PARISH ANNUAL MEETING AND CELEBRATION

Church members gathered between services on Sunday, January 21 to hear from clergy and ministry leaders about Calvary’s activities over the past year. Fr. Paul, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the church Treasurer, and the Outreach Committee spoke to the many efforts of the church to remain a welcoming church, to be fiscally sound, and to carry Calvary out into the community.

This Sunday also is the day when vestry members, school board members, the Calvary Foundation board, Diocesan council delegates, and the Myers Foundation board are recognized and commissioned for their work in the year ahead.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Council was held in Waco, TX on February 15-17. Greg Bethke, Jewlon Morris, Kathy Haley and Amber Zentis represented Calvary, along with Fr. Paul and Rev. Lecia. Thursday evening worship was held at the First Baptist Church with the Right Rev. Jane Alexander, from Edmonton, Canada, preaching. The service was followed by dinner and a program celebrating the anniversary of the 40th year of the ordination of women in the Diocese of Texas. Business meetings were held on both Friday and Saturday mornings.

VESTRY RETREAT

This year's Vestry retreat had a dual focus.

On Friday, February 2, members of current and former vestries and the Outreach Committee gathered for dinner to hear more about Attack Poverty and the outreach opportunities it presents for Calvary. Brendon Baca spoke about the global mission of Attack Poverty, and more specifically about its work here in Richmond-Rosenberg. Brandon’s wife, Sarah Beth, is the volunteer coordinator at Friends of North Richmond, and she outlined ways to work in the community with them.

On Saturday morning, vestry members and Calvary Episcopal Prep School Board members sat together to consider potential long-term space requirement needs, factoring in church and school growth. Teams worked together to create a “wish list” to ensure the quality of education for our students and to anticipate future church demands. Calvary's Reb Scarborough facilitated the discussion and will prepare a report for the Vestry and School Board.
Clergy Corner

By the time these words are before you Lent will be in full swing. At this point, I hope and pray that a new rhythm of reflection, repentance and prayer is gaining momentum as our Lenten spiritual disciplines.

Traditionally, Lent is the season of the church for praying, fasting and alms-giving. It is a season of sacrifice in the spirit of mirroring the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is also a time to reflect on the ways our lives have drifted from following Jesus as closely or deeply as we might. It is a good time to refocus on discipleship and reorient ourselves back on the path to God. Together with Jesus, we will be turning soon enough toward Jerusalem heading straight toward Good Friday.

The Gospel of Mark is our gospel for worship this year. In our scripture for the first Sunday of Lent, St. Mark briefly and succinctly describes Jesus’ time in the wilderness. He writes, “And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.” (Mark 1:12-13, NRSV)

St. Mark’s lack of details in this scripture leaves a lot to the imagination. I’ve come to appreciate how this encourages us to use our imagination to what Lent can mean for us. Where is the wilderness that frightens us? When did we feel alone there? What temptations do we succumb to without recognizing the cost to our relationships with God and others? Are there wild beasts that we can be with and make peace with instead of turning away from? In our daily busy-ness, do we recognize and notice the angels whom surround us in beauty and love? Our answers to any one of these questions is an entry point to reflect, pray and seek God’s forgiveness, love and grace.

One commentator I read recently referred to the Gospel of Mark as The Passion of Jesus Christ with a short introduction. The gospel’s brevity allows it to be read easily in a short period of time. I hope you’ll consider reading different translations or interpretations throughout the season. Invite the Holy Spirit to read and study with you to be your guide. Take time to notice the details St. Mark does offer and contemplate their importance. Take to heart being a disciple and witness to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

During our Ash Wednesday service, these words are read: “I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent...” (BCP pg. 265)

Reflect and repent, pray and fast, read and meditate on God’s word and we shall have a holy Lent, indeed. Through this season and in these disciplines, we hope to discover a renewed and strengthened faith and to discover the joy of a closer relationship with God.

Lenten blessings,

[Signature]
HANGIN’ OUT WITH THE EYC

On Sunday, February 4, EYC collected $1000 in monetary donations for Souper Bowl of Caring, as well as 264 pounds of non-perishable food items. As in the past, the football team with the most donations seems to win the Super Bowl! This year was no exception and Calvary members overwhelmingly predicted a win by the Eagles.

On the following Sunday, The EYC took a field trip to Helping Hands. Diane Clark, Helping Hands Director, graciously opened HH so the youth could tour the facility and present Diane with the check and food donations.

A job well-done! Thank you Calvary!

SCOUT SUNDAY

Each year in January, Calvary looks forward to Scout Sunday, when Calvary Boy and Cub Scout troops and their leaders join with us in worship. These young boys present the colors, lead the service and remind us of the connection between scouting, service and faith.

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF NEW BIRTH

January, 2018
Miles Joseph Cooley, son of Clayton and Kristin Cooley; grandson of Angela and Harrie Cooley. Born October 25, 2017

February, 2018
Juliette Mei-Li Tarantino and Michael Asher Tarantino, children of Michael and Julianna Ming-Ju Tarantino, and great grandchildren of Scotty and Mary Ann Innes.
SHROVE TUESDAY

With the Parish Hall in full Mardi Gras colors, nearly 80 church and school family members enjoyed pancakes, bacon, sausage and beverages prepared and served by 20 youth. The highly anticipated pancake eating contest was won by Kaylee Hillis, Gerald Medel and Cameron Kambhu.

Many thanks to Suzette and Tim Hillis for helping make this a colorful way to lead us into Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY

In addition to the three Ash Wednesday services in the Sanctuary, Rev. Lecia and Deacon Nancy took the ashes to the public by participating in “Ashes to Go” for the first time.

The first car entered the circle drive just outside the doors of the church at 7:10am, with the final car exiting around 5:30pm. During two shifts, one in the morning (7:00am to 9:00am) and another in the afternoon (3:00pm to 5:30pm), 60 people received ashes and prayers. Nancy and Lecia offered ashes to men and women, mothers and fathers with children and babies in their arms and in their car seats. Some came from our school community, some from our church community and some from this community that we live in. They saw our lighted sign, the signs placed on the street and saw crucifiers Roy Haley and Tim Hillis on the corner. This was a very personal way for Calvary to minister outside the walls of the church.
WEEKLY LENTEN SERIES

Wednesday, February 21 was the launch for the 2018 Lenten series, exploring what it means to love our neighbor and respect the dignity of every human being. Aside from Calvary’s signature soup and salad, each program features a video sermon with messages that resonate for all of us.

Don’t miss Wednesday, March 21, when Fr. Peter Funk and Br. Michael Gallagher will be with us from Beaumont, as they are every year, to share on “People of Incarnation”.

PRESTON STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK DAY

On Saturday, February 24th we held a very successful work day at the community garden. Forty-nine volunteers arrived to help us clean up and prepare for spring/summer planting: 20 from Calvary, 16 students from Austin High School, 9 from First Baptist Church and the rest from the community-at-large. Thanks to Don Whitehead for hot dogs on the grill, to FBC for plenty of water and Helping Hands for chips and cookies. All the volunteers were enthusiastic and helpful and the weather was perfect!

Soon we will be planting tomatoes, peppers, okra, green beans, squash and cucumbers in the production beds for spring and summer harvest. All of It will be donated to Helping Hands, the Women’s Shelter and anyone in need in the North Richmond community. Last year the garden raised and donated over 1,300 lbs. of produce. This year we hope to top that amount!

Outreach/Into the Community: There has been a lot of interest in the individual beds and at this time almost all of the 29 raised beds have been assigned to gardeners who will plant, harvest and even donate their own produce. We welcome anyone who wants to visit the garden. We recommend a stroll through the Bell Garden, a walk among the beautiful orchard, and a rest on a bench under the pergola to enjoy the wind chimes!

Kate Brewer and Lois Whitehead, Chairs
SCHOOL IN THE NEWS

Saturday, February 24th Calvary Episcopal Preparatory hosted their annual Denim and Diamonds Gala and Auction. The gym was transformed into the Calvary Corral for the evening. The night was full with a fried chicken dinner, mechanical bull, music and a live and silent auction.

Each year, Calvary holds a charity auction and gala to help support the mission of our school. CEP’s mission is to develop children by building a foundation of excellence within a Christian environment. In this mission, children are prepared to make a positive impact in our community, cities, nation and world.

CEP wants to thank Calvary church and its members for all of the continued support. We enjoy nothing more than seeing church members at our events, not to mention the donations made and auction items purchased by church members. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

Celebrate the Resurrection with us this year!

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 25th Palm Sunday ~ 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Tuesday, March 27th Traditional Service ~ 9:30 AM
Wednesday, March 28th Shadow of the Cross ~ 7:00 PM
Thursday, March 29th Maundy Thursday ~ 7:00 PM
March 30th Good Friday ~ 12:00 noon
March 31st Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word ~ 9:00 AM

Easter Sunday, April 1st
Festival Eucharist at both ~ 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
Adults and children alike are invited to follow the cross at both services
Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts for the Children
In the Gym at ~ 9:30 AM

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Church Staff
The Rev. Paul Wehner, Rector
The Rev. Lecia Brannon, Curate
Kathy Haley, Financial Administrator
Celeste Davis, Parish Administrator
Will Mason, Worship Coordinator
John Brun, Organist and Choir Director
Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator
Suzette Hillis, Communication
Betty Anne Taylor, Director of Christian Education
Sarah Minkert, Safeguarding Administrator
Jose Portill, Sexton

Contact us at: (281) 342-2147
www.calvaryrichmond.org

Worship Services
Sunday
8:00 AM  Traditional
9:30 AM  Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 AM  Contemporary
Tuesday
9:30 AM  Traditional

Vestry
Jewlon Morris, Sr. Warden  Jim Kidda
Oscar Lozano, Jr. Warden  Frank Lemkowitz
David Taylor, Clerk  Dorothy Lyons
Leslie Amentini  Missy Marek
Betty Best  Scott McLemore
Roy Haley  Joyce Strimple

Officers
Bill Daw, Chancellor
Christian Iversen, Treasurer
Scott McLemore, Assistant Treasurer

Newsletter Team
The Members of Calvary

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