

## It's been a while!

Believe it or not, it has been one year since the last Evangel parish newsletter was emailed and mailed to parishioners. In large part this is because we have regularly shared information through shorter mailings/emailings as circumstances warrant. It is also because most of the activities at the parish have been suspended because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Of course, on everyone's mind is the question: "When will we get back to 'normal,'" and related questions concerning our worship and ministries. Oh, for a crystal ball! The answer is—we do not know. As has been stated by our Bishop and secular health authorities, 'The virus is dictating our responses, we are not dictating to the virus,' and similar statements to that effect. Bishop Logue has rightly taken a conservative approach with our response, the health and well-being of all parishioners and the general population being of first importance. We will continue to faithfully follow our Bishop's guidelines. No one is enjoying the past or current restrictions, least of all Bishop Logue. He is anxious to begin his visitations to all the parishes in the Diocese but realizes his visitations cannot happen now. He is also keenly aware that there are adults and young people in the Diocese ready for Confirmation. Yet, as he has stated on numerous occasions during our regular Diocesan clergy Zoom meetings, these factors are not what keeps him up at night. His worry is the possibility of Covid outbreaks in our parishes.

You may not realize this, but there are parishes in our Diocese that have not offered in-person worship since March 2020! Calvary was among the first to offer in-person worship in July 2020, and we have done so every Sunday except for two brief periods because of Covid worries. To date, there have been no reported Covid cases related to Calvary. Thanks be to God! I commend you all for following the Safer Standards Guidelines. You're doing a great job!

Another piece of news important to share is this: as you may remember, my Letter of Agreement with Calvary provides for me to be away May 15 through August 15. The trade-off is that I work more than a 20-hour week August 14 through May 14 and take extra time off in the summer (Remember: I'm supposedly retired, on half time!) In 2020, Geri and I continued to minister at Calvary over the summer because of the Covid-19 outbreak and the disruptions caused. Instead, we took October 2020 off. This summer it seems appropriate to honor the Letter of Agreement. Geri and I will be away from Calvary May 15 through August 14, 2021. Donna will have our contact information should a crucial situation arise. I am pleased to share that Fr. Jim Bullion will supply at Calvary most Sundays. When Fr. Bullion cannot be here, another priest will supply, or Morning Prayer will be offered. We hope you realize how much we will miss all of you: we are so blessed to be part of Calvary's parish family. Among other things, we are planning on spending considerable time with grandchildren during their summer break.

The last year has been challenging, and there will surely be more challenges ahead. We will meet every challenge with God's help and be stronger for it.

In Christ,  
Fr Richard

## Lee Street Bridge Replacement

The Wardens, Parish Administrator and Fr. Richard have met with representatives from the Georgia Department of Transportation. The Lee Street bridge replacement is scheduled to begin in 2022. While Lee Street will be blocked off between the bridge and College St., the entrance to our parking lot from Lee Street should not be affected. We have signed a temporary right of way agreement with the State, involving a few feet of Calvary property. The parish will be reimbursed for this temporary usage. A rendering of the right of way is posted on the bulletin board outside the offices. The project is expected to take about 18 months. It is expected there will be no changes to the aesthetics of Calvary's property.

## Calvary's Online Ministry

One of the unexpected 'benefits' of the Covid-19 pandemic is the tremendous increase we have seen in the number of people who follow us on Facebook. We are approaching 850 people who automatically receive notification of our offerings on Facebook. Before Covid about 100 followed us on Facebook. We have livestreamed on Sunday for many months and am now making our 10am Sunday worship available on Facebook. Fr. Richard continues to do his Midweek Meditation—Wednesdays at noon—and Compline is offered every evening at 8:30pm.

However, during the summer—May 16 through August 15—the midweek meditation will be on hiatus. We will continue to livestream on Sunday and offer Compline nightly.

## Calvary In Community

Our weekly radio program—Sundays, 9:00 am, WISK 98.7 FM—has been on the air for 16 months. With worship suspended the format has been the first part of our usual Sunday worship, the Liturgy of the Word. The original format was a Scripture reading and homily, followed by an interview of someone in the community making a positive difference. The broadcast has also been accessible through the radio station's website, [americusradio.com](http://americusradio.com).

During the summer—May 16 through August 15—the program will be on hiatus.

## For those not on social media / online giving

You can make donations, including pledge donations, to the parish online. Here's how: Go to [www.calvaryepiscopalamericus.org](http://www.calvaryepiscopalamericus.org) and click on the GIVE button on the top menu. This will allow you to pay your pledge or your Capital Campaign pledge. Please call the church office if you have any problems.

## Parish Phone Tree

We have a debt of gratitude to those who are part of the parish phone tree, especially Charlotte Chambliss who 'wrangles' this ministry. When notified we pray for people who have a particular need. If you would like to be part of this ministry, contact Deacon Dianne.

## Americus Beer and Hymns

It has been 14 months since the last Beer and Hymns at Pat's Place. Many of you have commented about how much you miss these gatherings. The Beer and Hymns Band—Low Flying Angels—miss not only the events but getting together for their lively and raucous rehearsals. You will definitely be notified when renew this excellent ministry.

## Daily Prayer Online

For those who wish to pray the Daily (Prayer) Offices from the Book of Common Prayer, there are numbers of good online resources that will give you everything you need with a couple of clicks. Check out: [ForwardMovement.org](http://ForwardMovement.org); go to Forward Day by Day tab, go to Daily Prayer Anytime tab; select the prayer office. Or check out: [MissionStClare.com](http://MissionStClare.com); go to click 'Morning and Evening Prayer;' click on the icon.

## Cursillo

We are hopeful the Friday morning Cursillo Reunion Group can begin to meet again in the Fall. The next Diocesan Cursillo Weekend Retreat is scheduled for October 2021 (dates TBD) at Honey Creek Conference Center near Brunswick. To find out more about Cursillo, go to [cursillo.georgiaepiscopal.org](http://cursillo.georgiaepiscopal.org) or speak with Fr. Richard, Deacon Dianne, or Deacon Geri. If you watch the video on the website you may even notice a certain dashing priest and beautiful blonde deacon!

## Nursery

We are now able to offer a nursery every Sunday. We have employed Abby Franklin and Nathalie Marulanda, both students at GSW. The nursery opens at 9:30am.

## Mustard Seed Thrift Store

Our Mustard Seed Thrift Store is adding an extended Book Nook! We are in need of donations of gently used books - fiction, biographies, non-fiction, or religious, classics or children's books! If you have crammed bookshelves or boxes of books stored away ~ contribute them to Calvary ~ we can sell them to raise money to help the hungry, those without shelter, or assist others to buy much needed medical supplies or medicine. Please give Deacon Geri a call ([912-844-4888](tel:912-844-4888)) or email at [GLNelson609@gmail.com](mailto:GLNelson609@gmail.com) to arrange a convenient drop off day/time. “

## Blessing Box and Lending Library

The Blessing Box which was located next to the Mustard Seed House has been relocated to the front of the church close to the corner of Lee Street and Brannon Avenue. Please remember to drop off canned goods and non-perishable items. Also located next to the Blessing Box is a Lending Library, created and dedicated in honor of Aggie Crump by her family. You may leave a book and take a book.

## Book Club

We are going to gather our Ladies Book Club group together again on Sunday, May 2nd at 6:00pm. Since the Parish Hall & Library is under some renovation, we will meet here at the Nelson Rectory instead ~ 724 S. Lee Street, on the back porch or out in the back yard if the weather is clement. If it is raining that afternoon/evening we will postpone. Joni Woolf will lead our discussion on the book "Cider House Rules." It's fine if you haven't read this book and this is such short notice. Just come! Please bring a small appetizer, finger-food to share and a CHAIR.