

THE CALLER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Fall / September-November 2016

The Fruit of Our Gifts: Calvary's Resident Partners



Last month in a *Latest Happenings* update I announced the launch of our stewardship campaign, the Fruit of Our Gifts. Over the course of the year we will be highlighting many of the great things that come from your gifts to Calvary. In that post I described some of the meaningful experiences I have had with our small groups. In this article, I'd like to highlight another way the community benefits from the resources we are called to steward.

First, some backstory. When Calvary renovated and moved back into the Woodward and Greene Buildings, the vision was not just to use that space to house our church offices, Sunday school classes and church programming. Instead, it was important for us to be stewards of

the building and property we had been given and leverage it to benefit the community. In order to do that, we decided to identify, work with and house "Resident Partners" in our building, partners who would provide services to the community that we call Calvary's home.

Many years later, we continue to house resident partners who do excellent work. A brief description of each is below, along with a link for more information. Please take a look and get to know our resident partners a little better. Your gifts don't just go to keep us open for services on Sunday. They also help facilitate the work of our partners in youth development, music, and the arts year round.

Brainfood – Brainfood is a non-profit youth development organization that provides life skills and leadership training to D.C. area high schoolers. When they opened a second location at Calvary in 2006, it allowed them to double the number of youth they could serve. They run a variety of programs that teach high schoolers cooking skills, and also leverage those skills to teach others in the community, provide food to the community through running a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) box program in the summer, and provide graduates of their program job opportunities by selling their homemade snacks at a stand in Union Market in NOMA. For more information on their programs and opportunities to volunteer, see their website at www.brain-food.org.

Friday Morning Music Club – Friday Morning Music Club has been working to promote classical music since their inception more than 130 years ago. They provide all of its concerts for free as a public service, providing performers with a number of venues to present their craft which the residents of DC enjoy. Calvary regularly hosts their Friday noon concerts October through May; you can find the complete list of their concerts at their website, www.fmmc.org.

Kid Power – Kid Power was founded with the goal of showing young people they could become agents of change in their communities. Through after school and in school activities, Kid Power serves over 1,600 students in the D.C. area, providing a number of programs on academic achievement, health and nutrition, and leadership and civic engagement. They look for volunteers year round in a number of areas. To help out or to find more information see their website at www.kidpowerdc.org.

Theatre Lab – Theatre Lab has been providing acting classes since 1992. It is D.C.'s largest independent institution for dramatic arts training, enrolling over 1,500 students a year. They provide classes for youth and adults in Calvary's classrooms, and use tuition assistance and work study work to make sure that these classes are available for all, regardless of income. To see what classes you might be interested in or for tickets to upcoming shows, see their website at www.theatrelab.org.



The Fruit of Our Gifts

(Continued from page 1)

Congressional Chorus – The chorus, our newest resident partner, is comprised of 80 singers from various backgrounds. Through its performances and rehearsals, the chorus aims to foster and communicate the spirit, diversity, and transformative power of music while advancing choral excellence, community outreach and affordable music education for all ages in the nation's capital. To find their upcoming shows (or find an audition time), go to www.congressionalchorus.org.

Milestones Enrichment Center – During the week, the Milestones Enrichment Center uses space in the Greene Building to provide our local community much needed day care for infants and children, providing a well-balanced curriculum for parents and children in the heart of DC. See more about their work and curriculum at www.mec123abc.com.

Please take the time to get to know these organizations – they are housed in our building and are one of the key ways we make sure that the resource we have been given in our building makes a positive impact on our community!

Peace, *Tim Shaw*, Stewardship Chair

Summary of the July Quarterly Business Meeting

July 24, 2016

The meeting opened with prayer, and an expression of gratitude to the Shalom Scholarship Committee for preparing lunch. Treasurer Barbara Hoffer reports that total revenue is below the amount budgeted, but pledging is up from 2015. Although expenses are lower than what was budgeted, there remains a fiscal deficit of over \$150,000. As required by Standing Resolution 56, Paragraph 3c the Board intends to recommend an increase in the transfer of additional funds from the Endowment Fund at the next Quarterly Business Meeting scheduled for October 23, 2016, as necessary for the growth and life of Calvary, and to support the 2016 budget.

Two changes were approved to Standing Resolution No. 66, Members of the Board. The first change makes the Treasurer the chair of the Finance Committee. The second change adds “and Communication” to the title and duties of the Membership Development Chair (and committee).

The Ministerial Selection Committee has received over 70 resumes and has been conducting Skype interviews. The top qualifying applicant will be brought to Calvary for in-person interview, and will later return to be presented to the congregation.

Copies of the agenda and printed reports distributed at the meeting as well as a draft of the meeting minutes are available from the church office.

The next Quarterly Business Meeting will be October 23, 2016.

New Members Spotlight



Brayan Gonzalez is the son of Calvary member, José González. Brayan was born in El Salvador and is in the ninth grade. Brayan decided to be baptized and become a member of the Church by the testimony of his father and the spirit of friendship and welcome of the Latino Fellowship. Brayan, again welcome!



Paula Callejas Palacios is the granddaughter of Rev. Edgar Palacios. She is a U.S. citizen and resides in El Salvador. Paula is the daughter of Dr. Mario Callejas and Xochitl Palacios López. Paula always has admired and loved Calvary Church, as a child she wanted to be baptized at Calvary. Now we have two members of Calvary in El Salvador, Xochitl Palacios and Paula. Paula, welcome to Calvary!



Sunday School

The Kids for Christ (KFC) grades K-2 and Spirit Powered Youth (SPY), grades 1-5 Sunday school classes have been very busy lately. We have been recreating Paul the Apostle's journeys each week. Kids made their own "passports" to accompany Paul on his travels, and have visited many different places in the New Testament. Some of the highlights include Paul escaping from Damascus in a basket (Acts 9:23), travelling through a dangerous storm to Rome (Acts 27), and being locked up in jail with Silas (Acts 16).

Our journey with Paul started at the beginning of summer when we learned how Saul became Paul after being blinded by God on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). The kids have enjoyed learning about Paul's efforts to spread the Good News, and are looking forward to our next series as we travel back into the Old Testament to learn about Moses.

All children are welcome in this class, so please consider having your child attend if they do not already. We are always happy to have new people in the class, whether they have come once or a hundred times! We look forward to continuing to teach those that are the future of our church about the way of Christ.



"Passport Control"



"The Dangerous Storm"



"And the Jailers Slept"



Calvary Correspondence

I really, really have loved singing at Calvary and have gained so much, both musically and spiritually (plus I've met so many great people!) ...

I was trying to trust God and take whatever opportunities He was throwing at me, and I'm so glad I did. I doubt I'll be able to find another church job that I love as much as Calvary, and Kris and I have said that when we have kids, we want to raise them in a church like Calvary.

Please let everyone know how much I appreciate everything (Pastors Edgar, Erica, and Elijah) as well as everyone in the choir that I didn't get to say 'bye to... the whole church, really! Everyone has been so welcoming and wonderful.

Love and blessings ;), *Teresa Blessing*

To Our Friends at Calvary,

Thank you for being such a strong supporter of Faith Forward. Your enthusiasm for our efforts have meant so much to all of us over the years.

Dave Csinos, Founder, Faith Forward Children, Youth and a New Kind of Christianity

Rev. Edgar Palacios,

On behalf of Loyola University Maryland, our Center for Community Service + Justice would like to thank you for your generous work and collaboration. We are pleased to make a donation to Calvary Baptist Church.

As Nelson Mandela says, "Education is the most powerful tool we can use to change the world." Loyola firmly believes that offering our students the opportunity to step outside the classroom and open their minds, talents, and hearts to Baltimore city and beyond is critical to their holistic growth and development.

Through your work and community, you welcome, orient, and educate our students, our faculty, and our staff. We could not do our work without the deep commitment of organizations like yours have to partnership and strengthening ties between communities.

Thank you for your partnership, and profound commitment to social change, and for all that you do for Loyola.

Sincerely, Center for Community Service + Justice & York Road Initiative Loyola University Maryland

Music and the Arts



Happy Anniversary, Calvary! Sunday, **June 5, 2016**, Calvary celebrated our **154th**

Anniversary with a joyful hymn festival in worship, featuring Calvary Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Singers, Calvary Ringers, and Calvary Young Musicians, plus John Dautzenberg at the organ and Matt Daley at the piano. Many

folks from the Calvary Community participated in worship leadership as we heard highlights from our history, and bringing us up to the present day. We gathered for our annual Congregational Photo—many thanks to Frank Parrotta for his participation as photographer! And we rounded out the day with a wonderful lunch together in Woodward Hall. Looking forward to Calvary's 155th anniversary in 2017!

Summer Worship continued for seven weeks in the Sanctuary, **June 12 through July 24**. Choir

and other music programs are on hiatus during the summer, but we invite everyone to sing with us in **All -Come Choir** on the final Sundays of each summer month: **June 26, July 31, and August 28**.

We meet at 10:00 a.m. to rehearse and sing in worship at 11:00 a.m. This summer, we were happy to welcome back baritone **Rameen Chaharbaghi**. Rameen served for five years as a Calvary section leader and soloist, and now lives in Houston. Back in DC to participate in an opera production this summer, Rameen wanted to return to his home church. Thanks for your leadership in worship this summer, Rameen! Other worship participants vary week by week, so thanks to all those who lead us during the summer months.

Unplugged Worship. It's our sixth season of Unplugged summer worship, and who can believe it!?! This summer we gather in the Chapel for six weeks, **July 31 through September 4**, for the series called **Stepping Out: Parables on the Porch**. As always, we'll change it up a bit in terms of our worship structure and style, introducing new songs



as well as old favorites. Think of Unplugged as a throw-back to Vacation Bible School... for everyone! It's one of the ways we offer something for everyone here at Calvary, over the course of each year. If you love music and want to help out, contact Cheryl, cbranham@calvarydc.org.

Saying Goodbye. This summer, Calvary has the difficult job of celebrating with Calvary folks who are moving away from the DC area, or moving on to new adventures in life. This summer we bless and send **Matt Daley** who has served us so brilliantly in music over six years. Matt has accepted a position at Colesville United Methodist Church in Silver Spring, and we said goodbye on July 3. Bravo and thank you, Matt! We also say goodbye to our wonderful alto section leader and soloist, **Teresa Blessing** and her husband Kris. Teresa is entering graduate school at Peabody in Baltimore. Thank you, Teresa, for all the beautiful singing! **Katie and Ryan Harvey**, and family, are heading back to New Orleans. Special thanks to the Harvey's for donating all their yard sale monies to the Calvary Organ Fund—what a generous idea! Thank you! We bless and send all of these Calvary folks this summer as they move out of the area: **Teresa Blessing, Katie and Ryan Harvey and family, Karen Heidelberger, Carly Kinney, Amy Sullivan and family.** In my role as Director of Music, I'm amazed to realize that ALL OF THESE have served Calvary in music at some point during their time here—thank you, one and all, for sharing your many gifts with us in the Calvary Community!

Kicking-Off the 2016-17 Church Season. This fall will be something to look forward to, as always here at Calvary. We return to the Sanctuary for worship each Sunday beginning **September 11**. If you love to sing, WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US IN **SANCTUARY CHOIR** THIS FALL! We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. in the Music Suite. Join us for a visit or join us for the season! And keep alert for information on concerts and special worship events, plus Festival Choir rehearsals for Advent and Easter. 2016-17 will be another great year in music and worship, and in church life together here at Calvary!

Music and Arts Team. Thanks to the volunteers who serve on our new Music and Arts Team: **Keevin Lewis, Calvary's Board Rep for Music and Arts; Chuck Andreatta; Sandi Auman; and Eugenia Reyes.** If you have ideas to share or if you want to find new ways to become involved, be sure to contact us.

Thanks to everyone in the Calvary Community for your support of Music and Arts at Calvary!
Grace and peace to all,

Cheryl Branham, Director of Music

Women's Mission Society



WMS Needs Your Sheets

The Women's Missionary Society for Calvary chooses a White Cross/Church World Service project each year to support needs in underdeveloped countries. This year we have been asked to make bandages for hospital patients in the third

world. To do this we need your old, worn white, pastel, or light colored sheets. Since we will be tearing them into strips, we can work around the holes. Strips are joined together and rolled into a long roll. Softer sheets make softer bandages. We can use contours and pillow cases too. Sheets may be left in the office marked for WMS.



The Women's Mission Society is again sponsoring the filling of boxes of Christmas gifts for needy people. We do this through S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat). Our goal is to fill 60 boxes (divided evenly between men, women, and children).



We need donations of toiletries and winter ware (hats, scarves, gloves), underwear and socks. We will begin collecting items for the boxes starting at the end of September through November 28. A Mission Fair will be held after worship Sunday, December 4 to fill the boxes with donated items.

If you have questions or need ideas on what to donate please see Carol Blythe or Gretchen White. Thank you, in advance, for your help and support.



Resident Partner Spotlight

Theatre Lab's Life Stories Institute

Theatre Lab wants to invite you, to learn how to teach this proven process for harnessing the power of the dramatic arts to transform lives. The Theatre Lab's Life Stories Institute is an intensive four-day workshop designed to give social service providers and others the skills they need to teach Life Stories in their own communities.

According to Calvary Member Susan Sevier, who participated in the 2014 inaugural Institute, "The whole program is so carefully planned, so beautiful executed. I know that, no matter what, my own life story is forever changed for the better. I feel expanded and enlivened and engaged in a way I did not before I began this Institute."

This year's Life Stories Institute will take place **September 29-October 2 at Calvary**. A select group of social workers, service providers, educators, and actors from around the country are invited to participate in this workshop to become trained in the Life Stories method. Tuition for the Institute is \$1325 but, **as Calvary member and Theatre Lab partner, you are entitled to a 20% discount (tuition \$1060).**

Over the course of four days, there will be discussions, exercises and more aimed at helping people find their voices. You will be assisted in developing a curriculum specifically tailored to those you serve or wish to serve.

For the last 15 years, Theatre Lab staff has taught Life Stories in the Washington region to thousands of participants including people in addiction recovery, homeless people, seniors living in assisted living facilities, immigrant youth and incarcerated teens. Participants have seen firsthand the impact arts can have on transforming a life, a family and a community. Theatre Lab wants to empower communities by sharing this method and program with you.

One of their proudest professional achievements has been watching graduates of their Life Stories Institute share this program in various and unique ways around the country. Life Stories Institute alumni are currently creating and teaching programs for youth in foster care, special needs educators, parents of special needs children, homeless people, children in Ghana, and more. Jean Freedman, a 2014 Institute alum, has begun a partnership with New Story Leadership, which brings together young Israeli and Palestinian youth. She's shared:

"The Life Stories Institute showed me how to help students - who may not think of themselves as actors or writers - turn their personal stories into art. Students gain confidence for themselves and empathy for the experience of others."

The Theatre Lab lives by a simple truth: "Everyone has a story to tell, and a voice that deserves to be heard." We hope that you or a member of your organization will join us in October.

If you're interested in learning more, visit www.theatrelab.org/?q=content/life-stories-institute, email deb@theatrelab.org or call 202.824.0449.

The Life Stories program is also the subject of a **documentary feature film** (www.higodoc.com/---!trailer/cp6i) which premiered at the AFI DOCS Festival in 2014 and was nominated for an International Documentary Association Humanitas Award.





The Congressional Chorus is delighted to be the newest neighbor in the Calvary Baptist Church complex. We are greatly enjoying our lovely office with its tall windows. The Chorus presents a series of three uplifting and exciting concerts each season. Our 30th season opens on Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 pm with “Fascinatin’ Rhythms,” featuring “Sacred Concert,” a major work by Washington, DC’s own Duke Ellington. The piece was

written for chorus, soloists, jazz big band, and dancers, including a tap dancer, and was considered by Ellington to be “the most important thing I have ever done.” The result is an incredible explosion of energy, improvisation and spiritual syncopation. Our annual spring cabaret “Road Trip!”, a wild musical ride across America’s highways and byways, will run from March 16 - 19, 2017, and will be a high-energy celebration of the diversity of popular music in America. Our final concert of the season, “New Horizons: Music Without Borders, will be presented on June 3, 2017, and will feature a major work by American composer Christopher Tin, “Calling All Dawns.” The piece is comprised of twelve songs sung in twelve languages, with lyrics drawn from sacred and secular world literature, including Japanese haiku, Maori proverbs, the Torah, the Bhagavad Gita, and many more. The form of the work represents the fluid, cyclical nature of the universe and communicates a strong message of unity: that regardless of race, culture and religious belief, we are all connected through our common human experience. The season is punctuated by performances in November, December and April with concerts by the American Youth Chorus, our educational outreach group. For more information about the Congressional Chorus and our season, call Harlie Sponaugle, Executive Director, at 202-629-3140 or visit www.CongressionalChorus.org.

Brainfood



Around 4 years ago, Abiana Patton-Toure (pictured right) and Ryan Williams (pictured left) spent two afternoons a week participating in the Brainfood Kitchen All-Stars program at Calvary. Today, those seeds planted in high school have blossomed into career paths. Ryan is a key team member at Brainfood Homegrown, Brainfood’s new youth-led snack food startup, where he develops and perfects cookies that are sold at Brainfood’s Union Market stand. Abiana is participating in a summer internship at Homegrown, where she quickly proved herself to be a challah guru as well as an herbal expert. We at Brainfood are so proud of them!



Theatre Lab

Theatre Lab started the summer with a screening and talkback at Miracle Theatre of *How I Got Over*. The documentary depicts the journey of women in an outreach program taught by Theatre Lab staff at a local area shelter, following them all the way to their performance at the Kennedy Center.

At Calvary nearly 150 students took Theatre Lab adult classes and about 425 kids and teens participated in their summer youth programs.

The teen production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* packed the house with four completely sold out shows in July. This was followed in August by productions of *Carousel* and *columbinus*.



10 For the Win!



This year, 2016, I am thankful to celebrate 10 years cancer free. I am celebrating by completing 10 5K events. What better way to celebrate a temporary health decline than by putting the power in powerwalk toward a healthy goal? As of August, I am only about half way to my goal, but I have more 5Ks on my calendar through December.

As some of the fittest people in the greater DMV and Baltimore areas zoomed past me, I made a few observations applicable to life, especially church life:

Organization and communication

The most well attended and enjoyable 5Ks were well organized as evidenced by accessible organizers and clear instructions. To successfully host a race, there must be an organized team working as a healthy team.

Encouragement from the sidelines

Some 5Ks were in residential areas, others were in more business-oriented areas of town. Regardless, there were always at least some people on the sidelines cheering and encouraging the runners and walkers. Positivity is particularly important during up hills and the final stretch of the race.

Sportsmanship

Some of the most inspiring moments of the Olympics and even local 5Ks are when fellow participants help each other. While there were always professional medical personnel, there were minor issues such as a small cut or younger participants getting tired. There is power in handing the runner next to you a band aid or an encouraging pat on the back.

We were all moving toward the same goal- to finish well after giving our best. Each person is responsible for themselves AND we are all in the race together. This is not multiple choice. I hope you will join me in finishing this year well- finish 2016 well personally, spiritually, socially, professionally, and otherwise.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” -Hebrews 12:1



Shalom, Pastora Erica



On August 21 the Calvary Board approved naming the Chapel, the Edgar and Amparo Palacios Chapel, recognizing their many years of service and commitment to this community of faith.



Love That Has Been Forged Between Us Endures Forever

Calvary Baptist Church
Washington, DC.
28 de Agosto de 2016



Beloved brothers and sisters:

Let me open my heart. I have been with you for 18 years, a period of very significant time of my life. I came to Washington in 1998 after working for 10 years to end the war and achieving peace in El Salvador. In these 18 years at Calvary, my children Edgar, Amparo and Xochitl got married and had children, my grandchildren. Amparo my wife was a source of inspiration and strength in my Christian ministry. Now she's with the Lord. The fruits that she had as a family educator continue. Because of her many women found a new horizon in the United States.

In these 18 years I met and learned to love brothers and sisters from Calvary who no longer are with us, who are also with the Lord. I am happy today to have a faith community whose members are friends, sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. The members of the Latino community gave me their trust, I have been their friend and pastor. With them I have shared in worship, biblical formation, the common table, playing soccer, camping, retreats and conferences, other events and activities. During these years communities and leaders of the Greater Washington accompanied me and I accompanied them in multiple activities for the benefit of our community, country and Latin America. The flag of the solidarity of the people was the hoisted symbol.

They are 18 years in which I have worked with pastors carrying the message of Jesus Christ for the edification of the Church and promotion of the kingdom of God.

Now I have to say goodbye, or rather a see you later, but I stay, I leave but you go with me. Love that has been forged between us endures forever. A feeling of gratitude overwhelms my heart. Thanks for receiving me so long, for having supported me, for helping me grow in Christ Jesus, for supporting my initiatives, for extending your love to my Latino brothers, young Baptists in El Salvador and accompany the Salvadoran and Latin American people on their way for peace.

It is my prayer that the Lord will pour blessings upon you, that unity and harmony continue cementing the spiritual building of the church. That taken from the Lord you continue sowing love in children, youth and adults. It is my prayer that led by the Spirit you may be a prophetic missionary, and charismatic church. I pray that the love of the flower garnish your heart.

For your support I am now strengthened. New challenges arise in my life. You, my friends and family express your support. Who can resist to so much support? I go to El Salvador, I go to Canada, I am a servant. Wherever I am and whatever I do, I do for the glory of God. In God I trust.

Calvary Baptist Church, Thank you!

Rev. Edgar F. Palacios

Direct Debit and Recurring Credit Card Charge Options Available

Help support the work of Calvary's community of faith as we open our facilities to the community that surrounds us. If you would like to set up a regular automatic payment, contact Paul Rosstead in the Church Office. Contributions can still be made online using your credit card by visiting the Calvary website, www.calvarydc.org, or if you pay your bills online, consider instructing your bank to make a regular payment to Calvary Baptist Church.



Snapshots





Pastor Edgar baptizing his granddaughter, Paula Callejas-Palacios, July 3, 2016



Pastor Edgar shares a Time with Children, July 24, 2016



Pastors Edgar and Elijah share a Parable on the Porch, August 28, 2016.



Extending the Hand of Blessing to Pastor Edgar, August 28, 2016.



Celebrating and recognizing the ministry of Rev. Edgar Palacios and wishing him well as he continues his journey of faith as El Salvador's Ambassador to Canada. August 28, 2016



Ministerial Search Committee

The Ministerial Selection Committee met regularly through the summer, sometimes even two times in a week. With the assistance of technology, members of our committee were able to be part of our ongoing work and discernment discussions, even when away from town for work or vacation! We have received over 70 resumes from a wonderful group of dedicated, talented, creative and committed candidates. Our committee is spending time deeply listening to each other as we review information from these candidates and as we seek to discern the direction God has for our congregation. We are mindful of the need to move forward given the fact both Pastor Edgar and Pastor Elijah are transitioning soon to other callings. But we are also mindful of the need to take time to listen to the Spirit in our discussions and discernment. We continue to appreciate your prayers of support for our committee's work.

Fundraising Underway for 2016 Shalom Scholarships

Since 1999, Calvary Baptist Church has provided scholarship money to Christian youth in El Salvador to enable them to attend higher learning institutions in their country. Our goal in 2016 is to support ten scholars with a \$1,000 grant each.

The Shalom Scholarship recipients are deeply grateful for our support and are devoted disciples of Christ. Thanks to Calvary's ongoing commitment, they are able to find gainful employment in professions of their choice, and help support their families.

The Palacios family of El Salvador provides valuable support in-country by facilitating the selection of scholar recipients, offering them guidance, and monitoring their progress. You can play a vital role in this dynamic mission program by participating in the following events and activities:

Monthly Bake Sales: delicious specialty breads and desserts - September 25, October 30, November 13

Shalom Birthday Club - church members and friends are encouraged to donate a dollar amount equal to their age!

October 2 - Annual Shalom Luncheon following morning worship

October 23 - Luncheon preceding Calvary's quarterly meetings (\$10 suggested donation)

How to Donate: 1) **write a check** to Calvary Baptist Church noting *Shalom Scholarship* on memo line, 2) **credit card** donation online at calvarydc.org/give designating Shalom Scholarship, 3) **cash** directed to Paul Rosstead, Church Administrator



September 2015 Calvary Mission Trip to El Salvador



Shalom Luncheon prepared by members of the Latino Fellowship



A Report from the Ukraine

Judy Russell

Ukrainian democracy protest fire has not burned out.

On February 18, the week of St. John's University's spring break, I made a decisive decision to spontaneously visit my mother in Ukraine. She was working there for almost two months as a foreign area officer at U.S. Embassy KYIV. Knowing she was by herself and under a lot of pressure, I figured the opportunity would be a perfect chance to spend some time together, while at the same time discover and understand a new part of the world. Little did I know, this would be an understatement.

Ukraine's historic Independence square, Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square), also known as Maiden Square lies in the center of Kiev. Surrounded by post-communist assembly and city council buildings, the center lies atop an underground shopping mall. On the right side of the plaza is a white screen that covers the Trade Union Building which was burned two years ago in a protest. It has been transformed into a neo-realist movie screen that shows the 2014 protest events hour by hour with documentary precision.

"It reminded me of some of the details I forgot," said one of the protestors. "They were shooting at us from these windows over there," he adds, pointing towards the windows of Hotel Ukraine. Then he looks around at the crowd, roughly 100 people and comments: "this time the young people are afraid to come out."

The weekend of February 22 marked the two-year anniversary of the night the Ukrainian government killed 100 protestors here. My hotel, the Senator Apartments, is right off the infamous Maidan Square. Every morning and every night I saw people gathered in the middle of the square. One warm and rainy Sunday, sick with curiosity, I decided to walk through the square to understand the perspective of the people. As I walked along the square's corners, there were lined blue and yellow memorials for "the Heavenly 100" who died.

Some of the people were withdrawn, while others were eager to share their stories.

There was a military chaplain among them, "He is praying for us," a young university student told me proudly. "Do you like our government?" another asked. "We don't." Added another: "They didn't reform anything for two years. It's impossible to continue to live like that anymore." One cynic quipped that the Ukrainian president had made his own visit to the square earlier in the day "to avoid the people."

Since the days of the Soviet Union, Russia has for a great part of its history always overlooked Ukraine, whether linguistically, politically or economically. In the beginning of 2014, Ukraine fell into an economic depression and at that time the former president, Viktor Yanukovich, rejected a trade deal with the European Union (EU) and instead accepted a bailout from Russia. Ultimately, the rejection resembled the underlying national divisions within the country which led to the protests and set the pro-Western against the pro-Russia sides.

Near, where a Vladimir Lenin statue once stood, there is a piece of graffiti which states, "a free Ukraine is possible if the Russian and Ukrainian proletariats unite; without such unity, there can be no free Ukraine." This statement alone explains the pro-Russian side of the Ukrainian-Russian conflict. On the other side of the statue is another quote painted on the stone cold basalt: "No one can defeat a people determined to obtain self-rule." The irony of the graphitized statue represents two world views and the underlying role of Ukraine in its battle of the West versus the East.

Yanukovich's acceptance of Russia's (\$15 billion dollar) bailout was seen as a betrayal by the pro-West side. A few days following the deal, people started gathering in Kiev's center at Maidan Square to condemn their government's corruption and declare Yanukovich's illegitimacy. The protests did not last long before the Ukrainian Government attempted to stop the rallies with violence from riot police, armed guards, and private army personnel. Eventually, the protests resulted in Yanukovich fleeing to Russia. Petro Poroshenko was elected to take his place and Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the former finance minister, became Ukraine's prime minister.

Two years later, the tents in the upper side of Maidan are less than ten. The 100 protestors camping in the square during the last hours of the evening do not look like "left-wing" forces. All sorts of different military uniforms are worn and as a result the difference between the state police and the people's militia is very



A Report from the Ukraine (Continued from page 13)

slight. There was a feeling of resentment in the air, but this did not intimidate the protesters. Some that I talked to were determined to stay, "until Friday." Slogans like "impeachment" and posters with the face of the Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk "decorated" the square.

The people's fury remains tentative. The controversial trade deal was a result of the EU's desire to expand into Eastern European economies and Ukraine's desire to move into a more modern and productive civilization. To many Ukrainians joining the EU meant a more Western way of life, more jobs, better education, and an overall more valuable economy.

Nonetheless, there was a spirit of solidarity among the people at the emblematic square. They were making small improvised fires to warm up in the cold evening as it was just starting to snow. Although it's not quite noticeable where the food is coming from, somebody constantly brought salo (a Ukrainian delicacy of smoked pork fat), preserved food, compote, or tea. "We are all volunteers here," a woman in her 30s stated as she insisted that I try her tea. People know each other - some met during this weekend and others (they say) are veterans from Maidan 2014.

The protesters were informed by their colleagues that more participants will arrive from the Lviv and Ivano-Frankovskaya oblast' in Western Ukraine by buses. The group planned to present a petition to the government and to remain in the square until they received the government's answer. Among the participants there was a man who lost his leg - probably a war-veteran. There was a student, a retired police-officer, and a white-collar worker who explained that he had to go to work the following day, but will definitely be back at the square in the evening. They sang sad Ukrainian folk songs and got into passionate political discussions.

The Ukraine-Russia war conflict continues on as Ukrainian forces still battle combined Russian-separatist forces in a two-year-old war that has killed more than 10,000 people, wounded 20,000 and displaced more than one million.

Finally, the protestor's pleas were finally met. Just few weeks prior to these events, on Sunday April, 10, Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, announced his resignation from office. The resignation was urged on by President Poroshenko and a no-confidence vote in the parliament because of his inability to implement government's reforms as well as other accusations of corruption.

The resignation, however, allowed Poroshenko to escape public attention and political pressure, as recent investigation in the Panama Papers revealed an attempt to evade tax rules in his offshore bank accounts.

In an editorial called Panama Petro, following the resignation, the Kyiv Post wrote, "the nearly 25 years of tax dodging and misspent government budgets show every day in shortened lives, bad education, poor health care, dilapidated buildings, potholed streets and myriad other problems that Ukraine should not tolerate."

It reveals that there is justification for the people's anguish. The apparent pattern of corruption reflects an even deeper issue of its normalcy amongst officials of post-soviet independence.

The Kozatsky Hotel, whose bright and radiant sign hangs over the square, was dark and looks like it is not in use at all. The building on the left side of Taras Shevchenko Lane was so crowded with people in uniform earlier, but that night lost its even lonely guard.

Back in the Senator Hotel, the TV reported that the protesters were a group of "paid Cossacks." I was taken back as I observed a completely different group of people on this cold brash night. In the end, only time will be able to reveal where the truth lies - in the people or with their government. For the good of that beautiful country - I hope that they are not on opposite ends.



Birthdays at Calvary (September-November)

September

- 1 Paul Rice
Sarah Salazar
Floyd Smith
- 3 Eric Bebbler
Ronald Mortzfeldt
Alejandra Rodriguez
- 6 Francisco Pereira-Decorado
- 8 John Appiah-Duffell
Carol Holler
- 9 Lois Lansing
- 10 Judy Mein
- 11 Natalie Barrens-Rogers
William Slack
- 12 Luis Canales
Ken Jue
- 13 Carly Kinney
- 14 Meara Dietrick Ziyad
- 15 Clayton Burneston
Brenda Canales
Finnie Scheiber
- 16 Joy Angdisen Carlos
JJ Kosmidis
Andrew Myint
- 17 Betty Crudup
- 18 Mary Altman
Jane Huie
Paul Lansing
- 19 Jay Mayfield
- 20 Jackie Brown
Djuna Mitchell
Jason Smith
- 21 Lori McDonald
- 23 Carol Blythe
- 25 Grady Dalton
Nina Malega
- 26 Carl Anku
George Burneston
- 27 Sandra Eusebio
Jeff Wilson
- 28 Violeta Alcala-Laboy
Abbey Ammerman
Becky Huncosky
Abby Lew
- 29 Amy Ward-Meier
- 30 Angela Tripp

October

- 1 Janet Grove
- 2 Miles Herr
- 3 Lucy Beltran
- 4 Chuck Andreatta
Julie Greene
Gene Saupp
- 5 Jojo Angdisen
Zayda López-Arias
- 7 Kathy Clark
Taylor Neely
- 8 Elisabeth Frost
- 9 Mark Thayer
- 11 Ashley Dalton
- 12 Tanya Coble
- 13 Elia Santos Barreto
- 14 Meredith Mathis
- 15 Ricky Clark
- 16 Jessica Martínez López
Eloise Nielsen
- 17 Adam Hall
- 19 Jose Luis Eusebio
- 20 Catherine Neely
- 21 Andi Thomas
- 22 Janis Bunch
Aldon Nielsen
- 23 Rachel Alcazar
Gabe Lee-Villanueva
Rick Teller
- 24 José Durán
Bill Fahey
Kevin Hagan
- 25 Barbara Bicchieri
- 27 Charles Davis
William Harward
Jenny Smith
- 28 Kenneth Harward
Karen Rice
- 29 Jenny Goon
- 30 Amy Shaw
Alicia Wise
- 31 Ruth Speyer

November

- 1 Esther Wray
- 3 Josh Keller
Zoe Malega
- 4 Chuck Russell
- 5 Renick Bucy
Amparo Palacios-Lopez
John Taylor
- 7 Joseph Glaze
Will Short
- 8 Eugenia Reyes
- 9 Monica Swinney
- 10 Robert Harward
- 11 Aaron Frederick
Myra Houser
Jonathan Ortiz
Francisco Pereira-Escobar
- 13 Isobel Wright
- 14 Merv Hoffer
Carter Vaughn
- 15 Yolanda Appiah-Kubi
Lito González-Alfaro
- 16 Allen Dalton
Lis Greene
Hannah McMahan
Amelia Taylor
- 17 Earl Drescher
- 18 Claudia Moore
- 19 Cormac Scheiber
Emma Whitmer
- 21 Irma Robertson
- 22 Ric Clark
- 23 Ely Galicia López
- 24 Victor Tupitza
- 25 Jessica Lynd
- 26 Isaac Wright
- 27 Sarah Livingston
- 28 Jerry James Angdisen
Gina Underwood
- 29 Carmen Angdisen
Isabel Noelia Docampo

Business Meeting Dates

As set by the Church Board the next Quarterly Business Meeting will be held Sunday, October 23, 2016
and the Annual Business Meeting Sunday, January 22, 2017



Fall Programing

Sunday @ 9:45 a.m. Sunday School (English in Butler Hall and Latino in the Palacios Chapel)

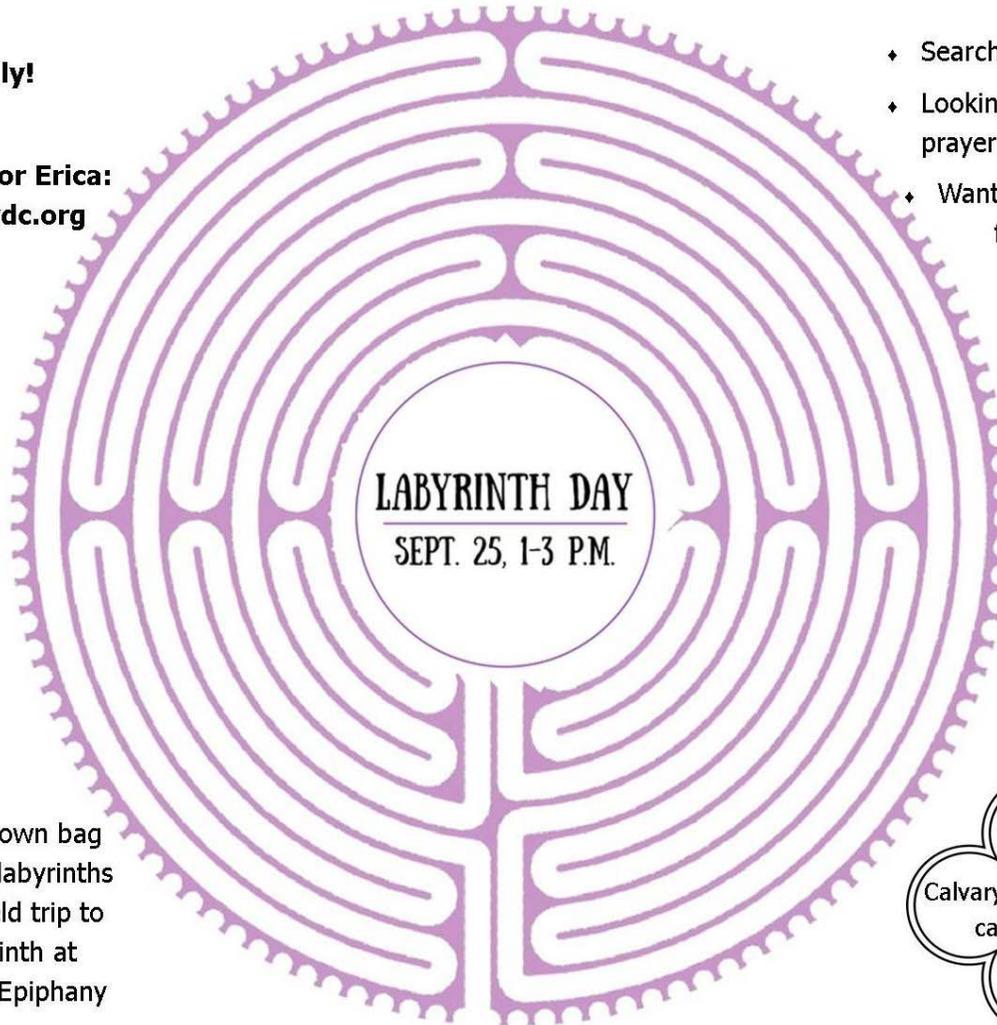
Sunday @ 9:45 a.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music for Kids during Worship

Tuesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Theology on Draft in Butler Hall

Second Wednesday of each month @ 6:30 p.m. Arise

- ♦ **Family friendly!**
- ♦ **Free!**
- ♦ **RSVP to Pastor Erica:**
elea@calvarydc.org

- ♦ Searching for peace?
- ♦ Looking for a fresh prayer practice?
- ♦ Wanting a spiritual field trip?

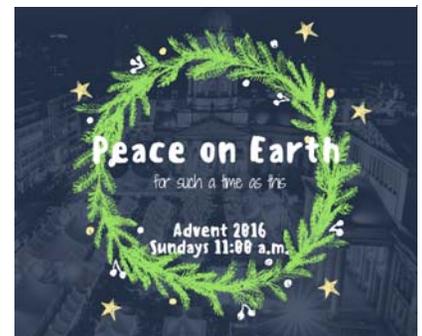


- ♦ **1:00-2:00** brown bag lunch study of labyrinths
- ♦ **2:00-3:00** field trip to indoor labyrinth at Church of the Epiphany



Harvesting God's Love
Sundays, September 11—November 20

Peace On Earth
November 27—January 1



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

Calvary Baptist Church

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