

Summer 2016

THE CALLER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Make Basil Great Again



While in seminary I had a pet basil named Basil the Great. I picked him up at the local farmer's market one Saturday and repotted him on the wrap around porch of my cottage. He thrived and became quite large with very little attention which worked well for my very minimal gardening knowledge. I harvested him multiple times to make bowls of pesto and top homemade pizzas with fresh basil leaves. The sacrifice brought delight to my table. Eventually Basil the Great died during freezing weather.

I think back to those days with nostalgia. I have even attempted to recreate another Basil the Great here in Maryland on the patio of my basement apartment with the same strategy and plan- minimal intervention, sunlight, natural rain, etc. I have successfully killed at least 5 different basil plants in the past year. What worked well previously does not necessarily work well now. My home and climate are significantly different. I continue to experiment with different soils and amounts of water, sunlight, etc.

I continue to experiment with the hopes of having a stable and thriving basil plant again. *The only way this will be possible is by trying new things.* Join me in reading the times and being open to trying out some new ideas to help Calvary thrive as we move through and to different seasons.

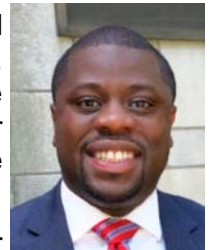
"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." [Ecclesiastes 3:1]

Shalom, Pastora Erica

In Defense of the Profane *(more thoughts)*

What God has made clean, you must not call Profane -Acts 11:9

Acts Chapter 11 continues to be on my heart weeks after it was in the lectionary. I have read this passage again and again, and daily I am struck by its depth, courage, and profundity. Peter, the father of the church, breaks Jewish ritual and purity law to engage with someone like Cornelius, a Roman General, a gentile, a presumed enemy of the church. As Peter wrestles with how to respond to this moral query God gives him (and us) all the insight we need. God tells us that what God has made clean, we must not call (or treat as if it is) profane!



These may be some of the most liberating words the early church ever heard and could ever proclaim. Their tradition was obsessed with purity. After hearing from Peter, imagine how much more they could experience the full blast of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The full blast of the gospel tells us that this is God's world and God declares and discloses to us what is holy, clean, and sacred. Sometimes using scripture, sometimes using preachers, sometimes using religious authority and tradition, but not necessarily those exclusively. God also discloses what is holy through Kendrick Lamar's *Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City*, Beyonce's *Lemonade*, J. Kwest's *Lemonade*, Prince's *Purple Rain*, and the activism of Allyson Robinson and Black Lives Matter; God uses the story of profane plebeians, rogue rabbis, and even partying preachers so we may know that the love of God has no limits and is open to all God has created. That is the argument that Peter makes to that council in Jerusalem and that is the argument they accept and build a church out of! They build a church out of believing that the boundaries of the holy and profane were not theirs to set, but God's. And as far as they were concerned God revealed to Peter, that God's people, wherever they were, whatever they ate, however they dressed, whoever they slept with, and married, and believed themselves to be, that God's people, Jew and Gentile, gay and straight, male, female, transgender, and gender non conforming were to never be called unclean or profane because God made them ensuring that they were holy, precious, and beautiful in his sight.

In a world where too many Christians are quick to declare someone too profane, too unclean, too broken or too real to be loved by God, I pray that you may proclaim the true message of our faith—THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE LOVE OF OUR GOD!

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Elijah

Walking with Jesus

By Rev. Edgar Palacios



We want Calvary to be an open house for the immigrant community of Washington. As an open house we worship the living God who urges us to find new ways to care for the people in this world. As an open house we should support children and youth in their educational challenges and ease the process as they adapt to a new a culture. As an open House for the immigrant family we should be a spacious home in which we all grow in friendship, mutual support, and community service. In order to become an Open House in this way, we must learn their culture and their stories. We must attempt to understand migration patterns and the economic conditions of their home countries. We must help them find hope in the situations they find themselves

The Latino Fellowship is playing a significant role in this regard and may play a much more important role. The Latino Fellowship can be the bridge between the immigrant community and the church. We continue to remind the church that when

we identify with the just causes of immigrants and fight with them, Jesus Christ will be known better! Jesus Christ will be known, not as a celestial personage outside of our history, but known as the Lord, the Savior, and the transforming Prophet.

This same Jesus invites us to walk with him for a life of peace. The Latino fellowships invites the larger church to walk with us as we walk with Jesus this summer. We will have our regular activities such as: the worship in Spanish Sundays, Bible studies Wednesdays, and Holistic Health Program Fridays. We will also have a Summer Retreat of the Latino Fellowship. This retreat is for the whole family and aims to hear the call of the Lord so that in unity we may perform the mission for love. Children, youth and adults will receive the teaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in an atmosphere of cooperation, joy and filial love. The retreat will be at Camp Fraser, leaving Calvary Friday, June 17, 6:00 p.m. and returning Sunday, June 19, after lunch. We will enjoy the beauty of nature, the fresh water from the creek, soccer games, and walks.

This summer, we intend on being an open house and carrying out the mission of Jesus with love. Please join us in any of these activities that will serve as the headlights for our walk with Jesus.

Welcome Sabra!

We are very pleased to welcome new communications/administrative assistant Sabra Barrett to the Calvary staff. Sabra will be working afternoons in the Calvary office and will assist the staff in coordinating church communications and managing the front desk. She is already familiar with the church and ready to jump in to the new position. Get to know her by reading below and make sure to introduce yourself when you run into her in the office!

What drew you to Calvary?

Sabra: While working at RCM of Washington my group met here at Calvary in the library before venturing into Downtown DC, and would return for afternoon dismissal. I waved hello to Paul and Al many days! Spending time here afforded me the opportunity to observe the diversity of people who come and go through the Greene Building, from Milestones to Theatre Lab. Everyone seemed happy to be here and I was impressed by the collectiveness of these separate groups. I could feel the unity of the greater Calvary community.

What are you most excited about for your new position?

Sabra: I am most excited to learn more about the rich history and ongoing culture of acceptance that permeates throughout Calvary. I am personally and professionally interested in community outreach and look forward to the inclusive and cooperative atmosphere that is fostered here. I have spent the last several years working with people who are often excluded from society, and it is a true pleasure to be part of a community that is unwilling to ostracize fellow humans.



Ministerial Search Committee Update

The Ministerial Selection Committee has received just around 50 applications from good and interesting candidates since we opened up our search for a Senior Pastor, and are continuing to receive applications. We are meeting weekly this month as we give serious attention to the task before us. We are now reviewing those applications in more depth with prayerful discernment as we move through this process. We do appreciate your prayers and support.

Carol Blythe, Chair

Daniel Alcazar-Roman

Amaka Megwalu Anku

Yolanda Appiah-Kubi

Sandra Auman

Soren Dayton

Carly Kinney

Jessica Lynd

Jay Mayfield

Courtney Miller

Eugenia Reyes

Amy Sullivan

Becky Vaughn



Celebrating Calvary's 154th Anniversary: Sunday June 5, 2016

Mark your calendar now, and be sure to invite friends and family for our 154th birthday! We celebrate together and give thanks on Sunday, **June 5**. Here's our line-up of activities for the day—

9:45 AM Churchwide Breakfast in Woodward Hall, hosted by Calvary's Latino Fellowship.

11:00 AM Calvary gathers for worship, featuring *O Sons and Daughters, Sing Your Praise!*, a hymn festival to honor this special occasion. Raise your voice in singing as the congregation becomes the choir. We'll also hear from Calvary Sanctuary Choir, Chamber Singers, Calvary Ringers and Calvary Young Musicians. Plus we'll hear testimonies and reflections from Calvary members. After the Postlude, everyone in attendance is invited to gather on the front platform in the Sanctuary for Calvary's annual **congregational photo**. Frank Parrotta returns to capture the moment—our photo won't be complete without your smiling face, so stick around and join the fun!

12:30 PM Churchwide Luncheon in Woodward Hall. After our photo-op share a delicious lunch and an extended time of fellowship with our Calvary Church family.

June 5 marks the end of the 2015-16 season in Calvary's programming. **Summer programming begins the following Sunday, June 12**, including combined Sunday School for Youth and Adults. And **Unplugged worship begins July 31 in the Chapel**. Join us whenever you are in town this summer...and be sure to bring along those out-of-town guests when they visit, too.

Thanks be to God for Calvary's 154 years of community and commitment, ministry and outreach on the corner of 8th and H Streets, and a rich and rewarding season this year. Looking forward to all the good gifts to come this summer and in the 2016-17 season! Thanks for *your* participation in the ongoing life of Calvary Church.



Summary of the Quarterly Business Meeting

April 24, 2016

Printed copies of the first quarter handout as well as draft minutes of the April 24 meeting are available from the church office, contact Paul Rosstead if you would like copies mailed or emailed to you.

The meeting was called to order by Daniel Alcazar-Roman. Reports from Christian Formation, Diaconate, Facilities, membership Development, Missions, Music and Arts, Nominations, Personnel, Stewardship, and Ministerial Selection Committee were included in the handout along with the Treasurer's, Membership and Staff reports. Following the Treasurer's report there was discussion concerning the lower than expected revenues and what steps might be taken to balance actual revenues and expenses.

Carol Blythe made a short report on the recent Annual Gathering and Meeting of the Alliance of Baptists and expanded briefly on the printed Ministerial Selection Committee report. Additional information was shared regarding the Christian Formation, Personnel and Staff reports.

Discussion followed regarding plans for an updated church directory, the need for a communications committee to improve Calvary's internal and external communications. Concern was raised about paint and plaster repairs at the front of the Sanctuary and the bigger, more expensive exterior work needed to be done before those repairs can be made.

New Members Spotlight



Cristian Duran, with his parents, Mabel and Jose, and sister Myra have been at Calvary for many years now. He is active in our children's program and joined Calvary by Baptism, Easter Day, March 27, Cristian is excited to use his gifts of hospitality and kindness for the church and world. He inspires many as a leader at church, school, and home!



Uzziel Mendez, is Salvadoran, bilingual and a Bible student. He loves Calvary for its service, spirituality and prophetic ministry, joining Calvary on Sunday, March 20, by profession of faith. Uzziel is a mechanic by training.



Alberto Gutierrez, is a Salvadoran and physician. He appreciates the fellowship and opportunity for service at Calvary, joining on Easter Day, March 27, by profession of faith. Alberto is also active in the leadership class with Pastor Edgar.



Kresha Thilagarus, is originally from Sri Lanka. She joined Calvary by profession of faith, Easter Day, March 27.

Business Meeting Dates

As set by the Church Board future
Quarterly Business Meetings will be held
Sunday, July 24
Sunday, October 23
and the Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2017



Calvary Celebrations and Announcements

An Update from Dwayne Pinkney in China

I just wanted to let you know that everything is going well here in China!!! I have been here for about 3 weeks now and a lot has happened. I am still in training for my new job. I found an apartment that is close to my job... and I have met some wonderful people... It's currently Sunday morning and I was able to listen to last week's sermon on the Calvary website, so I was able to get the Word... I just want to express my gratitude for Calvary and all of the opportunity and experience I was able to gain during my time there. I am so grateful for... everyone in the Calvary family that believed in me and who encouraged me to follow whatever it was that I wanted to pursue. I am so grateful to know that I have a church in the States that is praying for me and rooting me on! Thank you a million times for all that you've done, do, and will continue to do for music and humanity. I hope to be in touch with you soon!

Love, Dwayne



Engagement News-Flash!

Congratulations and best wishes to **Francene Blythe and Keevin Lewis** who recently became engaged! Stay tuned for further information as they make plans and set the date for marriage sometime next year. Keevin and Francene ask their Calvary family to "Please join us in prayer as we continue to walk together in the years come!" Calvary looks forward to celebrating with you, Francene and Keevin!

Graduations



Congratulations to Roberto Carlos Reyes who graduated from Colorado Mountain College Culinary School as chef May 6, 2016!



Congratulations to Lauren Hovis who graduated with her M.A. in International Studies from American University on May 7, 2016!



Congratulations to Lauren Green who graduated with her M.A. in Political Communications from American University on May 8, 2016!



Music and Arts at Calvary



This spring, we've had some fantastic musical guests in worship. On May 1st, guitarist Charles Mokotoff performed music of JS Bach, Andrew York, and Irish composers Thomas Moore and Turlough O'Carolan. He also put in a special appearance with Calvary Young Musicians, sharing conversation and even more music with our kids. On May 8th, Calvary hosted Marietta College Concert Choir and their conductor Daniel Monek, on tour in the DC area from their home base in Ohio. This wonderful tour choir sang a varied program of music to close out our Easter season in worship. Now that summer is a'coming in, we still have lots of music and worship to look forward to here at Calvary!

O Sons and Daughters, Sing Your Praise! A Hymn Festival, Celebrating Calvary's 154th Anniversary

Invite friends and family to join us **Sunday, June 5, 2016** for a joyful day of celebration! We'll give thanks for Calvary's 154 years of community and commitment with a hymn sing in worship. Don't miss our annual congregational photo after worship, plus churchwide lunch in Woodward Hall. All are welcome!

Summer Break for Choirs

Calvary's regular music programming takes a summer break starting **June 12**, and we resume in September. Make plans to participate next season in Sanctuary Choir, seasonal Festival Choir, Calvary Young Musicians, handbells and other music programs. All are welcome! Contact Cheryl Branham for information.

All-Come Choir: Everyone is Invited!

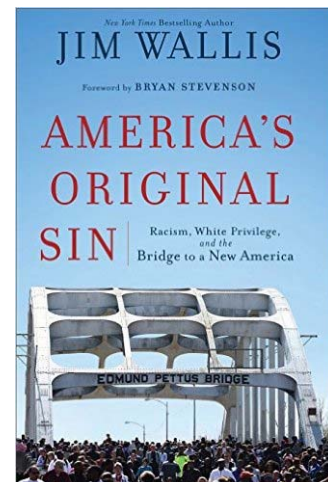
We'll gather to create a one-time choir on the final Sunday of each summer month: **June 26, July 31, and August 28**. All ages are welcome as we meet for rehearsal at 10 AM and sing in worship at 11 AM. It's a one-day package deal of accessible music plus great fellowship and service in worship, so come sing with us when you are in town. Adults, youth and older kids are invited—bring a friend, too. All are welcome!

Calling All Calvary Musicians: We Need You in Unplugged Worship This Summer

It's amazing to think that this summer is our sixth season of Unplugged worship! Once again, Calvary will gather for a more relaxed, casual style of worship for six weeks this summer. We'll meet in the **Chapel** beginning Sunday, **July 31** and concluding Labor Day weekend, Sunday, **September 4**. Do you love singing? Do you play an instrument? Then you are cordially invited to share your musical gifts with us in Unplugged! Contact Cheryl Branham to talk about how you can become involved, and we'll schedule you according to your availability. Don't miss this great opportunity to work with other Calvary volunteer musicians as we lead and serve in worship.

Combined Sunday School June 12-August 28

Starting Sunday, June 12th we will be having combined Sunday school in Butler Hall until Sunday, August 28th. Our primary focus will be issues of Race and racial justice through the study of Jim Wallis's latest book *America's Original Sin*. Each week, a different Sunday school teacher will lead us through one of the important topics he takes us through. While studying this book, there will also be conversation about how Calvary can continue to be in solidarity with movements for justice and dignity and what our biblical and Christian witness teaches us about this. Please be sure to join us at 9:45 am each week for our combined Sunday school time,. You won't want to miss this time for growth and conversation in the life of our church.



Summer @ Calvary

5/28-30 Youth Camp
[Camp Fraser]

6/5 Anniversary Sunday

6/12 Pride Sunday
Combined Sunday School begins, 9:45 a.m.
[Butler Hall]

6/17-19 Latino Fellowship Retreat
[Camp Fraser]

6/18 Calvary Day at the Park, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
[Watkins Regional Park]
All Church Fellowship, 6:00 p.m.
[Becky Vaughn's home]

6/27-7/2 Baptist Peace Fellowship
Peace Camp [Cheyney, PA]

7/7-10 Wild Goose Festival
[Hot Springs, NC]

7/31-9/4 Unplugged Worship

8/5-7 Vacation Bible School
[Camp Fraser]

8/13 Calvary Day at the Nats, 7:05
p.m. Tickets \$25 each, Contact Becky Vaughn

755 8th St. NW

Calvary Baptist Church
calvarydc.org

202.347.8355



Snap Shots



Youth St Calvary Women's Shelter



Cristian Duran after his baptism on Easter Sunday



Josh Russell co moderator of Ecumenical Advocacy Days,



Wedding shower for Pastor Elijah and Lauren



Calvary Children dying Easter eggs



Baby shower to welcome Isobel Wright. Isaacc, Mary, and Grace pictured.



Our Resident Partners



In addition to their Summer Camp program for kids and tweens, the **Theatre Lab** will once again fill Woodward Hall with music this summer, as their always popular teen summer musical theatre institute will present two all-time classics. First up will be *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, which runs July 21 -23. Then, in August, they'll produce the Rodgers & Hammerstein favorite *Carousel* (August 18-20). Theatre Lab Summer Camp programming runs Monday through Friday, June 20—August 26.

Brainfood Summer Institute is a summer program based on the content of their Kitchen All Stars program. This program runs Monday through Friday, June 27-August 5 and introduces participants to learning life and leadership skills through food and cooking. Participants have the opportunity to learn about food, nutrition, cooking, and jobs in the food industry through activities, games, restaurant visits, cooking in our kitchen, and working with guest chefs.



Milestones Enrichment Center hosts a Fun Fest all day summer program for children that builds on the lessons learned in school while pushing the envelope of fun

Camp Fraser and Living Classrooms

Through out the school year, Living Classrooms has worked with DC Public Schools to give fifth grade students an opportunity to leave the city and experience nature. Some of the thoughts expressed by the teachers and students:

I think Camp Fraser is an experience that many 5th grade students in the District of Columbia should be exposed to. My students were so excited and said they wish they were staying all week. I think this trip will be one that they will always remember. - Kenneth Gross - Gen Ed teacher (Langdon Elementary)

Camp Fraser aims to make learning fun, engaging, and interactive. The lessons expose students to concepts surrounding animals, water pollution, and the general outdoors. I would recommend and encourage more students to take advantage of this experience. - Brandon Johnson - teacher (Browne Elementary)



I really enjoyed watching our students turn into nature enthusiasts. Additionally, Camp Fraser provided a beautiful and engaging environment in which to get to know the students and build community. - Beth Toffe - teacher (Barnard Elementary)

Today was even better than my birthday!! - student, CW Harris Elementary

I wish I could stay all week!! - student, Barnard Elementary

I want to live here and stay forever! - student, Tyler Elementary





The park offers mini-golf, an antique carousel, and a train through the park. There's also a Nature Center with hands on exhibits and the Old Maryland Farm (not a petting zoo, but still super cool). Also, the newly updated playground has a Wizard of Oz theme. Our organizer for Calvary's Day at the Park, Salima Appiah-Duffell says "Y'all, during my elementary school years this was my favorite place in the *world*. I saw my first barn owl in the Nature Center, played many rounds of mini-golf, and ran riot in the playground. I also roller-bladed (90s kid!) and biked on many paths through the park. All that to say, I can vouch for it; it's pretty darn cool."

We will start with a round of mini-golf at 1:00 p.m., explore the rest of the park and those who interested can meet up for a Calvary carousel ride at 4:00 p.m.

How Much: Park entry, parking, the Nature Center and the Farm are **free**. Here are the fees for everything else:

		Resident	Non-Resident
Train or Carousel	Individual	\$2.00	\$2.50 per ride
	Group (10 or more)	\$1.75	\$2.25 per ride
Mini-Golf		\$5.00	\$6.50 per round

**Resident: those who reside in Prince George's or Montgomery County. Proof of residency required.*

Who Should Come?: Calvary folk, friends of Calvary, fun people, kids, mini-golf enthusiasts, park lovers, fans of mini-trains, carousel cowboys, people who love swings, who love the Wizard of Oz, toddlers of Instagram, those who have never seen a llama in person, (I believe the Old Maryland Farm still has their llama.), and everyone else.

Planning to attend?: Contact Salima Appiah-Duffell to let her know you're coming (salimaya@gmail.com)

But seriously, look at all this fun!



June—July—August Birthdays

June

- 4 Tami Cranford
- 5 Annette Bebbler
Kimberley Sisk
Rosie Stafford
- 6 Mike Michael
- 7 Gene Shipp
- 8 Alice Bartlett
Katie Harvey
- 9 Skye Perryman
Dan Ritter
Josh Russell
- 10 Peggy Sugiyama
Ellen Sulerzyski
- 11 Hannah Butler
- 14 Allyson Robinson
Ernie Williams
- 16 Camilia Fitzgerald
- 18 Angelica Angdisen
Lizzie Bebbler
Burl Whitmer
- 19 Sam Butler
Langston Jones
- 20 Mike Lloyd
Brian Toense
- 23 Cathy Cooper
- 25 Julia Nelson
Judy Russell
- 29 Terry Greene
Andrea Powell
- 30 Paul Rosstead

July

- 2 Susie Blythe-Goodman
Sett Mon Min
- 4 Berniece Harward
- 5 Britany Riley
- 6 Amelia Masdin
Jason Zeng
- 8 Sandi Auman
Naw Hla Kyi
- 10 Sara López
Maria Nuñez-Pereira
Dana White
- 12 Zain Shariff
Brenda Shaw Nielsen
- 13 Sadie Davis
Kathie Lansing
- 14 Daniel Oo
Dot Rosstead
- 15 Jared Cruz
Edgar Palacios
- 17 Daphne Cruz
Eric Mein
- 19 Lauren Hovis
- 20 Barbara Hoffer
- 21 Patricia Belbusti
Isaiah Harris-Love
Penelope Meier
- 22 Lydia Davis
Soren Dayton
Colin Jones
Andrew Lorenzen-Strait
- 23 Wilson Canales
- 24 Bill Harward
Sheri McFarlane
- 25 Virginia Sawyer
Sarah Settels-Palacios
- 26 Ed Meier
- 27 Nancy Thayer
- 30 Marcela Estrada
Rick Goodman
Courtney Miller
- 31 Jan Jan Maran
Caua Cesar Santos Barreto
Luana Santos Barreto

August

- 2 David Pereira-Decorado
- 3 Robert Edmunds
Saw Htoo
Phil Renfrow
- 4 Jubilee Robinson
- 5 Alcides Guandique
Sebastian Tejada
- 9 John Mein
Kyin Oo
David Quinlan
- 13 Liubov Russell
- 14 Allan Hughes
Nancy Renfrow
Susana Reyes
- 16 Margo Edmunds
Jamie Mateo Sorto-Reyes
- 18 James Rust
- 19 Eva Powell
- 20 Clark Cooper
- 22 Janice Glover
- 23 Amy Dale
- 25 Hugh White
- 26 Daniel Alcazar-Roman
- 27 Jeanette Mortzfeldt
Gretchen White
- 28 Erica Lea
Harry Robinson
- 30 Wilma Bailey
Rachel Johnson



Mabel Rio Appiah-Duffell was born Tuesday, April 26. Proud parents are Salima Appiah-Duffell and John Appiah-Duffell. Proud grandparents Denny Duffell and Joan Duffell, and Yolanda Appiah-Kubi and Kwaku Appiah-Kubi!

Mabel will be dedicated during worship, Sunday, June 19.



Fearless Prophets Faithful Church



SUNDAYS 11:00 A.M.
JUNE 19- JULY 24

Calvary Baptist Church
755 8th St. NW, Washington, D.C.
202.347.8355 calvarydc.org

*O young and fearless prophet
Stir up a protest in us...*
—hymn text by S. Ralph Harlow

Join us as we hear A word from God's *fearless prophets to her faithful church*. For much of June and July our sermons will be focused on the lessons taught by Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, and some of the other prophets in the hopes that we can learn how to be more faithful to God's teaching so we may more fully be her church.

In so many cultures the porch serves as the primary meeting place for all things family, social, religious, and fun. Some of us probably remember learning life lessons or stories from the Bible on our Grandmother's porch or about Breh Rabbit and Anansi the Spider fables on our Grandfather's porch. This summer, for Calvary Unplugged, we are going to gather around God's porch and hear parables from Jesus as told through the lives and stories of our friends, family, neighbors and loved ones. Be sure to step out on the porch with us for Unplugged.

Unplugged 2016
**Stepping Out:
Parables on the Porch**

**Sundays 11:00 a.m.
July 31-September 4**

Calvary Baptist Church
202.347.8355 calvarydc.org
755 8th St. NW, Washington, D.C.

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

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