

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017



CALVARY EPISCOPAL  
C H U R C H

105 West Maple Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148  
630.620.8899 [calvarylombard.org](http://calvarylombard.org)

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
A G E N D A  
January 28, 2018**

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CALVARY EPISCOPAL  
C H U R C H

**Calvary Episcopal Church, Lombard, IL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 29, 2017**

Senior Warden Lisa Pardue called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m. Nicki Jaska was appointed as secretary for the meeting. There were approximately 55 people in attendance. The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

**Election of Wardens, Vestry, and Convention Delegates**

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously carried to accept the slate of Wardens, Vestry, and Convention Delegates presented by the nominating committee as follows: 1-year terms: Audrey Schuurmann, Senior Warden, Hester Bury, Junior Warden. Lisa Pardue, Treasurer. Terms ending January 2018: Don Bradley, Events and John Jaska, Outreach. Terms ending January 2019: Joe Augustine, Building and Grounds, Carla Castle, Stewardship. Tom Cephlecha, Welcome Ministry, and Ken Pardue, Finance. Convention Delegates Tanisha Nelson, Grant Ianelli, and Stephenie Castle.

**Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the 2017 Budget**

Ken Pardue led a discussion of the past year's operating statement and the coming year's budget. (See attached)

**Ministry Reports**

Senior Warden Lisa Pardue asked each Ministry Coordinator to stand and be recognized and to make any additional comments to their printed reports. Recognized were Ross Kellan, Bagels; Gwen O'Loughlin, Chalice Bearers and Lectors; Jeri Kellan, Music; John Jaska, Outreach; Don Bradley, Events; Kim Lombardi, Church School; Carla Castle, Daughters of the King; Jean Morris, Lay Eucharistic Ministry; Tanisha Nelson, Formation; Carla Castle, Stewardship; and Ron Seger, Ushers. Lisa also thanked Karen Dakis for her 10 years of service as Cookie Walk Chairman, and to Ken Pardue for his many years as Treasurer.

**Table Discussion**

Lisa had each table participate in group discussion on hopes and fears for Calvary and our thoughts for future plans for increased presence in the community.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None

**Remarks of the Retiring Senior Warden**

Lisa asked that all please read her Senior Warden's Report and that it has been a challenging year. She noted that she felt the Vestry dinners and breakfasts were extremely helpful and thanked John Jaska for his work as chef. She also thanked Audrey for her support as Junior Warden.

**Remarks of the New Senior Warden**

Audrey thanked Lisa for her leadership during a year of exceptional change and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

**Necrology**

Priest-in-Charge Mo O'Connor led the Necrology prayer for Audrey Ianelli, John Lazanas, John Morrice, and Mercedes Vance.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer and dismissal at 11:50 a.m.

Nicki Jaska  
Secretary

## RECTOR'S REPORT

The year ended 2017 represents the inaugural year of my installation as the Rector of Calvary Church. During my first year I was privileged to learn and grow as a reverend while leading a loving congregation.

As for the year ended December 31, 2017, our membership was able to build on the history of Calvary as a giving and caring community, accomplishing much over the past 12 months in our many ministries despite our small numbers (see ministry reports for details.)

### Connecting Calvary through Community Building

As pastor of Calvary, I worked at expanding our relationships with the community and with other churches and faith groups to build connections and increase our reach.

- Speaking engagements at the Rotary Club
  - Member of Anti-drug Task Force
  - Interfaith Clergy Group/Interfaith Thanksgiving
  - Woman's Local Clergy Group/Pet Blessing
  - Ecumenical events with FUM, UCC
  - Local ecumenical Liturgy group
  - Clergy Connections Ecumenical Pastors Group
  - Worked with CWL, Historical Society, UCC and St. Johns to host a bags tournament and kid's fun fest raising over \$2000 for the Outreach House
  - In partnership with "I Have a Bean" a local coffee brewing company that helps people who had been incarcerated
  - In partnership with the DuPage County community service release program. We received a lot of community service help with gardening this year
  - I visited many people in our community or friends/family of Calvarians who were ill, shut in, or in need of pastoral healing.
  - Worked with Elmhurst College, Glenbard East and St. John for Ross Kellan's funeral service
- b. **Outside Service:** Prison Ministry; Not only do we have congregants in jail but as followers of Christ we have been called to proclaim liberty and hope to the prisoners and always remember them.
- Taught co-dependent and religious classes for the incarcerated at DuPage County Jail.
  - Visited congregants in jail.
- c. **Diocesan Level:** Staying connected to our Diocese helps me know what is happening and keeps me up to date on resources that may be beneficial for Calvary.
- Speaking engagements for Catholic society through Diocese
  - Fresh Start Groups with local Episcopal clergy
  - Asked by bishop to attend Evangelism Matters conference.
  - St. Peter's re-envisioning task force

- d. **Further Education:** Learning how to apply business tactics that have proven to work in order to grow the Kingdom of God and spread the good news is always beneficial!
- Went to the Kellogg School of business taking a course in non-profit business at Northwestern University
- e. **Global Level:** God is extremely concerned with the welfare of the poor. As followers of Christ we have a responsibility for the least of these. God's children in other countries are the most vulnerable and poorest so we glorify God when we don't forget about them.
- Representing the Episcopal Church through helping children in Guinea West Africa through non-profit CWL. Calvary helped over 16 young girls receive an education and childcare, so they can attend school through the Anglican Diocese in Guinea West Africa.
  - Currently in conversation with a donor from the Diocese of LA, flew out to LA and we are working on building residential housing for girls who will be mentored and schooled.

I also worked with church leadership to discern the needs of Calvary and worked to improve the financial and organizational condition of Calvary:

- a. **New Things Initiated**
- Invited different deacons to serve with us, Deacon Tom, Deacon Judy, Deacon Jackie
  - Created a new liturgy "Breakfast Service." This is seeker friendly, casual and brings community of both services together.
  - Implemented other user/seeker friendly Episcopal approved resources into our liturgy.
  - Simplified bulletin for people new to Episcopal worship
  - Created booklet describing altar server jobs with history
  - Created instructed Eucharist Sermon to be used throughout the year
  - Creation of Endowment Legacy Fund
  - In conversation with St. Mark's about becoming one church with two sites.
  - In conversation with Tri-community YMCA to rent space for offices
- b. **New Space Use**
- Renting out space to Church plant RENEW/ was in discussion
  - Renting out space to daycare "Kidazzle daycare"/ was in discussion
  - Community Marketplace local small business vendors (in progress in 2018)
  - Renting out our parking spaces to commuters (in progress in 2018)
  - Community Market place every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month

As a congregation, we conducted many ministries and held multiple events to foster a sense of community and service.

- a. **Formation Ministries**
- Youth Group
  - Teen Youth Group
  - Evening Bible Study
  - Daughters of the King (DOK)
  - Adult Formation
  - Book Group

- b. **Sick/Suffering Ministries**
- Pastoral Care (meals, rides, cards, calls, visits, prayers)
  - Prayer Blankets
  - Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs)
  - Discretionary Fund (in support of the outside community)
  - Love Fund (in support of Calvary congregants)
  - AA, Al-anon, NA

- c. **Kids Outreach Ministries**
- Tot Town
  - Madison School Supplies
  - Kids Hope USA Mentoring

- d. **Christmas Ministries**
- Operation Christmas Child
  - Cathedral Shelter

- e. **Service Ministries**
- Acolytes
  - First Servers
  - Lectors/Readers
  - Intercessors/Prayers of People
  - Buildings and Grounds
  - Coffee Host
  - Communications/Facebook
  - Bagel Pick-up
  - Altar Guild
  - Stewardship
  - Nursery
  - Ushers
  - Greeter
  - Music
  - Search Committee

- f. **Community Outreach Ministries**
- Art Fair
  - Cookie Walk
  - Community Marketplace
  - Bags Tournament & Fun Fest
  - Halloween Party
  - Sip & Paint Event
  - RENEW concert

- g. **Hunger Ministries**
- DuPage PADS

- CROP Walk
- Northern Food Bank
- Garden

**h: Evangelism Ministries**

- Ashes to Go
- Alpha

**i. Community in-reach**

- White Elephant Gift Exchange
- Chili Cook-off
- Annual Church Picnic

**j. Outside Events at Calvary/Space Use**

- Winter Farmer's Market
- Lombard Falcons practice
- Kidazzle Kindergarten Graduation
- NA, AA, Al-anon

## **Moving Forward in 2018**

After a wonderful year where we encountered numerous challenges and achieved a number of successes, I recognized the need for our parish to generate a mission and vision that was in alignment with God's calling for us. It is incumbent upon our leadership and membership to create a church that has a healthy, collaborative, and strong foundation in order to meet the needs and challenges that God will place before us in 2018.

In this vein, with prayer, discernment and all the data collected from this year's Church Analysis Tool Survey, Search Committee, and Small Group findings, we have created a clearly worded mission statement for Calvary to guide us in all that we do.

**MISSION:** *The Mission of Calvary Episcopal Church is to reflect Christ's image through inclusive relationship, unconditional love, and joyful service.*

**VISION:** *The Vision of Calvary Episcopal Church is to love and serve others like Christ so that they come to know Christ themselves.*

**MARKETING TAGLINE:** *Reflecting Christ's image through love, inclusion, and service.*

In discerning our path in 2018, all objectives, goals and initiatives can be evaluated against this statement. "How does this help us in our mission?" "Does this fit our mission?"

Given that we are a small congregation and have limited human, as well as financial resources, I strongly believe that Calvary needs to examine its ministries and what it takes to support them. The reality is we currently manage as many ministries as a program style church that have 150-350 congregants worshiping on a Sunday. Moving forward, for the spiritual health and vitality of our congregation I would advise that we choose ministries selectively based on where we can do the most good. By splintering our energies and resources as we have been, we are losing the power that is found by acting in concert with God and with each other. We are also losing the time we should be giving to God in prayer, scripture reading, Bible study and other Christian formation endeavors that fill and energize us to do the good work God has called us to. Are there not a few ministries that we can all get behind and put our collective faith towards making a difference? "For the body is not one member, but many."

This shift in scope will allow us to reinforce our foundation and concentrate on issues that are the most important to us as a congregation. If we solidify the base of the church, we will be in a better position to positively touch and influence the lives of the people God has called us to help.

### **Accountability**

With less projects and ministries to focus on, our limited human capital can put more emphasis on Christian formation and those worthy ventures that we volunteer for. By making ourselves accountable to each other and to the church's mission we can ensure a more positive result for all the good works that Calvary commits to in 2018. Accountability includes gathering a team, setting goals; deadlines and remedies for each project and endeavor. During the coming year, I will hold myself accountable to my congregants for my responsibilities and set up a system to do the same for others.

### **Thank You**

Calvary is truly a small church with a big heart! God's love abounds in this congregation and I cannot thank you all enough for the hard work, time, and gracious giving that took place this year! Unified in God's Spirit, everyone truly acted as the body of Christ as we put our preferences and differences aside for the greater good of what God was calling us to do. Knowing that all things are possible with God, I look forward to what God is going to do in and through us as His body in the world in 2018!

## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

God has worked in amazing ways at Calvary this past year! Every time we hit a wall, God opened a door through it. I saw this in four major areas:

1. Rector: We started the year without a permanent rector and not enough money to pay a full-time one. Our Search Committee worked diligently and did a wonderful job, although we all knew that there are not many priests looking for part-time work. But then God called our part-time Priest-in-Charge to apply for Calvary's position. The Search Committee affirmed that call and the Vestry approved their recommendation, and in September we welcomed our new permanent part-time Rector, Rev. Maureen O'Connor! We are blessed to have a young Rector with energy and vision!
2. Money: We began the year with a very bare-bones budget, knowing that our savings were low and we would have to live on our income alone. We had not even been able to budget for our Outreach ministries. But then our Lenten Project raised \$7,230, which not only covered all of our Outreach ministry expenses for the whole year but enabled us to make donations to Connecting with Love and to pay the start-up expenses for our new outreach, KidsHopeUSA!  
And the generous giving continued all year. We were able to pay all our expenses, to give our new Rector a small salary increase, and to end the year with a few thousand to put in our Emergency Fund (which we will clearly need in 2018).  
We were also able to set up online giving to Calvary, and to do the paperwork required to set up an Endowment Fund for Calvary.
3. Grief: We mourned the deaths of Ross Kellan in June, Judy Cherry and Tom Loftus in July, and Nick Arnold in October. But God renewed our sense of community as we drew together to share His comfort, and God planted seeds of new life in the black soil of grief.  
We also lost people who moved to other cities or other churches, and we continue to miss them. But God has sent new members to Calvary to encourage us, and He inspired Mother Mo to hold a monthly breakfast service to attract new people and draw us together as a community.
4. Future Direction: Our average attendance, membership, and income continued the annual decrease that has marked the last decade here (and in many churches across the Diocese). But God has moved the leaders of Calvary and of St. Mark's Church in Glen Ellyn to begin exploring ways to join together in ministry and to find more opportunities to bring God's Good News to our communities. It will be exciting to see where God leads us together in 2018!

As I look back over 2017, I am thankful for a Vestry that was supportive, encouraging, and open to new ideas. I was blessed to have Hester Bury as "Junior" Warden. She was a full partner in the work of "wardening," and her unflagging enthusiasm and energy lifted me whenever I became tired or discouraged.

Finally, I am most thankful for the prayers and encouragement I received from you, the people of Calvary! You truly are a gracious and giving congregation, and I am eager to see how God will use those gifts for His glory in 2018!







**MINISTRY REPORTS**  
**FORMATION MINISTRIES**

**FORMATION**

**Hester Bury, Jennifer Hentrich**

**YOUTH**

Formation continues to be an important ministry at Calvary for both children and adults. During the first half of the year we offered classes for children in Catechesis, 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Rite 13 and J2A. Mother Mo and Stephenie Castle prepared Elizabeth McIntosh and Anna Fuller for their First Communion on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In June the J2A group did their Urban Adventure to Michigan. Hannah Lombardi, Ben Dakis, Mason Ceplecha, Jennifer Hentrich and Todd Roberts spent three days in Stevensville, MI. We started our journey at the Warren Dunes and enjoyed a great hike followed by some well-deserved sun and games. From the Dunes we went to our host family home in Stevensville, MI. Our hosts were a family from Church of the Mediator and extremely gracious while providing for all the basic necessities. Our next day we volunteered all day and helped move a not for profit school called “The River of Life” in Benton Harbor to a better facility. During this experience many friends were made and muscles used! After a day of volunteering the group went to Silver Lake, MI and enjoyed a few hours in town. The trip was a success, but also a good learning experience on how to share, compromise and work together to accomplish goals.

In the Fall we changed the structure and curriculum of the classes. Instead of having classes for every two years of age we changed to have 3 classes, one for Catechesis, one for 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and one for 6<sup>th</sup> grade on up. Additionally, the curriculum for the teen class changed to model after the Alpha youth program. This new program adds a modern spin on spirituality and has been well received by both teachers and students.

The Teen group activities have included buying and wrapping Christmas gifts for Cathedral Shelter Christmas Baskets, volunteering at Northern Illinois Food bank, participating in the CROP Hunger Walk, and selling Christmas wreaths to raise money towards their next trip.

**ADULT**

Adult Formation continues to meet at 9:15 most Sundays offering a variety of programs from Calvary members and visiting speakers. During Lent we prepared kits for Lent in a Bag, which members could take and use for Lenten reflection at home.

In October we offered an inter-generational activity to decorate fans for the CROP Hunger Walk. In November we used a new curriculum about Lives of the Saints for both children and adults.

Thank you to Tiffany Balsitis, Stephenie Castle, who is amazing with her crafting skills, Beth Fuller, Jennifer Hentrich, Ruthann Janis, Kim Lombardi, Ken Pardue, Emily Prasad, Todd Roberts and Bruce Schuurmann, who is patient and committed to our youngest members. These hard-working volunteers donate their time and talent to the youth at Calvary making Sundays special for all involved.

## **WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY**

**Jan Bruesch**

The weekly Bible study is in its 12th year. We've been meeting at my house on various nights, currently Tuesdays. Over the past 12 years, we've pretty much read most of the Bible word for word. In the past few years, we've been doing video Bible studies, several of which have been from Andy Stanley. We have done two Beth Moore studies, *The Patriarchs* and *Esther*. More recently, we completed a study by Angie Smith, the wife of Todd Smith, the lead singer of the Christian music group, *Selah*. That study was entitled *Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story*.

Currently, we are doing an Andy Stanley study of David. Soon, we plan to partner with Zach Dyrda in doing some studies from *The Bible Project*. Anyone is welcome to join us. Don't worry if you can't make it to every session, but I'm confident you won't want to miss once we get started!

Let me know if you need more information, or just show up. We meet at my house Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We're usually done before 9:00 pm, depending on how lively the conversation is.

## **DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

**President, Carla Castle**

The Castle chapter of the Daughters of the King of Calvary Church meet every third Saturday in the parish hall at 10 o'clock. Our meeting consists of a business meeting followed by praying for those in need, giving reports of the prayers from the previous month, and ending with a study.

Our daughters participate in two Diocesan Daughters of the King assemblies each year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

We would invite any woman of the parish who is 18 years old or older to join us for any meeting and if you are interested, to join in a leader-led study for membership in the Order. The study program is a three-month study followed by admission to the Order.

The members of the Castle chapter of the Daughters of the King are: Carla Castle, president; Jan Bruesch, co-President; Stephenie Castle, treasurer; Ada Carrasco, Karen Dakis, Marge Davis, Marianna Holms, Ruthann Janis, Jeri Kellan, Sally McClure, Maggie Nolan, Mother Maureen O'Connor.

We hope to see you at one of our meetings!

## **BOOK GROUP**

**Marilyn Stuckey Stein**

In our first year, the Calvary Book Group has provided a wide-ranging smorgasbord of intellectual stimulation and spiritual inspiration. We've shared books that illuminate the roots of our faith, books that exemplify Christian

living in troubled times, books that explore our relationship to God, and books that enlarge our vision to see the love of Christ for all people.

Specifically, this year we've read and discussed the following books:

- *Hallelujah Anyway* by Anne Lamott
- *Rescuing Jesus* by Debra Jian Lee
- *The Mitford Series* by Jan Karan
- *Left to Tell* by Imaeulee Ilibbagiza
- *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom
- *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail* by Robert Webber
- *The Song of Bernadette* by Franz Wurzel
- *Faith Unravalled* by Rachel Held Evans

Most of these books are now available in our Calvary Library.

The Book Club meets monthly on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. Join us for lively conversation as we share how these books have challenged us, deepened our faith, promoted our spiritual growth, and drawn us closer to one another. (All are welcome, even if you haven't finished --or read-- the book!)

## **SICK/SUFFERING MINISTRIES**

### **PRAYER BLANKETS**

**Jan Bruesch**

2017 was a fairly active year for the prayer blanket ministry at Calvary. We made 28 blankets during the year and have requests for 2-3 more being prepared at this time. Prayer blankets are usually requested by members of the congregation, but sometimes come from people who have either received one or know about the ministry. They are often for people who are undergoing a difficult time in their lives, often with health issues, but can be for those who are grieving a loss or in need of employment, or any time when a large influx of prayer and God's comfort is needed in their lives. The cost is \$35 a blanket if you would like to donate to this beautiful outreach ministry.

I want to thank all those at Calvary who support and sustain this ministry, including Marilyn Jensby, Carla Castle, Audrey Schuurmann, Robin Augustine, Beth Fuller, Phoebe Ceplecha and many others who gave their time and resources. You are covered in prayer.

### **LEMs**

**Hester Bury**

Thank you to our dedicated team of LEMS who take communion to our shut-ins and people in the hospital: Jan Bruesch, Hester Bury, Ada Carrasco, Donald George Castle, Ron Seger, Gloria Sparrow and Marilyn Stein. We usually visit two or three people each week, bring them communion and news from Calvary and let them know that even though they may not be able to get to church they are in our prayers and hearts. A special thank you to Ada who visits John Baker (Jennifer Cepelecha's father) every week and is always willing to visit others. I am sure

most of our LEMs make visits even when they are not scheduled. Thank you for bringing the love of Calvary to those who cannot worship with us every week.

**“We who are many are one body because we all share one bread.”**

#### **RECTOR’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Mother Mo O’Connor**

The Rector’s Discretionary Fund is used to provide small-scale immediate assistance to people in Lombard and surrounding communities who need assistance with gas money, food, train fare, and other occasional needs. These funds come primarily from the open plate offerings on the first Sunday of each month. In 2017, we disbursed a total of \$3,276 in aid to those in trouble or need in the community.

#### **LOVE FUND**

**Mother Mo O’Connor**

The Love Fund is designated for members of the congregation, and members of their households, for one-time grants to meet emergency and extra-ordinary needs. The Love Fund was set up under Father Castle’s direction, and receives ongoing funding from donations specified for the Love Fund. In 2017, \$364 was given out from the Love Fund.

## **CHRISTMAS MINISTRIES**

#### **REVIVE CHRISTMAS BASKET**

**Nicki and John Jaska**

This was previously known as the Cathedral Shelter Christmas Basket program. We helped four families for Christmas 2017. Three of the families each had 1 adult and 3 children, and one family was a single senior.

#### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (SHOEBOX)**

**Maggie Nolan/Jan Bruesch**

This was the first year we did this program at Calvary and it met with a lot of success. Calvarians put together a total of 28 shoeboxes of gift items to send to children in need across the world. Parents and grandparents enjoyed this activity because it was something that they could do together with their children and grandchildren.

## **SERVICE MINISTRIES**

#### **BAGELS**

**Harrison Holm**

We would like express our sincere appreciation to the following Calvarians for their faithful stewardship with the Bagel (bread and other goodies) Ministry this past year: Hester Bury, Ada Carrasco, Harrison Holm, Sally McClure, Marilyn Stein, Naren and Peter Prasad, Jeri and Ross Kellan, Bruce and Audrey Schuurmann and Joe Vitti.

Our Bagel Ministry is made possible by the Panera Dough-Nation Program. Early every Sunday we pick up all the baked goods left over from Saturday at the Panera in Glen Ellyn, with the understanding that we will distribute them to children, the elderly, and the needy. Anything left at church on Sunday noon goes to a local food pantry on Monday.

The “Bagellers” Team is now down to five; but, it is open to everyone in the parish and we welcome new members to this ministry. Please contact Harrison Holm at [holmhighland@att.net](mailto:holmhighland@att.net) or (630) 969-1610.

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

**Joe Augustine**

- **Sanctuary roof:** We were finally able to replace the sanctuary roof this last spring. Repair costs were covered by our insurance, since we had some wind damage.
- **Fire alarm panel:** We have a new fire panel that uses a transmitter / radio module alert system. The old panel was showing a trouble code and needed to be replaced.
- **Fellowship hall boiler:** The pump and relay that controls the radiators in the nursery, office and restrooms were replaced last February.
- **Freezer:** Calvary is in need of a new freezer to store perishables for events and breakfast services.

Thank you to all of those you have helped with the yard and building maintenance over this last year, and to Dave and Marcia Pardue for donating some major items for lawn care.

## **ALTAR GUILD**

**Hester Bury, Marianna Holm**

Altar Guild members are responsible for preparing the altar for Sunday and special services, and cleaning the altar and sacristy area. Ordering and picking up of supplies and scheduling has been faithfully undertaken by Marianna Holm, who has also used her gift of flower arranging to provide arrangements for special occasions.

Thank you to all who have served in this capacity in 2017: Hester Bury, Ada Carrasco, Sari Chick, Carol Halla, Marianna Holm, Jean Morris, Gloria Sparrow and Sue and Annie Vitti.

We are actually in rather urgent need of volunteers to serve on the Altar Guild as Carol is gone for the winter, Jean has taken ill, Gloria would like to retire, Sue is also ill so Annie is filling in for her and Sari Chick lives a good distance away and cannot always make it to the church in bad weather. Anyone interested in serving, please contact Marianna Holm.

## **NURSERY**

**Maggie Nolan**

In early 2017, we had better participation in the program. Due to having very few volunteers and children age 0-6, we have not had a nursery every Sunday. We need a minimum of 2 adults in the nursery for security and to allow for bathroom breaks, etc. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered this past year.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**Carla Castle**

The Stewardship theme for 2017 was: *"Sharing our Treasure: Jesus. How do I share my treasure?"*

The Stewardship Committee is composed of chair Carla Castle, Jan Bruesch, and Marilyn Stein. We so miss Ross Kellan as a valuable member of our committee.

We began our Stewardship Appeal on September 10 with a goal of \$150,000. I'd like to thank Tom Ceplecha for making us a "Stewardship Goal Thermometer" which showed our growing pledges during the eight weeks of the Pledge Appeal.

In order for the parishioners to understand where our money goes and how it is used, we published "impact statements" each week in the Sunday bulletins, the Thursday E-News, and the monthly Cross Roads. We hope this was helpful to the parishioners.

Every Sunday during the eight-week Pledge Appeal we invited a parishioner to be a "Ministry Minute Speaker" who shared why they give to Calvary Church. I sincerely thank the following 2017 Ministry Minute Speakers: Joe Augustine, Ada Carrasco, Jennifer Hentrich, Nicki Jaska, Bill Kendall, Gwen O'Loughlin, Gloria Sparrow, and Susan Vitti.

We suggested to the treasurer that the total amount of pledges and plate offerings received each week be published in Calvary's weekly bulletins. We hope this has been helpful to the parish. I would like to thank Lisa Pardue for her diligent work as Calvary's Treasurer in getting this accomplished.

Audrey Schuurmann and Robin Augustine also implemented an online giving program on our web site: [calvarylombard.org](http://calvarylombard.org). Many are beginning to use this service for pledges, memorial giving, and other donations.

We received \$129,592 in pledges from 43 units for 2018. We thank God for your generosity and for the gifts you give through your time and using your God given talents to spread Christ's love to this part of God's kingdom.

We look forward to a wonderful 2018 in service to our Calvary family, the Lombard community, and the world by: *"Sharing our Treasure: Jesus."*

## **MUSIC**

**Jeri Kellan**

Calvary's Choir has enjoyed another great year of musical performances, with 30 anthems sung this year. My deepest gratitude goes to the following people: Don Bradley, Jan Bruesch, Carla Castle, Pat Cekal, Lee Davis, Grant Iannelli, Ross Kellan, Bill Kendall, Joanne Lovig, Maggie and Drew Nolan, Audrey and Bruce Schuurmann and Annie Vitti.

I am also so grateful for the brass players from Elmhurst College who enhanced our services at Easter.

Here are quotes from some of the members as to what choir means to them.

"Belonging to the choir is like being in a family. It's fun and I enjoy singing."

"To be able to sing God's Word carries me through the week. I miss it in the summer."

"The people in the choir make me feel at home and like I belong here. The music we sing sticks with you through the week and keeps the service alive."

"Being in the choir is a great means of enhancing my faith. It has been a great experience over the years."

"It is said that he who sings, prays twice."

I thank the choir for their hard work and true dedication to the music program at Calvary. This is a very special ministry. The choir and I want to thank the Clergy and Vestry for their continued support. We greatly appreciate the wonderful comments and kind words we have received from our Calvary family for the anthems we perform throughout the year. Thank you to Audrey Schuurmann and Jan Bruesch for their input on music selections for the holiday services.

Anyone high school age and above (or with previous singing experience) is invited to be in the choir. We rehearse each Sunday morning (Sept. to May) from 9:00 to 9:50 in the Choir Loft. New members are always welcome to join us and enjoy the fun and fellowship each Sunday morning.

## **WELCOME**

**Tom Ceplecha**

- We established and defined over the course of several meetings spanning a few months what the welcome group will be responsible for.
  1. Greeters and ushers: We've incorporated a "greeter" into our welcoming committee so we can be very intentional about welcoming newcomers – greeting them, letting them know where the bathrooms are, etc.
  2. Coffee hour hosts
  3. Coffee clean-up
  4. Bagel, bread, and sweets pickup
- Job duties and job instruction manuals are being developed.
- We are working to enhance the coffee hour with coffee from "I Have a Bean." We will also be helping to support the church by reselling their coffee.

- The welcome group will start meeting early 2018 to develop a welcome packet that we can offer to newcomers or those interested in learning about Calvary.

**Greeters:** Tim Cortesi, Tom and Luke Ceplecha, Donald George, Stephenie, Kyle and Allie Castle, Bruce Shuurmann, Marilyn Stein, Hester Bury, Mick Casper

**Coffee hour hosts:** Marianna Holm, Maggie Nolan, Audrey Shuurmann, Stephanie Castle

**Coffee hour clean-up:** Joe Vitti, Marilyn Stein, Hester Bury, Carla Castle, Drew Nolan, Tom Ceplecha, Dan Lombardi

## **ACOLYTES, LECTORS, INTERCESSORS, CHALICE SERVERS, THURIFERS**

**Sue Vitti, Gwen O’Loughlin**

Thank you to everyone who has made this your ministry. You serve with eagerness, commitment, gladness and joy. Here are some brief descriptions.

- **ACOLYTES:** Acolytes serve at the altar and help bishops, priests and deacons. They generally assist in processions by carrying processional crosses, torches, flags, books and other items. They also assist with the Communion by presenting the bread, water and wine to the priest or deacon preparing the table. Acolytes also may assist by holding the Gospel Book or other books, and by assisting at weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- **CHALICE SERVERS:** This server is a mix of the old and the new. This server takes on some of the ways an “acolyte” has traditionally served on the altar but they also serve the holy and consecrated elements. The main responsibilities for this server will be centered on assisting the celebrating priest, especially when a Deacon is not present.
- **THURIFERS:** The server who is in charge of the incense or censer during Mass is called the Thurifer. The one who carries the incense container is called the Boat Bearer. Often the Thurifer can do both, carry the censer and the boat.
- **LECTORS:** Also known as readers, they are responsible for reading the scripture included in the service.
- **INTERCESSORS:** Intercessors are also readers. They lead the congregation in the intercessory prayers, Prayers of the People.

In 2017, Mother Mo created a servers’ guide and three teenagers and two adults were added to the acolyte team. For 2018, the 8am service chalice servers, chalice pop ups, intercessors and lectors will be scheduled by Gwen O’Loughlin. (The term chalice server replaces chalice bearer.) The 10am service and the breakfast service will be scheduled by Sue Vitti. Anyone who would like to be part of these ministries, please let Mother Mo, Sue or Gwen know. If you feel the Spirit nudging you, just give it a try.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**Jennifer Ceplecha**

Jan Bruesch, Jennifer Ceplecha, Don Edyburn, Jennifer Hentrich, Gwen O’Loughlin, Drew Nolan, Lisa Pardue and Susan Vitti served on this committee. From January 2017 through August 2017 the search committee met and discerned to call Calvary’s new Rector. The journey consisted of much learning about our parish; who we are and who we want to be. Through the months, we were guided by Andrea Mysen, from the Diocese of Chicago, and given tools to gather information from our congregation with the CAT Survey and small group meetings and interpret those results to help us find a rector who be a good fit for our church community. Presented with some tough decisions and unique situations, the search committee discerned, interviewed, and called Maureen O’Connor as our new part-time Rector in August of 2017. I believe I speak for all of the search committee members when I say that it was an honor to be selected with the important task of choosing Calvary’s Rector, but we know that it is only with God’s gentle and guiding hand that we were able to do so. The true riches that we have all received are the blessing of an amazing new rector and the friendships that were formed while serving together as a committee. Thank you to each and every one of our search committee members for giving of your time and sharing your gifts to serve on this committee.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

### **RENEW CONCERT**

**Mother Mo O’Connor**

Calvary hosted a Diverse Worship Night on Feb 25 at 6pm, fostering diversity and worship through songwriting and musicians. It was attended by over 100 attendees from all walks of life. The music was followed by a reception where people could socialize, eat and drink and get to know each other.

### **BAGS TOURNAMENT AND FUN FEST**

**Mother Mo O’Connor**

At the end of July, Calvary hosted a Bags Tournament and Fun Fest in support of the Outreach House. The fest had kids’ games, a competitive bags tournament, a bounce house and many raffles. Calvary recruited the participation of other local churches and invited the surrounding communities to attend. We had 52 total volunteers, with 16 volunteers from Calvary, and raised a total of \$2,038.88 for the Outreach House.

### **SIP AND PAINT EVENT**

**Ruthann Janis**

On October 21, Calvary hosted a night of painting and wine to raise money in support of Calvary. 23 attendees showed up to showcase their creative talents by painting wine glasses. The event took in almost \$300, through event costs and raffles.

### **SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**Ruthann Janis**

Calvary hosted a Halloween Party on October 28, that was very well attended by the community because of the advertising on social media and personal invites. We had over 30 children! The kids had a great time, with tons of games, candy and real bobbing for caramel apples! There was also an adult and child costume contest. And if you ever wanted to see Mother Mo dressed up in a camel suit, this was the time!

## **ART FAIR**

**Bruce Schuurmann**

Our Annual Art Fair was held on November 4, in conjunction with Lombard's Christmas Mart. 10 volunteers from Calvary helped to organize and host this event. In spite of cold, rainy weather, we had 870 come through our Fellowship Hall to enjoy the beautiful work of our eleven artists. Jan Bruesch and Chelle O'Connell donated art work to be sold for Calvary's benefit, and that added to the beauty on the walls as well as our profit!

## **COOKIE WALK**

**Hester Bury**

Thanks to all who baked, bought and volunteered for the Cookie Walk on December 2nd. Many people came through the doors after the holiday lighting ceremony at Lilacia Park and purchased dozens of homemade cookies made by our own Calvarian bakers, resulting in a profit of \$950 in support of Calvary.

## **COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE**

**Mother Mo O'Connor**

A Holiday Market was held on December 9th with gift items available from local entrepreneurs. Thank you to everyone who organized and helped at this event. In 2018, this will be called the Community Marketplace and will be held one Saturday a month in Calvary's parish hall. This event is held in support of the local community and to increase Calvary's connections to the community. In addition, Calvary youth will also be selling refreshments in support of Calvary.

## **HELPING HAND**

**Jennifer Hentrich**

The intention of the HH ministry is to offer assistance to people within the Calvary and Lombard area. HH ministry had the pleasure of assisting primarily the Calvary community this year. In 2017 we helped clean houses, offered shoveling assistance, helped two members move, provided electrical assistance, and provided help with miscellaneous handyman tasks to two members. So far we have only had to turn down two requests because they were out of the scope of the helping hands capabilities (remodeling a deck and redoing someone's plumbing). It has been a good year, but we could do more.

# **HUNGER MINISTRIES**

## **ALMONER**

**John Jaska**

Serving as Calvary's almoner means that I meet all sorts of people who are in need. It is a very humbling experience. Every Tuesday morning from 9 am to noon I am at the rectory to meet with individuals and disperse help in the form of food or gift cards. I also refer them to PADS or consult with Mother Mo if they require more assistance. These gifts are made possible through the Rector's discretionary account, funded by donations and the people of Calvary.

## **DUPAGE PADS**

**John Jaska**

PADS was held every month except in July and August. We have on average six volunteers from Calvary working in this worthwhile project. We serve an average of 60 dinners and that many for breakfast. Everyone we serve is very thankful and appreciative for the support.

### **CROP WALK**

**Hester Bury**

15 Calvary members participated in the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger walk that raised over \$20,000 to support five local food pantries. Calvary raised about \$2,500.

### **LOMBARD VILLA PARK FOOD PANTRY/ NORTHERN FOOD BANK**

**Hester Bury/Nicki Jaska**

Over the past year Hester Bury and Nicki Jaska have represented Calvary on the Board of the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry. The Board that was formed in September 2016 has representatives from First UMC and First Church. The following Calvary members have also volunteered at the Food Pantry: Ada Carrasco, Marcia Reinert, Carla Castle, Harrison Holm and Jeri Kellan. The Board has been working to increase the amount of fresh produce and dairy available for those in need of food assistance and is now picking up food weekly at Mariano's, Aldi and Pete's Market. Pantry visitors also receive fresh milk and eggs.

The Food Pantry is a member of Northern Illinois Food Bank, where a group of Calvary members volunteered in February.

### **CALVARY GARDEN**

**Audrey Schuurmann**

Calvary's garden doubled in size this year. Adults and children from the Augustine, Bury, Fuller, Prasad, and Schuurmann families took turns tending and harvesting the garden. We brought 132 pounds of produce to the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry.

## **EVANGELISM MINISTRIES**

### **ASHES TO GO**

**Mother Mo O'Connor**

Many different clergy and Calvary lay leaders came out for "Ashes to Go" at the Lombard train station! It was a beautiful thing to see Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, and Evangelicals all come together to serve over 100 people with prayer and Ashes for Ash Wednesday this year. God is good!

### **ALPHA**

**Mother Mo O'Connor**

Jan Bruesch let some congregants to an Alpha Conference twice in 2017 which promotes evangelism within the community.

## CALVARY EVENTS

### CHILI COOK-OFF

**Tom Ceplecha**

On February 4th we started the year with the Annual Chili Cook Off and Pre-Super Bowl party hosted by Tom Ceplecha. 34 people attended. Mother Mo O'Connor won for the best chili. She cheated by praying over her chili and asking for God's divine blessing.

### WHITE ELEPHANT

**Mother Mo O'Connor**

In March we moved the White Elephant fundraiser for our Lenten Outreach to Sunday morning March 26th because of limited attendance on the scheduled Saturday evening. Thank you to all who donated or purchased White Elephant items.

### ANNUAL PICNIC

**Mother Mo O'Connor**

The annual church picnic was held on June 4th with a baptism, food, fun and fellowship. Thanks to all who helped, brought food and cooked. Many people provided tents to make this happen. Moving forward we should have a variety of games and volunteers to lead these for the kids to keep them entertained.

## CALVARY DIOCESAN CANDIDATES 2018

One-Year Terms

Delegates: Stephenie Castle, Grant Iannelli, Joe Vitti

Alternate: Gwen O'Loughlin

### **Stephenie Castle**

Hi I'm Stephenie Castle and I am excited to attend the 2018 Diocesan Convention! I worked a table during the 2016 convention for the non-profit I serve, Connecting with Love, and I was intrigued by the convention, so attending 2017 was the next logical step. In 2017 I attended the Convention as a delegate and it was an amazing experience! I attended informative workshops and participated in voting for important issues facing our Diocese and church a whole. I met a lot wonderful, loving, and God-centered people. I am a mother, wife, credit manager, adjunct instructor, and non-for-profit board member – so just like most American women I am a master multitasker! I have been a part of Calvary Church for a little less than 14 years and in that time I have become involved as much as possible – I am a Sunday school teacher and Daughter of the King and of course I try to attend all Calvary events that I possibly can! Thank you all for the opportunity for me to attend the 2018 Diocesan Convention!

### **Grant Iannelli**

Good Day All! I am interested in serving as a lay delegate to the 2018 Diocesan Convention.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal in St. Joseph, Michigan in 1969. I have been a pledging member of Calvary Episcopal Church in Lombard, Illinois for over 10 years. During my time at Calvary, I was elected to serve as Delegate to the Diocesan Convention for eight years and elected to the Vestry. Serving on the Vestry as Chair of Formation for two years, I was then elected to Junior and then Senior Warden. After "retiring" from the Vestry in 2013, I was called to serve as Project Manager for the Calvary flood remediation project during the summer of 2013. In November 2015, I was selected by the Bishop to represent our Deanery as a lay member of the Diocesan Council. In 2017 I was elected again as a lay delegate to the 2017 convention from Calvary and would be pleased to serve again in 2018.

I am a retired professor of Chiropractic, having owned and operated my private practice for 27 years, and serving as a clinical professor, clinic director and academic department chair for 25 years. I currently am a full-time faculty member of Kaplan University's School of Health Sciences, teaching undergraduate health science courses to online students.

### **Joe Vitti**

Hello Calvary, I am excited to serve as a lay delegate at our 2018 General Convention. I love serving the church in

a variety of ways but outside of the church I work as a freelance audio engineer and stagehand. I specialize in mixing front of house, monitors and wireless coordination, as well as lighting design. I also work at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, Oakton College, and The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts-Skokie. In the summers I work as an aquatics director at Napowan Scout Camp. I am an eagle scout and Assistant Scoutmaster with BSA Troop 95. I'm an alumni of Illinois Wesleyan University, and a brother in Alpha Lambda chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity. I am a proud lifelong member of Calvary, being baptized in the church. I also serve as a chalice bearer, altar server and thurifer.

## **VESTRY CANDIDATES 2018**

**Senior Warden:** Hester Bury

**Junior Warden:** Ken Pardue

**Vestry: 3-year terms**

Finance: Lisa Pardue

Events: Ruthann Janis

Outreach: Jan Bruesch

**Serving the remaining two years of an unexpired term**

Formation: Lauren Szady

**Serving the remaining year of an unexpired term**

Buildings & Grounds: Ron Seger

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**SENIOR WARDEN: Hester Bury**

I have been a member of Calvary since 1993 when I moved to Lombard. Having been brought up in the Anglican tradition in England the Episcopal Church was the obvious place for me to worship. I was soon drawn into the welcoming and caring Calvary community and met many people who have now become some of my closest friends. Over the years I have served on Vestry, taught Church School, led a J2A group and participated in numerous outreach activities. I have grown spiritually and been mentored by priests, deacons and lay people. I am still inspired every week by the faith and devotion of so many at Calvary. I look forward to working with Mother Mo and the Vestry as we move into another year of reaching out, receiving and rejoicing together.

**JUNIOR WARDEN: Ken Pardue**

I have been coming to Calvary since 1968. I was confirmed and married at Calvary. Both of my children were baptized at Calvary. My son and daughter were both married by pastor Emily. Our first grandchild was baptized at Calvary last year. Suffice it to say, Calvary is an important part of my life.

I was part of the first group to go through both junior high (Chiro) and high school (Credo) youth groups. I have been part of the finance committee for the past 28 years and have served in various vestry positions, including both junior and senior warden, for the past 25 years.

I began my professional career as a CPA with Arthur Andersen & Co. and I am now a banker providing financing for leveraged buyouts. I believe that my active history at Calvary combined with financial expertise bring a unique perspective to the challenges facing Calvary today.

**FINANCE: Lisa Pardue**

I have been a member at Calvary since I was 17 years old. In that time, I have served our congregation in various ministries. I have counted the money, taught Church School, was a J2A leader, was president of the Episcopal Church Women, was the Diocesan United Thank Offering coordinator, served on the vestry as the fellowship chair and Senior Warden. I have served as the church treasurer for the last year and in 2018 I have agreed to serve on the vestry as finance chair. My background is in finance and accounting and I received my CPA certification. This Church has meant so much to me and my family for my entire adult life and I want to help it to grow. I am looking forward to 2018 and seeing what we can do for this church and the community around us.

**OUTREACH: Jan Bruesch**

My name is Jan Bruesch and I've been a member of Calvary Church for 31 years. I've served on the vestry in the past and as Senior Warden, as well. I am a cradle Episcopalian, but would rather just be known as a committed Christian. My passion is evangelism and have devoted my time since 2001 to either running or assisting other churches/ denominations in running The Alpha Course. I am active in choir, Daughters of the King, Bible study and have helped with various other programs, such as the Gathering, festive receptions and funeral receptions. I try to improve my leadership skills by reading and by attending the Global Leadership Summit every year at Willow Creek.

I see my role as Outreach chair as encouraging those who do outreach and are quite gifted at it, in addition to helping parishioners learn how they can participate in evangelism. It's really not as scary as the word implies, even for Episcopalians! Equipping Calvarians and others to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20) This will be my mission.

**FORMATION: Lauren Szady**

Having been baptized and raised as a part of the Calvary family, I am excited to be a part of the Vestry and help to shape its future. Through the years I have taken on many roles: VBS leader, Church School and First Communion teacher, director of the Christmas pageants, the lone alto singer in the choir, and, most recently, lector. Both my everyday job as a museum program coordinator and my passion for learning and teaching have given me a good

base for the new challenges that the education and formation position will bring. I look forward to learning together with you!

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Ron Seger**

**EVENTS: Ruthann Janis**

## PARISH LEADERSHIP 2017

### VESTRY

Senior Warden..... Audrey Schuurmann  
 Junior Warden ..... Hester Bury  
 Terms Ending January 2018:  
 ..... Joe Augustine, Buildings & Grounds  
 ..... Don Bradley, Events  
 ..... John Jaska, Outreach  
 ..... Ken Pardue, Finance  
 ..... Emily Prasad, Formation

Terms Ending January 2019:  
 ..... Carla Castle, Stewardship  
 ..... Tom Cephlecha, Welcome  
 ..... Ken Pardue, Finance

Treasurer ..... Ken Pardue  
 Church School Superintendent..... Emily Prasad  
 Director of Music ..... Jeri Kellan  
 Rector ..... the Reverend Maureen O'Connor

## PARISH STATISTICS

Membership, End of 2016 = 228

Membership, End of 2017 = 220

### Additions

Baptism ..... 6  
 Confirmations ..... 0  
 Newcomers..... 5

### Removals

Deaths ..... 6  
 Moved ..... 13  
 Inactive Status ..... 0

Pledging Units for 2017: 50  
 Average Sunday attendance: 64  
 Lowest Sunday (New Year's Eve): 36

Pledging Units for 2018: 43  
 Highest Sunday (Christmas Eve): 158

### NECROLOGY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brothers and sisters. We thank you for giving them to us, their family and friends, to know and to love as companions on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Ross Kellan, Arlene Sterbis, Judith Cherry, Nicholas C Arnold, Herb Alberts*