows and to care for God’s people.”

Rowe, 49, was elected in June on the first ballot by the House of Bishops and confirmed by the House of Deputies at the 81st General Convention in Louisville. He was partly chosen for his experience overseeing adaptive responses to the challenges of denominational decline, as bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania and bishop provisional of Western New York. In his investiture sermon, he sought to prepare the church for what is expected to be a time of great change.

“Just as Jesus commanded his disciples to unbind and liberate Lazarus, raised from the dead, this unbinding and liberating of ourselves and our structures and our hurting world will take all the resilience we can muster,” Rowe said. “It will require us to set aside our disbelief and our divisions, our attachments to the things of this world, and maybe our attachment to the way we think things ought to function. But if we can be faithful in this work of unbinding, we will find that we can become the stewards that God needs us to be of our congregations and communities across our church.”



Bishop Rowe grew up in Western Pennsylvania, the son of working-class parents whose roots were in the Roman Catholic Church and the United Church of Christ. He attended the Methodist Church as a youth and was introduced to the Episcopal Church while in college. Bishop Rowe graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, where he was one of the youngest seminarians. He served as rector at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Franklin, Pennsylvania, and was called to serve as Bishop of Western Pennsylvania in 2007.

Rowe and his wife, Carly, and daughter, Lauren, will maintain their primary residence in Erie, Pennsylvania, though he has already begun traveling around the church and will continue to visit its more than 100 dioceses, as is required of him as Presiding Bishop under Episcopal Church Canons. His message to those dioceses is that their good work is part of something greater.

“God has given the church the resources and talents to invest in its ministries, building communities, advocating for justice and saving lives,” Rowe said. “This work, the work of proclaiming in word and deed Jesus’ resurrection and life, is the work to which God has called The Episcopal Church, now and always, as one church, together.”

Source: Episcopal News Service



The Louisville Chamber Choir presents “Songs of Christmas Night’ at Calvary on Saturday Dec 14th at 7:30.

For tickets go to <https://louisvillechamberchoir.org>



Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery

Donations for Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery are being accepted until **December 18th, 2024**. Please consider a donation of **\$35 or more**.

Given by:
In memory of:
In thanksgiving for:
In honor of:

Payment method:

cash

check

tithe.ly app (use QR code below and choose drop down option "Flower Fund")

You may drop this form with a check/cash in the offertory plate or mail/email to:

Calvary Episcopal Church
821 S. 4th St.
Louisville, KY 40203
Attn: Taylor Howell

office@calvaryepiscopal.org



Food Closet News—Margaret Dickinson

On November 22, Calvary hosted the annual turkey giveaway, with 326 birds (or hams!) then awaiting Thanksgiving preparation in the homes of our delighted clients. CLCM oversaw the operations this year, headed by the super-efficient Kathy Gapsis as mastermind (pictured here, along with a happy recipient.) We are grateful to many for making this tradition a reality.



The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday January 19, 2025. Watch the email blast for more information!

The History of the Advent Calendar

Like many aspects of modern Christmas practices, the Advent calendar is of German origin. From the early nineteenth century, German Protestants began to mark the days of Advent by marking walls or doors with a line of chalk each day.

A new practice of hanging a devotional image every day ultimately led to the creation of the first known hand-made, wooden, Advent calendar in 1851.

Sometime in the early twentieth century the first printed calendars appeared, followed by the innovation of adding small doors in the 1920s. During WWII cardboard was rationed and with a Nazi ban on the printing of calendars with images, the calendars disappeared. But after the war ended Richard Sellmar of Stuttgart obtained a permit to begin printing and selling them again. His company Sellmar-Verlag (this year celebrating its 70th anniversary) remains one of the largest producers of Advent calendars.

Calendars filled with chocolate began to appear from the late 1950s. Dwight Eisenhower is sometimes credited with the American popularization of the Advent Calendar, having been photographed while President opening them with his grandchildren.



Today, there are many different calendars, often with surprises like a piece of chocolate or candy behind the tiny door for each day. You might like to put something that can be done to help prepare for Christmas.

Here are a few ideas:

- Call a friend you haven't spoken with
- Visit a neighbor who lives alone
- Say a prayer for a different person each day
- Donate to your favorite charity

How will you count down the days of Advent?

Excerpted from article by Alex Wakeham on www.doinghistoryinpublic.org

Property Committee Report—*Lynne Lyndrup*

The Property Committee arranged a few rather large projects during 2024! The Courtyard and Burial Ground were cleaned up for spring and a few dead plants were replaced.

The months of July and August were quite busy with the removal of the organ console in preparation of the repair of the Chancel marble floor and its subfloor, as well as replacement of the Nave marble floor and its subfloor. To accommodate Calvary's Sunday services during this time, the congregation met in the choir loft in a well-attended and cozy setting. The Altar Guild did a wonderful job of setting up the temporary Altar and cleaning up after the service under the unusual circumstances.

September brought much needed new windows to the first-floor offices and second-floor classrooms. The windows were in such bad shape that cigarette smoke and noise from the parking lot filtered into the offices.

In October, the north side window frames and gutters were painted in preparation for the winter weather.

Will Cary has done an outstanding job of caring for our beautiful church. He is at the church nearly every day to be sure nothing else has gone amiss and handles many projects on his own without asking for the committee's help! His main project this year has been the refurbishing of the Ascension window which was painstakingly removed. A plastic likeness has been installed and will remain until this precious window has been restored and returned to its original place above the Altar.

In addition to Will Cary, other Property Committee members are Jerry Lyndrup, Stephanie Smith, Derek Inghram, Jacob Middleton, Justin Asher, Ruth Robins, Jamie Hendon and Lynne Lyndrup.



Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Parker Hall
10:30 Live service and Facebook feed

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am – noon
(at other times, call Rector's cell phone, below)

Food Closest

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:30–11:30 am



[View map for location](#)

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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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