

THE CALLER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

November/ Dec 2015

Holidays at Calvary

- Sunday, November 22**-Family Holiday Event, making Chrismons
- Thursday, November 26**- Thanksgiving Day, church office closed
- Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16**- Latino Fellowship Christmas series Bible study- 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 6**- Annual Mission Fair following Coffee Hour
- Sunday, December 13**- Festival & Children's Choirs during worship
- Sunday, December 13**- Latino Fellowship Gala, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 14**- University of Chicago Motet Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, December 17**- Service of Darkness & Remembrance, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, December 24**- Cookies & cider, 6:00 p.m.; Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, December 27**- Lessons & Carols Service
- December 28-January 2**- church office closed



Christmas Poinsettias – 2015



Poinsettias displayed in the sanctuary will enhance the beauty of our Christmas worship services. You may order them in memory or honor of the person(s) of your choice. Our bulletin on Sunday, December 20, will include a listing of the donors and the persons being recognized. Please fill out the form below and attach your payment (with the notation *Poinsettia* on the memo line). You may mail the form to the church office, or place it in the offering plate, on or before **Monday, December 14.**

I / We would like to order _____ poinsettias at \$15 each / 2 for \$25. Total enclosed \$ _____

After worship I/we would like to: donate the poinsettia deliver the poinsettia to a shut-in take the poinsettia home

Donor's Name(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Please print all names, and indicate relationship where appropriate. Use the reverse side of this form to list additional names if needed.

From the Director of Music

Music programming for 2015-16 kicked-off on Sunday, September 13 with a return to our regular Sunday morning schedule—Chamber Singers rehearsing at 9:15 a.m. and Sanctuary Choir rehearsing at 9:45 a.m. Calvary Ringers rehearsed in late summer and joined us for a festive day of worship as we returned to the Sanctuary.

As we begin the fall season, our **music staff** includes Amelia Taylor, soprano; Teresa Blessing, mezzo-soprano; Miles Herr, tenor; Zain Shariff, baritone; organists John Dautzenberg, Matt Daley and principle sub Keevin Lewis; plus our fantastic volunteer singers in Sanctuary Choir. This season is Cheryl's eleventh as Director of Music.

In October, Dwayne Pinkney re-joined our music staff in a new role, as director of **Calvary Young Musicians**. This pilot program has received enthusiastic support from Calvary's staff, lay leadership, children's teachers and families. CYM met for the first time October 4; the October 11 session included a brief Parent Orientation. Calvary's children meet with Dwayne for a full hour each Sunday, after they begin worship in the Sanctuary, to learn about music and to prepare to sing in worship. We'll re-evaluate in December-January, with the hope and expectation that the program will continue through spring 2016. We anticipate that the children will sing in worship November 22 and December 13; spring dates TBD. Please keep this program in your prayers and thanks for supporting Calvary Young Musicians!

Lots of fantastic music opportunities are coming up this fall and winter.

Sunday worship, November 1: Handbells and Festival Choir offer special music for All Saints Day.

Sunday worship, November 8: We dedicate the Sanctuary Baldwin grand piano for service, with Music Suite Open House to follow—

be sure drop in for a visit during Coffee Hour (G2 corridor, near the elevator).

Sunday afternoon, November 15: *Advent Festival Choir rehearsals begin*, a 4-week session meeting Sunday afternoons, 1:15 – 3:00 p.m. in the Music Suite. Have lunch after worship and come back to sing with us!

Sunday worship, November 22: Thanksgiving service with Calvary Young Musicians making their debut in worship.

Sunday worship, November 29: Advent begins!

Home for the Holidays at Calvary: a two day celebration of music and special events

Sunday-Monday, December 13-14

Sunday, December 13: *Festival Choir and Calvary Young Musicians* in worship, 11:00 a.m. and ***Calvary Latino Fellowship Gala***, 6:00 p.m. in Shallenberger Hall.

Monday, December 14: *Calvary Presents...University of Chicago Motet Choir* in concert, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Don't miss this stellar a capella ensemble in a rare appearance as part of their East Coast tour.

January 5 – 11, 2016 we anticipate partnering with the National Symphony Orchestra in their annual DC outreach program, this year in Calvary's neighborhood! ***NSO in Your Neighborhood: Downtown to Penn Quarter***—details are being finalized, so stay tuned for confirmation and be sure to participate in this unique opportunity featuring the professional instrumentalists of the NSO.

We are working to finalize a wonderful season of music at Calvary continuing in 2016, both worship and concert events, so stay tuned for more info.

Thanks to everyone in the Calvary Community for supporting Music at Calvary—all of us on the music staff, as well as all our volunteers, will continue to work hard to provide quality music throughout the season in 2015-16. Participate with us by attending, singing, playing an instrument, helping out with publicity, giving generously, praying, smiling, offering a good word, sharing whatever gifts you have to share!

Cheryl Branham, Director of Music



Congratulations Pastor Edgar for your award from the Committee of Solidarity of Monsignor Romero!



Willing Workers Paint around Calvary



Calvary at the White House



Latino Community Events

LATINO BREAKFAS. November 1, 8:30-9:30 am in the Chapel. We will share the meaning of the Day of Dead for the Mesoamerican culture (México and Central America). Delicious and typical dishes will be served. You will be welcome.

PICNIC AND HIKE in the Shenandoah Mountain, November 21. Calvary at 6:00 a.m. We will have **breakfast and lunch on the mountain. If you have interest contact Pastor Edgar.**

LATINO CHRISTMAS GALA. The long-awaited and traditional dinner, with music that goes straight to the heart, it will be Sunday December 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Shallenberger Hall. Our Christmas Gala is to raise funds for the Ministry of children and youth to our Church sister Shalom held in San Salvador. Come and be part of an event in the spirit of Christmas: Giving love and peace to children and youth.



for any LGBTQ identified people

Queer for Christ & Revive DMV
present:

Arise
A QUEER THEOLOGY
COLLABORATIVE

Song of Solomon 2:10-11

ecumenical, Side A & Side B
spiritual, social, open, local

Calvary Baptist
Church Library
755 8th St. NW



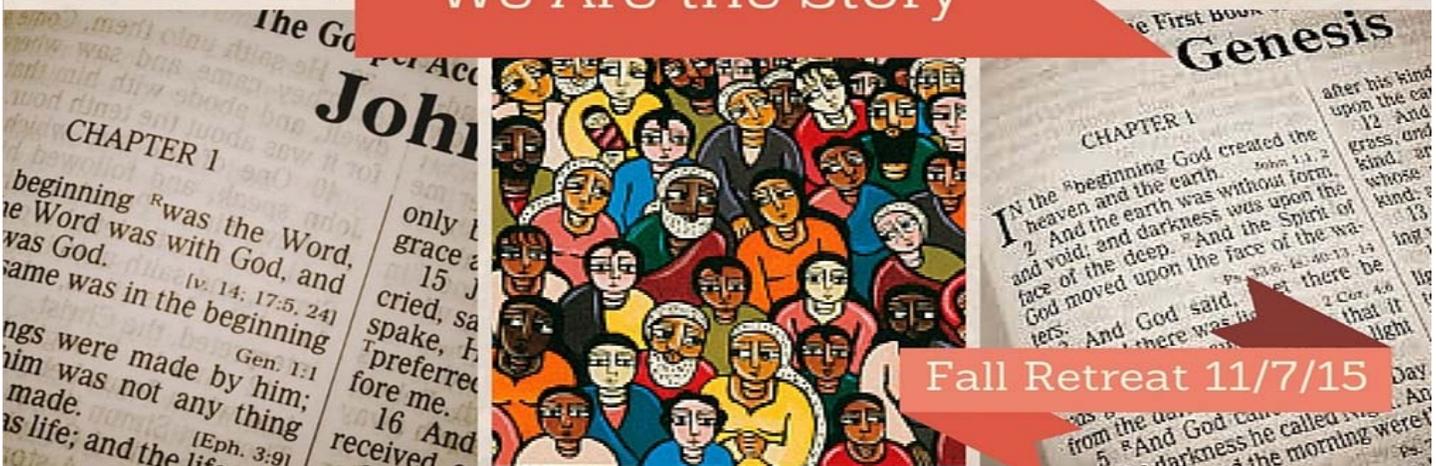
Friends, you are invited to join Pastor Elijah at a City Wide Call for Justice and Mercy on Wednesday evening, November 4, from 7 to 9 PM at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. Our featured speaker will be Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of the best-selling book, "Just Mercy". Mr. Stevenson has been at the forefront of the defense of death row inmates in this country, and he has much to say to all of us about approaches to improving our criminal justice system, both nationally and locally. We ask you to RSVP at www.callforjusticeandmercy.eventbrite.com. We intend to fill our sanctuary for the event, and trust that you, too, can be part of this important event.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Elijah





We Are the Story



Church-wide Fall Retreat led by Calvary's Deacons "We are the Story"

Fall color, check. Walks in the wood, check. Food, games and laughter, double check. Time to learn, to grow, and to get to know one another a little better, triple check. The list is done; it must be time for the fall retreat at Camp Fraser.

Your deacons invite you, one and all, young and old and in-between, to join us for a day of fun and who-knows-what at Camp Fraser, Saturday November 7, from 9:00 a.m. until, well, until 5:00 p.m. or until the campfire burns low, whichever you choose.

This year's theme is *We Are the Story*. We'll spend time together worshipping and studying the story of the Syro-phenician woman as told in Mark 7:24-30 and then we'll spend the afternoon sharing our own stories, building, line by line, the next chapter in our life together as a community.

All you need to do is join us. After all, we are the story.

"I wanted to give a big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who participated in this year's Yard Sale. We raised between \$1,700 and \$1,800 for the Shalom Scholarship Fund. (Paul R. says 'That's nothing to sneeze at!').

We couldn't have done it without all the donations of merchandise, and of tissue, bags and boxes. Thanks, too, to everyone who helped during the sale and with the setting up and closing down – you were all fantastic!

And finally I have special appreciation to all of our staff who provided amazing help and support beyond their regular responsibilities. We are fortunate to have their hard work.

Gretchen White"



QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING NOTES

Ministerial Search Committee—The congregation, upon the recommendation of the Board, elected the following members to the Ministerial Selection Committee.

Carol Blythe (chair)	Daniel Alcazar-Roman	Amaka Anku	Yolanda Appiah-Kubi
Sandi Auman	Soren Dayton	Carly Kinney	Jess Lynd
Jay Mayfield	Courtney Rice	Eugenia Reyes	Amy Sullivan
Becky Vaughn			

Board Structure—As called for in our Constitution and Bylaws, the Nominations Committee having reviewed the structure of the Board recommended and the Board moved to add a member representing Music and the Arts. The congregation approved the amendment to Standing Resolution 66, adding a member to the Board for Music and the Arts, to work with the Director of Music and staff to coordinate programming; facilitate planning; recruit volunteers; engage the congregation, Resident Partners and the broader DC community.

Board Announcements—At the October 25, 2015 Quarterly Business Meeting the Board made the following announcements:

Additional Draw from Endowment

In accordance with Standing Resolution 56, paragraph 3c, the Board of Calvary Baptist Church intends to recommend at the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for January 24, 2016, the transfer of additional funds from the Endowment Fund as needed for the growth and life of the church to support the 2016 Budget.

Amendment of the Constitution

As required by *Article IX – Amendment* of the Constitution, the Board is recommending that *Article IV – Membership* of the Constitution be amended by vote of the Church and Congregation at the next business meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2016, replacing the word ‘vote’ with ‘affirmation’ so that Article IV would read:

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

The Organization shall be composed of (a) the members of Calvary Baptist Church who have been received by baptism, by letter, or by experience, by **vote affirmation** of the Church, and (b) of such persons to be known as members of the Congregation who may, for three consecutive months, have made and may still continue to make contributions of record for the general use of the Church and Congregation, or who may, upon application, be admitted as members of the Organization, by **vote affirmation** of the Church and Congregation.

Amendment of the Bylaws

As required by *Article IX – Amendment* of the By-Laws, the Board is recommending that *Article VIII – Membership Section 1. Admission* of the By-Laws be amended by vote of the Church and Congregation at the next business meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 24, 2016, replacing the phrase ‘majority vote’ with ‘affirmation’ and deleting ‘... and voting.’ so that Article VIII would read:

ARTICLE VIII – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Admission

All persons who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and who have experienced believers’ baptism shall be eligible for membership in the Church, as shall persons, who having professed Christ as their Lord and Savior, wish to transfer from another Christian Church, or to join as members by experience. Their names shall be presented by a member of the Pastoral staff for reception into the membership. The admission of members to the Church and Congregation shall be by **majority vote affirmation** of the members of the Church and Congregation who are present **and voting**.

Annual Business Meeting

Plan now to attend the Annual Business Meeting **Sunday, January 24, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** in Woodward Hall. We will be voting on the withdrawal of additional funds from the endowment to support the future growth and life of the church, as announced by the Board at the October 25, 2015 Quarterly Business Meeting.



STEWARDSHIP: *Community, Commitment, Covenant*



An Excerpt from the Stewardship Testimony of Isaac and Mary Wright

...so much of stewardship is about perspective – about changing that perspective from oneself to a perspective of community and a perspective that the resources we’ve been entrusted with – our financial resources, our talents even our very time on this earth – are not our own, but are the resources of God that we’ve been entrusted with for a time. Our stewardship should reflect that.

So often when we talk about stewardship, the story from the Gospels of the widow’s mite is told.

For Isaac’s first birthday after we’d married, I gave him the most common surviving coin of Biblical antiquity – a 2,000 year old bronze mite. You understand why the mite was the smallest denomination of currency when you see one – it’s tiny.

And so often this story – about how the widow who had virtually nothing gave almost all she had to the church – is used as an example of Jesus teaching the importance of giving. But I think that traditional interpretation misses the mark. In Matthew, the widow’s mites are much more than that in context.

In the text directly preceding Jesus observing the widow giving her mites, Jesus was teaching about inequities and the social, religious and political imbalances of the day: ³⁸*As he taught, Jesus said, Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,* ³⁹*and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.* ⁴⁰*They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.* (Mark 12:38-40)

It doesn’t seem like telling the whole story to just say the Biblical episode of the Widow’s mite is about the importance of giving. No, it seems more about stewardship itself. Jesus doesn’t seem to be simply praising this widow in poverty who was sacrificing to give to the church – likely doing without adequate nourishment for her or her children. It seems as though Jesus was condemning a system that allowed those who had resources to fail the test of stewardship and instead put the burden on those who themselves should be receiving the benevolence of the church.

I keep this mite in the top drawer of my dresser. Near me every Sunday morning as we get ready for church and it reminds me of that lesson before we come to Calvary. What about us, today? What kind of stewards will each of us be? Will we give generously, but not adequately for what we’ve been entrusted? Will we, like an unjust tax code, shift the burdens of stewardship? Or, will we meet the challenge?

We are so thankful to be part of this church body – to be part of this congregation – with its joy, its community and with its responsibility. We are thankful to face this challenge of stewardship with you – our brothers and sisters – of what kind of stewards we will be.

2016 Pledge Card, A Call to Stewardship at Calvary: *Commitment, Community, Covenant*

In grateful response to God’s love, I/we would like to make the following pledge of my/our time, abilities, and resources in Christ’s work.

My Time and Abilities

I pledge to offer my time, abilities, and support in the following ministries:

- Action and Advocacy
- Community and Resident Partners
- Worship and Music
- Discipleship and Christian Education
- Children and Youth
- Other: _____

Name(s) _____
(Please Print)

Address _____
Street

Telephone _____

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

My Resources

Pledge Amount: \$ _____

Given Annually Monthly Weekly Other: _____

(This commitment will continue until changed by notification to the Church Treasurer.)

I/we would appreciate monthly weekly no offering envelopes.

I/we would like to set up automatic credit card charge direct debit.

City State Zip _____

Email _____

Fall Programing

Day Time	Room	Group	Overview	Contact
Sundays 9:45 a.m.	G3 classroom	Children's Sunday School	Stories, games & crafts; Parables of Jesus	Karla Fahey karla.j.fahey@gmail.com
Sundays 9:45 a.m.	G310/311	Youth Sunday School	Currently following the Lectionary	Pastor Elijah ezehyoue@calvarydc.org
Sundays 9:45 a.m.	Butler Hall (G3)	English Adult Sunday School	Currently studying the Gospel of John; Advent study to follow	Pastor Erica elea@calvarydc.org
Sundays 9:45 a.m.	Music Suite (G2)	Sanctuary Choir	Time of music, preparing for weekly worship leadership	Cheryl Branham cbranham@calvarydc.org
Sundays 9:45 a.m.	Chapel (G2)	Culto en Español Latino Fellowship worship	Comunión y la adoración en Español! Fellowship & worship in Spanish!	Pastor Edgar epalacios@calvarydc.org
Sundays until 12:30 p.m.	G310/311	Calvary Young Musicians	An hour of music learning & activities for school age children	Cheryl Branham cbranham@calvarydc.org Dwayne Pinkney dwaynesmusic88@gmail.com
Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.	Butler Hall (G3)	Theology on Draft	Discussion group currently studying <i>Accidental Saints</i> by Nadia Bolz-Weber	Pastor Elijah ezehyoue@calvarydc.org
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Calvary Library (G1)	Estudio Bíblico Latino Fellowship Bible Study	Estudiamos Hebreos durante Octubre y Noviembre! Studying Hebrews during October & November!	Pastor Edgar epalacios@calvarydc.org
Thursdays 7:00 p.m.	Calvary Library (G1)	Arise: A Queer Theology Collaborative	Discussion group for any LGBTQ identified people; currently studying <i>Rainbow Theology</i> by Patrick Cheng	Pastor Erica elea@calvarydc.org
Various Fridays 6:00 p.m.	Butler Hall (G3)	Zumba	All fitness levels welcome. \$5 per person; scholarships available.	Katie Harvey katherine.s.harvey@gmail.com

Rev. Edgar Palacios, Associate Pastor;
Rev. Erica Lea, Pastoral Resident; Rev. Elijah Zehyoue, Pastoral Resident;
Cheryl Branham, Director of Music; Harold L. Ritchie, Editor Emeritus; Paul Rosstead, Church Administrator

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