

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Behold I will make all things new" Revelation 21:5



Dear Beloved Parishioner:

A spiritual renewal for Calvary is taking shape and moving in a good direction. Such a renewal is vital to the health, vitality, and the future of our Congregation at this time in our journey. The Sabbatical Committee has reviewed programs, researched outcomes, and spent good time, developing the Spiritual Renewal Plan. We are now pleased to share more of the exciting details that outline the phases of "Our Sabbatical" intended to make all things new!

All events listed here will be held on either a Sunday morning, a Wednesday or Saturday evening from May to October of this year. Some dates are still being finalized.

The Journey Ahead for the Parish

May 5-6 – *"Water and Word" Conference, by Bishop Doug Scharf* – Friday afternoon to Saturday evening. Led by our new bishop and joined by two other keynote leaders, this is a top tier offering for our active leaders who have the overall view and vision for the church. Vestry members, Committee leaders, etc., would benefit greatly from attending, and yet, for any parishioner who desires to see the overall picture of how God's Word is able to "hydrate the soul and refresh the spirit," this conference is for you. Registrations are limited and available online with the diocese. Cost ranges from \$135-\$295 per person as it entails lodging, meals, facilities, and speakers. Considered a primer event for those leading the church in our journey.

May 27 – *"Praying in Color" Workshop, by Sybil Macbeth* – Saturday, 9am – 11am. This workshop is a 2-hour event for all the parish to attend. It is a creative, facilitated exercise, that opens the imagination of each person in a prayer in illustrated action. You do not need to be an artist. You simply need to imagine. The focus is on prayer, intercessory prayer for others, for us individually and for our church. Displayed via coloring "doodles" our art will represent and shape the future vision for Calvary. It is the weekend of Pentecost and Memorial Day, which means we will stress the importance of the church coming to life as it did long ago with the disciples in the upper room, and the importance of remembering the sacrifices of those who made our religious freedom a reality. It is age appropriate for any member who can critically think and courageous "doodlers." There will be no cost for each participant and an rsvp is required. Sign up options are provided online, via email or in person at the church.

June 17 – *"Bon Voyage Dinner"* – Saturday, 5pm. We plan a sendoff event for Fr. Roberts and Lynne as they continue their sabbatical journey away from the church. Away from all things related to church administration but not away from spiritual discernment. On that evening, Fr. Roberts and Lynne will present how their thoughts and plans of sabbatical-taking have taken shape, details of their four-month itinerary ahead, along with any personal expectations for when they return. This is a key moment of closure, allowing our priest and his wife to go in peace, allowing the Spirit of God to renew their call to serve our church in the future.

June 25-July 1 – Fr. Jon & Lynne will attend the "Spiritual Renewal" conference at the Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. Anyone from Calvary is also welcome to attend. Registration is important to apply early as this conference fills up quickly.

July – *"My Way of Love"* – This is a short individual online survey providing a depiction of where someone is spiritually and the curriculum is managed by one of our favorite resources, "Forward Day-by-day". The Survey results are emailed along with spiritually guiding messages for personal assessment to discern our path for living the way of our Lord. These insights will be shared by participants in person, as a Sunday conversation, following the service. There will be no cost for each participant and an rsvp is not necessary. There will be a Wednesday night dinner at the end of July, where we can gather around the topic one last time.

August – *“The White Horse Inn” topical group study.* This weekly gathering, will be guided by this podcast and accompanying materials that offer Q&A on topics such as “What is The Lord’s Supper?”, “What is a Sacrament?”, and “What is Baptism?” It is a way to link the Book of Common Prayer to our common worship on Sundays and for those entering the Episcopal church for the first time, or for those who are wanting to revisit these key components, it is a great way to learn about our fundamental qualities of worship. When Fr. Roberts returns, he intends to use more of this resource in his teachings on Sundays with courses he will offer.

September TBA – *“Sabbatical Keynote Dinner”* – We will reveal our special speaker for this occasion as we get closer to the summer months. After the series of events being offered before this one, there is an expectation of great reflection and worthy to be summarized by someone ordained, who has experienced the process of discernment and has an understanding on the importance of a parish taking this journey together. “Why me Lord?” is the question and the answer in how God can make all things new. This event will be the culmination of all the previous studies and interactions of sharing and a prelude to welcoming our Rector home.

October 14 – *“Welcome Home Dinner”* – Saturday, 5pm. We plan a joyful welcome home event for Fr. Roberts and Lynne as they return from their sabbatical journey away from the church. On that evening, Fr. Roberts and Lynne will present details of their four-month journey and how our Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were revealed through new discoveries. This is a key moment of reception, allowing our priest and his wife to return in peace, allowing the Spirit of God to renew their call to serve our church in the future and it will also be the exact date of his ten-year anniversary at Calvary. A mutual exchange of discovery will be shared by our leaders, giving details of how our church travelled through the physical absence of the Rector. After his return, a presentation of his authentic oil painting, named, “The Crossing” will be presented by Fr. Roberts as a gift to the parish. His journey is a spiritual one from within and such an outward and visible sign is to be evident of God’s grace.

Supplemental “Church Chat on Facebook” Periodic weekly, noonday prayers preceded by a brief, online Q&A conversation, on our Facebook page, hosted by one of our church leaders, is being offered. This will be an update on our progress as well as to answer any detailed questions submitted by parishioners to the office. This forum allows the congregation to stay on top of all the recent events, address areas where volunteerism may be needed and to make requests. If you already follow us on Facebook, you should receive those notifications via email when we go live. Technical assistance is provided.

You really want to be a part of this Journey, so don’t miss out. Whether you are in town or traveling, in the pews or at the kitchen table, you do not want to miss out on this amazing opportunity for your own personal spiritual renewal. This is a unique, intentional, meaningful, biblical, prayerful and spiritual time of discernment for all of us to join. Will you join us? Will you open your hearts and minds in prayer and supplication, asking for God to reveal himself to you, to our church and, “To make all things new?”

Sincerely,

Fr. Jon Roberts, Rector

Robert Thacker, Sr. Warden

Karen LaCorte-Nies, Sabbatical Committee, Chairperson

Bob Lima, Sabbatical Committee, Spiritual Team Chairperson