



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connection

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

August 2024

Anticipation—Very Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector

Dear Friends,

The teacher of Ecclesiastes tells us in 3:1

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Those words, and the passages that follow, are excellent reminders of the various facets of life, the good, the not so good and the downright hard. While the last few months have been a time for great matters in our church, it feels like the season known as Summer has been lost—not the temperatures, but the experience of Summer.

June was full of preparation for, and the experience of, General Convention here in Louisville. I have very much enjoyed hearing the varied experiences of those who volunteered their time in the many different aspects of life at General Convention and took part in the Revival with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. No sooner was convention over, quite literally, then we hosted two nights of Drag Me to Church, which was once again greatly supported by a two-night combined gift of \$14,500 to our organ restoration project and food ministry. The show was phenomenal. If you didn't make it, you truly missed a Gospel treat!

July came in with a bang and a lot of dust with the removal of the marble floor tiles in the chancel area of the Church for the beginning phase of the floor restoration while at the same time scaffolding went up to assist in the disassembly of the Ascension window behind the altar. Will Cary and Jerry Lyndrup have done a phenomenal job of oversight with those projects, which continue as I write. The staff and



volunteers have been incredibly nimble and ready at a moment's notice to shift and adjust to meet the ever-changing needs of this busy time. Our services relocated into the Choir Room beginning on the first Sunday in July and that has been a surprisingly pleasant experience of worship, so much so that people have requested that we have services in the Choir Room each July. We shall see!

Here we are in August and school has started back. Backpacks have been blessed and time continues to fly into another glorious season. Our services are returning to the church. Although Advent is still a couple of months away, we will be in a time of waiting. We will be waiting for the return of the restored Ascension window and the renovated organ. If this summer is any example, our time of waiting will go by quickly indeed.

Our fall programming will start in full in September, and the choir will return after Labor Day. Education for Ministry and Sacred Ground will offer classes, and the children will return to their fall schedule, with the addition of Acolyte training. These are exciting seasons at Calvary!

Thank you for your continued support and care of this beloved Church!

Faithfully,

Lee+



Welcome to Lilah and Brooks Eberling, (great-grandchildren of Margaret Dickinson) baptized into the Body of Christ on August 4. They represent the third generation of the Dickinson clan to be baptized at Calvary. Parents are Jake and Shelby Eberling.

Drag Me to Church Returns for the Second Year—*J. C. Phelps*

A drag show in a place of worship? Not only did we do it again, but we did it with even more love, pride, and purpose the second time around.

For the second consecutive year, Calvary Episcopal Church opened its doors and hearts for "Drag Me To Church," an event that continues to break boundaries and embrace the spirit of inclusion. This year, we extended our outreach with two spectacular shows: one on Friday night for those attending the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church and another on Saturday for the public. The energy in the room was palpable as both nights drew in a diverse and vibrant crowd, united by a shared commitment to love and acceptance.

Over \$14,000 was raised during these two evenings, a testament to the generosity and support of our community. The funds were split between two crucial causes: our ongoing organ project, which continues to enrich our worship experience, and our ever-important food ministry, which plays a vital role in curbing food insecurity in the Kentuckiana region. Donations from Friday went to the organ project, while donations from Saturday went to our food ministry. The success of Drag Me To Church goes beyond numbers; it symbolizes the impact we can make when we come together with a purpose.

This year's event built on the strong foundation laid last year when Calvary hosted the inaugural Drag Me To Church. Then, we proclaimed loudly and clearly that God's love is for everyone, with no exceptions. As an Episcopal Church, we pride ourselves on having a welcoming and inclusive spirit, and this event is one of the many ways we embody that mission. The message was heard loud and clear: in a space where many have felt excluded, we made room for all, especially our LGBTQ+ siblings and their allies. As a church, we at Calvary invite all to the table.

The significance of this event was felt deeply by all who attended. For many, it was more than just an evening of entertainment—it **was a powerful statement of representation**. We were reminded of the importance of seeing ourselves reflected in the spaces where we worship and find community.

As someone who grew up as a preacher's kid and the grandson of a pastor in Southern Kentucky, I have always been taught the importance of embodying the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each of these values was evident in the planning and execution of Drag Me To Church, reminding us all of God's unwavering love and our daily commitment to embodying that love in our actions.

This year, as we reflect on the success of Drag Me To Church, I am filled with pride. Pride in our church, pride in our community, and pride in our shared commitment to love our neighbors—no exceptions. I have never been prouder to be a Christian, and I can't wait to do it again next year. Thank you – truly, from the bottom of my heart – for all that made this possible. I want to extend special gratitude to my fellow members of the Arts at Calvary Committee and especially our beloved Scott (Cadillac) for being our fabulous emcee.

A drag show in a place of worship? *After two incredible years, I can't wait to see what heights we'll reach together next in love, in outreach, and in philanthropy.*



Bishop White welcoming attendees, with sign language interpreters behind.



Performers included Calvary's own Cadillac Seville.

Back to School!—*Callie Hausman*, Christian Education Director

We are thrilled to begin a new year of classes and regular programming on September 8, as we gather to share our faith journey.

The Nursery will offer a Story and Response during Children's Worship using a new preschool curriculum that follows the lectionary. Similarly, Children's Worship also uses a lectionary-based curriculum focusing on Scripture, while offering opportunities for children to take part in leading the service.

Children's Music will return on Sept. 8 with plans to sing in church on a seasonal schedule.

In all that we do, we always emphasize love in the lessons we explore. As we continue to build community and relationships with each other, we strengthen our bond. As we examine Scripture and apply it to our lives, we can follow Christ's example and teachings, having a deeper capacity to grow in faith.

During the Fall we will have several special events and classes, including a Sacristy tour, Food Pantry introduction, Family-Hosted Coffee Hour, Advent Event, Christmas Pageant, and more.

If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to contact me at cedirector@calvaryepiscopal.org. Avery, Lilly, and I, along with Darlene and Joann, are all honored to be part of your child's faith journey.

Peace,

Callie Hausman



81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church—Meg Scharre

The Episcopal Church USA held its 81st General Convention in Louisville June 23-28.

While in Louisville, the convention elected the **Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe** to be its the 28th presiding bishop, reelected Julia Ayala Harris as House of Deputies president, elected the Rev. Steve Pankey (rector of Christ Church, Bowling Green KY) as deputies’ vice president and passed a \$143 million budget for the next triennium. The General Convention, as the church’s primary governing body, splits its authority between the House of Bishops and House of Deputies. The two houses handled a total of 390 resolutions.

Outside the legislative chambers, several events brought together bishops, deputies and visitors to mingle, socialize, pray, worship and advocate. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s last signature revival service at the KFC Yum! Center drew a crowd of more than 2,000 people who heard him urge everyone to “choose love because love can save us.”

A special thanks to all who volunteered their time and talent to help make the Convention a huge success. A total of 151 volunteers from 21 congregations within the Diocese of Kentucky gave over 1400 hours of their time. Convention attendees expressed gratitude to the volunteers for their warm and welcoming hospitality.

For details on the Convention, please go to: <https://generalconvention.org/>



Revival at Yum Center



Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe is flanked by 26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and 27th Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Photo: Randall A. Gornowich

Music Matters—*Jacob Cook, Director of Music*

Greetings Calvary!

We are excited to get the new choir and Sacred Arts season started on Sunday, September 8th, but before I go into what we have in store in the coming year, I want to take a minute to thank everyone who participated in our musical offerings this summer. Owen and I are grateful to Harvey, Margaret, Jennie, and Mary for volunteering their time and talents this summer. Their participation elevated our services and uplifted my spirit, to say the least. Thank you all!

We were also thrilled to hear such exuberant hymn singing by the whole congregation while we had church in the choir loft! Now that we know how many people can fit in the choir loft, know that there is always room for more in the Calvary choir should you be interested.



Now, to this season. In addition to our regular Sunday morning offerings, the choir will present several special services throughout the year. We begin with a Bach Vespers service on **October 27th** that features BWV 80 “Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott” (A mighty fortress is our God), in which Bach sets Martin Luther’s famous hymn. On **December 1st**, the choir will once again join with Christ Church Cathedral choir to present the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah in sing-along fashion. This year, we will present this service at the Cathedral, and we have devised a new seating plan that will allow for more congregation participation. We then present an Advent Service of Lessons and Carols during the Sunday morning service on **December 8th**. The turn of the year will feature a recital and Evensong on **February 2nd** for the Feast of the Presentation. In Lent we will present Michael John Trotta’s “The Seven Last Words of Christ” at the cathedral on **March 23rd**. The final choral service is the feast of the Ascension service at the cathedral on **May 29th**.

We will also be offering performances by guest artists again this year. We are thrilled to have Emily Redden present a cabaret performance on **November 10th** to raise funds for our organ restoration project. I'm personally excited to be able to hear Emily again in Louisville, and I am grateful for her desire to help us with our organ restoration. And, speaking of organ, our own organist, Owen Sammons, will be presenting an organ recital on **November 17th** at Christ Church Cathedral. Finally, we will be hosting Dr. Kent Hatteberg and the Louisville Chamber Choir on Saturday, **December 14th**. They will present their Christmas concert of a *cappella* repertoire, and Calvary members will be given complimentary tickets.

I know that's a lot to take in, and I haven't even mentioned Christmas Eve or Holy Week! So, we're also preparing a brochure of all the musical offerings to mail out in September. Suffice it to say that the music department is excited and ready to get the new season underway. We look forward to offering this music to God in services at Calvary and Christ Church this year.

In song,
Jacob

Save the Date!

When: Sunday November 10, 2024, at 3:00 pm

Where: Calvary's Choir Loft

Join us for a very special performance of favorite songs from Broadway, Jazz, Opera, Art Song, Gospel, and the Great American Songbook.



Emily Redden grew up at Calvary, but is now based in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a teacher, coach, producer, and song writer, and has won numerous regional and national awards for her work. Her performance is a gift to her first church home to raise funds for the organ restoration project.

See you there!

New Member Spotlight—*J. C. Phelps*

This issue: Alisson Reber and Jeff Hurt

We are so thankful that Alisson and Jeff decided to call Calvary their church home! They are the featured interviewees in this installment of New Member Spotlight. We look forward to introducing the newest members of our congregation to the entire Calvary family in future issues!

Q: Please take a minute to introduce yourselves.

A: "I'm Alisson, a speech therapist and violist, and Jeff teaches German and Spanish at Trinity. We danced salsa while speaking German together for a couple of years before it occurred to us to start dating, and now we're planning our December wedding at Calvary!"

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

A: "Jeff is Catholic, and regular participation in liturgy has always been important to him. Before he and I met, drop-in yoga classes were as spiritual as I felt willing to get. I was honored when, early in our relationship, Jeff invited me to accompany him to his parish. However, it and the other Catholic churches we visited were not well matched to me. In the spirit of compromise, Jeff agreed to systematically sample all the Episcopal churches in Louisville, to see if we could find a church to suit us both. Calvary was the first stop on our list... and seems to be our last! We've been cozy here since last November."

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

A: "This is my (Alisson's) second time living in Louisville, for a total of more than a dozen years. I've also lived in Ohio, Lexington, western Massachusetts, and Michigan.

Jeff was born and raised here, did a triple major at Berea, and then lived in Austria for 11 years. He returned about a decade ago to take care of his parents."

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

"We are both fans of the social dance scene. Jeff really enjoys the public parks, and I love the classical music community."



A: What Calvary ministries are most meaningful to you?

“The music! I have to restrain myself from fist-pumping through Owen's postludes, and sung psalms are my favorites. I have also been bringing my mom to help in the food pantry every Thursday, and that's been wonderful, too.”

Q: What's an interesting fact about you?

“Jeff has conversational skills in 13 (!) different languages, and I have been super into fermenting stuff and baking sourdough goodies this year.

Also, everyone is welcome to attend our wedding ceremony on 12/21/24 at 10:30 a.m. (string quartet starting at 10).”

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

“For me (Alisson), it's the conviction that people are generally doing their best. Jeff is wrangling teenagers at the time of this writing, so we'll all have to ask him when next we see him!”



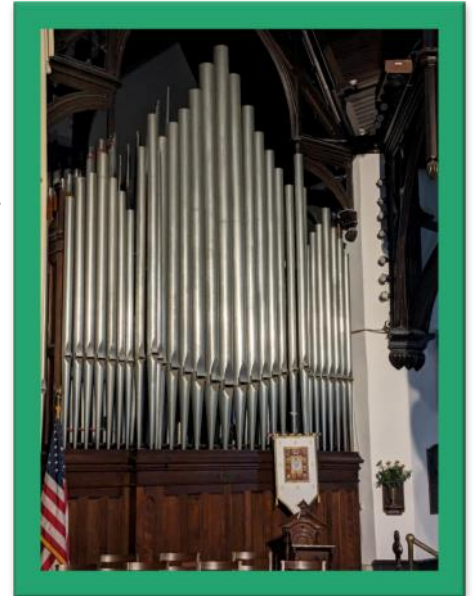
A Pipe Organ Project Update—Owen Sammons, Organist

As you may have noticed, our organ restoration project is in full swing. The rehabilitation of our chancel floor has provided a firm foundation for our renovated organ console. When the console returns, it will sit upon a movable platform, allowing it to be placed anywhere in the chancel. This flexibility will enable the console to be positioned front and center for an organ concert, and then moved off to either side of the chancel for liturgical services.

The rapid progress on the floor repair required that our pipe organ console be permanently disconnected, thus silencing our Grand Casavant organ until the work is completed. You may be wondering, “What is the organ we’re hearing on Sunday mornings?” We are currently using a temporary electronic organ. The goal was to find a replacement that would allow us to continue “doing what we do best” in terms of beautiful, organ-centric church music. Fortunately, 21st-century technology has provided us with a relatively convincing replacement for the interim.

The next steps in the life of our organ will largely be invisible to us. Schroth Organbuilders are removing the pipes—row by row—to be repaired and revoiced in their shop. Our console, also in their shop, is undergoing a full renovation, including the installation of modern electrical connections and digital/MIDI control systems. Once completed, the console will connect to the pipes using an Ethernet cable and a power cable—an enormous improvement over the previous umbilical cord that contained nearly 2,000 individual wires running under the floor.

Your support is greatly appreciated and still greatly needed! We are fortunate to have an endowment that is matching all gifts, but we still have a few miles to go before we sleep.



Food Closet Spotlight—*Margaret Dickinson, Food Closet Coordinator*

One of the great delights of this summer has been the opportunity for our children to take part in, and learn from, helping in our food ministry. We've enjoyed Emery and Nino Tran; Aurora Koch (granddaughter of Jon and Stephanie Smith); Gray Howell; Opal, Mable, and Jude Walton; and various other children and grandchildren of our non-Calvary volunteers.

They have learned to fill bags, hand out water, bag collards, bagels, tomatoes, apples and other fresh stuff, transport food in those magic chairs with wheels, shelve canned goods, eat Crumbl cookies and popcorn, and generally have a ball! But they know why they are there. As Mabel Walton (age 6) put it, "We are giving out food because these people don't have enough to eat!"

The good news is that three-year-old Jude, along with mom Amanda, will be able to continue helping us as the rest of the kids go back to school. Our patient volunteers love him, and he's developed a special affinity for Jim Barnes. So, if Jude is ever missing, all we have to do is look in the peanut butter cupboard!





Sacred Ground is a race dialogue series designed for these times... It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. It invites participants to walk back through history... in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story. It holds the vision of beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God...

--<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground/invitation/>

Calvary is hosting two Sacred Ground groups this fall. Videos and readings from a variety of sources accompany the bi-weekly sessions (every two weeks). There is no charge to join Sacred Ground, and all are welcome to participate. Groups will begin at Calvary on:

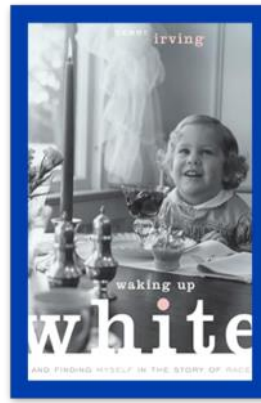
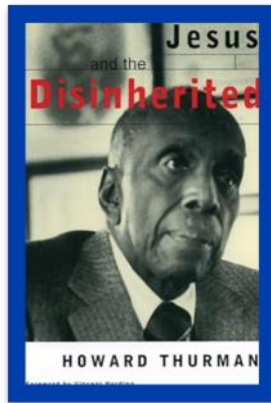
Monday, September 9, from 5:30-7:30
Sunday, September 15, from 1:30-3:30.

To join either group this fall please email Lee+ rector@calvaryepiscopal.org or Joseph Reese at joseph.steven.reese@gmail.org.

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. The type of love that I stress here is not eros, a sort of esthetic or romantic love; not philia, a sort of reciprocal love between personal friends; but it is agape which is understanding goodwill for all men. It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of men. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization.

--The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Book Nook—Recommendations for thoughtful reading



Two groups of Calvary members will be using these two books as they participate in **Sacred Ground** sessions beginning in September.

Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman was developed from a series of sermons by Howard Thurman, a minister and civil rights leader, between 1935 and 1945. (Editor’s note: Two of those sermons were given here in Kentucky at Berea College and the University of Kentucky in 1937!)

According to his biographers, Martin Luther King Jr. made a study of this book during the Montgomery bus boycott of 1956, and was profoundly influenced by the ideas presented in it – particularly using love and non-violent resistance to combat hate and violence.

Thurman suggests viewing Jesus as a subject rather than an object. Jesus was a member of a poor family of an oppressed people, and as such, has particular relevance to oppressed peoples of any time period.

Waking Up White by Debby Irving has been described as ‘*a racial autobiography, unsparing in its self-examination, and a tutorial in the history and corrosive impact of white privilege*’ – *Kenyon Alumni Magazine*. Irving grew up in an all-white upper-middle-class Boston suburb where she was taught that ‘*accomplishment for anyone was simply a matter of intention and hard work.*’ If she thought about racism at all she imagined it was limited to ‘*bigots who make snarky comments and commit intentionally cruel acts.*’

While pursuing a masters degree, she took a course called ‘Racial and Cultural Identity’ during which she realized that ‘*My life had been built on more than a diploma, a paycheck... it had been cemented with a sense of access, belonging, and optimism*’ that was not shared by people of color.

The book is a wake-up call to those who cannot give away their privilege but can use that same privilege to make change.

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

Hospitality sailed along nicely this summer with great coffee hours, and we thank all of those who have acted as hosts. We hope to keep it up this Fall and winter!

For those of you who might like to participate but don't want to host, you can consider donating a little money to Parish Life (see James Moody, Scott Robinson or Pattie Davidson). We'll be happy to pick up some little goodies to put out for coffee hour when there's no host signed up.

Terrance Griffith has recently completed a deep clean of the kitchen. Take a look back there! Not only are the cabinets and appliances much cleaner and shinier, but you should also see inside the drawers and cabinets! Many thanks to Terrance!

Calvary also hosted the National Altar Guild luncheon during General Convention in June (below). Many thanks to Terrance for setting up the tables so beautifully!



Property Committee Report—*Lynne Lyndrup*

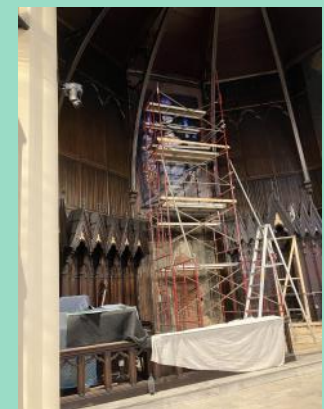
The Property Committee has received permission from the Vestry to hire Atlas Siding and Windows to proceed with replacing the ten windows in the new section of the church that covers the first-floor offices and second-floor classrooms.

Rosa Mosaic has finished the restoration of the marble floors in the Chancel and back of the Nave. The organ console was dismantled on July 8. The Sunday service has been moved to the choir loft for the month of July while the work is being done in the Chancel as there is no choir during the summer months. The repair of the Chancel floor had to be completed prior to installation of the new organ console; repair of the Nave floor occurred simultaneously to save both time and money. As a side note: remember, Calvary needs your Organ Pledge if you haven't already done so!

The two HVAC units for the second-floor classrooms were warranted for 20 years when new; they are about 30 years old now. We expected one, if not both, to fail this summer. One has already failed. Both units have been replaced at the same time, which saved time and money.

The Ascension Window has been in dangerous condition and at risk of falling out of its frame. Will Cary has taken on the responsibility of having the window removed and repaired. In its place will be a temporary likeness that will remain until the work on the window has been completed.

A note of great appreciation to those congregants who stayed after the June 30 service to help with the dismantling of the Chancel to ready it for Rosa Mosaic to begin their work the following



Monday. They made quick work of moving the choir chairs, prayer books, and cushions to the floor of the Nave in order that Rosa Mosaic could begin the process of removing the marble floor unencumbered. Thank you so much for your help.

As a member of the Altar Guild, I also want to give a shout-out to my fellow members and Terrance Griffith who also worked diligently after the June 30 service to move the instruments of Communion to the second floor as well as arrange the choir loft to assemble a modest chapel for our July services. There is seating for at least 78 parishioners.

The first service in the choir loft, July 7, was cozy and comfortable, and our voices sounded outstanding as we sang the hymns as Margaret Dickenson played the choir loft piano. Jennie Kling accompanied her on the trumpet for the Prelude as well as twice more during the service. Harvey Turner sang the music at the Offertory and the Communion hymn. The July 14, 21, 28 and August 4, 11 services were well attended and I anticipate that to continue. We should be in our “regular” pews by the time this goes to print!



Diocese of Kentucky Pilgrimage to Montgomery/Selma September 25-28

The Racial Healing Commission is hosting a pilgrimage for September 25-28, 2024. Members from throughout the Diocese of Kentucky will meet in Montgomery, AL and surrounding region, for a two-day journey as we visit the three Legacy sites created by the Equal Justice Initiative: The Legacy Museum, The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the newly-opened Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. A local guide and historian will lead us as we visit Hayneville (Jonathan Myrick Daniels Memorial) and Selma (Edmund Pettus Bridge). We will gather together at St. John's Episcopal Church for discussion and prayer.

Participant Cost: \$150 per individual (Covers shared meals, entrance fees, chartered bus, and tour guide for September 27th). Registration is limited to 45 participants. Participants book their own hotel rooms.

See the Pilgrimage information sheet [here](#) outlining the travel plans and what is included in the pilgrimage costs.

Registration link can be found [here](#). Registration will close Friday, August 30th.



National Memorial for Peace and Justice

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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Go to www.calvaryepiscopal.org, Under About Us, select Contact Us and fill out the form to request digital communications.