

Calvary Episcopal Church



***An Historic African American Congregation
in the Heart of the Peninsula
Charleston, South Carolina
Est. 1847***

What is the meaning...

Calvary, the place where Jesus was crucified on a small hill outside of Jerusalem. A representation of the crucifixion, consisting of the three crosses with the figures of Christ and the thieves, often as large as life, and sometimes surrounded by figures of other persons who were present at the crucifixion.

We are the “Calvary Family” with varying degrees of differences. We strive to act in accordance with the first commandment “to love our neighbors as ourselves.” We have faced challenges over the years and have adapted to change with an open heart to the glory of God as we celebrate our heritage as Episcopalians.

What follows is the Profile of Calvary Episcopal Church. A church that continues to embrace God’s Holy Spirit to work within us and through us for the continued development of each saint and the community at large. A living church, located in a vibrant, downtown neighborhood in Charleston, South Carolina. Calvary has an important African American heritage, one of substantial significance in this community and throughout the state. The church is grounded in the Great Commission which spreads the gospel to all people within a diverse community.

Our Heritage at Calvary...

Calvary has an important African American heritage, one of substantial significance in this community and throughout the state. Calvary Episcopal Church was founded in 1847 as a church for enslaved and free persons of color in the Charleston community. Our history is vibrant and moving. The Vestry and the members of Calvary invite you to immerse yourself with 175 years of our growth by going to our website at <https://www.calvarych.org/general-9>

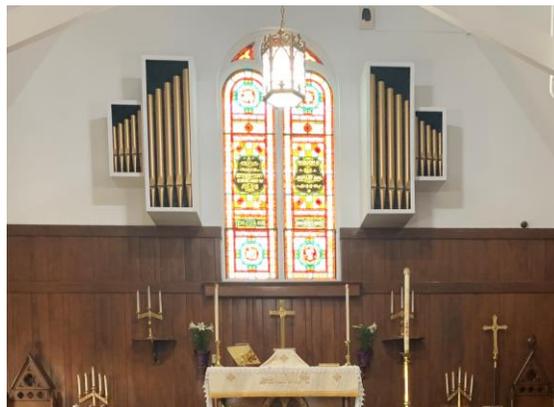
The Place...



Our present, and second, church building was built in 1942 on Line Street, with an administrative building built on the same piece of property. Its lovely interior has stained walls and a traditional high ceiling with trussed beams. The lighting is new and energy efficient. Our organ (1993) and piano support our worship.

Through our open doors one can see the beautiful brass cross, one of many items brought from the first building to enhance the beauty of our worship space. We also value having the original processional cross, altar, and Bishop's and clergy chairs linking who we are today to our origins in 1847. The stained-glass window over the altar was dedicated to The Rev. Paul Trapier, Calvary's first

priest.



Other buildings...

Adjacent to the sanctuary is a fellowship hall made of brick construction, which contains a large meeting room, one small meeting room, three classrooms, a kitchen, handicap accessible lavatory facilities, a walk-in security room where the sacred vessels and other valuables are stored, and a walk-in custodial room. In the coming months, the classrooms will be renovated to accommodate Diocesan Offices. The staff that will occupy these offices are a part of the Bishop's Diocesan Administrative Team.



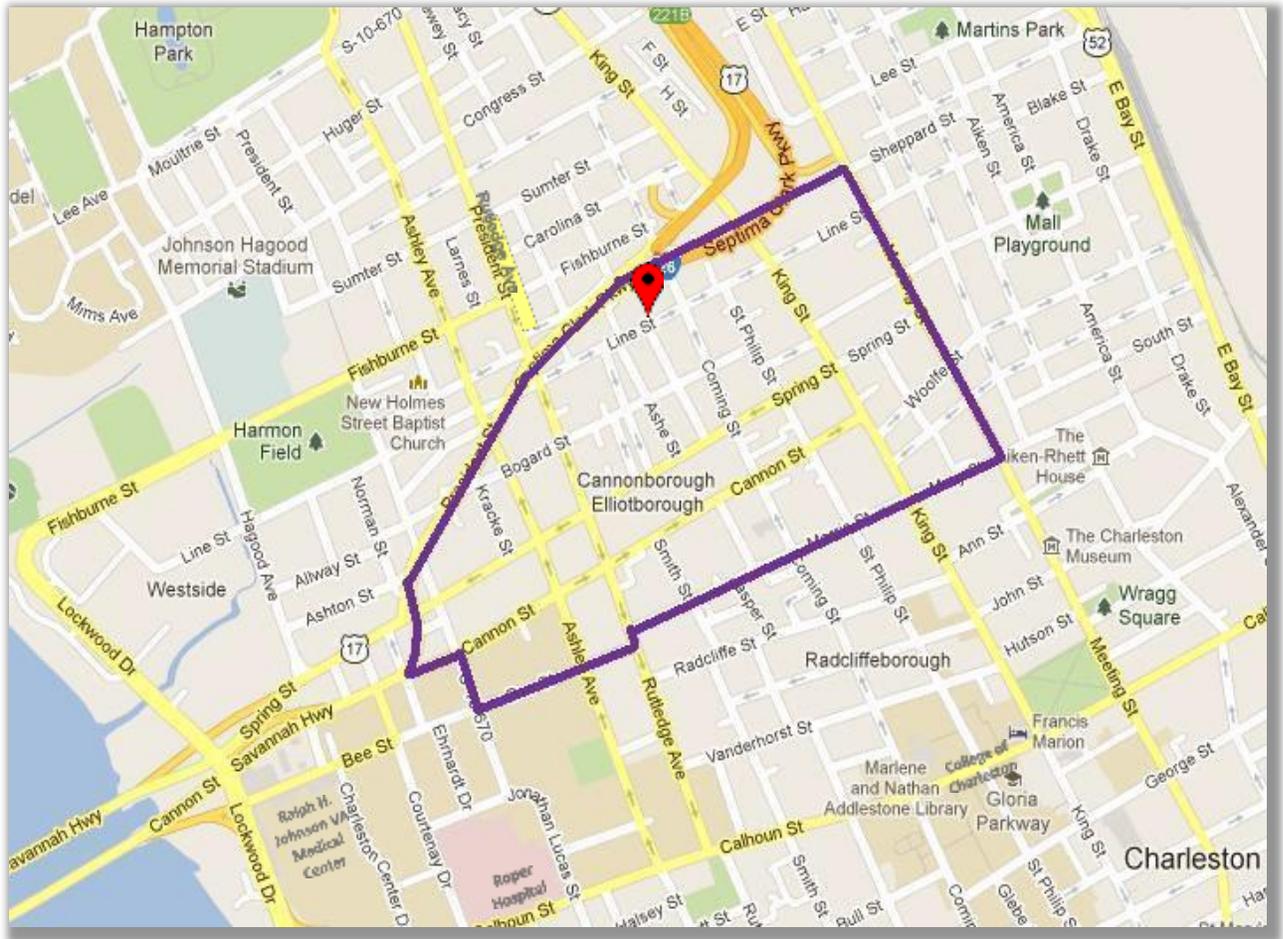
Next to the sanctuary building is the cemetery which was revitalized in 2011. This revitalization took place under the guidance of lifetime Calvary member and Charleston Business owner, the late Senator Herbert U. Fielding (<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/herbert-u-fielding-41>). The cemetery has 66 grave sites and 100 cremation niches.



The current church administrative offices are located on the opposite side of the Sanctuary and cemetery. The building is a one-story brick structure which was built in 1946 and once served as the rectory. In 1982, the building was rededicated as the Stephen B. Mackey Administration Building. The building presently houses the rector's office, secretary/reception area, meeting rooms and office machinery space.

In 1985, a tract of land at the rear of the church that encompassed three city lots was acquired from the State of South Carolina. This land is primarily used for parking and outdoor activities.

Map of Calvary's Neighborhood



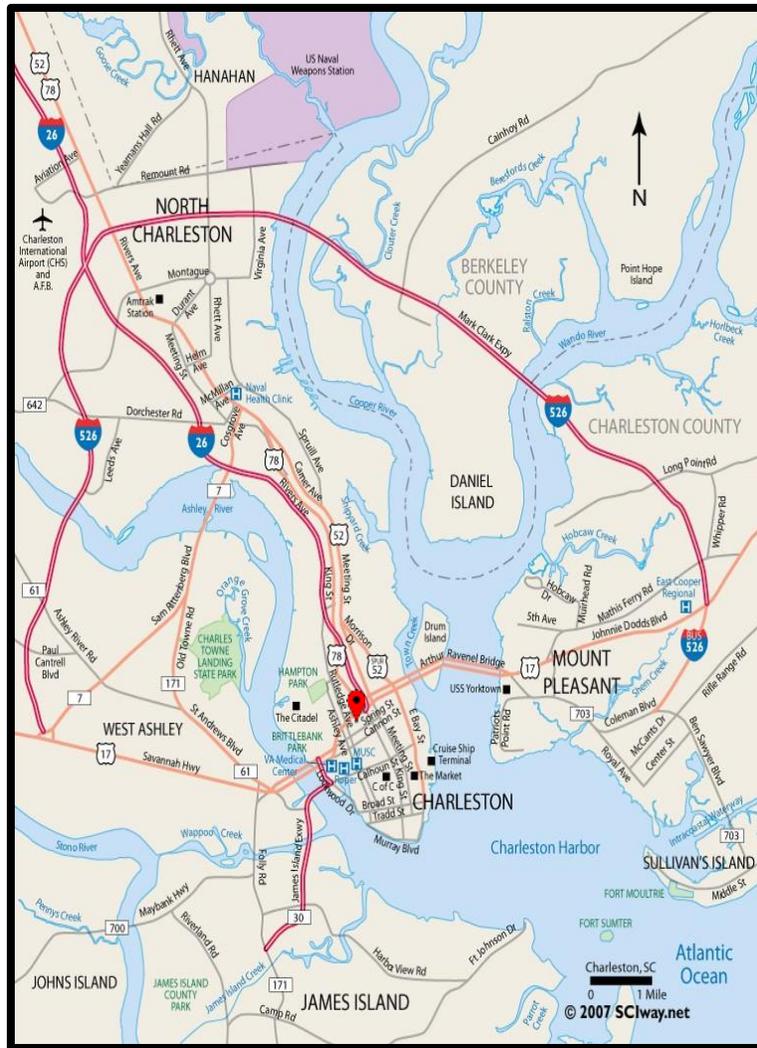
Calvary is located in the Cannonborough-Elliottborough, neighborhood (The city's precincts 6, 7, and 8). It is bounded on the north by the Septima Clark Expressway (the Crosstown), on the south by Bee and Morris Streets, west President Street and the Medical University of South Carolina, and the east by Meeting Street.

Originally two separate boroughs, they are now considered one. The Cannonborough-Elliottborough neighborhood is the "Gateway to the Peninsula". The area is surrounded by quaint historic homes, local shops, great restaurants, and a growing, transitioning population. Residents are only minutes away from the best healthcare in the state, and it is no surprise that many of the homes in this area house medical students, residents, and physicians and their families. There is great potential for congregational growth and community involvement at Calvary's doorstep.

Where We Live...

Charleston, a major port on the Atlantic coast reflects southern culture. The historic presence of the Lowcountry. The city is on a peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper Rivers. It is an urban area which is adjacent to the City of North Charleston and several other neighboring towns and cities.

Map of Charleston



The city offers many attractions as a coastal city. Several schools of higher education are located in the area including The Citadel Military College, The University of Charleston (formerly the College of Charleston), Charleston Southern University (formerly Baptist College), and Trident Technical College. The Charleston Museum is considered “America’s First Museum”. The International African American Museum (the museum strives to foster empathy and understanding while empowering people with knowledge of the past) is expected to open in

Fall 2022. Charleston has an endless array of things to do including shopping for antiques, fashion, art galleries, Lowcountry dining, historical tours, and much more. Charleston is known for many festivals that include: Spoleto Festival, MOJA Arts Festival (a celebration of African-American & Caribbean Culture), Lowcountry Jazz Festival and many more (<https://www.visit-historic-charleston.com/charleston-events.html>).



Rainbow Row



International African American Museum



Downtown Charleston



Charleston Gullah Sweetgrass Baskets

Who We Are...

Mission Statement

**Calvary Episcopal Church exists so that The Light and Love of God in Christ Might Flow Out into the World from this Church and her People.
Motto: Let the Light and Love of God Flow.**

Our Congregation is... a warm and welcoming community. Though modest in size, the membership is committed, inclusive, and includes a range of ages, economic levels, talents, and educational levels. The spiritual life of the parish is enriched by its members' commitment to community worship and active participation in secular community organizations. In addition, the attendance drastically declined due to the onset of the COVID pandemic.

Congregation Overview as of 2021

Active Members: 105

Members under 16: 4

Baptisms: 0

Marriages: 0

Burials: 4

Number of Sunday Services in person: 34

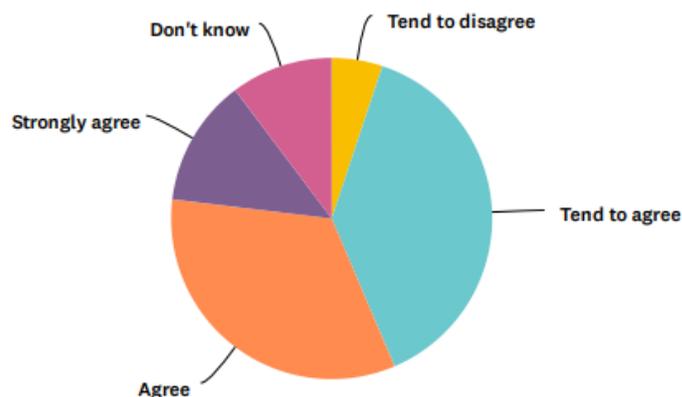
Number of all Services: 89

Number of Services on Zoom: 18

Average Sunday Attendance (in person & Zoom): 50

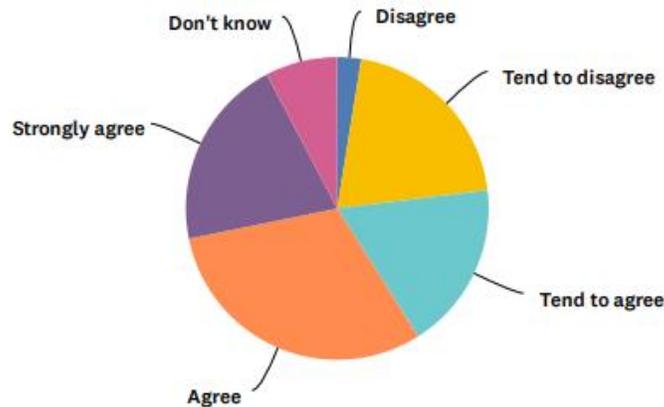
Q93 Our worship services prepare me to live a Christian life that makes a difference in the world.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 15



Q96 Our worship services help me examine my faith and how to effectively apply that faith in my day to day life.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 15



How we manifest our faith ...

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11

Ministries

Saint Mary's Altar Guild

The St. Mary's Altar Guild is comprised of men and women volunteers of the parish, spiritually called to this ministry to care for the altar, vestments, and altar linens of the parish. The duties of the guild, as outlined in the Altar Guild Manual, include: preparation for work, weekly care and cleaning, preparation for Sunday service, preparation for special services and sacramental rites. Currently under the leadership of Yulanda B. Thompson, the Guild has four alternating groups, each performing the work of the guild for one week. The ministry educates members of the Guild of the specific name of each item used in worship, why specific items are used, and correct names for each part of the church.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The mission of the Episcopal Church Women is to provide an opportunity to nourish women as Christians, build lasting friendships through fellowship with each other, promote spiritual

learning, and provide services to our church, the community, and the world. The ECW budget includes the mission and ministry at home, mission and ministry to the world, spiritual life, hospitality, altar guild, Church Periodical Club, United Thank Offering, college ministries, Christian education, Daughters of the King, Voorhees College Scholarship, United Way, Crisis Ministries, diocesan pledge and project, YMCA, and YWCA. The ECW holds an annual oyster roast to support these outreach programs.

Men of Calvary

The Men of Calvary is composed of all men of Calvary Church. They are charged with financially supporting the services of the church through fundraising projects and programs. The mission of the group is to provide an opportunity to nourish men as Christians, build lasting friendships through fellowship with each other, promote spiritual learning, and provide services to our church, the community, and the world. Enrollment is automatic with Parish membership. The Men of Calvary hold an annual Pancake Dinner and Raffle on Shove Tuesday to support the active ministry of the church. They also lend their efforts to support the work of the ECW.

Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry at Calvary affords members and visiting friends the opportunity to learn and connect with God's Holy Word. There is currently a mid-week Bible study group (held virtually), which focuses on the upcoming Gospel Reading for Sunday services. The Bible Study, which includes people beyond the parish, is led by the church's Deacon, The Rev. Marionette Bennett. During Lent two members per week created presentations on different witnesses at the crucifixion including prayer and hymns to sing. Future areas of study and discussions will focus on major and minor Prophets of the Old Testament, and women in the Bible. Other Christian Formation events take place during the program year. We look forward to resuming Children's Formation and Vacation Bible School offerings again as the parish grows.

Melody Chimes

The Melody Chimes Ensemble, directed by retired educator George Kenny, consists of approximately eight members of various ages. The ensemble renders musical selections one Sunday a month. They are happy to have anyone join them. One needs not know how to read music. The director has the patience of Job. Practices are held every Saturday morning. This group enjoys fellowshiping, learning together, and giving praise to God through the sounds of hand bells.

Calvary Episcopal Church Choir

Calvary's small but enthusiastic choir is under the direction of Lonnie Hamilton, a retired educator, who has led the choir for over 45 years. Under Mr. Hamilton's leadership the choir sings a variety of musical styles: hymns, African-American spirituals, gospel and contemporary

music. The choir uses *The Hymnal 1982* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Choir rehearsals are held each week on Saturday at 10 a.m. The choir currently welcomes anyone who loves to sing to the glory of God.



Where We Are Headed...

Our Vision will be accomplished as we participate in

Dignified and Joyful Worship

Supportive, Faithful Community across the Lifespan

Ongoing Spiritual Growth in Faith, Knowledge and Loving Kindness

Ministries of advocacy, justice, and service for those who have no one to speak for them

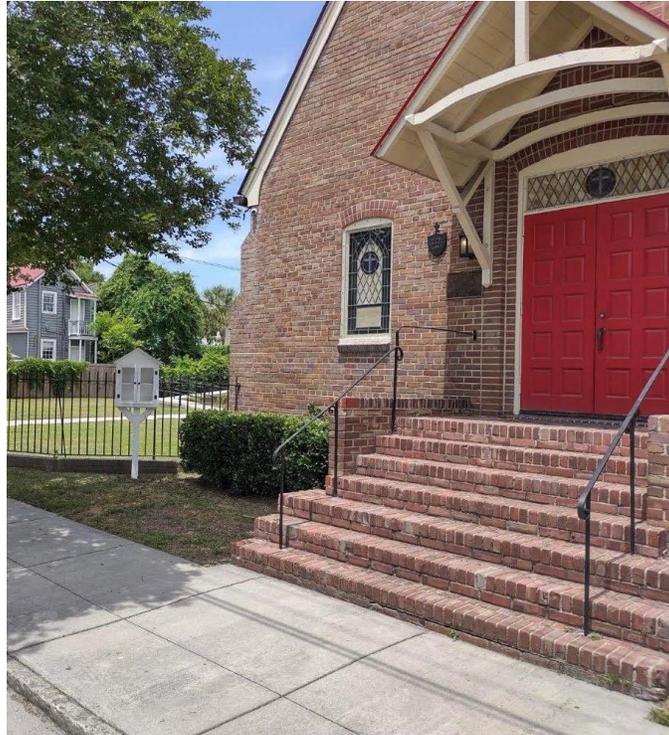
Calvary strives to welcome all people who wish to worship God, seek spiritual growth, and participate in a Christian community to share God's message of justice, peace and outreach. We plan to continue to nurture our technological growth as a congregation by offering a hybrid model of worship (in person/via electronic media).

We are seeking a rector who can work in ministry with us and offer:

- Visionary leadership
- Spiritual direction
- Change agent
- Culturally attuned to the needs of a historically African American church

We are looking for someone who can grow a congregation, someone who can provide spiritual direction based on the teachings of the Bible, embrace our history, and help us to affect change in 2022 and beyond.

For more information about Calvary, please see our web page at www.calvarych.org and our Facebook page: Friends of Calvary Episcopal Church.



Psalm 118 v. 19-26 (Book of Common Prayer)

- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord;
he who is righteous may enter."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 25 Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!
Lord, send us now success.
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless you from the house of the Lord