

The Canticle

CALVARY CHURCH SUMMIT

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“O send out your light and your truth that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.”

Q&A WITH MOTHER MELANIE BARBARITO

Given the current distancing environment, our Vestry communications team connected virtually with Mother Melanie, our new Interim Rector and asked a few questions to help us all get to know her a little better. This is just the beginning! Mother Melanie, or Melanie if you prefer (just don't call her Mel!), is eager to get to know you all and looks forward to the day we can gather for worship and in fellowship. She can be reached at mbarbarito@calvarysummit.org or (908) 277-1814, ext. 2.

Welcome to Calvary! How are you settling in?

Thank you! I am settling in fine. I'm all moved into the Rectory. Joining me are my grandson, Rye, and my dog, Teddy. Rye has already found a job working locally at Hilltop Bicycle Shop, and someday hopes to attend art school and pursue his dream of being a tattoo artist. Teddy is the first dog I've ever had – he is a rescue and I've had him for about four years. He's about 20 pounds, and we think he's part poodle and Jack Russell.

Where are you from originally, and what are some of the other places you have lived?

I've been thinking about this a lot lately as I was preparing to leave Fort Worth. I lived there longer than I have lived anywhere else. In some ways it feels like I have no roots, since I have lived all over, but I have also been blessed to meet so many wonderful people along the way.

I'm originally from Rochester, New York. I still consider it home, even though none of my family live there anymore. I went to college in Oswego, New York. Later, my then husband and I moved to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and then to Camp Zama, in Japan, where my daughter was born. From there, we moved to Aberdeen, Maryland, for a few years, when my husband finished his Army service. Then, we moved back to Rochester where I attended Bexley Hall seminary part-time while working in fundraising for RIT. After graduating and being ordained, I moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, then to the St. Louis, Missouri, area and then to Fort Worth, Texas. And now – God has called me back East – closer to the ocean.



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With all the different places you've lived, where do you feel most at home?

I have three answers to that:

I feel at home when I'm with my younger sister. I've always felt so comfortable in her home. Maybe because we're a lot alike and don't have a lot of expectations of one another. We are easy with each other. In a way, it's also nice to be with someone who knew me before I was a priest.

I feel very relaxed when I'm baking. So, when I got edgy during the beginning of the pandemic, I would bake.

As a priest, I feel most at home when I'm standing in the pulpit.

What are some of your favorite aspects of ministry?

I'd have to say Liturgy and preaching. I just enjoy preaching a lot. Of course, now, it's a little strange to be preaching to the camera rather than standing in front of a congregation. I miss the Eucharist so much – and sharing that with the congregation – we're all celebrants and I look forward to when we can be back.

I also like welcoming newcomers – that's one of the things I did in Fort Worth, in Cincinnati and in my small parish in Missouri. I'd always be keeping an eye out for people who were visiting and try to pull them into the life of the parish. Right now, of course, everybody is going to be new to me. It's a little funny because I'm the new person, but my role is to welcome everyone.

I like meetings. I like the interchange of ideas and coming to decisions that way.

I like teaching. I held a regular Bible study in Fort Worth.

Tell us about a favorite memory from your prior ministries.

There's just so many – one of the things I most appreciated in my first call in Cincinnati was being part of a team. The Rector there was very good about teambuilding and treating the whole clergy and staff as a team. This is a team effort. I'm grateful for the work Matt, Kevin and Cimi, Flora, and Sadie have done and continue to do to hold things together during this time of transition. I'm at the reins now, but they're an important part of everything.

What interested you in coming to Calvary?

I was looking to move into interim ministry as I came toward the end of active priesthood. I had the training for it, and it seemed like a good time to start my search. The Episcopal Church is a small world. I know Bishop Hughes and Canon Wright from my time in Fort Worth, and I learned of this position shortly after I began my search. I was immediately intrigued by the rich history of this parish and was open to the idea of relocating to New Jersey, as it is more like home and I have family here.

How do you plan to approach your first few months at Calvary?

Right now, I'm trying to get the lay of the land and get to know people, which of course is a bit challenging with social distancing. I have been reaching out to parishioners who need a pastoral word. I welcome people to reach out to me as well – I recognize that there are many who are hurting and might appreciate talking with their priest.

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I'm arranging one-on-one meetings with each member of the Vestry. I'm encouraging those to be in-person – whether it be on the cloister walk or the front porch of the Rectory – with masks and distance, of course.

I've also been reading the 36-page document from the Bishop and the Diocese on in-person worship to determine, from a more practical standpoint, how we can do that. It will of course depend on the Governor and other factors.



What do you want people at Calvary to know about you?

What you see is what you get. I think that I'm approachable. And, please don't call me Mel...

What do you want the broader community to know?

I don't really know yet, because I'm still getting to know Summit, the community and the Diocese. But I'd like the community to feel welcome at Calvary. To walk the labyrinth, to visit the cloister garden. I would like to invite people to come and enjoy these open and beautiful spaces at Calvary.

What do you see as the work that lies ahead for the Calvary community?

I would like to hear that from all of you – what you see as the work that lies ahead. I would say that the work of the next year will be to grieve our losses – and heal individually and collectively. Then we will still have another year together to start to build our strength.

A storm has come through – there was a lot of wind and rain and damage – and now we will recover, and when that's done, we can rebuild.

My job is to love all of you. This is about me being available to other people. Some of the emotion is going to fly my way. You have been through a lot. There is a lot of emotion because people love this place. We will get through it.

What gives you hope for our community and/or what do you think the Calvary community should be hopeful about?

There is so much strength and potential here. Calvary has good, strong roots. There is a future here and it's a new day. For people who may have wandered away who haven't found a new home – this is an opportunity to come back. I want to welcome everyone to come back. We want and need your gifts. Everyone has value to add to the congregation.

I'm excited for when we can return and be together in fellowship. I'm very much looking to meeting folks. Another thing you should know about me – I love name tags – especially when I'm meeting people with masks on!

A SERVICE OF EVENSONG

Sunday, August 30
at 5:00 pm

Livestreamed to www.facebook.com/calvarysummit

Featuring Palmer Haffner, Tenor

See Page 8 for instructions on accessing services on Facebook.

The Music Corner: Evensong and Handbells

By Kevin Davis, Organist-Choirmaster

Evensong

Evening Prayer is a beautiful service that has roots in the Church of England and was originally formed by combining the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. It is commonly known as Evensong, when most of the service is sung. In the United States, we think of Evensong as being a choral service in which the choir performs elaborate settings of the responses, Canticles and prayers. However, we have settings in our Hymnal 1982 that are meant to be sung by the congregation. These rather contemplative settings are beautiful in their own right and set to be sung in unison by the congregation.

Please join us for Evensong on Sunday, August 30, at 5:00 pm. Mother Melanie will serve as the Officiant, and Palmer Haffner - tenor in our choir - will serve as lector and as a leader for the sung congregational responses. We will use Evening Prayer Rite I (BCP page 61) and all music will be from the hymnal.

Handbells

The handbell ringers are rising to the challenge of being the only ensemble that will be allowed for worship this coming fall. We have had two people express interest in joining the group and would welcome additional ringers!

At this time, we are focusing on ways to ring that also will allow for social distancing. We have several people working on playing handbell solos – where one person is responsible for a number of bells, usually 8-20 bells! We also have several players that will be working on small ensembles of three or four players and also a few full choir numbers that can be played with only one or two people using the handbell tables. To remain safe, we will spend most of our rehearsal time in small groups of one to four ringers at most. We will have short rehearsals of 30 minutes to practice larger pieces that require more ringers.

For more information, contact me at kdavis@calvarysummit.org or (908) 277-1814, ext. 6.



Woodworker in Search of a Project?

The needlepoint kneeler project continues, but we are in need of stools for the cushions.

For more information, please contact Anne Mell at 908-578-0187.

Connecting During a Time of Pandemic

By The Rev. Melanie Barbarito, Interim Rector

First of all, let me say thank you to all of the people who have kept Calvary going during this very difficult year, all the members of the Vestry and, especially Senior and Junior Wardens, Bebe Lee and Susan Favate. Thank you to your priests, Michel Belt, Kay Locke, and Jane Tomaine who provided pastoral support. Thanks to your staff, Matt Potter, Kevin Davis, Cimi Petrela and Sadie Bennett, for their faithful service. And thanks to all of you who have continued to support this parish through your prayers and your pledges and, sometimes, your presence (Lay Weeders).

Many thanks to Julie Armour and Laura Dudebout for the introduction on Page 1. Now you know a bit about me; for the past three weeks, I've been learning about Calvary Church and some of you. With the help of our sexton, Cimi Petrela, I've explored some of the nooks and crannies: not just the beautiful parts of which there are many but also the parts that leak. Remember that big storm we had? I've been meeting with the members of the Vestry individually in outdoor spaces, appropriately distanced. Answering the church phone on my first morning here led to meeting some faithful parishioners. The Zoom Coffee Hour on Sundays has introduced me to a few folks as well.

One of the questions facing every Episcopal Church is "How can we be the Church in the face of a global pandemic?" We are all now very familiar with virtual worship and Zoom meetings. With the Worship Committee, we are exploring how to gather in person to be fed by the Holy Eucharist and praise God together. But I'm also looking for input on how we can help and support one another. Some of our folks are feeling lonely and depressed, most of us are anxious. An article I read stated that "parents are feeling stressed and stranded." We are a community of faith and of faithful. How can we be the Beloved Community to one another and to our city?

Another article I read warned about "toxic positivity." The insistence that everything will be fine dismisses the negative emotions that we all have. But we who are followers of Jesus Christ can look to our foundations for some nurturing positivity. The apostle, Paul, wrote in his Letter to the Romans, "[We know that] suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Trust that God is present with you and those you love and that you are in my prayers.

And until we can gather again, I would love to meet with or talk to as many of you as I can. If you have a place we can meet out of doors, I'm happy to come to you. You can come to Calvary Church where there are plenty of places to sit and chat. Or I will happily give you a call. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone: mbarbarito@calvarysummit.org, or (908) 277-1814, ext. 2.

IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Many thanks to all who have kept up your pledges. It is much appreciated.

Your pledge offerings can be mailed into the Parish Office, or you can pay online at www.calvarysummit.onlinegiving.org/.

Your continued support of this, your parish family, is a blessing.

Calvary's Operating Summary Seven Months Ending July 31, 2020

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Revenue:			
Pledge Income	\$374,530	\$389,850	\$600,000
Open Offering	5,769	8,750	15,000
Payment of Prior Year Pledge	28,408	5,000	5,000
Other Income	43,106	77,718	124,265
Total Revenue	\$451,813	\$481,318	\$744,265
Expense:			
Administrative	\$38,702	\$40,784	\$66,284
Choir & Music	\$17,817	\$16,833	\$27,000
Christian Ed/Fellowship	\$3,972	\$6,417	\$11,000
Insurance	\$28,709	\$26,326	\$57,000
Payroll	\$258,790	\$282,009	\$483,991
Property Maintenance/Utilities	\$65,786	\$79,932	\$134,500
Diocesan Pledge	\$11,667	\$11,667	\$20,000
Outreach	\$580	\$3,967	\$6,800
Total Expense	\$426,023	\$467,934	\$806,575
Net Revenue over (Expenses)	\$25,789	\$13,383	(\$62,310)

2020 Pledges

Budget \$600,000

Pledged to Date \$584,126

The Sacred Space at Home

By Sadie Bennett, Children's Formation Coordinator

Well, Calvary Family, here we are, in a September that is unrecognizable to us all. It is particularly unusual for those of us who will not be sending our children or grandchildren back to school or off to college. We all love our children and cherish the time we spend together as a family, but honestly, time apart is important too. And, despite having three graduate degrees, none of them are in teaching. And yet, here I am converting our small dining room into a pre-kindergarten/fourth grade classroom. The kitchen table will be my office. So where do I put the atrium? Where is the sacred space in our home for my children? And how will I carve out time for that amidst virtual school, virtual cub scouts, and virtual playdates?

My children are tuning out. They have found video-conferencing to be a woefully insufficient replacement for actual human contact. They're right. I worry, as every parent does, about their social and emotional development during this extended period of isolation. I also worry about their spiritual development. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, our children have only nine precious years in the atrium and, due to the coronavirus, they are all losing at least one year. Without being able to spend time together in the atrium at Calvary, spiritual development falls to the family – the overburdened, stressed parents and caretakers of our littlest Calvary parishioners.



My task is to figure out how to provide the tools and support to our families to continue to nurture the spiritual growth of the congregation's children. Setting aside time and space is a good place to start. In March, when everything shut down, I was a little relieved at seeing my busy calendar wiped clean. But, as all parents know, structure and routine is important for children. It provides predictability and security. So, I encourage families to continue to reserve time on Sundays – or whatever day works best for your family – to come together for prayer, or meditation, or reflection. I also propose creating a prayer table in your home with your children. Each atrium has a prayer table, not an altar, but a small table, at the child's level, with a cloth reflecting the liturgical season, perhaps a small statue of Jesus or Mary, or a cross, a candle, a Bible, and handmade prayer cards. Prayer cards can be simply a single word, such as "Amen" or "Hallelujah" or they can include a whole Psalm – Psalm 23 is a favorite in the atrium. Praying with our children – giving them an opportunity to give thanks or ask for support – is a beautiful way to practice our own faith.

I am working on putting together DIY prayer table kits to help our families get started at home. For the time being, I am planning to continue the atrium videos as well. But I am also open to suggestions and feedback. If you have an idea or comment, please reach out to me. Sometimes the most heartbreaking of adversities can lead to adaptations that help us grow and connect in ways we have never before imagined.



ONLINE SERVICES CONTINUE

Tune in: Sundays at 10:30 am

Due to COVID-19, public worship continues to be suspended until further notice. During this time, Calvary continues to hold services at 10:30 am every Sunday, streamed live online, via Facebook.

How to view services on Facebook Live

You do not need a Facebook account! Simply visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/calvarysummit). The video stream will begin approximately five minutes before the stated start time and will appear on Calvary's page (scroll down until you see it) or in the 'Video' tab on the left side if you are on a computer. Please reload the page if the video does not appear.

For those who cannot join live, a recording of the service will remain on the Facebook page after the broadcast is concluded. In addition, sermons are posted at www.calvarysummit.org/sermons.



Calvary Church Summit

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Vestry

Bebe Lee, *Senior Warden*
Susan Favate, *Premises Warden*
Tom Barr, *Treasurer*
Charlie Rall, *Assistant Treasurer*
Caroline Lindabury, *Clerk*
Evan Williams, *Finance*
Nancy Babbitt, *Nina Deutz,*
Laura Dudebout, *Sara Margaret*
Geissler, *Julie Jones, Warren Loy,*
Leonard Prentice, *Kevin Schmidt,*
Scott Winn.

Staff of Calvary Church

The Rev. Melanie Barbarito, *Interim Rector*
The Reverend Kay Locke, *Associate Rector*
Mr. Kevin Davis, *Organist-Choirmaster*
Mrs. Sadie Bennett, *Children's Formation Coordinator*
Mr. Matt Potter, *Parish Administrator*
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Mr. Charles Jordan *Parish Receptionist*
Mrs. Flora Attardi, *Bookkeeper*
Mr. Cimi Petrela, *Sexton*

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