



# THE CALLER

## CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Spring / March—May 2017

### Resistance in the Wilderness

In a way, the Lenten lectionary begins at the end. The very first Sunday of Lent, we find ourselves observing Jesus *after* forty sweltering, exhausting, emaciating days in the desert. It is at this moment that the Tempter greets him with a series of temptations. Not when Jesus is spry and full of passion. Not when Jesus has just come out of the waters of Baptism and heard his belovedness proclaimed. Not when Jesus has the physical and mental reserves to bear the weight of these dangerous and soulless temptations.

As we have watched our Muslim brothers and sisters refused entry into U.S. airports, targeted and baseless discrimination against immigrants increase, hate crimes surge dramatically, white supremacists embed themselves in mainstream discourse, and millions of people who claim the same faith as us celebrate many of these violent and violating shifts, we may find ourselves beginning at the end in a way, too. Feeling as though our hope, our resources, our energy, our expectations have all been used up already. How are we supposed to be tested now? We have no bread, no water, no energy left. And yet, here is precisely when Jesus is tested by the Tempter. Not on Day One, or Two, or Three.

No, not at the beginning, but at the end. So, during these forty days, we begin at the end with Jesus. Asking important questions about how to respond, how to *resist* the Tempter precisely when we feel like we cannot. Together, we will discuss the spiritual fortitude required for moments like this one.

As we journey onward from the ending-as-beginning, we'll discover that each New Testament story during this season zooms in on a particular moment with Jesus and one of his friends. First, Nicodemus; then, the woman at the well; and so on. Each story invites us to resist temptations that lurk around us and within in: temptations of privilege, exclusivism, theological blindness, despair, empire, and ultimately, silence.

So during this Lenten season, just as Jesus found himself resisting temptations of power and spectacle, we will discuss the things we are being called to resist both as a community and as individuals. Together, we will begin at the end, trusting that we cannot live on bread alone, but that in the wilderness, our overturning, transforming God will give us all we need and more.

*Pastor Maria*



### Lent and Holy Week at Calvary

**Considering Baptism?** We are excited to be in preparation for Easter Day baptisms. If you are thinking about baptism, contact a pastor.

**Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9, 11:00 a.m.**

All Children and Youth are invited to participate in the Procession of Palms; meet at 10:45 a.m. in Narthex.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.** Soup Supper and worship in the Chapel.

**Good Friday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.** Tenebrae Service of Darkness in the Sanctuary.

**Easter Sunday, April 16, 9:30 a.m.** Breakfast in Woodward Hall, hosted by Latino Fellowship; **10:50 a.m.** Prelude music begins; **11:00 a.m.** Easter Worship om in the Sanctuary.

**Be sure to invite family and friends to worship at Calvary this Holy Season!**

## From Our Senior Pastors



First things first. Thank you for all the ways you have already loved us before we've even made it to you! So many of you have extended kindness and offered insight to us as we transition and take up residence here in D.C. A special word of thanks to the Ministerial Search Committee and to Cheryl, Elijah, Erica, Paul, Sabra, Al, Jojo, Terry and Janice for all their help as we've started to transition into this new, exciting work. As we move in and move boxes and prepare our hearts for this adventure with you, we thought we'd share a few reflections we've had during these weeks of anticipation.

As you know all-too-well, these are difficult times both nationally and globally, particularly for a church like this one that focuses its attention and energy on peace-building and justice work. If you are anything like us, we find ourselves overwhelmed by actions and orders that challenge the lives and futures of people we love and share life with. These days call for ancient and contemporary spiritual practices that root us and activate us for the long road

ahead. Together, we will keep building sanctuary, now more than ever.

A few details that might be helpful as we get started. Because we want you to feel the freedom to set your own boundaries, we won't plan on Facebook "friending" you or following you on other platforms, but you are welcome to friend/follow us (and we will gladly accept your friend request!) Either way, we look forward to being your real-life friends soon.

As we continue learning the ropes and so we can keep track of things together, we'll ask that you plan to e-mail us both any and all correspondence.

We thought we might also share a bit about how we hope to spend our first few months learning our way around Calvary, though this will likely ebb and flow as we continue exploring and sharing in conversation with you. The first month, we'll focus on learning all that we can about staff members and what is life-giving to each of them. We are grateful that in many ways you've already gotten to explore a co-pastor model under the wise leadership and care of our pastoral residents, Erica and Elijah. They have taught us so much already, and we'll work closely with them and the whole staff as we get started. The second month we'll focus on finances, and the third month on church structure and governance. As we do this, know that we'll ask "why, how, what, and where" over and over again, never as a criticism but always as our best effort at understanding.

Meanwhile, much of our time and energy will include lots of time with you! Our goal is to have had coffee, lunch, dinner, (something hopefully involving food!) with every member and/or household of the congregation by the end of August. And we mean it! We'll ask you to begin contacting Sabra at your earliest convenience so you can get on our calendars for times that suit all of us best.

Our hearts are full and as ready as they'll ever be for all that lies ahead together. As diplomat Dag Hammarskjöld said with words that are an often re-quoted blessing, "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes!"

Peace, Maria + Sally

### Business Meeting Dates

The Church Board has set the following dates for Quarterly Business Meetings in 2017 and the Annual Business Meeting in January 2018

Sunday, May 7, Sunday, July 23, Sunday October 22, and Sunday, January 28, 2018



## Ministerial Selection Committee

At our first meeting in November, 2016, the members of the Ministerial Selection Committee (MSC) signed a Covenant that stated in part: We affirm our desire and will to live together as community and work in partnership fostering God's beloved community on earth.

After many months of dedicated and prayer-filled work, after listening deeply and carefully to the Holy Spirit, to the congregation and to each other, we recommended to the congregation with joy and thanksgiving that Reverend Sally Sarratt and Reverend Maria Swearingen be called to serve as Senior Ministers in the role of Co-Pastors. Happily, the congregation unanimously approved our recommendation!

Rev. Sally has been serving as a hospital chaplain as well as the Sabbatical Minister at Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. As a chaplain, she provided grief support and rituals of healing and forgiveness for patients. As the Sabbatical Minister, Rev. Sally planned worship services and coordinated pastoral care. Rev. Sally also brings skills to the pastorate from her career in management before she followed her call to the ministry. Rev. Sally's facility with budgeting, personnel management, and strategic planning is a wonderful and uncommon asset.

Rev. Maria has been serving as an Associate University Chaplain at Furman University. As a chaplain, Rev. Maria has preached and crafted worship experiences following the liturgical calendar and as part of interfaith gatherings and university-wide events. Rev. Maria has spent the last year working with a cohort of clergy to develop a year-long intensive training experience for religious leaders focused on dismantling white supremacy and racism. Having grown up in a bilingual household, Rev. Maria's Spanish-language skills are a gift to our congregation.

Over the Candidate Weekend, the congregation had an opportunity to learn more about their vision for pastoral leadership at Calvary. Revs. Sally and Maria shared their deep faith and strong commitment to being part of a gospel community and we also

experienced their warmth and good humor as well as their theological depth and passion for justice. It is exciting how well their gifts, talents, and experience match up with Calvary's ministry priorities.

Their joint sermon on Sunday, January 8, 2017, reminding us to walk together as a beloved community with our God when we are afraid, was a welcome word at this time for many of us here in the DC metro area. We thank God for the Spirit's guidance. We commit together anew to work in partnership fostering God's beloved community on earth most especially at Calvary Baptist Church through the pastoral leadership of Revs. Sally Sarratt & Maria Swearingen!



Pastor Sally and Pastor Maria during their joint sermon Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2017.

## Calvary is a Sanctuary Church!

Following a Calvary Conversation following worship Sunday, December 18, and further discussion during the Annual Business meeting Sunday, January 22, Calvary voted unanimously to support a proposal from the Missions Committee to join the Sanctuary Church movement. As a Sanctuary Church, Calvary promises to use its facilities if needed to host members of the immigrant community so they can avoid deportation, as well as applying for additional funding to provide legal services to the immigrant community. Calvary also pledged to be public in its beliefs about the need for immigration reform in the United States and to advocate with and for immigrants in the church and in our community.





# Music and the Arts

## Advent and Christmas: Many Good Gifts!

Thanks and bravo to all who participated in music and worship during Advent and Christmas at Calvary.

-Trio Pacem performed in worship on December 4, Advent 2. Thanks to Victor Tupitza for supporting these fine musicians!

-Calvary Children's Choir, plus Rachel Alcazar, viola; Ruthie Alcazar, violin; Angelica Angdisen, piano; Graham Velsey, organ. All these brought music during worship on December 11, Advent 3.

-Festival Choir, A Service of Lessons and Carols on December 18, Advent 4.

-Keevin Lewis and Zain Shariff, for music leadership Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thank you!

-Rachel Alcazar conducted Sanctuary Choir, in support of Shalom Scholarship; and Angelica Angdisen accompanied Sanctuary Choir at the piano on Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2017.

## A Very Special February

February 2017 featured music celebrating Black History Month. February 19, Calvary welcomed Westmont College Orchestra, from Santa Barbara. This fine orchestra of 60 students, under the direction of Dr. Michael Shasberger, accompanied our hymn singing and played great orchestral music for our features of the day. After worship, the music continued in a brief open rehearsal, preparing for their performance at the Kennedy Center. Bravo, Westmont! Thanks to Cindy Petty at Music Celebrations International for coordinating this visit. February 26, Calvary observed Transfiguration Sunday and closed out Black History Month with *Midnight Cry* and *Hear My Prayer* by Moses Hogan. It was a great day to welcome Pastors Maria and Sally to Calvary!

## Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Our Lenten journey began **March 1**, Ash Wednesday—many thanks to John Dautzenberg, Emily Honzel and Zain Shariff for music leadership in our evening worship. Sunday, **March 5**, we put our Alleluias away for Lent, and Festival Choir rehearsals began in the afternoon. Love to sing? Join us Sunday afternoons during Lent, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Music Suite. Palm Sunday, **April 9**, we open worship, and conclude with a Passion focus. Children and Youth of all ages, are invited to join in the opening Procession of Palms! Children's Choir rehearses in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m., all others, join us at 10:45 a.m. in the Narthex. We'll wave palm branches and sing Hosannas as we open worship together! Be sure to note the opportunities Maundy Thursday, **April 13**, and Good Friday, **April 14**. Then Easter morning, **April 16**, Festival Choir rehearsal begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Arrive early for worship with the Prelude beginning at 10:50 a.m.—we open in darkness, remembering the Good Friday Tenebrae worship. Then we hear the resurrection story, and celebrate with our Alleluias! Be sure to invite friends and family to worship at Calvary this holy season.

Sunday, **March 19**, we continue our Lenten walk in worship we added two special moments: remembering the life and legacy of **Al Nielsen**, and blessing and sending **Keevin Lewis**. Al and Vivian Nielsen were longtime and very active members here at Calvary. Keevin Lewis another pillar at Calvary, serving faithfully and well as a member of our organ team, and in leadership as Board Representative for Music and Arts. Keevin is retiring from a career at Smithsonian, and planning a new future: marriage to Francine Boyle and moving West! Be sure to join us in worship on March 19 and share in these precious moments with our dear Calvary friends.

## Save These Important Dates

The weekend of **June 3-4** will be a time of celebration—Calvary's **155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming!** Join us Saturday, June 3, as we install Co-Pastors Maria and Sally followed by a reception. Then Sunday, June 4, we celebrate 155 years in worship. Stay tuned for more details, and be sure to invite all your Calvary friends to come home for the weekend! June 4, Pentecost Sunday, is also the final day of our 2016-17 season. So it's a great day to worship and give thanks. Calvary's summer schedule begins the week of June 5.

## Thank You, Calvary!

...for your prayers of support, your participation, and your generous gifts. Got an idea to share? A good word of encouragement? A special gift to bring? Be sure to contact Lauren Hovis, Music and Arts Chair, laurenhovis@gmail.com, or Cheryl Branham, Director of Music, cbranham@calvarydc.org.

Wishing everyone in the Calvary Community many good gifts this holy season!

Cheryl Branham



# Birthdays at Calvary (March-May)

## March

- 1 Osmond Cain  
Leah Davis
- 2 R. Lee Jeter  
Matthew Daley  
Brenda Perlera
- 4 Wilma Lucile Snider  
Laura Canfield  
Lee Fain
- 5 William Tatham  
Henry Wray
- 7 Rebecca Vaughn
- 9 Laurie Bryant
- 10 Patricia Neighbarger  
Sarah Irvine  
Michael Fahey  
Allison Lee-Villanueva
- 13 Sherry Nelson
- 14 Henry Altman
- 15 Bobbie Michael
- 17 Vermel Magruder  
Raymond Chin
- 19 Matthew Hoffer  
Ashley Becker
- 20 Rameen Chaharbaghi
- 21 Michael Whatley
- 22 Maria Swearingen
- 23 Ryan Harvey  
Holly Miller  
Hayden Butler  
Santiago Alcalá-Laboy
- 25 Lynnette Lee-Villanueva  
Amaka Anku
- 26 Barbara Cristy  
Katie Thomas-Canfield  
Eli Bebbler
- 27 Susan Jean Cornwell  
Kirsten Hancock  
Michael Overby
- 28 David Mein
- 29 Caroline Armijo
- 30 Grace Lipman  
José Nuñez-Santamaria  
Pamela Rose Frierson
- 31 Sandra Eusebio  
Iphigenia Rogers

## April

- 1 William Hughes
- 2 Lloyd Labis
- 3 Michelle Harris-Love  
John Salazar
- 4 George Baker  
Daniel Waters  
Michael Labis
- 7 Charles Barnes
- 8 Elizabeth Mein  
Sandra Pereira-Nuñez
- 13 Lu Shan
- 14 John Dautzenberg  
Kathy Wray  
Howard Ammerman  
Marili Alvarado  
Mayra Durán
- 15 Virginia Teller  
Jerry Gilson
- 16 Kenneth Butler
- 17 Stella Joseph
- 18 Robert Sullivan
- 19 Deacon Robinson
- 21 Anna Xochitl Settels-Palacios
- 22 Roberto Reyes
- 23 John Dehnel  
Yu Mon Min  
Laura Beth Blythe-Goodman
- 24 Harry F. S. Ng  
Gordon Harris  
Melody Dameron-Ellis  
Enrique Armijo
- 25 Allyson Wisdom Vamplew  
Cristian Durán
- 26 Russell Harrison  
Kresha Thilagaras  
Mabel Appiah-Duffell
- 27 Alberto Gutierrez
- 30 Annie Kathleen Smith  
Marguerite Callaway  
Anabel Montesano

## May

- 1 Uzziel Mendez
- 3 Harold Ritchie  
Theodore Kyin Oo  
Henderson Pritchard  
Chelsea Thomas  
Sarah Healy
- 4 Andrew Iwanik  
Andrea Mae Angdisen
- 5 Doreen Maran  
Janiele Ziganay  
Aung Myint
- 6 Sandra Chang  
Oliver Armijo
- 7 Lorena Pereira-Decorado  
Selinam Anku
- 8 Betty Ann Lewis Giuliano  
William Michael  
Benjamin Mann
- 10 Ninh Nguyen  
Timothy Strait
- 12 Hka Tawm Maran
- 14 Amy Sullivan  
Steven Burneston  
Lucia Armijo
- 15 James W. Ammerman
- 17 Wallace Huie  
Robert Ellis
- 18 Thelma Jeter
- 19 Mohamed Hassan
- 20 Jeremy Fretts  
Jocelyn López-Arias
- 22 Richard Havard
- 23 Clayton Magruder  
David Grise
- 24 Hannah Breckenridge
- 25 Richmond Ballew  
Karen Heidelberg
- 26 Van Rin
- 27 Eugene Goon
- 28 Matthew Maxwell
- 29 Everett Harris  
John Thayer  
Carol Thomason
- 30 Argentina Angdisen
- 31 George Lucas  
Liliana Guandique



## Sunday School

The Children's Sunday school class enjoyed learning about Moses this past fall. One of their favorite lessons involved building the Ark of the Covenant. Roberto guided the students as they constructed the Ark. The children dressed up in our Bible time costumes and paraded through the desert (aka: around the church). They stopped along the way to show folks the Ten Commandments and the manna they were carrying.

As usual our schedule was full during the Advent season! Some of the children and youth lit the Joy candle during the worship service. And of course the kids sang beautifully for the congregation. Christmas wouldn't be complete without a big tree, so the children decorated the Christmas tree in the church office for all to enjoy. During Children's Church each week the class held their own Advent Worship Service that included lighting the candle, reading scripture, singing a song and closing with a prayer. Each child had their own worship bulletin that they worked in every Sunday.

In January we met Pastor's Maria and Sally during worship. To help our pastor's get to know us, each child recently created a page of introduction for them along with their photo. The children are anxious to get to know our new pastors too.

Currently the children are learning about the Fruit of the Spirit. Each week we study a different "fruit". So far we have learned about love, joy and peace. In addition to reading what the Bible tells us about these "fruits" we have read story books and discussed each characteristic that we as Christian should develop. We've played a Fruit of the Spirit game and enjoyed some word search puzzles. Josh used his cell phone to pull up a You Tube song so we could learn to sing, "The Fruit of the Spirit's Not a Coconut". The children are looking forward to more interesting activities in the upcoming weeks as we continue to study the Fruit of the Spirit!

Easter is fast approaching and we will be starting our Lenten lessons soon. Our hope is that all of the children will be joining us for some interesting hands on learning this spring.

## 2016 Annual Business Meeting Summary

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Following a lunch provided by the Shalom Scholarship Committee raising over \$600 for the Shalom Scholarship Fund, Becky Vaughn Shaw called the Annual business meeting to order. A quorum was present and the minutes of the October 23 business meeting were approved as published.

The slate of nominees for church leadership positions as presented by the Nominations Committee was approved.

Following a Calvary Conversation December 18, and lengthy discussion regarding immigrants and the Sanctuary movement, the congregation approved five motions from the Missions Committee; 1) to provide training programs and education (i.e. Know Your Rights etc.) to our congregation and support a legal clinic, 2) pursuant to the 2014 United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement memorandum regarding prosecutorial discretion not to enforce the removal of undocumented immigrants in sensitive places, including churches, Calvary will include in the February 15 grant proposal a request for funds to give sanctuary to immigrants who are members or affiliates of our church, 3) seeking to be a courageous voice, Calvary will publicize and formally take a public stance announcing it is a sanctuary church, 4) seeking to join a chorus of courageous voices, Calvary will publicize a national public sanctuary movement, provide sanctuary to immigrants in the Calvary family pursuant to the approval of the board regarding the immigrants' particular circumstances and a plan of support, 5) Calvary will provide sanctuary to immigrants outside of the Calvary family if necessary, pursuant to the approval of the board regarding the immigrants' particular circumstances and a plan of support.

Copies of the 2016 Annual Report are available from the church office or can be emailed by contacting Paul Rosstead (prosstead@calvarydc.org).





# Snapshots



Dr. Robert Darden during his presentation February 17, 2017.



Westmont College Orchestra in worship on February 19, 2017



Pastors Maria, Erica, Sally, and Elijah read on as Church Administrator Paul Rosstead reads the Gospel lesson on Transfiguration Sunday, February 26, 2017.



Calvary's Ministerial Selection Committee during the congregational vote on February 26, 2017.



Cake to celebrate Pastors Sally and Maria, February 26, 2017.



# Coming Up at Calvary

**Arise: A Queer Theology Collaborative** meets for current event and book discussion the second Wednesday of each month. We are studying *Liberating Sexuality* by Miguel de la Torre. Arise also meets the fourth Wednesday each month for dinner or happy hour social. Arise is an ecumenical discussion group for any LGBTQ-identified persons. Contact Pastor Erica for more information.

## A Calvary Conversation on Social Justice

Join us Sunday, **April 9** for a presentation by Whitney Parnell, Co-Founder and CEO of Service Never Sleeps (SNS). This conversation begins a new Calvary Conversation series on social justice issues the second Sunday of each month.

SNS is a social justice-oriented nonprofit whose vision is to foster a community of concerned citizens who refuse to stop serving for as long as social injustice exists. SNS mobilizes the community to serve as allies who are collectively working toward the common purpose of ensuring equality, opportunity and inclusion for everyone. SNS' 3-prong model includes hosting a fellowship year of part-time service for working young professionals, partnering with companies to facilitate skills-based service projects for employees, and hosting a half-day "Allyship" workshop that trains people to be effective allies.

Whitney is a rising Millennial activist, and the Co-Founder and CEO of Service Never Sleeps (SNS). She grew up between Latin America and West Africa as a Foreign Service child. At Washington University in St. Louis, Whitney doubled majored in English and Spanish, and minored in Communications and Journalism, during which she also embraced her calling as a "Professional Humanitarian." Whitney's passion for service and social justice brought her to Washington, DC to serve with Americorps (City Year), and then work in homeless services, before founding Service Never Sleeps in 2015. Whitney is excited to create a movement of service and allies by igniting quick social change through mass civic engagement and collaboration.



## Easter Lilies



Easter Lilies displayed in the sanctuary will enhance our Easter worship services. These plants may be ordered in memory or honor of the person(s) of your choice. Our Easter worship bulletin will include a listing of the donors and the persons being honored. Please fill out the form below and attach your payment (with the notation Lily on the memo line). The form may be mailed to the church office, or placed in the offering plate on or before **Monday, April 10**.

I / We would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Lily(ies) at \$15.00 each. Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After worship I/we would like to:  donate the Lily(ies)  deliver the Lily(ies) to a shut-in  take the Lily(ies) home

Donor's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Easter lilies can also be ordered online; see [calvarydc.org/give](http://calvarydc.org/give) page of our website and select "Easter Lilies" for the donation designation. Contact the church office if you have any questions or need help.

Rev. Sally Sarratt and Rev. Maria Swearingen, Co-Senior Pastors  
 Rev. Erica Lea, Pastor in Residence; Rev. Elijah Zehyoe, Pastoral Resident;  
 Cheryl Branham, Director of Music; Harold L. Ritchie, Editor Emeritus; Paul Rosstead, Church Administrator;  
 Sabra Barrett, Administrative and Communications Assistant

### Calvary Baptist Church

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