

THE CALLER

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

May/June 2015

Calvary's Interim Journey: Taking Stock and Looking Forward



Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our first Calvary survey. ***How Have We Come to This Place?—A Congregational Assessment of Calvary's Past*** was designed to help us take an honest look at the years under pastors Clarence Cranford, George Hill, Lynn Bergfalk, and Amy Butler. As there are good and not-so-good times in any pastoral tenure, the survey responses (a total of fifty-three were received), while showing significant appreciation for these past pastors and their time here, also raised important concerns, things to discuss and consider before the calling of a new minister.

Besides the look at pastoral tenures—and the highlights, pastoral and congregational strengths, difficult times and concerns in each—we also asked about individual involvements in Calvary: What attracted you to Calvary? What were your initial excitements and impressions? Recall a time when you felt most alive at

Calvary. When did you feel most committed or enthused? Recall a time when you were most proud of Calvary. Recall a time when you were disappointed with Calvary. And, how has this congregation contributed to your life?

During worship on Sunday, April 26, the findings were presented and then discussed after worship at the Quarterly business meeting. The raw survey data (31 pages) soon will be available from the church office. As many of the responses said the same thing in slightly different ways, the survey findings presented to the congregation were edited to eight pages—but please know that every idea or opinion was included, and was preserved as close as possible to the words given. Copies of the edited survey results presented to the congregation also can be obtained in the church office, or found on the *Transitions* page of the church website.

In the next few days a link to the second survey, ***Who are We?—A Congregational Assessment of Calvary's Present***, will be sent out for your response. In this survey you'll be asked ten questions: **1.** What is our distinctive character, personality, or soul? **2.** What are our current gifts and strengths? **3.** Are there things that repeatedly trip us up as a church, that cause us to stumble? If so, what are they? **4.** What is our mission? What is God asking of us? **5.** What are our core values? (name up to six) **6.** What is our commitment to social ministry/advocacy? **7.** Does our current worship reflect who we are as a church? If so, how? If not, how? **8.** What do we want/need from staff? **9.** What are our current challenges as a congregation? **10.** What are those things we need to give attention to now?

Now, here's how your answers can be most helpful. **First**, read the first survey to familiarize yourself with the responses (our three surveys each build upon the other). **Second**, pray that your answers are not how you think things *should be*, but how they *really are*. **Third**, complete the survey, and encourage others to do so, as well. Thanks and we'll let you know what we find.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Joe

Mission Trip to El Salvador Calvary: A Missionary Church

By Rev. Edgar Palacios

It was wonderful to see Truman, Carter, Rachel, Roberto, Susana and other members of Calvary, working together with members of the Shalom Baptist Church, building a house for a poor family in 2012 on the outskirts of San Salvador, El Salvador. This was one of several activities during one of our Educational Missionary Trips. Some of Calvary's leadership team of previous years participated in these trips; I remember Amy Butler, our former senior pastor, leading one of these immersive experiences.

Why does Calvary have the enthusiasm to travel to El Salvador, a country that has been ravaged by a civil war that lasted 12 years? Because Calvary is a missionary church and loves the Salvadoran people. And this means putting into practice the mission that Jesus Christ entrusted to his disciples: to take the gospel of the Kingdom of God beyond our "tent".



It is one thing to talk or write about the Kingdom of God and another to serve the needy, the poor, and the victims. Calvary lives the Kingdom of God with the Shalom Scholarship Fund, which helps young Baptists to study and prepare for technical and university careers. We also partner with Shalom Baptist Church, our sister church, as they serve the poor children of San Salvador. We live the Kingdom of God when we join hands with Salvadorian youth and adults in a project that helps a family of low income live better, or when we add the work of our hands and financial resources to help build a church or house of worship for a community in need.

The Educational Missionary trips of Calvary to El Salvador, help us to understand and respond to the causes of the military conflict that took more than 75,000 lives and the people's struggle for peace. This struggle has been an example to the world, that the biggest obstacles can be overcome when there is the will, and people are open to dialogue and negotiation. With these immersive experiences we see displayed the power of hope that has people building a future of justice and dignity. It should be noted that El Salvador, like many other countries in the world, continues its battle against poverty and violence. And in this battle churches, universities, social forces and government play a prominent role. Calvary within its ability, is part of this crusade of love.

With these missionary experiences, holding the hand of God, we aim to get to know another perspective of life to strengthen our spirit to obey God's will. El Salvador is part of the "Galilee" where we can see the risen Jesus.

The next mission trip will be **September 5 to 12, 2015**. If you are interested in participating with the mission team this year, be on the lookout for the next meeting, when we will share the requirements and costs of the trip. For now we share that in addition to getting to know the beauty of this tropical country, its lakes and beaches we will also get to know its population and the opinions of academic and religious leaders, leaders of social forces on the situation of the country, and meet with the students supported by our Shalom Scholarship Fund. In addition, we may help construct a building for the Baptist Church Rios de Agua Viva.

Calvary is a missionary church, a church of love, which is strengthened in faith, by serving, identifying with the just causes of the poor and sharing a common cause with other churches who practice the ministry of reconciliation.

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|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Save the Dates!</p> <p>Calvary's Pastoral Residents, Elijah Zehyoue and Erica Lea will be ordained this summer pending a successful ordination process and congregational vote. Pastor Erica's ordination is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2:00 p.m. Pastor Elijah's ordination is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 26 during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Please keep them in your prayers as they go through this process.</p> |  |
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Calvary at the Alliance

By Carol Blythe

Calvary members attended the Alliance of Baptists Annual Gathering in Atlanta GA, April 17-19. Prior to the meeting, Amparito Palacios & Carol Blythe were at the Board Meeting, Becky Vaughn joined old friends from Northside Baptist where she attended back in the day, Susan Sevier attended the Clergy/Chaplains retreat, Pastor Edgar talked with Baptist friends from Cuba and Brazil, and that same day others from Calvary drove down to Atlanta in the borrowed van from our friends in Calvary Baptist Burmese Congregation!

All in all Edgar Palacios, Elijah Zehyoue, Susan Sevier, Eugenia Reyes, Becky Vaughn, Lorena Periera, Corina Lopez, Mayra Rivas, Christian Duran, Mayrita Duran, Rick Goodman, Amparito Palacios and Carol Blythe were present at the Gathering—as well as former Calvary members or staff: Isabel Docampo, Jason Smith, Leah Grundset Davis and Cathy Tamsberg. We decided Calvary should get the “most church members present” award!

This year’s gathering theme was “We’ve a Story to Hear from the Nations.” The Alliance celebrated 25 years of partnerships by listening to voices from Baptists partners in Cuba, the Republic of Georgia, Mexico, Brazil, Morocco, and many in programs in the US as well. On Friday, we all participated in a workshop to learn to listen to those on the “outside” of power. The afternoon included a workshop on immigration at which our own Lorena Periera shared her story of immigration, as well as comments from other Calvary members on their immigration stories. The evening worship featured Spanish singing as we celebrated the long partnership between the Alliance and the Fraternity of Baptists of Cuba. We learned this weekend about how our Cuban Baptist friends cancelled their annual gathering one year and donated the money instead to relief for Cubans in an area hit hard by Hurricane Sandy.

Friday evening, Elijah drove the Calvary group to the gravesites of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and his wife, Coretta Scott King—and then to see his *alma mater*, Morehouse College.

On Saturday our Calvary children, Christian & Mayrita, visited a nearby farm (come to the worship May 10 to hear more during the children’s story!) along with Mama Mayra. Calvary members participated in workshops again (ask Eugenia about her translating duties that day) as well as the Annual Meeting where Carol Blythe presented the two statements, on Lethal Drone Warfare and US/Cuba Relations, both of which were accepted by consensus. Saturday evening Cathy Tamsberg preached and shared news of our Baptist friends in the Republic of Georgia. Cathy shared how the Baptist in Georgia refused special recognition by the government and instead advocated for religious freedom for all “minority” religions. She also told us about one Christmas when they decided to cancel various celebrations and instead use the funds to help refugees from Chechnya—often seen as enemies to Georgians. We learned much hearing stories of our Baptist sisters & brothers in the Republic of Georgia.

In Sunday’s closing worship, Mahan Siler talked about the principles that the founders of the Alliance adopted when the Alliance began in 1987, the new ways to be more inclusive in the years since, the home many Baptists found in this progressive movement of Baptist Christians, the attention to shared power and partnership in mission rather than a top-down model the Alliance has pursued, and finally, the thread of shalom as incarnated in Jesus and as incarnated in us as we strive each day to love God, to love each other and to love our neighbors.

During that morning’s worship we sang the beautiful words of The Servant Song, “Sister/Brother let me be your servant, Let me be as Christ to you, Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my servant, too.” All three days we heard stories that shared how Alliance of Baptists and our partners here in the US and around the world are sharing love, being servants, holding the Christ-light and speaking peace. It was a wonderful gathering!

On Sunday May 10, our worship will be led by those who attended the Alliance gathering. You will want to be present!



Music Programs

Dr. Cheryl Branham, Director of Music

A Beautiful Holy Season of Music at Calvary!

Many thanks to all our volunteer, staff and guest musicians who contributed their time and talents to bring us a wonderful season of music during Lent, on Palm Sunday and on Easter day!

Calvary Sanctuary Choir, you mean so much to the Calvary community and to me personally. Thank you for the beauty you bring to worship each week, for the leadership you provide to our congregation as we move through each element of worship, and for the sense of community you create among us. Throughout Lent, your work in music helped us to reflect and to confess. Your weekly commitment is a gift to us all and we are so very grateful.

Thanks to all the children, youth, and adult leaders who participated in our exciting Procession of Palms on Palm Sunday—you really helped us to recreate the sense of excitement the early Christians must have felt as they welcomed Jesus, waving palm branches and singing Hosanna! Calvary Children's Choir, Parents and Teachers: thanks for everything you do to support Music for Kids on Sunday mornings during worship—this is our rehearsal period and the chance for us to prepare to sing our best in worship throughout the year! We sing again on Anniversary Sunday, June 7, so mark your calendar now.

Chamber Singers, thank you for the wonderful concert on Passion Sunday afternoon—*Reflections on the Passion* featured Caldara *Stabat Mater* and Bach *St. Matthew Passion* excerpts. What a great opportunity for all ages to hear this music! And it was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with Ensemble 2015 and their conductor, Tomás Fajardo. Kathy and Jac Whatley, thank you for serving as Calvary hosts during our lunch break and for making everyone feel welcome. Bravo, everyone!

Easter Festival Choir, bravo and thank you for the intensive season of rehearsal and preparation—each Sunday afternoon during Lent plus two Thursday evening rehearsals! You proved it once again: spectacular accomplishment never is preceded by less than spectacular preparation. This year's Festival Choir singers and instrumentalists included: Sopranos Katie Harvey, Aleah Prentice, Michelle Rupp, Virginia Sawyer, Amy Shaw, Amelia Taylor; Altos Salima Appiah-Duffell, Teresa Ferrara, Caitlin Gompf, Betty Mein, Kathy Whatley; Tenors Dwayne Pinkney, Darnell Roulhac; Bass-Baritones Ryan Harvey, Zain Shariff, Tim Shaw, Jac Whatley; Matt Daley, organ; Ashley Dalton, flute; Tomás Fajardo, violin; Nurmira Greenberg, cello. Thank you, one and all.

Calvary Community, Music at Calvary (a handy umbrella term for our overall music program...) is for you! Continue to participate by singing, playing an instrument, attending events, giving generously, and of course praying for our work. We rely on your abiding support! May our music and our worship always reflect our very best efforts, to the glory of God—Amen and Amen!

Worldstrides Heritage Choral Festival

Calvary continues to serve as a home for music in DC. On Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, Calvary hosted this annual event—our third season! High school choirs from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ontario, and Pennsylvania performed in our Sanctuary space for a panel of three judges and for an appreciative audience. Calvary is blessed with a worship space that is particularly well-suited for choral music, and of course our guests are always amazed by the stunning beauty of the space. Stay tuned for info about next year's festival, and make plans to drop by for some beautiful choral music!

Organ Insights

So far in 2015, we've offered three events in our series. In February, Patrick Kabanda performed in Concert and presented a paper on music in the developing world. In March, Calvary's organ curator Irv Lawless spoke to us after worship about the history of our instrument. Matt Daley and Keevin Lewis hosted an exploration of the varied sounds of the organ plus a "petting zoo" opportunity after worship on May 3. More events to come throughout the year! Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about the



Music Programs (continued)

Calvary organ while we also grow together in our appreciation of this tremendous instrument. Become a "Calvary Organ Donor!" Your gift to the Organ Fund is welcome at any time: celebrate a birthday, honor a loved one, include the organ in your final plans. Every gift large and small is welcome, and will support the care and feeding of our Moller-Wicks organ. Thank you!

Coming Up

Sunday afternoon, **May 17**, 3:00 PM in the Calvary Chapel, hear guitarist Charles Mokotoff in recital. This special program is presented by the Hearing Loss Association of America, DC Chapter. Mr Mokotoff has lived with hearing loss most of his life. As he performs, technology will be available specifically to serve those in the audience with hearing loss. Don't miss this unique opportunity. All ages are welcome!

Be sure to join us in worship as we round out the 2014-15 season! Pentecost, **May 24**, features a summer style of worship with several of Calvary's musicians creating an "unplugged" music team. Anniversary Sunday, **June 7**, features festive music in worship presented by Calvary Children's Choir and Sanctuary Choir, plus church-wide lunch afterward. This day marks the start of our annual summer hiatus for music programming. Over the summer, keep a weather eye for All-Come Choir opportunities—come sing with us!

New Members Spotlight



Adam Hall joined Calvary in March. Adam is from central Virginia, but has lived in the DC area for a few years. He is currently a student at Wesley seminary. Adam is excited to call Calvary home and getting to know us better!



Will Slack joined Calvary in April. He moved to DC from Decatur, Ga where he was formerly a member at Oakhurst Baptist Church. Will is excited to be at Calvary because in many ways it reminds him of his home church in Decatur.

2015 Pictorial Directory

We are working on completing our Pictorial Directory, if you were not here to have your picture taken by Karla Fahey, and would like to have your picture included in the directory, please email your photo by Friday, May 15, to Paul (prosstead@calvarydc.org).



Snapshots



Easter 2015 at Calvary



Calvary members, present and past, at the 2015 Alliance Gathering in Atlanta, Georgia.



Calvary members standing by the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in Atlanta



Pastor Edgar, Corina, Lorena, Amparo and Eugenia meet new friends outside Northside Drive Baptist Church in Atlanta for Alliance Gathering

Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America/ Bautistas por la Paz Summer Conference aka Peace Camp

July 6-11!
Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, VA!
Children, youth, & adult sessions!
Cost is on a sliding scale!
Contact Pastor Erica by **June 5** if you are interested in joining the Calvary group!



Youth Summer

Join us **May 31** for our trip to Six Flags America. We will leave for the amusement park in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, following worship that morning! Young adults, families with children, and all other Calvary folks are welcomed to attend!

Vacation Bible School is **July 17-19** at Camp Fraser! We look forward to seeing you there.

Like camping? Live music? Good Preaching? Thoughtful Seminars? Theology? Justice? People? Outdoors? If you said yes to any of these questions, then the

Wild Goose Festival

(July 9-12 in Hot Springs, NC)

is for you. We are trying to get a group together to go.

Please contact Pastor Elijah (ezehyoue@calvarydc.org) if you are interested

Coming Up Soon!

(some are this week)

SHALOM SCHOLARSHIP TEA FUNDRAISER. You and your family are invited to Mother's Day High Tea, **Saturday, May 9, 2:00 p.m.** in the Chapel. Purchase tickets during Coffee Hour, in the church office or at the door: adults \$10 and children \$5. All proceeds support Shalom Scholarship Fund. Treat your mom, friends, mom's friends or friends' moms to a beautiful and delicious afternoon! Contact Karen Heidelberger, heidelbergerjk@gmail.com.

CALVARY AT THE BALLPARK, Saturday, May 9. Nationals take on Braves, 4:05 p.m. Tickets are \$25, paid to Becky Vaughn or Jay Mayfield. Invite your friends and join us after high tea!

SHALOM SCHOLARSHIP SHOPPES are exciting fundraising events held throughout the year to support Shalom Scholarship. Next Shoppe, **Sunday, May 10** during Coffee Hour. For more information contact Holly Miller, hollydotmiller@gmail.com; like our Facebook page, too!

CROP WALK, Saturday, May 16. Join the Calvary team to raise money for The Hunger Fund. Meet at Calvary, 10:30 a.m. Walk begins 11:00 a.m. at Franklin Park. Contact Carol Blythe.

Sunday June 7: Happy 153rd Anniversary, Calvary!

Invite family and friends, and make plans now to join us Sunday, June 7, as we celebrate Calvary's 153rd anniversary and wrap up the 2014-15 season. **At 9:30 a.m. in Woodward Hall, join Pastor Edgar and the Latino Fellowship for a Caribbean Breakfast**—all are invited to participate in this time of fun, food and fellowship. Sunday school begins at a special time, 10:00 a.m. **Worship at 11:00 a.m.** features special music presented by Calvary Children's Choir and Sanctuary Choir. **At the conclusion of worship, it's another Calvary tradition: our annual community photograph!** Following the Postlude, everyone in attendance that day is invited to gather at the front of the Sanctuary space for our congregational photo—parents and teachers, thanks for assisting with Calvary's children. Then, **lunch is served in Woodward Hall at 12:30 p.m.** and all are invited; suggested contribution is \$10—thanks for giving as generously as you are able. Summer programming begins June 14, so keep an eye out for information about our Combined summer Sunday school, small groups, All-Come Choir opportunities, and other special events like Vacation Bible School and Wild Goose. Looking forward to celebrating with everyone in the Calvary Community on June 7! Thanks for another rich and wonderful year of church life together, Calvary. Give thanks to God for such good gifts!

Capital Pride Weekend June 12-14. Make sure to join us for the interfaith service Friday, parade Saturday, and then festival Sunday, watch for more details.



Edith Miller Scholarship Fund

The Edith Miller Scholarship awards grants to worthy students based upon guidelines established by the Christian Formation Committee of Calvary Baptist Church. This fund was started by a long-time Calvary member, Edith Miller. Edith came to Washington and joined Calvary during WWI. Edith worked for many years as a paralegal for a law firm. She was a member of the Burrall Class, a group of active and engaged young working women. An adventurous spirit, Edith shared amazing stories about traveling across the US before the modern highway system was built. Because she had a car, Edith drove many a "Burrall girl", her husband and new baby home from the hospital! Although she made a modest living, she was very generous in supporting Calvary students in college, often sending money to those who were away at college. Upon her death, the church was humbled to receive the gift of her life savings- \$200,000- for a scholarship to continue to help Calvary members fund their education. We give thanks for the life and memory of Edith Miller.

Applications for Edith Miller Scholarships are available from the Church Office; deadline is Monday, **June 1**. These funds provide awards to qualifying members of Calvary who have financial need as they continue their education. Contact Paul Rosstead.

Remembering Calvary in Your Will

Calvary has received an undesignated bequest from the estate of Helen L. Bailey. Helen joined Calvary on February 9, 1928 when she was thirteen-years-old. Helen died on November 5, 1914—just days shy of her ninety-ninth birthday. Her last known address was Boynton Beach, Florida. Thank you, Helen.

Helen's gift is a good reminder to all of us that death doesn't relieve us of our commitments to God or to Christ's church. Please consider generously including Calvary, if you haven't already done so, in your will—and, thus help to insure the witness of Calvary will continue for many years to come.

SMALL GROUPS

LATINO FELLOWSHIP @ 9:30 a.m. Sundays (Calvary Chapel)

ENGLISH ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:45 a.m. Sundays (Butler Hall)

THEOLOGY ON DRAFT @ 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays (Butler Hall)

LECTIONARY LUNCH @ 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays. (Calvary Library)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORDS @ 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays (Senior Pastor's Office)

Latino Bible Study @ 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays (Pastor Edgar's Office)

ZUMBA @ 6:00 p.m. Fridays (Butler Hall)

Business Meeting Dates

The Church Board has set the following dates for Quarterly Business Meetings in 2015 and for the Annual Business Meeting in January 2016.

Sunday, July 26, 2015 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, 2015 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 24, 2016 12:30 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Glaze, Pastor During the Interim

Rev. Edgar Palacios, Associate Pastor; Erica Lea, Pastoral Resident; 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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