

Calvary Episcopal Church Annual Parish Celebration January 19, 2025

A Year of Resilience and Renewal - 2024

My Dear Calvary Family,

As we reflect on this past year at Calvary Church, one word comes to mind: resilience. It was a year of unexpected challenges that called for creativity and adaptation, yet our parish community not only endured but thrived.

For much of the year, our worship shifted from the familiar sanctuary of our beloved church building to the Parish Hall. While this temporary space lacked some of the comforts we cherish, it became a powerful symbol of our shared faith and determination. Week after week, we gathered, prayed, and praised God together—proving once again that the church is not defined by walls, but by the people united within them.

In this season of change, unexpected blessings emerged. Worshiping together in the Parish Hall brought us closer as a three-service parish, giving us opportunities to connect with one another in fresh ways. Relationships were strengthened, new friendships were formed, and our bonds as a community deepened. Despite the challenges, attendance remained steady—a clear reflection of your unwavering dedication and love for this church family.

Our ministries adapted and flourished in the face of change. Fellowship may have looked different at times, but it continued to thrive. The adjustments required in our music ministry and other programs were met with creativity and determination, ensuring that the joyful noise of worship remained at the heart of our gatherings. Together, we embraced the work of discipleship with steadfast hearts, ensuring that Calvary Church remained a place of hope, faith, and love.

This past year taught us to see God's provision in unexpected ways. From the children worshiping in classrooms to the volunteers rearranging spaces week after week, every act of service demonstrated the strength and faith of this community. Each of you contributed to the resilience and vitality of Calvary Church, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

As we look to the coming year, I am excited about the opportunities before us. We will continue to grow in faith with expanded Bible study offerings, meaningful fellowship events, and inspiring worship experiences. These new initiatives will enrich our spiritual lives and deepen our connections with one another, allowing us to walk together in Christ's light.

Thank you for your flexibility, your commitment, and your faithfulness throughout this journey. This year has shown us that no matter the circumstances, Calvary Church is a vibrant and thriving community of faith. I am profoundly grateful to serve alongside each of you as we continue to live into God's call for us.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan

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Contents

Meeting Agenda	4
2024 Annual Meeting Minutes	5
Senior Warden's Report	7
Junior Warden's Report	8
Finance Committee Report	9
Stewardship Report	10
Outreach	11
Preston Street Community Garden	11
Attack Poverty + Friends of North Richmond, Friends of North Rosenberg	12
Helping Hands, Kairos, Blood Drives	13
Christmas Adopt-A-Family, Thanksgiving Feast, Laundry Love	14
Action Team, Scouting	15
Calvary Episcopal Preparatory	17
Calvary Episcopal Church Foundation, Inc	19
Sanctuary Foundation Repair and Renovation Project	20
Worship Ministry	21
Audio/Video Ministry	21
Calvary Life	22
Calvary Out & About	22
Pastoral Care Team, St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild	23
Formation	25
Christian Education – Children and Adults	25
Men's Ministry	28
EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)	29
Young Adults, Daughters of the King	30
Newcomer Notes and More	31
Parish Statistics for 2024	32
Commissioning of the Members of the Vestry and the Diocesan Council Delegates	33
Mission Statement & Ministry Map (2024)	35

ANNUAL PARISH CELEBRATION

2025 Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer Fr. Ralph Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Appointment of Recording Secretary Rick Lane Rick Lane 2024 Annual Parish Meeting Minutes Approval Senior Warden's Report Rick Lane Treasurer's Report Greg Bethke, Chair, Finance Committee Church Renovation Report Betsy Zanghi Calvary Foundation Report - Elections Betsy Zanghi Dr. Maria Fondon Calvary Episcopal Preparatory Report Calvary Outreach Report Roy Haley Outreach Highlight Recognition - Laundry Love Rev. Nancy In-reach Highlight Recognition – Adult Christian Education Janet Soller Rector's Report Fr. Ralph Acknowledgement of outgoing Vestry members Fr. Ralph Greg Bethke, Rick Lane, Debbie Pohler, Fred Steinkamp Recognition of New Vestry Members Fr. Ralph Kathy Bethke, Betty Gorham, Jim Grotte, Bob Morris Commissioning and Blessing of the Vestry Fr. Ralph Announcement of Wardens for 2025 Fr. Ralph Special Recognition: Church Mouse Award Fr. Ralph

Rev. Nancy

Closing Prayer

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2024 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

Fr. Ralph Morgan called the meeting to order at 9:18 am and led the congregation in prayer.

Kathy Haley was appointed recording secretary for the 2024 meeting.

Betty Gorham moved to accept the minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting, and Dorothy Lyons seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

Sr. Warden's Report

Philip Zanghi shared a reflection on Calvary's journey in 2023, expressing immense pride in all that was achieved throughout the year. He emphasized that Calvary is defined by its members and encouraged everyone to actively participate in a ministry. With confidence in God's guidance, he believes Calvary will continue to accomplish great things as a parish. Philip concluded by thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve on the vestry.

Treasurer's Report

Greg Bethke presented the Finance Committee Report, noting that the 2024 budget shows a deficit. He explained that both the vestry and finance committee are focused on reducing this deficit. For more details, he referred everyone to the report in the booklet.

Outreach Committee Report

Roy Haley presented the Outreach Committee Report, highlighting key accomplishments from 2023 and expressing gratitude to all the volunteers who support Calvary's outreach ministries. He challenged the parish to increase its efforts in 2024. To foster greater understanding, each ministry will be highlighted for a month in 2024, allowing everyone to learn more about their work. Roy encouraged everyone to get involved and to review the reports in the Annual Parish Meeting packet for more information.

Calvary Renovation Project

Betsy Zanghi provided an update on the renovation, announcing that construction had begun and is expected to take 7 months. She expressed her gratitude to all the committee members for their efforts.

Calvary Episcopal Church Foundation

Betsy Zanghi, president of the Calvary Episcopal Church Foundation (CECF), presented the foundation's 2023 report. The foundation contributed \$25,000 in grants to support the church and distributed \$14,200 in designated gifts. Revenue for the year, generated from the columbarium and memorial gifts, amounted to \$10,368, with administrative expenses totaling \$492. Fr. Ralph led the election of directors, proposing Kathy Bethke and Betsy Zanghi for three-year terms and Bob Morris for a two-year term on the board. John Lyons made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Brandon Campbell and the motion passed.

Calvary Episcopal Preparatory Report

Dr. Maria Fondon delivered the Calvary Episcopal Preparatory report, expressing her gratitude to the church and its members, especially those serving on the school board, for their unwavering support. She emphasized the importance of fostering a strong and positive relationship between the school and the church. Dr. Fondon

shared her appreciation for the church's encouragement throughout the year, both for the school as a whole and for her personally.

Rector's Report

Fr. Ralph delivered his report, emphasizing the value of change and reminding everyone that the one constant we can rely on is Jesus Christ. His focus for the year was to encourage more Bible studies, small group gatherings, and fellowship opportunities for the parish, school, and broader community. Regarding staff updates, Kay Hardee stepped down as Children's Minister, and Holly Bradshaw, who served as the interim Children's Minister, had accepted the role on a part-time basis. Additionally, The Rev. Jeremy Bradley was called to serve at St. Mark's. John Brun had stepped down as choir director and organist, prompting the search for a new organist. Fr. Ralph expressed heartfelt gratitude to the staff and volunteers for their dedication and service to God at Calvary.

Recognitions & Announcements

Fr. Ralph recognized the outgoing Vestry members – Philip Zanghi, Meagan Milford, and Marian Briscoe. He introduced the new Vestry members – Brandon Campbell, Steve Evans, Lori Hoy and Ashley Vakulenko. Rick Lane will serve as senior warden and Oscar Lozano will serve as junior warden. Fr. Ralph commissioned the 2024 vestry.

Fr. Ralph then presented George Doherty and Reb Scarborough with the Church Mouse Award.

Fr. Ralph closed the meeting at 10:15 am in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Haley

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

This wraps up my final year on Vestry. I have enjoyed working with my fellow parishioners during my tenure on Vestry. It has been an honor to serve during these wonderful times at Calvary. My grandfather served as Senior Warden in 1955, the year I was born and baptized at Calvary. He was involved in the construction of the Sanctuary, and it has been rewarding in my spiritual journey to participate in the renovation project. What a wonderful success we achieved in our return to services in our beautifully renovated place of Worship! It was definitely a huge congregational effort to achieve this historic milestone at Calvary!

While the renovation project was a definite high point in 2024 there were numerous other wonderful events that occurred. Ashes to go set a new record for participants and our footprint in the community is apparent. Lenten suppers with our sister parish St. Marks and our former curate Fr. Jeremy turned out to be a huge success. Blood drive, retreat at Camp Allen, Laundry of Love & Preston Street Community Gardens were all successes at spreading God's love. Thanksgiving Feast remains a huge contributor to our community and this year was another huge vehicle to promote Christian giving to those in need. Our Stewardship Campaign was successful and provided our Calvary Family with the opportunity to reflect on our dedication to our mission for God. Numerous other Ministries and outreach initiatives that Calvary members are involved in round out our parishes dedication to our community and carrying out God's word.

The year culminated in a beautiful Christmas Season and our Lessons and Carols service epitomized with an impressive performance by a Holy Host of talented voices. Recent visit by Bishop Andy Doyle was inspiring as the number of participants for Baptism and Confirmation proves that Calvary is a welcome home for those seeking to find a place in God's presence. I am looking forward to visiting with Bishop Doyle at Diocesan Council in February as I will be representing Calvary. Please let me know if there are any topics of discussion that I can review with our diocese. Our Calvary family continues its growth inspired by Jesus and defined by the loving Congregation and God's grace.

God's Peace in the coming years!

Rick Lane

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

I am happy to report that the state of Calvary Episcopal Church and School buildings and grounds are in great shape. Calvary has been blessed with great Rectors, Vestries, and Parishioners that love this church and have made it a priority to make improvements and renovations so that Calvary can continue to be here for many years to come to attract people and to continue to do God's work. The recent renovation of the Sanctuary is the latest example. We had a problem with the foundation but took the opportunity to not only fix it, but to make the changes to prevent this problem from reoccurring. The changes were costly, but the work we accomplished will guarantee that Calvary will be around for many years to come.

The Calvary parishioners love this church so much that they have given their time, talent, and treasures to ensure it will be here for future generations. Here are some of the major things we have done:

- 2024 Sanctuary Renovation, Replacement of security system including cameras
- 2021 Replaced Sanctuary AC system
- 2020 Parish Hall Renovation and Stained-Glass Window repairs and outside protection glass, New modern and energy-efficient windows for offices and conference room. New floors for entire school.
- 2019 New LED lights and energy-efficient thermostats for entire campus.
- 2018 Kitchen Remodel
- 2017 Austin Street sidewalk replacement
- 2016 New A/C for Parish Hall, New Door and Window for Solarium, Remodel for entry living room, and New Church Piano
- 2015 Thompson Road sidewalk and drainage and parking renovation, new men's restroom and remodeled the women's bathroom

As you can see, all major areas of the campus have been addressed, and we are in very good shape to continue to do God's work for years to come. Thanks be to God.

Oscar Lozano

Jr. Warden

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We received 102.4% of the 2024 Pledge Commitments, but only 69.3% of the budgeted plate offerings. As a result, total revenue collected for 2024 was 98.1% of the budgeted amount.

Total revenue was 4.2% below budget, while total expenses were 2.4% under budget. Ministry-related expenses were 5.9% below budget, and the Diocesan Assessment expense met the budgeted amount. The church ended 2024 with a net deficit of (\$11,708).

A budget for 2025 was presented to and approved by the Vestry.

The 2025 budget reflects a 1.9% increase in revenue, a 4.7% rise in operational expenses, and a 1.7% decrease in Mission and Outreach programs compared to the 2024 budget.

We currently have an 88% Pledge Commitment (100 pledges) of the 2025 budgeted pledge number. -Scott McLemore

Revenues Plate Offerings Pledge Commitments Total Offerings Bishop Quinn Fund Designated Income Restricted Release Total Revenue \$ Expenses	55,471 548,062 603,532 585 24,436	\$ 80,000 535,150 615,150	 48,000
Pledge Commitments Total Offerings \$ Bishop Quinn Fund Designated Income Restricted Release Total Revenue \$	548,062 603,532 585	\$ 535,150 615,150	
Total Offerings \$ Bishop Quinn Fund Designated Income Restricted Release Total Revenue \$	603,532 585	\$ 615,150	 EOE 000
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Designated Income Restricted Release Total Revenue \$		750	\$ 643,000
Restricted Release Total Revenue \$	24,436 -	750	750
Total Revenue \$	_	25,000	25,000
		15,256	-
Expenses	628,553	\$ 656,156	\$ 668,750
Vestry Oversight			
Insurance	29,447	30,400	34,200
Office and Administration	38,748	43,000	42,950
Buildings and Grounds	51,635	60,950	56,350
Employee Compensation	386,208	384,107	407,873
Vestry and Stewardship	5,089	4,350	5,600
Finance Committee	5,912	 5,500	 6,000
Total Vestry Oversight \$	517,038	\$ 528,307	\$ 552,973
Mission/Outreach Ministry	31,893	31,950	30,700
Calvary Life Ministry	15,004	17,450	17,650
Worship Ministry	18,752	18,900	19,800
Formation/Spirituality Ministry	8,525	10,500	9,340
Diocesan Obligations	49,049	49,049	53,954
Total Expenses \$	640.004	\$ 656,156	\$ 684,417
Net Total \$	640,261	 , -	

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." Ephesians 5:1-2

This year's Stewardship Campaign, Walk in Love, was chaired by Oscar Lozano and Deb Hartman. In their shared remarks with the congregation, they spoke of our Walk in Love at Calvary through financial support, and the gifts of our time and talent. Philip Zanghi and Sheila Phillips also talked about their personal path to stewardship during Sunday worship.

The campaign culminated with our annual stewardship dinner in early November. Once again, everyone enjoyed BBQ at the Brookwood Café. The Rev. Mitch Tollett was our guest speaker. Rev. Tollett, a seminarian sponsored by Calvary, enjoyed reconnecting with many old friends.

November 10 was the in-gathering of pledge cards. These pledges help the Vestry set the annual budget, allowing Calvary to maintain and grow its mission here in Richmond, TX.

	2025 Pledge	2024 Pledge	2023 Pledge	2025 New Pledges
General Fund	\$523,110	\$555,925	\$527,306	\$21,080
Number of Family Units	100	115	111	7

INTO THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

VISION

Inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve God; we are the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We know our neighbors and are known by them. We provide opportunities for everyone to work together to restore relationships and build new ones.

Calvary had another amazing year impacting our communities through our outreach ministries. This wouldn't be possible without the generous donations of time, talent, and treasures of our parishioners and our amazing ministry leaders. Below are reports from some of our designated outreach ministries. But we know there are many other ways Calvary is impacting our community. For example, Fr. Ralph and Deacon Nancy support members of our community through their discretionary ministries. Please reach out to Roy Haley if you know of any other ministries Calvary is supporting that we might not be aware of.

PRESTON STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Preston Street Community Garden (PSCG) had another amazing year in 2024.

Over 4000 lbs (two tons!) of produce were harvested and donated to Helping Hands and Nery's Promise. (An increase over last year of more than 1000 lbs).

Crops of okra, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, collards, turnips, and more, are seasonally planted and harvested to meet the needs of our community. We strive to keep our production beds planted and producing at all times throughout the year.

The 1/2 acre expansion bed produced a record 1600 lbs of okra this year. Onions are currently being planted there for a Spring harvest with more okra planted for Summer/Fall harvest. Additional production crops are being planned for late Spring/early Fall.

Additional funding for equipment, irrigation needs, fertilizer, etc, and more volunteers will be needed to expand this garden project to full production capacity. This will greatly increase our efforts of providing fresh produce to our community.

Generous donations from our supportive Calvary members, First Baptist Church of Richmond, Frito Lay/PepsiCo Green Team, and New Century Garden Club, and budgeted funds enabled us to

- —Add one bed and rebuild three production beds
- —Add a new sink station
- —Maintain and repair our entire main garden irrigation system
- —Set up irrigation for the expansion area
- —Purchase much needed soil and compost for the production beds and Bell Garden
- —Purchase plants and seeds for Spring and Fall production
- —Provide new garden tools and gloves for gardeners and volunteers.

Thanks to Attack Poverty, we have had wonderful and hardworking group volunteers throughout the year from Terry HS, Fort Bend Christian Academy, River Point Church, Sanctuary Fellowship Church, and many volunteers from Friends of North Richmond.

We have also had group volunteers from Reliant, Chase Business, Frito Lay/PepsiCo, in addition to Scout Troops 1000 and 100, and our own Calvary Youth Group.

The wonderful volunteers from our own Tuesday morning garden group have helped plant, harvest, and deliver freshly picked produce to Helping Hands every week.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation for their ongoing partnership and their generous support of the Preston Street Community Garden.

We are also thankful for everyone who has donated, volunteered, and prayed for the Community Garden.

We are most thankful for God's many Blessings. -Shirley Tijerina

ATTACK POVERTY FRIENDS OF NORTH RICHMOND / FRIENDS OF NORTH ROSENBERG

Calvary continues to be a key partner and supported of Attack Poverty and their Friends of North Richmond and Friends of North Rosenberg locations.

Attack Poverty is especially grateful to Calvary Episcopal Church for the generous donations to replace all the plumbing, install a new water heater and repair the roof for a family in Rosenberg. Below is an excerpt from the May monthly report from Attack Poverty to their board of directors:

Mr. and Mrs. Perez and their three children own and live in a trailer in Rosenberg. In the winter of 2023, the pipes under the trailer burst during a freeze. For over a year, they have been using garden hoses through their windows for water in the kitchen and bathroom, showering with cold water from the hose, and boiling water to wash dishes due to a broken water heater. The roof is also leaking in multiple areas. A contractor estimated the cost for repairs to re-pipe, install a new water heater, and patch the roof at \$5800. At this time, the family cannot afford these repairs as the father does not have steady work.

May was designated Attack Poverty month at Calvary Episcopal Church in Richmond, which has been a strong supporter of Attack Poverty and Friends of North Richmond. Each Sunday, Attack Poverty staff presented on the organization, including the Flourishment Strategy, Friends of North Richmond, and the Perez family. Within two weeks, Calvary raised the funds needed to repair the plumbing and water heater, restoring hot and cold running water in the Perez family's trailer. By the end of the month, they raised all the funds necessary to repair the roof as well.

Calvary Youth Group led the Friends of North Richmond's Mission Week Youth Hangout and provided funding for a moon walk, and other volunteers for the event as well.

Calvary parishioners sponsored a table and attended the yearly Attack Poverty Gala, and we sponsored a hole for Attack Poverty's First Annual Golf Tournament.

Calvary Volunteers helped paint the interior of a home in North Richmond, support Food Distributions, and have volunteered for You Can Academy and other adult education programs.

Attack Poverty has provided outside volunteer groups for multiple workdays at the Preston Street Community Garden in 2024 and already have multiple serve days planned for 2025.

The partnership between Calvary and Attack Poverty is stronger than ever and we look forward to another year of working together to empower our community to attack poverty through spiritual growth, education, revitalization, and basic needs.

Please contact Roy Haley (281) 871-8172 if you want to get involved with Attack Poverty locations/programs or go to www.attackpoverty.org for more information. – Roy Haley

HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands has had a huge impact on our community this year. They served nearly 54,603 individuals living in western Ft. Bend County.

1.2 million pounds of food and 48,000 pounds of clothing were distributed at no cost to clients. Also, Helping Hands premiered two fund raising events in 2024: a style show and luncheon in June and a soup supper with Bingo in November. Calvary congregants attended these events.

Calvary's congregation is one of forty-three church congregations combining to support Rosenberg-Richmond Helping Hands. Calvary donated \$1875 to HH this year. We also contributed food, clothing and/or linens nearly every week this year.

Four members of our congregation have volunteered at Helping Hands in 2024. Fr. Ralph serves on the governing board of HH. Produce from the Preston Street Garden is donated to HH. Those from our congregation who volunteer there, indirectly serve HH by their efforts. Many of you have volunteered by donating items directly to HH or by putting items in the bin at the back entrance of parish hall. Remember, the bin is for food, clothing, and linens. Please donate other items to charities of your choice.

May God be glorified by our efforts to serve those in need in our community. -Lois Essells

KAIROS

Thank you to all of Calvary this past year. KAIROS had three active members participating on the inside of both Carol Vance and Jester III, Richmond Units. Kairos was able to hold only two KAIROS WEEKEND RETREATS. Jester Three and Carrol Vance each had one retreat. Each retreat was attended by 42 Brothers in white and about 45 volunteers. Calvary is one of about 20 local churches who are actively sending men, women, finances and material support. John Bradshaw and Andrew Furukawa faithfully represented Calvary at our weekend retreats. Our church also provided and spent \$1,059 for our part of the KAIROS Ministry. Thank you for your generous donations to KAIROS for meal tickets and additional funding. The Brothers In White always appreciate the artistic place mats set before their meals. Both retreats were supported by PLACEMATS and PRAYERS and Meal tickets from our church members and kids. Your Prayer Presence was felt as the Holy Spirit was felt by all participants. Kairos Prayer and Share accountability groups meet weekly in each unit to continue to bring spiritual growth and maturity to all participants. We have been averaging 20+ at each weekly group.

Our next KAIROS GRADUATION CEREMONY will be at the Carrol Vance Unit in Richmond. You are invited to attend if you are over 18 years old. Our next weekend will be held on February 28 to March 2nd. See what great work God's Holy Spirit is doing through your prayers. We invite your continued prayers and financial support. All adults are invited to our Kairos Graduation on the 2nd.

We ask that you help us pray for enough volunteers and funds to double our Weekend Ministries this year. Contact John Bradshaw, Dave Essells or Andrew Furukawa for information on how you can serve.

Thank You, Calvary, Thank You God! -Dave Essells

BLOOD DRIVES

The Blood Drives for the year 2024 were very successful again thanks to all our regular donors and new ones who now are called regulars donors. I thank all of you for making them run so smoothly and supporting the

need for blood in our community. Last year we held four drives with a total of 105 donors which resulted in 142 lives saved.

Put the following dates in your calendar for the year 2025 blood drive schedule. February 2nd, April 27th, August 8th and November 11th. We hope to see you at all or as many of you can make. -Frank Plut

CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY

We have been doing the Adopt a Family program for 24 years and this was the first year we did not have our coordinator Mary Ellen Plut with us. Even though she was missed, with the continued help of Debbie and Ray Pohler the program continued and will do so for many years to come with the help of all of you. We had four schools participate and were able to adopt 49 families and 149 children. You all helped this program work by your loving participation, and we were able to have all the families adopted the first week. We hope you enjoyed adopting a family. 45 bibles were given to the families, and we had enough monetary donations to investigate purchasing Spanish bibles for the year 2025. Thank you to all of you again and wishing you a Happy New Year. -Frank Plut

THANKSGIVING FEAST

The Thanksgiving Feast was a huge success in 2024. We partnered with Rudy's to supply the turkey, as Clancy's closed, and our parishioners purchased 110 turkey breasts! Rudy's then bent over backwards to make sure we had all available Thanksgiving morning. We plan on continuing that partnership next year. And our parishioners came through again on the pies, where we had more than enough. In total, we delivered over 750 individual meals, along with many meals "in bulk" to the Fort Bend County Women's shelter and to numerous fire stations so the first responders that work at those stations could have a taste of home. We had volunteers from our Scout troops and many people that were "new" to Calvary. And for the first time, we had decorated "clam plates" to deliver the meals in that were illustrated by the children at the suggestion of Terry Morgan. All in all, it was a true blessing. -Bill Daw

LAUNDRY LOVE

The Laundry Love Initiative began about twenty years ago in Ventura, California with a mission to wash the clothes and bedding of individuals and/or families living in poverty. There are now Laundry Love locations throughout the United States. You can read more about the initiative at www.laundrylove.org.

Laundry Love seeks to bring economic relief by giving the individual or family the option to redirect funds toward food, medical, gas or transportation costs or other everyday necessities. From the infant to the aged, and across a broad spectrum of ethnicity, culture and personal story, Laundry Love strives to nurture the well-being of each person through intentional networking and friendship.

This is a ministry of presence. We do not handle the participant's laundry; our role is to provide detergent and money for the washers and dryers while offering kindness and non-judgmental conversation. It is through these conversations that additional needs are identified.

In 2024 the people of Calvary helped 331 families by washing and drying 1,643 loads of clothes and bedding. Donations from the congregation, and the volunteers who help on laundry day, make this ministry possible.

The Calvary Laundry Love is held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the U S Washateria in Rosenberg. *Serve wholeheartedly as if you were serving the Lord, not men. (Eph. 6:7)* - Rev. Nancy

ACTION TEAM

The Calvary Action Team was formed to help our parishioners, their families, and members of our community in need of assistance with minor home repair, moving items, or clean up.

In 2024 we were able to assist a parishioner move some items to storage and then to their new apartment. We helped another Calvary member move furniture into their home and we also helped to paint a home in North Richmond for an Attack Poverty home repair project.

Please contact Roy Haley (281) 871-8172 if you need any assistance with your home or if you or your group want to volunteer. -Roy Haley

SCOUTING REPORT

Calvary currently sponsors three Scout USA groups. Pack 1000 is a cub scout pack with scouts ranging from 5 to 11 years old. It is a mix of boys and girls and is geared toward family activities and camping. Troop 100 is a girl troop with scouts ranging in age from 11 to 18 years old. It is a parallel troop to Troop 1000 which is the boy's troop. All the groups are focused on service, character building and outdoor adventure. At the troop level, the troops are scout led with adult leaders providing guidance and "consulting".

All three entities are all healthy and active. Below is a summary of their activities for 2024.

Troop 1000

In 2024 Troop 1000 had 51 registered scouts. For 2025 there are 38 registered scouts with renewal and registration not yet complete.

In 2024 four scouts reached the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in scouting. Forty-five scouts earned or advanced rank. The scouts earned a total of 193 Merit Badges. (There is a required number of merit badges to advance to the next rank once you reach the rank of First Class. To reach Eagle requires a total of 21 merit badges.) There are numerous special awards that scouts may earn in addition to their rank advancements and merit badges, National Youth Leadership Training, Order of the Arrow, 50 Miler Award, and the National Outdoor Badges are examples of these special Awards. The scouts from Troop 1000 earned 46 of these awards.

Troop 1000 camped for a total of 580 nights and 621 days. They hiked a total of 600 miles and performed 370 service hours.

In addition to earning ranks and merit badges, scouts of Troop 1000 attended three camps. The older scouts went on a high adventure trek to Boundary Waters along the Minnesota/Canadian border. While there they earned one of the special awards. The National Outdoor Badge for having paddled 50+ miles during the week in the Boundary Waters. Younger scouts attended Camp Rockfeller in Arkansas where they worked on rank advancement and merit badges. Scouts also attend Winter Camp in Houston where they worked on rank advancement and earned more merit badges.

Troop 100

Troop 100 currently has 19 registered scouts. They are only one of three girl troops in the District. They are the newest of the three entities sponsored by Calvary and have already distinguished themselves as a strong troop and a force to be reckoned with.

Four scouts achieved the rank of Eagle in 2024. There were 22 rank advancements, and 109 merit badges earned along with 29 special awards. Several scouts also advanced through their Leadership Training.

The scouts of Troop 100 camped for 223 nights, hiked 700 miles and performed 304 service hours.

Their activities for 2024 included a camp in Colorado, whitewater rafting and backpacking. Other significant activities included a visit to the South Texas Nuclear Power Plant in Bay City, ice skating and a church lock-in.

Troop 100 also welcomed a new Scoutmaster in the spring of 2024.

The troop has planned and is looking forward to behind-the-scenes tours of SpaceX and the Texas Capitol.

Pack 1000

In 2024 there were 32 scouts registered in Pack 1000. There are currently 30 scouts registered for 2025 with some renewals still pending.

Rank advancement in Cub Scouts takes place over roughly a school year (6/1/2024 to 5/31/2025). They don't advance past their grade level but advance at the end of May. As of 5/31/2024, over 90% of the scouts had earned their appropriate rank. The highest rank for a cub scout is the Arrow of Light. There have been two scouts that completed that rank in 2024 and moved over to Troop 1000. Two third graders (3rd graders would be working on the rank of Bear during the 2024/2025 school year) completed the rank of Bear before the end of 2024. They can continue to earn Arrowheads for the Bear rank till the end of the school year.

Several scouts attended Twight Camp at Long Acres Ranch in June and about 10 families attended Adventure Camp in October at Bovay Scout Ranch. The scouts also stayed overnight at the Naval Museum in Galveston in December.

Several of the scouts and their families volunteered at the Meals on Wheels Thanksgiving Feast. The pack adopted 6 children this year for Christmas and a few of the scouts and their families helped with delivery of their gifts the Saturday before Christmas. A scout from Pack 1000 placed the wreath for the Wreaths Across America event in honor of the veterans who reside in our columbarium.

Calvary Episcopal and Pack 1000 hosted this year's District Pinewood Derby and in September, Pack 1000 had a float in the Fort Bend County Fair Parade.

The Blue and Gold Banquet is scheduled for February 22, 2025 and the Pinewood Derby is scheduled for March 22, 2025. A pack campout is scheduled for April 2025.

Jim Kidda Charter Organization Representative Pack 1000, Troop 100 and Troop 1000

CALVARY EPISCOPAL PREPARATORY A REPORT ON THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

On behalf of our board, teachers and students, the following report to the church outlines some of the many accomplishments of Calvary Episcopal Preparatory during the 2023-20234 school year. The school community extends sincere thanks to Calvary church members who serve on the School Board for their dedication to our students: Chris Bradley, James Milford, Teri Mason, Donna Anderson, Marian Briscoe, Mike Zanghi, Frank Plut, and Father Ralph Morgan.

Calvary Episcopal Preparatory enjoyed a year of many successes that include academic and the arts, character and faith development and service to others. Credit for these successes can be shared by many: our school board, our faculty, and staff, our many parent volunteers, the Calvary Episcopal Church community and most importantly, our outstanding students.

The 2023-2024 school year showcased, more than ever, the unwavering dedication, passion, and loyalty our teachers have to Calvary. This year, there was minimal turnover in our faculty and staff, apart from two teachers who retired after long and successful careers at CEP. We kicked off the year at Camp Allen, where we took time to reflect on and celebrate many of the cherished traditions that are deeply rooted in the Three R's: Reverence for God, Respect for Others, and Responsibility for Self.

- Our school continues to welcome and embrace a diverse student population with 48% of our students coming from various ethnic and economic backgrounds. This in includes our growing international population, including students from, China, Nigeria, Taiwan, and Vietnam.
- Service to others is an important aspect of our school. Every grade and student participated in Service Learning, and at least one project for the year.
- Matriculation chapel welcomed 54 new Crusaders to our school in the fall of 2023, and our enrollment was over 200.
- Calvary has consistently held the 1st in District at PSIA academic competitions. This held true in 2023-2024 but Calvary students also earned 2nd in State! Calvary had many students place in the top 6 at State level and we had two students earn scholarship money through PSIA.
- High School competed in their third TAPPS One Act Play competition with the play *Antigone*. They won All Star Cast Award, Honorable Mention and All-Star Tech awards.
- Middle School One-Act play, *Abominable*, won PSIA district and earned third place in State, earning All Star Cast and Honorable Mention awards.
- Calvary theater students boasted a fantastic performance of the musical *Aladdian*.
- Five Middle School students, and two High School students qualified for the TPSMEA All-Region Band clinic and concert at Strake Jesuit.
- Calvary earned many art awards including Awards of Excellence, one Gold Medal and a Best of Show at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. We also had one Grand Finalist and one Creativity Contest Winner. In addition, Calvary earned Best of Show at the Fort Bend County Fair and too many awards to count. Another competition our art students compete in is the Scholastic Art Competitions where we earned Gold Key awards, one Silver Key, and several Honorable Mentions.
- We TAPPS Art students won third place in State overall
- We had one Crusader win 3rd in the History Writing Contest.
- We had a record number of students participating in Soccer and Basketball in Lower School and Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Track, Cross Country, Badminton, Archery, Riflery, Cheerleading and Tennis. This year we have added fencing to our list of sports.
- Beginning in Kindergarten Calvary students focus heavily on writing, and it pays off when our students are in High School. Calvary earned one Gold Key Medals, one Silver Key Medal and several Honorable Mentions through the Scholastic Writing Competitions.

- Calvary inducted 12 National Junior Honor Society students and 3 National Honor Society students into Calvary's chapter.
- Three CEP seniors participated in the George Foundation's Youth In Philanthropy program during the 2023-2024 school year. This is an honor, but we also had three students earn scholarship money from the George Foundation.
- High School students are earning money for an International Trip every other year. They traveled to Greece & Italy, and they are currently fundraising for the Iceland and Ireland trip in 2026.
- Field trips are still an important part of our curriculum and tradition. 8th graders went to Washington DC, 7th grade to the Texas Capital, 6th grade to Camp Allen, 5th grade to the USS Lexington, 4th grade to the Alamo and many field trips for our younger Crusaders
- 43% of 8th, 9th and 10th grade students placed above the 90% in one or more area on their PSAT tests.
- 58% of Calvary 3rd 6th grade students scored 90% higher than their peers in at least one subject on their nationally normed tests.
- We had one National Merit Commended Scholar.
- All 6 of our 2024 graduates enrolled in a major university
- 100% pass rate in English Language, Computer Science, Computer Science Principals and Calculus AB.
- 83% of High School AP students made scores of 3 or more on their AP exams.
- Our Annual Golf Tournament, with the continued support of many CEC participants, profited, which went directly to student scholarships.
- The Calvary PTO hosted the *Food & Wine Festival* Auction Gala and is gearing up for this year's *Emerald City* Auction Gala on March 29. We want to thank the church members for their continued support and participation in our auctions! We hope to exceed last year's goal.
- We are delighted to have many of our school families join Calvary Episcopal Church and proud to have 5 members of our faculty who are also members of Calvary Church.

And finally, Calvary Episcopal Preparatory understands how important it is for parish schools to enjoy a positive relationship with the sponsoring church. CEP would like to sincerely thank Calvary Episcopal Church for their continued support and enthusiasm.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUNDATION, INC.

The CECF serves as means by which parishioners may financially support the Church now and in the future to meet needs that cannot be met by the operating budget alone, and to provide additional support to the many outreach projects this Parish undertakes. Since receiving our non-profit status from the IRS in July of 2014, we have enjoyed ten years as a functional organization, with a website presence on the Calvary church website (www.calvaryrichmond.org/foundation) and promotional brochures.

Current asset value of the Foundation at close of business Dec 31, 2024:

Edward Jones Advisory Solutions Fund \$195,915.02 of which \$100,000 is corpus.

Edward Jones Money Market \$14,692.01

TOTAL \$210,607.03

Grants Given:

Grant request from Heritage Fund for candle followers awarded 4th quarter, but was

reimbursed in Jan 2025, and will show up next year's report.

Designated Gifts Dispersed:

\$ 2682 From Youth and Spiritual Formation – (from a larger \$7500 designated gift) for

nine Camp Allen Scholarships.

Total \$ 2682

Deposits: \$ 7430 Memorials Gifts, Estates, and Donations

\$ 500 Columbarium Payments

Total \$10,162

Expenses: \$861.77 Administration of Columbarium (name plates and urn) and Tax Return Prep.

Board of Directors for 2024: Betsy Zanghi, Bob Morris. Lisa Lemkowitz, Kathy Bethke, Dennis Gorka, and Ron Best. Ron Best has stepped down from the board, leaving one unfulfilled year remaining of his term. Dennis Gorka and Lisa Lemkowitz have fulfilled their terms and are not eligible for re-election this year.

Election of Directors:

The following have been nominated to fill the three vacancies:

Rick Lane

Lisa Whiting

Glenn Kaminsky

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Zanghi – President 2024

Supporting Calvary Episcopal Church, its ministries, and the community it serves

FOUNDATION REPAIR AND RENOVATION REPORT

It has been almost three years since the investigation of the sinking foundation in the Sanctuary began in earnest, and as we addressed and alleviated the various factors causing the subsidence, we also took the opportunity to make some much-needed improvements to our worship space.

In the last Annual Parish Meeting report, we were hoping to start construction in early February, and the estimate was for construction to be complete in 7 months. The actual start date was March 6^{th} , due to permitting delays, especially in getting the city to allow interior construction to begin before having the TXDOT permit in place, which took much longer to obtain.

When we obtained the loan for \$750K, this enabled us to add on to the contract scope the creation of the mechanical yard and brick wall to hide the HVAC units, a new sanctuary roof, renovation of the drop off canopy, and cleaning of the bell tower/removal of brick efflorescence. Using contingency monies, we were able to convert the old 'Green 'room into a new functional space now called the 'Quiet Room' with storefront glass and exit door overlooking the courtyard.

For the most part, the interior construction went smoothly, but as the exterior work began on the drainage portion, we discovered several un-mapped drain lines that needed to be worked around. The original planned route to connect the storm runoff to the TXDOT line became impossible, and had to be reworked by civil engineering, delaying us by 39 days. During this time, we took the opportunity to trench out and replace all the old cast iron sewage lines running underneath the slab, before the new tile was laid. Other major delays include Hurricane Beryl (7 days), revisions to grading affected by the new civil plan (7 days), and the decision to replace our existing electrical wiring to allow for full functionality (15 days). The new wiring was not part of the original scope, however the committee felt this was a beneficial addition. There were 82 total days attributed to delay.

On December 5th, we received our certificate of occupancy, and on December 22, we were finally back to worshipping in the Sanctuary. Although we are still awaiting the pews, chancel furniture, and the rest of the organ pipes, it is so nice to worship in the new and improved space and enjoy the sound of congregational singing!

In the next few weeks, our Columbarium chapel chairs will arrive, the pews and furniture will arrive in batches, and the Organ pipe technician will be installing the rest of the pipes, including the façade. Our Balcony stained-glass window will be removed for repair, to be re-installed before Easter.

If you have any questions, please contact any of our renovation committee members: Betsy Zanghi, Fr. Ralph, Oscar Lozano, Amber Zentis, James Milford, Reb Scarborough, Roy Haley, or Susan Grotte.

Respectfully submitted, Betsy Zanghi, Renovation Committee Chair

WORSHIP MINISTRY

A/V MINISTRY

Introduction

The AV Ministry at Calvary Episcopal Church plays a vital role in supporting the sound, video systems, and associated equipment used during services and events. The team is dedicated to enhancing worship experiences and making church activities accessible to the congregation both in-person and remotely. Below is a summary of the ministry's highlights and accomplishments for 2024. The AV Ministry's achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and teamwork of the following members: George Doherty, Sam Duckett, Matt Lyssy, Saul Rodriguez, Reb Scarborough, and Mike Zanghi.

2024 Highlights

Church Remodeling

During the church remodeling project, the AV Ministry successfully:

- Dismantled all AV equipment to accommodate construction work.
- Reinstalled and reconfigured systems, ensuring they were fully operational and ready to support services and events after the remodeling.

Choir Riser Design

The ministry collaborated on the design and implementation of a new riser for both the choir and band. This addition enhances the functionality of the worship space, supporting improved performance and accessibility.

Parish Hall Support

The AV team continued to provide comprehensive support in the parish hall, ensuring:

- High-quality live streaming of worship services.
- Seamless audio-visual experiences for attendees.

Expanded Remote Support

In addition to regular activities, the AV Ministry extended its support for:

- Remote live streaming from the gym for special events.
- Outdoor support for the annual pet blessings, ensuring accessibility and inclusion for these beloved events.

Content Production

- Produced 116 videos in 2024, consisting of:
 - 109 worship services
 - 3 memorials
 - 4 special services/events
- Average views per event after 7 days:
 - Worship services: 30 views
 - Memorials: 64 views
 - Special services/events: 66 views
- A total of **3835 views** is slightly less than last year.

Looking Ahead

As we look toward 2025, the AV Ministry remains committed to providing exceptional technical support and creative content. We will continue to enhance worship experiences and expand accessibility for the congregation. Thank you for your support of the Calvary AV Ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

Reb Scarborough, AV Ministry Team Leader

CALVARY LIFE

CALVARY OUT & ABOUT

Calvary Out & About facilitates our Calvary family going out and about in the world to enjoy fellowship, fun, and social events. We try to have a variety of offerings, so that people with different interests can join in the adventures. In 2024 (and January 2025) here are just a few of our outings:

- Cistern Illuminated Winter Wonderland in January, followed by dinner;
- A Case for Love Movie about Bishop Curry & Open House at the Rectory;
- CAST Theatre productions of <u>Barefoot in the Park</u>, <u>The Dining Room</u>, <u>Steel Magnolias</u>, <u>Those Summer Nights</u>, <u>Males Order Brides</u>, <u>The 39 Steps</u>, and <u>A Doublewide</u>, <u>Texas Christmas</u>, preceded by dinner at Ol' Railroad Café or Sandy McGee's;
- Stages Theater productions of <u>Sister's Irish Catechism</u>, <u>snakes</u>, <u>saints and green milkshakes</u> in February and <u>Sister's Christmas Catechism</u> in December (with brunch at Backstreet Café);
- Alley Theater Summer Thrills & Chills production of <u>And Then There Were None</u> in August (followed by dinner at Birraporetti's);
- AD Players productions of <u>Fiddler on the Roof</u> in July (followed by dinner at Truluck's) and <u>Esther</u> in September (followed by dinner at Meza Grille);
- January 4, 2025 Museum of Fine Arts Houston exhibit of <u>Living with the Gods: Art, Beliefs, and Peoples</u>.

Calvary has again purchased season tickets to the CAST Theatre 2025 lineup – the next show is <u>Cookin' with Gus</u> on February 7, 2025 (see Calvary publicity for information). Other CAST productions in 2025 will include <u>Harvey</u>, <u>Angel Street</u>, <u>She Was Only Marginally Modest</u>, <u>It's Murder in the Wings!</u>, and <u>Miss Bennett:</u> <u>Christmas at Pemberley</u>.

Other outings and ideas include:

- National Museum of Funeral History tour will be rescheduled for February 2025
- ➤ Upcoming plays at AD Players, including <u>How to Die: The Life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer</u> on April 26 and <u>The Wizard of Oz</u> on August 2 at 2:00pm (see Calvary publicity for information about these two shows)
- ➤ Alley Theater's Summer Thrills & Chills play
- > Dunham Bible Museum at Houston Christian University
- > XFL Houston Roughnecks Game

If you have an idea for Calvary Out & About, please contact social instigator Terri Morgan.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Care Team provides pastoral care to the people of Calvary in a variety of ways.

Card Ministry – In 2024, Care Team members sent over 200 greeting cards. These are cards of Sympathy, Get Well Wishes, or Thinking of You. In addition, 480 Birthday cards were sent to the members of Calvary.

Angel Tree - During Advent the Care Team furnished an Angel Tree which was located in the hallway by the columbarium. Anyone in the congregation, who wished to do so, could write the name(s) of departed loved ones on an angel and place it on the tree.

Journeying Through Grief - The *Journeying Through Grief* booklet program was available to a number of participants this past year. These booklets are mailed to members of the congregation who have experienced a death in their family.

Walking the Mourner's Path - The Care Team is responsible for and provides support for Walking the Mourner's Path. Walking the Mourner's Path is a series of eight workshops available to those who are mourning the loss of a loved one.

We continue to provide prayer shawls, transportation for medical appointments, and support for family members before a memorial service. Not counted are the many phone calls made by the Care Team to shut-ins, and those recovering at home or at a facility. — The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

ST. CLARE'S NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

In early 2021 the Calvary St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild was formed. The mission of the Guild is to glorify God by bringing together stitchers of all skill levels to serve our Parish, support Calvary's Outreach programs, and nurture the art of needlework in our members. The Guild initially was devoted to stitching Chrismons, or "Christ monograms," and a star needlepoint topper for our Calvary tree. This Advent and Christmas these stitchers served our parish by decorating our beautiful Chrismon tree, which was set up in the Foyer.

In 2022 the Guild sold needlepoint ornaments to raise funds to refurbish our 60+ year old needlepoint communion kneelers, as well as the cushions on the Bishop's and Priest's chairs.

In 2023 these saintly stitchers completed a needlepoint standup nativity set to be used as a hands-on nativity for our Calvary children. This set includes a shepherd, an angel, four magi, a sheep, a goat, a donkey, Mary and Joseph, a drummer boy – and, of course, baby Jesus.

In 2024 the St. Clare's Guild grew in number, productivity, and fellowship. They continued to stitch ornaments for our church family, including:

- Shell ornaments for all persons baptized at Calvary;
- Descending dove cross ornaments for all persons confirmed at Calvary;
- Jesus window ornaments for Bishop Fisher who came to Calvary for 2024 confirmations and Bishop Doyle who came for January 5, 2025 confirmations, baptism, and sanctuary rededication; and
- Many special-order ornaments which were designed, stitched, and finished by members of the Guild.

In 2024 the Guild donated \$2,500 to Nery's Promise, a non-profit ministry dedicated to serving children in our community. The Guild is thankful for those who purchased ornaments, which allowed us to not only serve our church family but also to support an important outreach ministry.

Because of our Calvary family's generous support of the St. Clare's Guild through its 2024 ornament sales, these saintly stitchers have now raised sufficient funds to refurbish Calvary's chapel kneelers in 2025.

Everyone is welcome to join the St. Clare's Guild on Thursdays from 9:00 to noon in the Conference Room. No previous needlepoint knowledge or skill is required – just a desire to enjoy fellowship and help work on projects that will bring joy to our hearts and bless our Calvary family.

FORMATION

EDUCATION AT CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From the youngest student's delight in learning to the collective voice of children singing praises to God, our education ministries are grounded in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

From the first miracle class lesson for adults: John 2:5 (Mary speaking) "Do whatever He tells you,"

The education programs at Calvary seek to plant seeds of faith in children and nurture a Christlike heart in adults, empowering every member of our congregation to grow in their faith and share God's love with others.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

The purposes of Calvary's Children's Education program are:

- To nurture a deep love for Christ in children.
- To equip children with Biblical knowledge and values to guide their lives.
- To foster a safe and joyful environment for spiritual growth and fellowship.

The mission of Calvary's Children's Education is:

The Calvary's Children's Education seeks to plant the Word of God in the hearts of children, empowering them to grow into faithful disciples of Christ, while inspiring them to share His love with others through their words and actions.

The main goals for 2024 were:

- To provide engaging and age-appropriate Sunday School classes weekly.
- To increase participation and create opportunities for children to connect with each other and with God.

Accomplishments during 2024:

- 1. Sunday School classes ran weekly for ages 5–11 (average attendance 3; maximum attendance 5).
- 2. Children's Chapel ran weekly (average attendance 7; maximum attendance 15).
- 3. Dedicated teaching team of six volunteers who brought passion and creativity.
- 4. Special events held:
 - o Christmas Pageant: Over 20 children participated in this joyful celebration of the Resurrection.
 - o Vacation Bible School: Canceled due to Hurricane Beryl

Feedback and Observations:

Unsolicited comments from parents and children included:

- "My child looks forward to Sunday School every week!"
- "The teachers are amazing."

The biggest observation over the past year is the distinct difference in the number of Sunday School participants versus the attendance of Children's Chapel during the 10:30 service.

Plans for 2025: In the coming year, we will focus on deepening faith, building community, and enhancing the educational experience through:

- New curriculum:
 - o God's Big Picture: An overview of the Bible as one cohesive story.
 - o Prayer and Praise: Teaching children how to connect with God through worship and prayer.
- Events and activities:
 - o Vacation Bible School in summer 2025.

Needs for 2025 and Beyond:

- Enhanced communication strategies to engage families and invite the broader community.
- Shared, targeted collaboration with adult programming to bring parents and children to events
- Continued prayers for wisdom, energy, and spiritual growth for all involved.

THE CHRISTIAN HEART: ADULT EDUCATION AT CALVARY

The purposes of Calvary's adult education are:

- To develop disciples (focus from Calvary's mission)
- To develop a heart of Christ, which, in turns deepens one's relationship with Christ

The mission of Calvary's adult education is:

The Christian Heart: Adult Education at Calvary seeks to empower adults at any point in their faith journey with valuable tools and skills to nurture a Christlike heart. Let's inspire one another to share the love of Christ with others.

The main goals for 2024 were:

- To offer adult Sunday School Classes regularly every Sunday
- To have the adult Sunday School program grow and form more than one class, meeting the needs of all adults at Calvary at present and in the future

Accomplishments during 2024:

- 1. Sunday School met each Sunday (maximum attendance 27, minimum attendance 5; average attendance 14) Goal accomplished.
- 2. Faithful teaching team of four: Dan Bradley, Terri Morgan, Bill Soller, & Janet Soller
- 3. Guest speaker for Sunday school, who also spoke to the whole congregation
- 4. Completed survey and focus group. The results included:
- a. New programs wanted:
 - i. Adult (men and women together) week-day evening Bible Study Group
 - ii. ½ Day Saturday retreats
 - iii. Once a month Book Club (reading all genres of Christian literature)
- b. Top Sunday School Curriculum presented in 2024:
 - i. Bible Stories for Grown-ups by Josh Scott
 - ii. Calvary's Beach Read: Jesus, my father the CIA, and me by Ian Morgan Cron
 - iii. Faiths in Ft. Bend County
- c. Suggestions for Improving Sunday School attendance:
 - i. Space (room 'not appearing to limit' the number of people)

- ii. Inviting adult members of Calvary in person to attend
- iii. Communicate programs better, especially about childcare or Sunday school programs for children at same time and bring your breakfast to class.
- iv. Have guest speakers to also speak to the whole congregation
- v. Learning strategies best liked: lots of visuals, play-acting, discussing questions at class, fun activities

Unsolicited comments from class members attesting to success include: "I love this class." "I wish every adult at Calvary would hear what is taught here." "These classes should be taped." All those involved in a regular-type attendance of the adult education Sunday school classes are full of positive comments and great suggestions for the future.

The teachers and members both have felt a particular movement of the Holy Spirit as messages and themes have run throughout the past year in a Godly and consistent manner; bringing together different moments from all lessons to support and reinforce the new lessons learnt. The high level of wonder and the consistency of message is beyond what any teaching team could bring. The movement of this class clearly the work of the Lord. The curriculum for 2025 focuses on the purpose "to develop disciples" as we individually grow in love for the Lord. *Cold Case Christianity* is about a former atheist, highly decorated cold case detective who applies the best detective skills to the evidence in the Gospels. Learning these skills is followed by *Come Forth*, an examination of Jesus' miracle is raising Lazarus and challenges us to "come forth". After these discipleship learning units, we focus on the famous *Cost of Discipleship*, a staple in any Christian library. This unit also coincides with Easter and the Calvary Out and About trip to see the play about Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Curriculum will also be fun and active as we cover "Life Lessons from James" and "What can I Say to Offend You Today?". Even the Lenten series is about the ever popular *Les Miserable*, hopefully concluding with a concert of its much beloved music.

Adult Education Needs for 2025 and beyond:

- More people
- More teachers
- Ideas and leaders to form the new offerings (more Sunday School Classes, Evening Bible Study, etc., Saturday retreats.)
- PR membership plan on how to invite non-Calvary members to our special offerings and regular Sunday School.
- Ways to successfully invite other denominations to our special events
- Brochure about The Christian Heart: Adult Education at Calvary
- Designated funds for curriculum and speaker's fees
- Designated space
- Videotaping of Sunday School
- Website development overall which includes easy to find The Christian Heart and adult educational resources.

Conclusion

The education ministries at Calvary stand as vital expressions of our commitment to nurturing faith and fostering discipleship. Together, these programs empower individuals of all ages to deepen their love for Christ, grow in biblical knowledge, and live out their faith in meaningful ways.

As we look ahead, we embrace the opportunities to expand, adapt, and inspire even more lives through engaging lessons, heartfelt fellowship, and a shared mission to reflect Christ's love in our community and beyond.

We thank God for the progress made, the dedication of our volunteers and leaders, and the blessings of His Spirit that continue to guide and unify us. With faith as our foundation, we are excited to see how God will use these ministries to shape hearts, transform lives, and build His kingdom.

This is just an annual report, not set in stone. Join us in Children's and Adult Education here at Calvary, and help these ministries grow to meet your needs as you share the unique gifts God has given you.

We praise God for the beautiful communities formed through our children's and adult education programs, where individuals have grown in faith and fellowship. We give thanks for the dedicated work of our teaching teams, their creativity, and their love for God. We also thank God for the leadership of Father Ralph and the support of our congregation.

Let us remember that the work of The Joyful Seed and The Christian Heart is part of our calling as the body of Christ. Together, we plant seeds of faith, nurture hearts, and serve Him as His Bride. May God continue to guide and bless these ministries in the year ahead.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Calvary Men have continued to meet weekly and monthly for food, fellowship and study. Men of all ages, please consider joining in one or all of the opportunities offered.

Taco Tuesday

We meet every Tuesday morning at Rudy's restaurant on 59 between 99 and Richmond Parkway. We open the place at 7:00am and eat, laugh and share for about an hour (sometimes longer). It's a great way to start our day with other men who share many different opinions about nothing much.

Wednesday Bible Study

We have a group of men who meet on Wednesday mornings for coffee and bible study. We start at 7:00am and end by 8:00am sharp. Over the past few years, we have read and discussed one Book of the bible at a time, covering about half of the books in both the old and new testaments. This year we have started a new study where we will read the whole bible in one year. Each day of the week we have about 2-3 pages of scripture, Old-New-Psalms, to cover on Wednesday when we meet, we discuss the week's readings and read together the readings for that day. This is a new concept for us and we'll see how long we make it. Being as it is, we are not grading ourselves so if we decide to go in a different direction, we can! Come join us. This is a easy group of guys, reading scripture together, sharing thoughts and leaning from each other. You can not know to much or too little to be a part of the discussion.

Thursday Men's Chill n' Grill

Men of all ages, young and old, are invited to meet on the Second Thursday of each month to Chill out and Grill something good to eat. You can bring something to share or just enough for yourself. Bring something to put on the grill and something to drink while you wait. Lots of telling stories and sharing adventures along with the laughing and crying (from laughing so hard) happens when good friends and good friends of friends gather together. This past year we met at different homes on back porches of the host house (always in the back yard). We met at John Bradshaw's, Guy Grossman's, Roy Haley's, Bob Morris's, Karl Schleicher's, Jimmy Smith's and Fr. Ralph's this past year. We'd love to add a few more back patios to invade. If you'd like to join us – just come. If you'd like to host a Chill n' Grill, contact Guy Grossman at 832-795-4149. We usually start at 6:00pm and end with the stories and drinks run out.

Come join the Men of Calvary anytime. No RSVP needed for any of our activities, just show up. If you have any questions about anything we are doing or when/where we might be doing it, contact Guy Grossman at 832-795-4149 or Fr. Ralph at 281-797-5246 for more information.

YOUTH - EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY)

Howdy!

2024 was another great year for Calvary's youth group. We now have an average attendance of 6-10 youth per meeting, with a list of 15-20 kids who come at various times. We have continued to meet on the second and fourth Sunday of every month, cooking breakfast for church on the third Sunday of each month, and whenever there is a fifth Sunday we do an extended volunteer day.

Much like last year, our regular youth meeting usually starts with fresh hot pizza and some sort of group activity, followed by a half hour lesson, and then some sort of outdoor/gym activity. The kids enjoy having the youth building as a place that is all their own. When we lost the building for a few months due to fleas, the youth were bummed. Thanks to John and Suzette's efforts, the youth were able to return to the building after the summer break.

We have continued to focus our lessons around core pillars of the church. Faith, Community, Servitude, and how the EYC fits into the church community. Our youth are involved as Acolytes, the A/V Team, and other volunteer opportunities at the church that pop up as the year goes on, like Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels drive.

This past year, a group of eight youth traveled up to Oklahoma for a Mission Trip back in July, chaperoned by Brandi Donaldson and Suzette Hillis (bless their souls). They all packed up in a van in the wee hours of an early July morning and drove north, barely escaping the raging power of Hurricane Beryl. They arrived safely and spent the week working on local projects for the residents in need and building fences! Upstanding! We are currently exploring options for this year's Mission Trip (most likely to be in July), and will discuss with the youth at our first meeting of the year, January 26th.

Back in July, before we returned from summer break, Will McClellan informed me that he would be taking a step back from the youth group to take more personal time. As this news was sad for me to hear, I did not fret, for I knew God had a plan. Since then, we have had multiple adults step up and help the EYC. Jonry Edralin, Saul Martinez, Suzette Hillis, and Brandi Donaldson have all been ready to go and eager to help when needed. Jonry and, more recently, Saul have continued to join the youth's regular meetings and help maintain an open and cohesive environment for the youth. Suzette has ran lessons for me when I have not been able to make it due to work or vacation. And Brandi bravely volunteered to ride 18 hours in a vehicle with the kids and sleep on a cot for a week. Calvary's EYC owes much gratitude to these individuals and all they do to help support the community.

Looking forward to this year, EYC has a lot ahead of itself. We will continue the same schedule, with events every Sunday except the first of the month. We will host and provide pancakes for the Pancake Supper in early March. We will do outreach with the community garden, Neary's Promise, and other local volunteer opportunities, possibly Helping Hands. We will do a fundraiser event in late Spring to help cover the cost of the upcoming Mission Trip (possibly bake sales, car wash, pickleball tournament, movie night - ideas are still being thrown around).

Most importantly, Calvary EYC will continue to focus on our spot in Calvary's community. How we can help, where we fit into the greater overall picture of the church, and the importance of having an open heart and mind, accepting and welcoming all of God's children.

Looking forward to the year to come, Joshua Grotte

YOUNG ADULTS

This year we decided to increase the age of young adults from 20-50. We started 2024 with a small tea party. We were hoping to get to meet and greet with as many young adults as we could. We wanted to get feedback to see what direction they wanted Young Adults to go. Our second event was a potluck lunch. In June we had a pub and arcade event which was a fun but small outing. July, we had a movie and dinner outing. We also spent time visiting with different couples in their homes. Our last event, which had a nice turn out, was Holy Guacamole. We finished the year strong and are excited to see where 2025 takes us.

SALOME CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Salome Chapter of the Daughters of the King (DOK) at Calvary Episcopal Church had a very eventful year. A worldwide community of prayerful women, the DOK's mission is the extension of Christ's kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism.

The DOK chapter at Calvary has 45 members who meet monthly for fellowship, prayer and community outreach.

This year we elected a new slate of officers who will serve three-year terms:

- Sonia McGrath President
- Susan Grotte Vice President
- Christi Dunn Secretary
- Betty Gorham Treasurer
- Paula Badora Prayer List
- Rev. Nancy Wilkes serves as our chaplain

We also welcomed four new members: Alice Ascenio, Ashley Vakulenko, Mary Lane and Susy Curtis.

Our outreach program included sponsoring Undies Sundays, where we collected socks and underwear from the Calvary congregation to donate to elementary schools in LCISD. We also donated sanitary products that our member Dorothy Lyons distributed to local schools.





Other events throughout the year included:

- Hosting the Feb 28 Lenten Super at Calvary
- Terri Morgan hosted the members for a "Holy Happy Hour" in May
- Sonia McGrath participated in the DOK Fall Assembly meeting in September at Camp Allen, themed "How to Get Your Joy Back"
- The Chapter held a fun Christmas party in December with a white elephant gift exchange

We have a packed agenda for 2025 as well. We encourage anyone interested in joining the Daughters of the King to contact one of our officers or Rev. Nancy.

NEWCOMER NOTES AND MORE...

I have almost completed thirteen years as your official Newcomer Coordinator. As you know, everyone is called to exhibit hospitality, and Calvary does that especially well. My job is made much easier by your welcoming spirit. It doesn't hurt that newcomers receive homemade jam followed by bread delivered to their home. A special thank you to Shirley Tijerina and Teri Mason for their continuing enthusiasm in leading this effort.

- January 2024 was a busy month of moving out of our sanctuary, setting up in the Parish Hall, creating new storage closets, and moving everything else to off-site storage or attics. A big thank you to John Brun and many others for their tireless 'moving' efforts. A special accolade goes to our altar guild, choir, POGS and AV team for making that first service in the Parish Hall seem seamless. Even those watching online did not miss a service.
- On February 18, we hosted our third annual Chili Cookoff in the Family Life Center. Besides wonderful chili, this year we had a dessert competition. There was voting for the best of both. Thank you to Fred Steinkamp, Rob Ritchie, Alicia Ascensio and Suzette Hillis for leading this event.
- On March 10, Bishop Kai Ryan visited and performed 3 Baptisms, 8 Confirmations, 6 Receptions in the Family Life Center. What a wonderful day!
- In February and March, we held joint evening Lenten Suppers with St. Marks Episcopal. Our speaker/author/artist was Sarah Beth Baca. She used stories and reflections of women of the Bible to relate to us today. Her beautiful book, <u>Full Image</u>, <u>Women of the Bible</u> is a true work of art.
- In April Fr. Ralph and Terri, with vestry help, hosted a Welcome Party in their home. A total of 17 guests and many volunteers enjoyed snacks and hospitality.
- We celebrated Mother's Day in May with beautiful, iced sugar cookies and Father's Day in June with specially made popcorn.
- On May 19 we celebrated Pentecost in a big way with another large service in the gym followed by Hinze's BBQ and a waterslide and bounce house on the playground.
- Women's Bible Study was held on Tuesday mornings at 10:30AM in the months of February, April, July and October. Thank you to our leaders: Fr. Ralph, Jan Shultis and Leigh Ann Evans. We studied the Book of James, "Joy", "The Living Word", and "When Jesus Walked culture then and now." A BIG thank you to our leaders.
- Confirmation Class was held by Fr. Ralph and Reb Scarborough on four Sundays in Nov./Dec. for upcoming visit of Bishop Andy Doyle on Jan. 5, 2025. There was a great turnout, and we had 14 participants.
- December brought our Advent activities: Wreath Making, Ornament making, Cookie Decorating and Pageant preparation. We decorated lots of cookies and this year we again had cute colorful boxes to take our cookies with us. These were a big hit for the adults as well as the children.
- 'Lessons and Carols' under Sterling Overshown's leadership was held the following Sunday, Dec. 22. We so appreciated all the extra voices Sterling enlisted to make the program extra special. A reception was held following the event in the Parish Hall. The Decorated Cookies and many more goodies were served with the help of many volunteers.
- Breakfast (following the first service) and Cookie Time (following the second service) continued in full force all year long. The Scouts served us breakfast (egg tacos) on the first Sunday and the Youth volunteered to make pancakes the third Sunday. In addition, Mary Lane oversees breakfast and she and her volunteers are busy getting that fruit and goodies put out for all to enjoy. Mary can always use more help please let her know if you are available.
- The AV team broadcast both Sunday Services and many Memorials and Special services. This is a wonderful offering for those across the country and nearby who cannot attend. The Sunday services averaged 30 views per service.

Finally, the STATS!

Since January 1, 2024:

We collected 52 greeter cards

11 Families/singles joined Calvary (20 adults with 5 children)

Welcome 2024 New Members

Patrick & Caryn Ballay (Veronica, Montgomery)

Rick and Darlene Hansen

Delaney Harris (Gio)

Kate Izekor (Jesse)

Jessica Lopez

Murray & Rhonda McDaniel

Dave and Jana Nelson

Luis/Cynthia Ovando/Ramos (Karina)

Dean and Sue Ross

Scott & Trish Toma

David & Michelle Tripulas

Anne Scarborough – Calvary Newcomer Coordinator

2024 PARISH STATISTICS

Baptisms Received Bau Betancourt Adrian Betancourt LaOuana Garber Gabi Betancourt Jordan Maldonado Jonry Edralin Diego Nunez Cinnamon Edralin Miguel Nunez Rosario Nunez Meadow Skye Solis Susan Ross

Reaffirmed **Confirmed** Tami Lewis Kevin Beddow

Mari Furukawa

LaQuana Garber

Betty Johnson **Brent Matthes** Sue Muerdler

Miguel Angel Nunez

Kourtney Smith

Those We Love But See No Longer

Anne Bennett Roger Hardee Mike McClelland

Jo Murray

Mary Ellen Plut Carol Wagner

Commissioning of the Members of the Vestry & the Diocesan Council Delegates

Celebrant: We are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to the special ministry to which they are called.

Celebrant: Are these persons prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of his Church?

Sponsor: I believe they are.

Celebrant: You have been called to a significant ministry in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidates: I will.

Celebrant: Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidates: | will

Sponsor: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry as Members of the Vestry in this congregation.

People: The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

Celebrant: I am your servant; grant me understanding.

People: That I may know your decrees.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Celebrant: In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Members of the Vestry in this Parish.

Sponsor: I present to you these persons, duly elected as Delegates to Diocesan Council, to be commissioned for their ministry.

People: Call a solemn assembly, gather the people, assemble the elders, and sanctify the congregation.

Celebrant: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.

People: Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who by the Holy Spirit presided at the council of the Apostles to guide them in all knowledge and truth. Be present with the Delegates of Diocesan Council. In the passions of debate give them a quiet spirit, in the complexities of the issues give them clear minds, and in the moments of decision give them courageous hearts. Guide them in all things to seek only your glory and the good of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Celebrant: In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you as Delegates to Diocesan Council.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: O Lord, without whom our labor is lost: We beseech you to prosper all works in your Church undertaken according to your holy will. Grant to your workers a pure intention, a patient faith, sufficient success on earth, and the blessedness of serving you in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Calvary Episcopal Church

Mission Statement: Calvary welcomes and embraces all who join us in doing the work of Christ in our community.

Building & Grounds

Jim Grotte Frank Plut Oscar Lozano, JW Fred Steinkamp Vestry Liaison

Oscar Lozano, JW

Calvary Episcopal Church Foundation

Betsy Zanghi, Pres. Lisa Lemkowitz, Treasurer Kathy Bethke Dennis Gorka **Bob Morris** Fr. Ralph Morgan

Canonical Ministries

• The Vestry

Executive Finance Building/Grounds

• Calvary Epis. Prep.

School Board Fr. Ralph Morgan Chris Bradley, Pres.

Vestry Liaison

John Bradshaw

Finance Committee

Don Bagozzi Rick Lane, SW Lisa Lemkowitz Scott McLemore, Treasurer Philip Zanghi

Vestry Liaison

Greg Bethke Steve Evans

JW=Junior Warden SW=Senior Warden

Worship Ministry

- A/V Ministry Reb Scarborough
- Acolytes
- - Meagan Milford Frank Plut
- Altar Guild Sarah Maschek
- Flower Delivery DOK-D. Lyons

Greeters

Anne Scarborough

LEM

Wendy Doherty

Worship Ministry Con't

• Music: **SNL** Ross Elkins **POGS** Will Mason 8AM Choir Sterling Overshown

- Handbell Choir Paula Smith
- Sunday Prayer Team Mary Katherine Maldonado
- Ushers Anne Scarborough

Vestry Liaison Sonia McGrath

Calvary Life

- Bread Ministry Shirley Tijerina Terri Mason
- Breakfast Ministry Mary Lane
- Bridge Group Peggy Clingenpeel Sheila Phillips
- Bunco Susan Grotte
- Calvary Out & About Terri Morgan
- Care Team Nancy Wilkes
- Cookie Ministry Anne Scarborough
- Marketing Amber Zentis
- Needlepoint Ministry Julia Case Terri Morgan
- Parish Retreat Susan Grotte Suzette Hillis
- Rally Day Anne Scarborough
- Walking Mourners Path Rev. Nancy Wilkes
- Website William Soller
- Weddings/Memorial Receptions Dorothy Lyons
- Welcome Anne Scarborough

Vestry Liaison: Lori Hoy Debbie Pohler

David Cook

Outreach Ministry

- ACTION Team Tim Hillis
 - Roy Haley
- Blood Drive Frank Plut
- Community Garden Rick Lane
- Christmas Adopt-A-**Family**

Plut's and Pohler's

- Friends N. Richmond Roy Haley
- Helping Hands Lois Essells
- Kairos Prison Ministry David Essells
- Laundry Love Rev. Nancy Wilkes
- Scouts Jim Kidda
- Thanksgiving Feast Bill Daw

Vestry Liaison: Fred Steinkamp

Men's Ministry

- Taco Tuesday Fr. Ralph Morgan
- Men's Grill n' Chill Guv Grossmann Fr. Ralph Morgan
- Men's Bible Study Fr. Ralph Morgan

Women's Ministry

- Women's Bible Study Anne Scarborough
- Daughters of the King Sonia McGrath

Formation Advent and **Lenten Programs** Fr. Ralph Morgan

- **Christian Education Adult** Fr. Ralph Morgan Rev. Nancy Wilkes Bill & Janet Soller
- Confirmation Reb Scarborough Fr. Ralph Morgan
- Safeguarding God's Children Paula Grossman Kathy Haley
- Young Adult Ministry Saul & Alicia Martinez
- Youth/EYC Joshua Grotte Fr. Ralph Morgan

Children's Ministry

- Children's Chapel
- Children's Christian Ed.
- Christmas Pageant
- Early Communion
- Easter Events William Soller

Vestry Liaison

Ashley Vakulenko John Bradshaw Brandon Campbell

Stewardship Committee

Fr. Ralph Morgan Kathy Haley Anna Stevenson Amber Zentis

Vestry Liaison

Rick Lane, SW

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

~ where everyone is welcome ~

806 THOMPSON ROAD RICHMOND, TX 77469 281.342.2147 WWW.CALVARYRICHMOND.ORG

Church Office Operating Hours

Monday - Thursday 9am-4pm

For emergencies contact:

Rev. Nancy Wilkes 713-818-6323 nwilkes@ces-richmond.org

Calvary Staff
The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector
The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

John Brun, Parish Administrator
Anne Scarborough, Newcomer Coordinator
William Soller, Communication, Children's Minister
Suzette Hillis, Administrative Assistant

Kathy Haley, Finance Administrator
Sterling Overshown, Organist/Choir Director
Will Mason, POGS Worship Coordinator
Ross Elkins, SNL Worship Leader
Jose Portillo, Campus Operations

Calvary Worship Service Times

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service 10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service 5:00 PM Sunday – Sunday Night Alive Informal Service