



## THE CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

**PRESERVE • SUSTAIN • SHARE**



### **A Message from the Reverend Jonathon Jensen**

Something I have come to learn in my time here as Rector was quite a revelation that I would like to share with you, but first a bit of context.

At Calvary, we have long had a commitment to serve our neighbors in our city. We do this in a variety of ways. Many of our members volunteer in hands-on ministries or on boards of non-profits. We serve in numerous, direct forms of outreach such as the Berry Project (Christmas gifts for local needy families) and the Holiday Bazaar through which more than \$20,000 is raised each year to benefit women and children in the East End of Pittsburgh. Outreach to our neighbors in the form of giving funds or volunteering are both appreciated and admirable. However, we have a form of outreach that is so obvious and powerful, it is easily overlooked.

The revelation was that our buildings are a profound form of outreach to the community.

Every church shares space with outside groups but not to the degree or frequency that Calvary offers. The sharing of our buildings allows other, complementary ministries and programs to improve life for the citizens in our city and beyond through direct service and advocacy, education, support groups, music, and other areas. Simply put, we provide space so their ministry can happen or happen more effectively to improve lives.

I am proud that we are able to serve our community in this way. I hope you will begin to see the sharing of space in our buildings as a significant and far-reaching form of outreach. Your generosity makes this possible. All of these outside groups are partners in ministry with us. We don't all do the same things, but work together to make Pittsburgh a more just and livable city for the benefit of all. This outreach is our calling, our mission, our vision.

Thank you.

## SOME OF WHAT WE DO...



### CLASP

A ministry offering weekly after-school arts enrichment to students of the Lincoln-Larimer Elementary School. All of the children are provided scholarships to attend a week at Sheldon Calvary Camp.



### A PRIEST AND A RABBI WALK INTO A CLASSROOM

40 – 60 people attend this weekly class in which Father Jensen and Rabbi Bisno teach and discuss the parables of Jesus.



### ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The class of 10 – 20 people meets twice a week to learn about American language and culture.



### TREE OF LIFE HIGH HOLY DAYS AT CALVARY

What began as neighbors reaching out to neighbors following the mass killings at TOL has blossomed into friendships and collaborations, setting the stage for the Center for Interfaith Collaboration.



### DePAUL SCHOOL FOR HEARING & SPEECH

Calvary provides an office for the Executive Director, and is helping establish a partnership between the school and Chatham Baroque to teach music to the students.



### CHATHAM BAROQUE

Our Ensemble-in-Residence for many years, now actually resides at Calvary, renting offices in the former Beginnings Preschool space.



### **MUSIC**

In addition to its own glorious choir, Calvary hosts many other musical groups and performances including Chatham Baroque, American Guild of Organists and the Heinz Chapel Choir.



### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN**

Calvary offers a variety of age-appropriate opportunities for children to engage their mind, body, and spirit to learn more about our faith, God, themselves, and their neighbors.

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## **At Calvary Episcopal Church we are called to love and serve God and our neighbors.**

Walk through the rooms and spaces at Calvary on any given day and time and you will see and hear tangible evidence of some of the many ways in which we respond to that call. Children learning about creation through gardening; English being taught as a second language; collection bins overflowing with shoes and clothes for refugees; more collection bins overflowing with plastic for recycling and with food donations for the East End Cooperative Ministry; Girl Scouts learning First Aid techniques; middle schoolers from Lincoln School drawing stained glass designs; a meeting of the oldest AA support group in Western PA; the celestial sounds of our choir rehearsing in preparation for Sunday services and one of its many performances and concerts. In any given year, Calvary's buildings are shared with as many as 40 other ministries and programs committed to improving life for a broad and diverse cross-section of people in our community.

For our congregation, Calvary is a place of worship, music, formation, pastoral care, service, and relationship, all rooted in Christ. Calvary is also a place we share with our neighbors to enable and strengthen other ministries in the city, including programs for advocacy, education, children, and feeding body and soul. We do so deliberately, not just to provide physical space but to develop relationships and shared partnerships, intentionally walking with our neighbors, to serve our neighbors.

By focusing on our community we are not simply stating what we believe. We are demonstrating what our beliefs compel us to do. The question and focus are not, How do we work together despite our differences? Rather, the questions are, What do we stand for?, What do we do?, and How do we live out our faith?

We are richly blessed at Calvary with a beautiful, awe-inspiring Gothic Revival masterpiece of a building, both grand and intimate, whose spire can be seen from many of the East End neighborhoods it serves. The building is a resource and a beacon; a treasure in stone, wood, and glass that we must preserve and sustain in order to share it with our treasure of people in Pittsburgh. The home in which our ministries thrive cannot be ignored. There must be adequate, appropriate, and safe gathering space for interracial, intergenerational, and interfaith engagement.

## ...AND SOME REASONS WHY WE DO IT



“All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small.”



“All things wise and wonderful,”



“The Lord God made them all.”



“Each little flower that opens,”



“Each little bird that sings,”



“He made their glowing colors;  
He made their tiny wings.”



“He gave us eyes to see them.”



“And lips that we might tell,”



“How great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well.”

Without adequate, properly conserved and maintained facilities, Calvary would have been unable to welcome the Tree of Life Congregation to celebrate the Jewish High Holidays after the October 2018 mass shooting, an outreach that has forever enhanced the relationship among Jews and Christians in our community. Calvary recently welcomed and provides office space to its first Rabbi in Residence, Aaron Bisno, to teach, preach and share his wisdom with us. His vision, shared with our Rector, of a future focused on interfaith collaboration will expand our ability to further fulfill our mission. The class they have been leading on Sunday mornings, A Priest and a Rabbi Walk into a Classroom has drawn enthusiastic participants from numerous faith traditions. Calvary is also the venue in which the Ethiopian Orthodox Church conducts its weekly Saturday services, a further link between Calvary and other religions.

To serve our community and partners, Calvary dedicates two fulltime staff members to schedule and coordinate use of the facility, and to greet visitors and guests. Calvary provides, without cost, all of the physical necessities required for the organizations who use the facility: ample parking, a fully equipped kitchen, photocopying, tables and chairs, a variety of meeting rooms, internet access, sound systems, technical support, and on-site security.

Without sustained investment in this 116-year-old treasure, which others before us have preserved and protected for generations, Calvary cannot continue to be an invaluable beacon of hope and opportunity for its diverse community.

To make that investment possible, Calvary is launching Preserve. Sustain. Share., a \$6 million capital campaign. We are not building anything new. There will not be glitzy additions, nor are there plans to “update” or modernize any of the worship spaces. What we are doing is preserving our precious asset and ensuring adequate sustainable resources with which to share that asset for the foreseeable future.

Since Calvary’s last major campaign over twenty years ago, repairs and upkeep have largely been paid for through the annual operating budget with occasional special gifts, bequests, and one-time designated donations. However, to address the physical needs of the congregation now and for the foreseeable future, and in order to continue to serve as a proactive partner among our many fellow community organizations, Calvary must invest approximately \$6 million over the next five years. This investment will include:

## **PROGRAM AND INFRASTRUCTURE:**

**\$3 million**

### **Interfaith Collaborative Education**

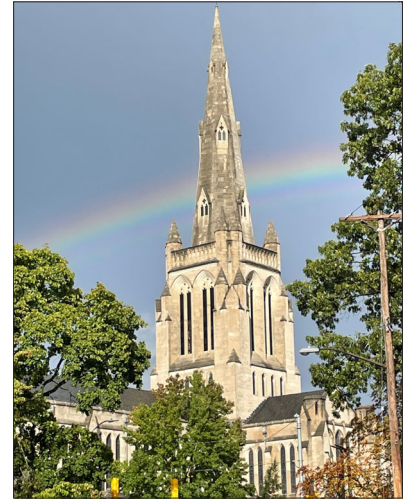
Under the gifted leadership of Rabbi Aaron Bisno, Calvary will help launch The Center for Interfaith Collaboration, a deliberative program to, in his words, “focus on understanding how the wisdom traditions – across-religions and cross-culturally – can help us to ask the most important questions and create the conversations that we need to be having now in order to have faith in the future.” The Center will reach diverse denominations throughout Pittsburgh with lectures and other programs “about issues related to the intersection of faith and wisdom and modern society.”

### **Church Planting**

Calvary has a long history of establishing organized bodies of believers in a new location; St. Stephen’s Wilkesburg, St. James Homewood (now Penn Hills), Church of the Ascension, St. Paul’s Mt. Lebanon, and Fox Chapel Episcopal Church. It has, however, been over 90 years since the last church was planted. Sadly, there are areas just outside Pittsburgh that have no Episcopal Church with a ministry of Word and Sacrament that welcomes and cherishes all. Without a spiritual home some people have been forced out of the communion of faith. Others have yet to hear the good news of Jesus. Calvary is uniquely positioned to nest such a congregation, with the purposeful intent of ultimately planting a new church in a new location.

## Infrastructure

- Complete re-paving of the parking lot (some emergency work has already started, paid for by an early contribution to the capital campaign)
- Improvements and renovations to the Swan Garden for worship, and for the community
- Installation of three new stained glass windows in the Parish House upper entry hall
- Repairs and renovations to stained glass windows in the Nave
- Repairs to, and replacement of Parish House windows with energy-efficient, double-pane glass
- Upgrades to the HVAC system; new cost-effective, energy-efficient boiler
- Repairs to floors and ceilings
- Renovations and cleaning of pew woodwork, cushions and kneelers
- Conversion to LED lightbulbs in the Nave
- Upgrades to several restrooms



## Endowment: \$3 million

Calvary's current endowment of \$7+ million must be increased to at least \$10 million in order to generate an additional \$150,000 in annual income for the long-term maintenance of the building. (Calvary currently draws, as it has for the past 7 years, 4.75% in income from the endowment.)

This investment is part of a vision emanating from the Congregation, refined by the Vestry and our Rector. Through this successful campaign, and through ongoing dedication to its mission and ministry, Calvary will continue to serve as a catalyst for a healthy, compassionate and engaged community.



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Don MacLeod, *Campaign Co-Chair*

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Bob Eley      David Jeong      The Rev. Jonathon Jensen  
Jamie McMahan      Fred Roth      Michelle Rust  
Mark Rust      Vanessa Sterling      Laurie Tocci  
Weez Kay Woodside      Nevin Woodside

Sarah Wilson, *Campaign Coordinator*

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