

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



“A NEW BEGINNING”

“But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ

Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14

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Welcome!



What follows is the Profile of Calvary Episcopal Church, a church poised at the threshold of “a new beginning.” An historic church, located in a vibrant, downtown neighborhood in the beautiful and booming city of Charleston, South Carolina. Calvary has an important African-American heritage, one of substantial significance in the United States, especially given the current climate of racial reconciliation and healing afoot in Charleston currently. It is worth noting that Calvary recently

weathered a terrible split in the life of its diocese, and chose without hesitation to remain a part of The Episcopal Church, even as 40+ parishes chose otherwise.

We glance back at our past to learn from it; we peer into the future with anticipation; and presently, we work to glorify God and enlarge His kingdom. We pray for the guidance that only He can give. By His Empowering Holy Spirit, we are ready for the challenge of our “new beginning!”

WORSHIP

Calvary has one worship service at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday. This service is a Rite II Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer. A volunteer choir provides hymns drawn from the *Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. During the Liturgy, Sunday School is offered for children who then join the rest of the congregation at the Peace. In addition to Sunday service, we have Ash Wednesday service at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., a service each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. during Lent and a service on Christmas Eve at 8:00 p.m. following an hour of Christmas music.

Church Community

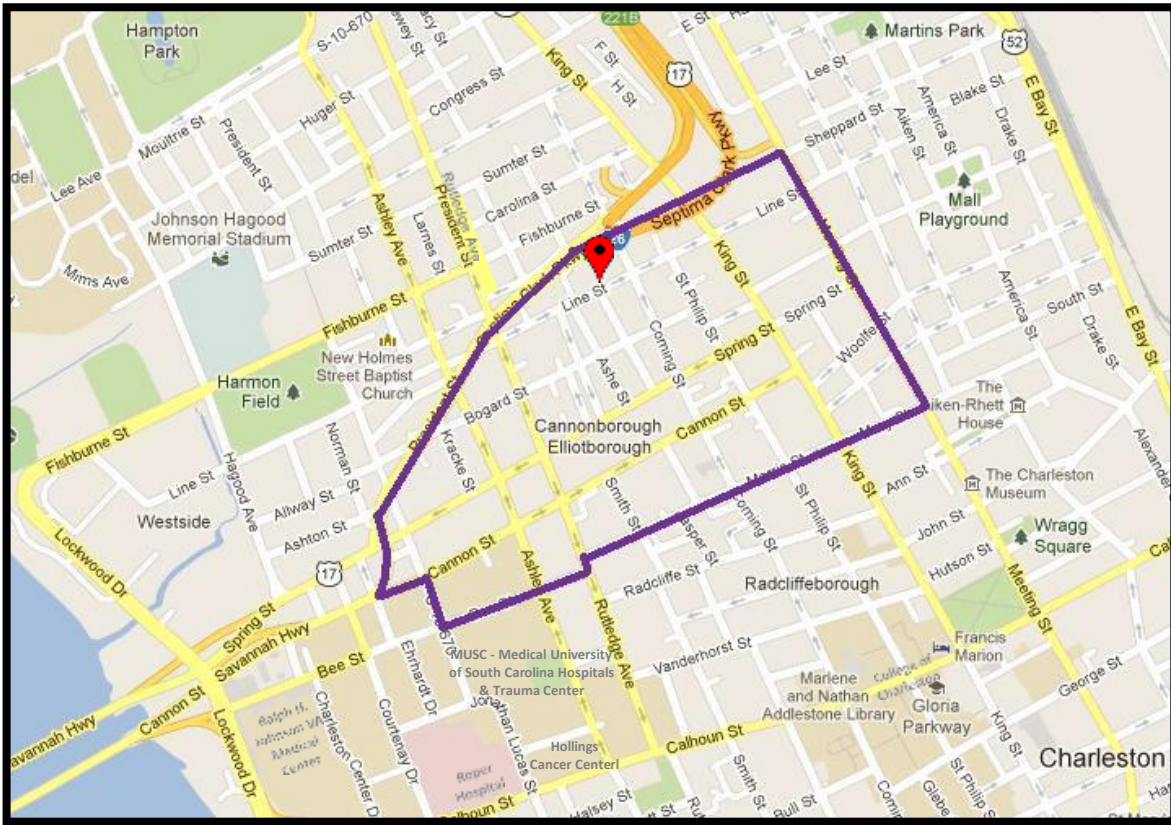
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Map of the Charleston Area



Cannonborough-Elliotborough Neighborhood



Calvary's neighborhood, Cannonborough-Elliotborough, is located in the city's precincts 6, 7, and 8. It is bounded on the north by the Septima Clark Expressway (the Crosstown), on the south by Bee and Morris Streets, on the west by President Street and the Medical University of South Carolina, and on the east by Meeting Street.

Originally two separate boroughs but now considered one, Cannonborough and Elliotborough are the "Gateway to the Peninsula". This area is surrounded by quaint historic homes, local shops, great restaurants, and a growing, transitioning population. Residents are only minutes away from the best healthcare in the state, and it is no surprise that many of the homes in this area house medical students, residents, and physicians and their families. There is great potential for congregational growth and community involvement at Calvary's doorstep.

HISTORY

Calvary was founded in 1847 as a church for slaves in the Charleston community. This idea paralleled the thoughts of many people who believed that there was a need to evangelize the slaves in the decades after 1820.

At the 58th Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina in February 1847, Mr. Henry D. Lesesne, prominent attorney and chairman of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church, introduced resolutions pointing to the religious instruction of Charleston's slave population. A committee, chaired by Mr. Lesesne, chose The Reverend Paul Trapier as the minister of the proposed congregation to be known as Calvary Church.



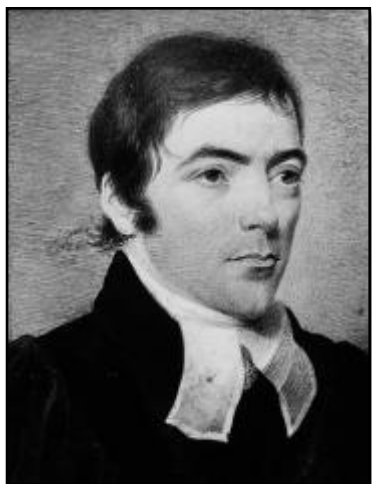
Reverend Paul Trapier

The committee purchased a lot at the corner of Beaufain and Wilson Streets for \$1,200. There was a delay in beginning this project due to a shortfall in the pledges. The estimated cost of the proposed brick building to accommodate 600 persons was several thousand dollars more than the actual cash on hand. Mr. Lesesne reported this situation to the 59th Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina in February 1848.

In March 1848, Father Trapier began to hold services for the Calvary congregation in the basement of St. Philip's rectory. In mid-July of 1848, a committee of laymen rented a large room over a carriage warehouse on Meeting Street, known as Temperance Hall, for worship services. By early 1849, there were approximately 30 to 40 "persons of color" attending in the morning and 100 attendees in the afternoon. There were 276 persons enrolled in the Sunday School.

To preserve the patriarchal relationship of master and slave, special seats in Calvary Church were set apart for whites. Laws prohibited teaching a slave to read. All instructions in the church and Sunday School were oral. Encouraged by this impressive beginning, the committee entered into a contract for construction of the building for the new congregation in 1849.

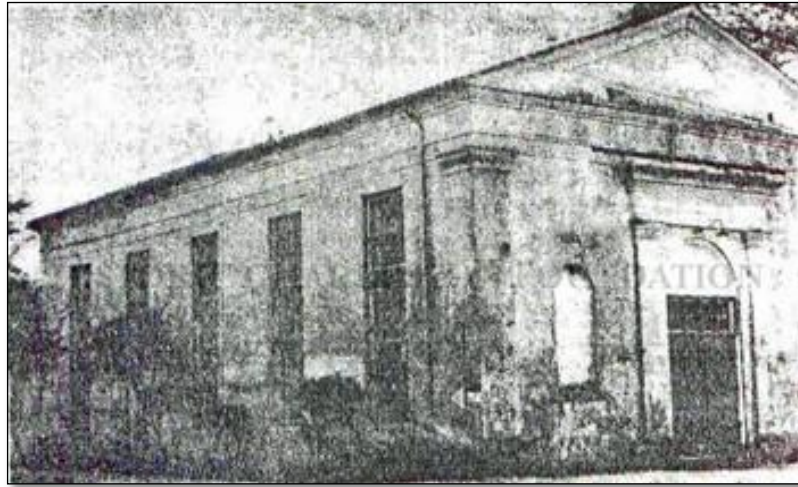
As this building neared completion, a series of events almost jeopardized the project. A riot broke out in July of 1849 at the Work House, the Negro jail, and some thirty prisoners escaped. They were eventually recaptured, tried, and imprisoned. One of them, Nicholas, was hanged. On Saturday night, July 14, 1849, after the trial of Nicholas and two other



The Right Reverend Christopher E. Gadsden, Fourth Episcopal Bishop of South Carolina

ringleaders, a mob gathered to destroy the nearly completed building located a short city block from the Work House. As the mob assembled, Mr. James L. Petigru, an esteemed Charleston lawyer and member of St. Michael's Church along with several others, stood on the city hall steps and addressed the mob. Their efforts saved the church from destruction and the building was completed and consecrated on December 23, 1849, by the Right Reverend Christopher E. Gadsden.

The first building was referred to by some as "a bit of old Rome." The brick building, covered with stucco and once painted white, was of a style purer than usual at the end of the 1840's. The simple but formal structure showed skillful combinations of straight and curved lines. A two-story annex, built at the south of the church in 1924, housed the kindergarten department and rector's study. In the Charleston Museum, there is a picture of Calvary Church with a caption that says, "One of the buildings that Charleston is sorry to have destroyed."

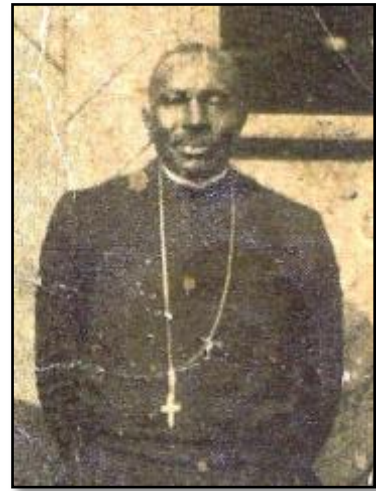


The first Calvary Church building (pictured c. 1940) was located at 71 Beaufain Street at the corner of Wilson Street in Charleston, SC

But the building that caused such a furor in 1849 came to an ironic end as a church late in 1940. A New Deal housing development, through the Charleston Housing Authority, wanted the land to expand the Robert Mills Manor housing project for white people. This housing development had practically surrounded Calvary Church and preempted that section from the constituency of Calvary Church. Under much pressure, the property was sold to the Housing Authority, and monies from the sale were used to build the present building. Services ended at the old building November 25, 1940, and the church was de-consecrated. Ultimately the building was demolished, but the life of Calvary Church lives on in its present building.

Although Calvary Church was a parish, under incorporation laws of the State of South Carolina, it was still recognized as a mission in the Convention of the Diocese of South Carolina until May 5, 1965. At that time, Calvary was admitted into the Convention of the Diocese. Father Stephen Mackey, the Vicar, became the first Rector.

Calvary Day School was founded by Father E.L. Baskerville in the early 1930's. It was a pre-school, kindergarten, and first grade. Many of Charleston's African-American citizens attribute their early childhood education to Calvary Day School. Unfortunately, the Calvary Day School closed September 1, 2012, due to declining enrollment.



Reverend E. L. Baskerville

In 2003, Calvary Episcopal Church was honored with a marker as an historic site from the City of Charleston MOJA Arts Festival. Calvary again made history in 2005 when Father Terence A. Lee and Father James "Jimmy" Gallant, II were ordained. Father Dallas H. Wilson, Jr. was ordained in 2006. The ordination of three African-American priests (all from Calvary) within a year is unprecedented in what is now "The Episcopal Church in South Carolina."



Reverend Terence A. Lee



Reverend James "Jimmy" Gallant



Reverend Dallas H. Wilson, Jr.

Calvary Episcopal Church

VICARS

The Reverend Paul Trapier (Founder) 1847-1857

The Reverend W.H. Hanckel 1857 – 1859

The Reverend Lucius C. Lance 1860-1861

The Reverend W. O. Prentiss 1866-1872

The Reverend J. V. Welch 1872-1890

The Reverend E. F. Al. Bennett 1898-1900

The Reverend W. M. Jackson 1903-1907

The Reverend Jesse David Lykes 1907-1912

The Reverend Erasmus L. Baskerville 1913-1937

The Reverend Lewis A. Baskerville 1937-1939

The Reverend Stephen B. Mackey 1940-1965

RECTORS

The Reverend Stephen B. Mackey 1965-1972

The Reverend Keithly R. S. Warner 1976-1977

The Reverend Cornelius White 1977-1980

The Reverend Paul R. Abernathy 1982-1987

The Reverend Carlisle Ramcharan 1990-1991

The Reverend Theodore R. Lewis, Jr. 1992-2013

INTERIM RECTORS

The Reverend William “Roy” Hills 2013-2013

The Reverend Wilmot T. Merchant 2014-2014

The Reverend Michael Burton 2015-2015

Buildings and Grounds



The church building was erected in 1941 and is of brick construction. The interior is designed along the lines of the traditional ecumenical English chapel with the chancel consisting of the sanctuary, the choir and the nave. It has a seating capacity of approximately 200 persons. The sacristy is adjacent to the altar.





Adjacent to the sanctuary is a fellowship hall made of brick construction, which contains a large meeting room, one small meeting room, three classrooms, a kitchen, lavatory facilities, a walk-in security room where the sacred vessels and other valuables are stored, a walk-in custodial room, and a large pantry.



Next to the sanctuary building is the cemetery which was revitalized in 2011 with the assistance of Herbert U. Fielding. The cemetery has 66 grave sites and 100 cremation niches.



Next to the cemetery, but separated from the sanctuary and fellowship hall, is the administration building. This is a one-story brick structure which was built in 1946 and served as the rectory. In 1982, it was re-dedicated as the Stephen B. Mackey Administration Building and was converted to house the rector's office, a secretary/reception area, meeting rooms and office machinery space.

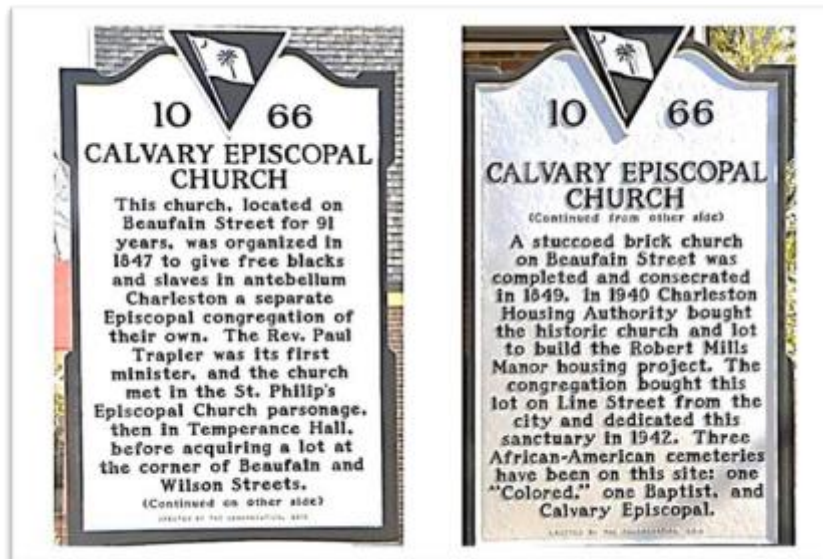
In 1985, a tract of land at the rear of the church that encompassed three city lots was acquired from the State of South Carolina. This land is primarily used for parking and outdoor activities.

In 2009, two properties (72 and 74 Ashe Street) were purchased from private owners. These lots are adjacent to the tract of land that was acquired in 1985. The lot at 72 Ashe Street measures 33 by 81 feet (about half an acre). On that property stands a two-story wooden structure with two apartments. Together, the lot and building are worth approximately \$265,000. This building at 72 Ashe Street was sold in 2014 but the lot remains with the church and will be converted into a parking lot. The spaces in the lot will be rented to provide a source of revenue. The lot at 74 Ashe Street is vacant and also measures 33 by 81 feet (about half an acre) and is worth \$110,000. The church properties and facilities are in excellent, tip-top condition.

Historical Markers



In 2003, Calvary Episcopal Church was honored as an historic site by the City of Charleston MOJA Arts Festival. This marker is displayed at the entry to the church.



Calvary was awarded historic site status by the South Carolina Historical Marker program of the State Historic Preservation Office in 2010. This marker is prominently displayed near the Stephen B. Mackey Administration Building.

Justice Jonathan Jasper Wright

On February 17, 2000, the dedication of the monument to South Carolina Supreme Court Associate Justice, Jonathan Jasper Wright (1840-1885), was held in Calvary Church's cemetery yard. Elected on February 1, 1870, Wright was the first African-American jurist to serve on an appellate court in the United States. He served until his resignation in 1877. Research reveals that Justice Wright was buried in Calvary's cemetery on February 21, 1885.



Monument to Jonathan Jasper Wright

Ministries

“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

I Peter 4:10

Saint Mary’s Altar Guild

The St. Mary’s Altar Guild is comprised of men and women volunteers of the parish, spiritually called to this ministry to care for the altar, vestments, and altar linens of the parish. The duties of the guild, as outlined in the Altar Guild Manual, include: preparation for work, weekly care and cleaning, preparation for Sunday service, preparation for special services and sacramental rites. Currently under the leadership of Yulanda B. Thompson, the Guild has four alternating groups, each performing the work of the guild for one week. The ministry educates members of the Guild of the specific name of each item used in worship, why specific items are used, and correct names for each part of the church.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The mission of the Episcopal Church Women is to provide an opportunity to nourish women as Christians, build lasting friendships through fellowship with each other, promote spiritual learning, and provide services to our church, the community, and the world. The ECW budget includes the mission and ministry at home, mission and ministry to the world, spiritual life, hospitality, altar guild, Church Periodical Club, United Thank Offering, college ministries, Christian education, Daughters of the King, Voorhees College Scholarship, United Way, Crisis Ministries, diocesan pledge and project, YMCA, and YWCA. The ECW holds an annual oyster roast to support these outreach programs.

Men of Calvary

The Men of Calvary is composed of all men of Calvary Church. They are charged with financially supporting the services of the church through fundraising projects and programs. The mission of the group is to provide an opportunity to nourish men as Christians, build lasting friendships through fellowship with each other, promote spiritual learning, and provide services to our church, the community, and the world. Enrollment is automatic with Parish membership. The Men of Calvary hold an annual Pancake Dinner and Raffle on Shove Tuesday to support ECW fundraising projects.

Calvary World Outreach Committee

Calvary World Outreach Committee is one of Calvary's newest ministries. The mission of the committee is to build alliances with people and organizations in order to meet the physical, educational, and emotional needs of children around the world.



The committee will meet regularly in order to plan strategic missionary outreach activities. “Partnering with the world for change”, the committee will work to make a difference in the lives of children.

The Gathering at the Table

Members of Calvary Episcopal Church and members of East Cooper Episcopal Church meet in the Calvary Church Parish Hall each Tuesday evening from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to share their perspectives on matters of race—past and present. Originally scheduled to meet for four weeks in October 2015, the group has bonded and grown in their commitment. They continue to meet, entertaining lively and healing discussions.

The Order of the Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King is organized as a religious order. Each daughter makes a vow, therefore, the group is referred to as an order not an organization. The Order's rule of life requires a spiritual discipline of daily prayer, service, and evangelism. A daughter pledges herself to the spread of Christ's kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. The Order's bylaws prohibit fund-raising. Currently, Sue Steed is the president of Calvary's order.

Calvary Episcopal Church Choir

Calvary's small but enthusiastic choir is under the direction of Lonnie Hamilton, a retired educator, who has led the choir for over 45 years. Under Mr. Hamilton's leadership the choir sings a variety of musical styles: hymns, African-American spirituals, gospel, and contemporary music.

The choir uses *The Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.



Choir rehearsals are held each week on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. The choir currently consists of approximately fourteen members and welcomes anyone who loves to sing to the glory of God.

Melody Chimes

The Melody Chimes Ensemble, directed by retired educator, George Kenny, consists of approximately eight members of various ages. The ensemble renders musical selections one Sunday a month. They are happy to have anyone join them. One needs not know how to read music. The director has the patience of Job. Practices are held each Saturday morning. This group enjoys fellowship, learning together and giving praise to God through the sounds of hand bells.

Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry for Calvary Episcopal Church affords educational opportunities for children and adults. There is Sunday School and a mid-week Bible study group, as well. Periodicals such as The Daily Word and other readings are provided by the Periodical Club.

Children

Sunday School for the children promotes positive Christian and social values. The Bible is the major resource for lessons, in conjunction with Sunday School books, videos, games, and other Christian materials. Seasonal skits and music are incorporated in the children's Sunday School curriculum. Urban Ministries, Inc., is the series used for children's Sunday School. Presently, children's Sunday School is suspended due to lack of enrollment.

Adults

The adult groups of about ten participants meets prior to church service on Sundays. The Bible and the Sunday School books of the Urban Ministries, Inc. series are used in the adult Sunday School. The Sunday School encourages moral decision-making and development of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Mid-week Bible study has approximately six participants. Various Christian books are used.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Through advertising in the neighborhood and partnering with area churches, other youth groups and Calvary Day School, Calvary's 2012 VBS was a huge success, with about fifty children. Thanks, also to wonderful volunteers, VBS at Calvary was rewarding for all in attendance.

Due to our small Sunday School group,

changes in our surrounding neighborhood and the closure of Calvary Day



School, Vacation Bible School in 2013 was reconfigured to a "One Day, Fun Day". A single day of games, food, and fun was enjoyed.



Profile of Congregation

The congregation of Calvary Church is a warm and welcoming community. Though modest in size, the membership is committed, inclusive, and includes a range of ages, economic levels, talents, and educational levels. The spiritual life of the church is enriched by its members' commitment to community worship and active participation in secular community organizations. However, estimated statistics are given for 2012 due to the illness and absence of the Rector. In addition, the attendance drastically declined in 2012.

Summary of Relevant Statistics

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Active Members	195	183	183	181
Members Under 16	20	20	15	9
Baptisms	0	2	0	2
Marriages	0	0	0	0
Burials	1	1	8	3
Number of Sunday Services	55	91	85	63
Number of All Services	218	180	176	73
Average Sunday Attendance	105	105	50	50
Easter Attendance	175	175	175	75
Enrolled in Sunday School	25	20	10	0

Calvary's 170th Anniversary

Calvary Episcopal Church celebrated its 170th Anniversary on September 23 and September 24, 2017. The Rev. Canon Terrence Lee's message of hope and encouragement was a call to action and will remain in our hearts forever.



Reverend Lee, Rector of St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Hollis, New York, is pictured here with his wife, The Reverend Violet L.D. Lee, Ph.D., Calvary's Senior Warden, Timothy Armstrong, and his wife Brenda Armstrong.



The Reverend James Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D. Vice President for Institutional Advancement and the Arthur Carl Lichtenberger Professor in Pastoral Theology and Continuing Education at Virginia Theological Seminary, helped Calvary celebrate its 170th Anniversary by delivering a heart-warming message at Calvary on September 24, 2017



Calvary's Blueprint for the Future

This year, Calvary has the task of climbing a mountain. In doing so, we have to overcome many challenges along the way. Through the faith and determination of our parish, it is now time to realize the vision before us – God's vision for us!

The vision for Calvary is to meet the needs of our church family and a growing and changing community. The time has come to expand and grow our vision.

For the Parish, this encompasses several things:

We are a House of Worship. Worship is the most important thing we do. It is our unique strength.

We are a place of renewal. We all come together to worship, then go out into the world with the ability to demonstrate God's love.

We are a place of spirituality. People can come and feel the presence of God, not just from the music or words from the pulpit, but simply in the way they are welcomed as a member of our parish family.

We are a center of civic ministry. We need to be a beacon, open in ever expanding ways to our community.

We are a place of compassion. We are a congregation whose mission is deeply rooted in concern, care, and action to the needs of others.

We are a sanctuary. People come knowing their needs will be met and they will be safe.

We are a center for healing. Through the power of God's love, what is broken can be made whole again.

We are a center for reconciliation. Serving as a support system, we help those who seek love, acceptance, and forgiveness.

This is the vision of expansion and growth embracing all the ways which God calls us to serve. This is who we are and why we gather in faith and fellowship.



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT

Calvary Episcopal Church proclaims Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and ministers to others by following the Great Commission.