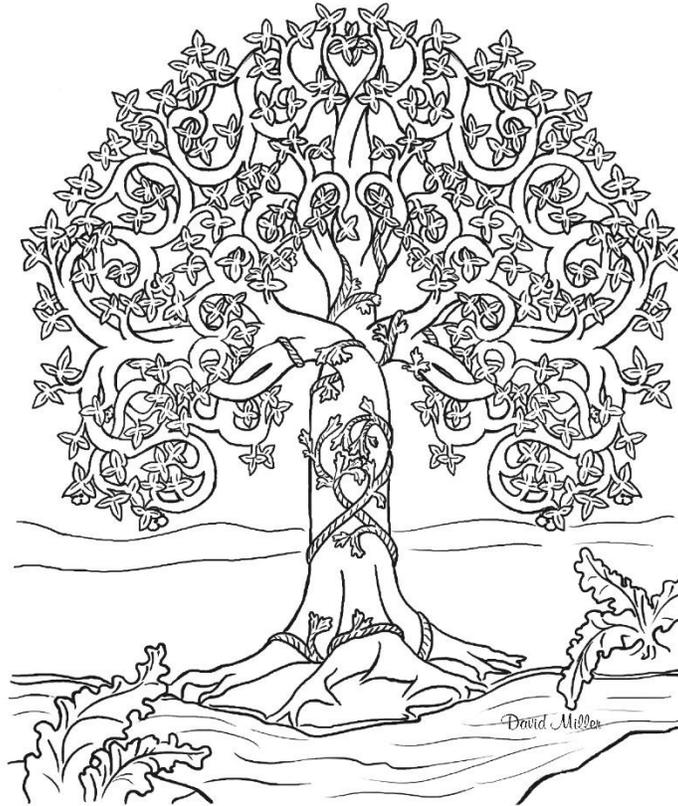


CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK



ANNUAL REPORTS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 25, 2026
11:30 AM

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper. [Psalm 1:3]*

20 MILTON ST., WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221
716.633.7800 | WWW.CALVARYEPISCOPAL.NET

Contents

Agenda	3
Minutes from the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting	4

Annual Reports

1. Vital Statistics	7
2. Rector: The Rev. Dr. Robert Harvey	8
3. Deacon: The Rev. Leann McConchie.....	12
4. One Year Warden's Report: Emily Sityar	13
5. Two Year Warden's Report: Bryan Gorney	15
6. Music Report: Roland Martin	16
7. Christian Formation	
A. Sunday School & Youth: Ted Andrews	18
B. Adult Education: Dale Harten & Joan Scalfani.....	19
8. Fellowship: Lorrie Archdeacon & Amy Gorney	20
9. Pastoral Care: Elizabeth Harten.....	22
10. Outreach Ministries: Amy Gorney & Emily Sityar.....	25
11. Communication Committee: Ryan Fleming.....	27
12. Property Committee	
.... A. Property: Bryan Gorney	29
.... B. Arts & Furnishing:.....	30
.... C. Churchyard: Linda McKenna	30
13. Stewardship: Dennis McCoy & Janet Metcalfe	31
14. Finance	
.... A. Endowment Committee: Janet Newall.....	32
.... B. Finance Committee: Michael Bommer.....	33

Calvary Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting 2026 Agenda

11:30	Opening Prayer & Lunch	Fr. Robert Harvey
Noon	Call to Order & Appoint Clerk of Meeting Approve Minutes from the January 26, 2025 Meeting	Fr. Robert Harvey
12:10	Report from the Rector	Fr. Robert Harvey
12:25	Endowment Committee Report	Janet Newall & Pam Agostinelli
12:35	Finance/Budget	Michael Bommer
12:45	Report from the Wardens	Emily Sityar & Bryan Gorney
12:55	Election Results	Emily Sityar
1:20	Closing Remarks & Blessing	Fr. Robert Harvey

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Annual Parish Meeting, January 26, 2025

Present: The meeting was held in the Calvary Church Hughson Hall. There were 91 parish members in attendance.

11:30 Opening Prayer & Lunch Fr. Robert Harvey

12:02 p.m. Call to Order Fr. Robert Harvey

Fr. Robert Harvey called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. He made a motion that Melinda Mets (Vestry Clerk) serve as clerk for the Annual Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were published in the meeting program. Joan Scalfani motioned to accept the 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Charles Golightly and passed with all in favor.

Fr. Robert offered special prayers for the three baptisms and thirteen burials that took place at Calvary in 2024.

12:06 p.m. Report from the Rector Fr. Robert Harvey

Father Robert used the iconic movie series “Back to the Future” as a way to get imaginations flowing. The congregation imagined riding a DeLorean back in time 30 years to Christmas Eve, 1995. He posed questions such as “Who’s the Rector?” “Who’s the choir director?” “What outreach programs are going on?” “Are there any children present?” Listening to the answers to those questions prompted the observation that, 30 years ago, Calvary valued music, ministry to children and outreach.

The pretend DeLorean traveled forward to New Year’s Eve, 2024 to see and hear how things went 30 years later...

12:14 p.m. Endowment Committee Report Pam Agostinelli, Bryan Gorney

The full Endowment Committee Report is on p. 30 of the Annual Meeting Report. Bryan Gorney began by publicly thanking the committee members:

- Pam Agostinelli
- Stephen Munschauer
- Janet Newall
- Betsy Greno (rotating on to replace Bryan, who’s rotating off)

The function of the Endowment Committee is to determine where the withdrawn endowment funds get spent each year. During 2024, funds were drawn from the Unrestricted Funds for the Vestry to use for capital improvements including the Hughson Hall boiler replacement. For 2025, the budget endowment draw approved by the committee is \$64,860.

Pam Agostinelli reminded attendees that Calvary’s assets are managed by State Street Global Advisors. Currently, Calvary’s assets are invested 70% in stocks and 30% in bonds/income funds. Stocks are allocated among US large and midcap, International developed countries, and emerging markets. This mix of assets provided an 11.6% return vs. the benchmark.

12:23 Capital Campaign Report

Bryan Gorney, Guy Whalen

The term “Capital Campaign” is a bit of a misnomer as we’re not getting something new (like an elevator or stained glass windows) but rather replacing, repairing and updating existing assets. A more appropriate name for the endeavor might be “Capital Improvement Fund.”

A key initiative is to replenish the Endowment by paying back the \$130,000 used to make crucial updates in 2024 to the boiler in Hughson Hall.

Some of the critical projects being considered for 2025 include replacing Scaife building gutters, re-roofing the rectory, painting, new carpeting, updates to the carillon tower. The initial estimate to make these repairs (excluding tower) is approximately \$200,000. The congregation will need to raise funds and determine which projects to prioritize and how much to spend. A survey to obtain parishioner input was distributed at the meeting.

12:31 Finance/Budget Report

Charles Golightly, Outgoing Treasurer

The Treasurer reviewed 2024 financial results, covering both the Endowed Activities and Operating Budgets. He explained how the 2025 budget was developed, and all the considerations that went into it. Here is the Finance and Budget Committee’s final summary as published on page 32 of the Annual Meeting booklet:

To summarize, 2024 was a very good year from the financial perspective. We operated our Parish within the limits of our actual income, and managed to reduce our spending to match, ending the year with a budgetary surplus. We are projecting a balanced operating budget for 2025, and funding our Endowed Activities budget at levels fully comparable to past years. We completed and paid for the Scaife Boiler replacement project, a major off-budget expenditure of \$126,000. Our overall balance sheet (data not shown) increased by 4% (after the annual draw and boiler replacement project!) and we remain debt free. Calvary is well positioned financially to support our goals and mission in 2025 and in the years beyond.

12:38 Outgoing Senior Warden’s Report

Lorrie Archdeacon

Lorrie expressed her gratitude to many members of Calvary; many people made themselves available to help out in multiple ways when needed. It’s a good sign that even if you don’t have time to participate on a committee, small things like setting up tables, baking for receptions, helping with the spring/fall cleanups and hosting a coffee hour are most appreciated. She recognized Father Robert, Junior Warden Kelly Blackey (especially for heading up the Nominating Committee,) and outgoing Treasurer Charles Golightly (for his infinite patience in explaining all things financial.)

Moving forward, Lorrie will be co-chairing the Fellowship Committee, alongside Amy Gorney.

12:47 p.m. Rector’s Report

Father Robert Harvey

The congregation reboarded the DeLorean and this time traveled 30 years into the future; to Christmas Eve, 2055. Calvary is a thriving, active place!

- The services are being led by Calvary’s two full-time clergy, Mother Janis and her wife, Mother Katherine, who live in the Rectory
- This year there were 300 pets at the annual Pet Blessing
- There are worship services every day of the week, some led by lay people

- The property at 28 Milton has been rebuilt into a 3-story Ministry Center which offers food/shelter/clothing, after-school tutoring/mentoring, and accommodations for seminarians/students
- Ron Martin has just retired as Choir Director, and is listening to the phenomenal choir he created

The DeLorean made its final trip, back to the Annual Meeting today, January 26, 2025. The question was posed, “What did we learn by looking back 30 years, and into the future 30 years?”

- Our values remain the same over time (music, children, outreach)
- We continue to stay welcoming to all
- Many generations have in the past, and will continue in the future, made Calvary a vibrant parish

As Doc Brown said at the end of the Back to the Future series, “Our future isn’t written yet. So let’s make it a good one.”

In closing, flowers of gratitude were presented to Lorrie, Kelly and Charles.

1:04 p.m. Introduction of new Vestry members Kelly Blackey

Votes for the candidates to serve on the 2025 Vestry were due at the start of the Annual Meeting and were tabulated during lunch. The new Vestry members are:

- Bryan Gorney, Senior Warden, 2 year term
- Emily Sityar, Junior Warden, 1 year term
- Dennis McCoy, 3 year term
- Janet Newall, 3 year term
- Guy Whalen, 3 year term
- Janet Metcalfe, 2 year term

Many thanks to all for their willingness to serve Calvary in this capacity!

1:07 p.m. Open Discussion, Blessing & Adjournment Fr. Robert Harvey

To all parishioners, please remember to let Joan Scalfani and the Communications Committee know of all the great things the church is doing. We need to spread the news! Bryan Gorney echoed the thought and added there’s a lot to be done because we’re able to touch people’s lives in so many ways.

2025 Vital Statistics

Baptisms:

1. Weston Ross Allen – Baptized on June 29, 2025

Burials:

1. Marjorie Ferguson Towson Gingell – Burial on January 13, 2025
2. Jane Krueger Montgomery – Burial on January 25, 2025
3. Allison Regan (Honey) Hopkins – Burial on May 3, 2025
4. Kimberly Jane Evans – Burial on May 9, 2025
5. Esther Helen Koenig – Burial on May 29, 2025
6. John Bryce Gawley – Burial on June 14, 2025
7. Jim J. Hylkema – Burial on June 21, 2025
8. John T. Rausch – July 24, 2025
9. Charles Owen Hershey – Burial on August 2, 2025
10. Raymond Slominski – August 10, 2025
11. Kathleen Joyce Clark – Burial on October 5, 2025
12. Mary McGarva – Burial on October 15, 2025

Total Number of Services in 2025:

1. Saturday/Sunday Eucharist services - 152
2. Weekday Eucharist services – 53
3. Private Holy Communions – 56
4. Daily Offices on Sundays – 2
5. Daily Offices on Weekdays – 0
6. Marriages – 0
7. Burials – 12

Other Offices and Private Services:

1. Concert (119 attending) – March 3, 2025
2. Ashes-to-Go (1111 attending; another record attendance) – March 5, 2025
3. St. Joseph Table Blessing (25 attending off site) – March 19, 2025
4. Overnight Prayer Vigil (17 attending) – April 17, 2025
5. Good Friday Concert (98 attending) – April 18, 2025
6. Pet Memorial Service (22 attending) – May 18, 2025
7. Ministration at the Time of Death (3 attending) – July 16, 2025
8. Naming Ceremony (10 attending) – July 27, 2025
9. Ministration at the Time of Death (5 attending) – September 4, 2025
10. Pet Blessing Service (30 people, 27 dogs and 5 cat photos attending) – October 4, 2025
11. Concert (190 attending) – October 26, 2025
12. Lessons and Carols Service (132 attending) – December 14, 2025

2025 Easter Attendance: 286 in-person attendance, 240 virtual attendance

2025 Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Attendance: 318 in-person attendance, 284 virtual attendance

Rector's Report: The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Harvey

My brothers and sisters at Calvary Episcopal Church, Williamsville,

In Person Attendance vs. Virtual Attendance for 2025

	In Person Attendance	Virtual Attendance	Total Attendance
January 4-5	106	226	332
January 11-12	129	113	242
January 18-19	105	127	232
January 25-26	144	61	205
February 1-2	124	88	212
February 8-9	110	88	198
February 15-16	91	129	220
February 22-23	132	76	208
March 1-2	127	225	352
March 8-9	125	139	264
March 15-16	121	130	251
March 22-23	123	146	269
March 29-30	115	141	256
April 5-6	139	155	294
April 12-13 (Palm Sun)	171	164	335
April 20 (Easter Day)	286	240	526
April 26-27	114	127	241
May 3-4	139	127	266
May 10-11	140	100	240
May 17-18	135	135	270
May 24-25	126	142	268
May 31-Jun 1	143	136	279
June 7-8	128	139	267
June 14-15	138	96	234
June 21-22	119	139	258
June 28-29	125	95	220
July 5-6	103	125	228
July 12-13	99	0 (technical issues)	99
July 19-20	99	142	241
July 26-27	109	106	215
August 2-3	109	124	233
August 9-10	100	101	201
August 16-17	81	153	234
August 23-24	93	83	176
August 30-31	82	96	178

September 6-7	99	97	196
September 13-14	138	106	244
September 20-21	153	96	249
September 27-28	129	63	192
October 4-5	122	87	209
October 11-12	132	152	284
October 18-19	125	104	229
October 25-26	138	96	234
November 1-2	153	118	271
November 8-9	120	121	241
November 15-16	145	114	259
November 22-23	135	83	218
November 29-30	108	89	197
December 6-7	158	124	282
December 13-14	129	140	269
December 20-21	135	143	278
December 27-28	107	123	230

At first glance my Rector’s Report for our Annual Parish Meeting might look like a bunch of numbers and dates that appear irrelevant. What you are seeing is Calvary’s In-person attendance and virtual attendance and the total of these two numbers for every weekend in 2025. I want you to see and feel the visual impact of the numbers we are seeing and see how we attend church these days. If you recall, during the pandemic our buildings were closed for 14 months, from March 2020 through May, 2021. During that time many religious institutions and other organizations were forced to quickly learn how to use technology to meet together. We were fortunate here at Calvary to install our video camera and begin livestreaming just in time as the pandemic caused us to go into “hard lockdown.” Initially we installed this equipment so that our homebound members could stay connected with Calvary from their homes. We figured only a dozen people or so would use this livestreaming service. Suddenly in March, 2020 we were all homebound.

Since the pandemic we have continued our livestreaming of the 10 AM service. It is available every week on Calvary’s website, on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. We pay close attention to both our in-person attendance and our virtual attendance numbers. We publish these numbers in our e-news every week. We’ve been doing this long enough now to draw some interesting and important conclusions:

1. Adding together our weekly in-person attendance and virtual attendance brings our **average weekly attendance in 2025 to 246**. That level of attendance is the same as when Calvary had 2 full-time clergy on staff and multiple other staff members back in 2010-2013.
2. Our virtual attendance is sometimes near and/or greater than our in-person attendance.
3. Our virtual attendance numbers remain largely consistent week-after-week, meaning we can count on regular viewership of our livestreaming services.
4. First time visitors often tell me they came to Calvary because they watched the service online before they came inside our building.
5. Visitors now expect to see what happens in a church before they attend.

6. Some of our regular viewership pledge to Calvary even though they live far from Williamsville.
7. Great Music at Calvary services (Choral Evensongs) and concerts are livestreamed and have strong and consistent viewership.
8. We frequently get the request to livestream funeral services. What we're hearing is this isn't just a nice option to have available. It's now come to be expected.
9. We can no longer easily dismiss our virtual attendance numbers. I often hear people say why don't these people attend in person? Are we making church attendance too easy to stay at home? Aren't these people simply scrolling through, just clicking on for a few seconds and then quickly moving on? The metrics we get back do tell us that people do watch our livestreaming services consistently and regularly. They watch mostly for the music, choir anthems and sermons.
10. In 2026 I am asking our Communications Committee, our Wardens and our Vestry leadership to consider how we might do an even better job with those who join us in-person and online. For example, do we need a dedicated (paid??) techno-savvy person to manage our livestreaming in real time? Do we need a second camera location for more camera angle options? Is Calvary's sound equipment adequate for our needs?

I sometimes joke that this is one more of the myriad of things they didn't teach us in seminary: the art of television production. The visuals have to be just right; the sound has to be just right; the lighting has to be just right. This is the stuff we've had to learn since the pandemic. Overall, what we've learned is that people do not attend or participate in church the way they did before the pandemic. All that has changed since 2020 and we're trying our best to keep up with changing technology and learn how to connect with people as best we can. I am hopeful that in 2026 we will see our in-person and virtual impact grow even more.

Yours in Christ,
Father Robert Harvey

Calvary's Process to Welcome and Incorporate New Members

1/13/26

	A	R	R	L	A/R	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A/L/R
	Newcomer	Rector to	Rector to	Deacon to	HIF Sent/	HIF Return	Env #	Lay Volunteer	Pledge Card	Name tags	Office	Email Added	
<u>Names</u>	<u>Added Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Follow-up</u>	<u>Follow-up</u>	<u>Given Date</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Given</u>	<u>Welcome</u>	<u>Sent</u>	<u>Made</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>to CC/CYM</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
Bashful	01/04/26											11/9/25	signed up for e-news in Nov; first visit
Bugs Bunny	06/30/24				06/02/25		x						moving to area; no local contact info
Cinderella & Prince Charming	01/12/26	x		x									visitor card. Child went to Sunday school
Doc	11/02/25												donation w/ no contact info
Dopey	10/19/25	x			11/06/25							11/6/25	donation
Donald Duck	again	x									1/8/26	1/13/26	donation. Also visited in 2024 & Easter 2023
Elmer Fudd	01/04/26	x										1/6/26	visitor card
Grumpy	06/08/25	x		x	06/18/25							6/9/25	visitor card, donation
Happy	01/12/26	x										1/13/26	visitor card
Mickey & Minnie Mouse	11/02/25												donation envelope, no address
Sleepy	10/05/25	x									10/8/25	10/26/25	
Sneezy	07/27/25	x			08/07/25							8/7/25	gave OH address
Snow White	12/24/25	x											
Wile E. Coyote & Road Runner	12/24/25												donation

Animal	10/22/25										10/23/25	10/22/25	signed up for e-news
Bert	09/22/25										9/25/25	9/22/25	signed up for e-news & YouTube
Big Bird	11/09/25												subscribed to YouTube
Cookie Monster	11/02/25										11/6/25	11/2/25	signed up for e-news
Dr. Teeth	12/15/25										12/15/25	12/18/25	signed up for e-news
Elmo	07/13/25										7/17/25	7/13/25	Facebook inquiry
Ernie	10/04/25										10/9/25	10/4/25	signed up for e-news
Fozzie Bear	08/07/25										8/18/25	8/7/25	signed up for e-news
Gonzo the Great	11/23/25										12/2/25	11/23/25	signed up for e-news
Kermit the Frog	10/01/25										10/7/25	10/1/25	signed up for e-news
Miss Piggy	12/05/25										12/5/25	12/11/25	signed up for e-news

Deacon's Report: The Rev. Leann McConchie

Related to my Ministry in the World:

My membership continued in the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination (CDRD). In November of 2025 I withdrew from active membership, in conjunction with Diocesan Convention.

Also related to my ministry in the world has been an ongoing 1:1 spiritual support and linkages to services for victims of intimate partner violence, rape, and sexual assault. I am called upon by Episcopal Priests and other faith leaders in WNY as well as colleagues across the US who are familiar with my work.

My discernment process toward becoming a locally formed priest continued with additional Seminary courses and Commission on Ministry (COM) support. In August of 2025, I put my discernment process on pause, in furtherance of the decision to dissolve the Partnership which then required reorganization of the COM in EDWNY.

I continued to participate in Coaching as Ministry. I provided coaching to women enrolled in intensive residential recovery program in Grand Rapids, MI. Coaching as Ministry is provided to anyone who desires to be coached without regard to their ability or inability to pay. For more information: <https://www.coachingasministry.org/how-it-works>
I facilitated a *Grief Group* at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Orchard Park which was well received and they are looking to have another group begin in Spring of 2026.

In October I began officiating a *Mass from the Reserve Sacrament* each Saturday afternoon at St. David's Episcopal Church in West Seneca. This included an Advent Service of Remembrance and Healing for those who have had new or continued loss and grief.

Related to my liturgical ministry at Calvary:

The Ministry of Healing Prayers begun in 2024 and continued in 2025. It is being held on the 2nd Sunday of each Month following the 8 AM service and during and following the Postlude of the 10:00 service. Please let Deacon Leann know if you would like to be included in a small team which could provide these prayers on rotation. We may be able to extend this ministry to the Wednesday AM and Saturday afternoon services if there is interest.

Father Robert and I are working to identify additional members who are interested in serving as Eucharistic Ministers on Saturdays and Sundays at the 8 and 10 services.

I continue to participate in preaching, baptisms, and children's chapel, in addition to my usual liturgical role at Calvary. I have also provided Mass from the Reserve Sacrament on Saturdays and Sundays, when a priest could not be arranged. I provide pastoral visits at home or hospital upon request of the Rector or members of the parish. I attend Vestry meetings as I am able and I continued support of Prayer Chain coverage through mid-November.

In support of fellowship events this year, face painting and balloon "art" was provided when children were present. I was also honored to contribute artwork for our 2025 Christmas Card.

Faithfully,

The Rev'd Leann McConchie

One Year Warden's Report: Emily Sityar

Last year, both the Senior and Junior Warden positions needed to be filled. I requested the one-year term for Warden although I had no prior Warden experience, and Bryan Gorney took the two-year term although he had served as a Warden years ago. Thus we reversed the usual correlation of experience and length of term: he was the "Senior" 2-year Warden to my "Junior" 1-year Warden. I thank Bryan for guiding me through this busy year and for his energetic leadership of the vestry. Many thanks also to Fr. Robert Harvey and Alice Brown for their kind support.

A major focus of the vestry last year was what to do with Calvary's property next door. The Ukrainian refugee family who rented it from us bought a house of their own. The vestry listened to parishioners, considered and reconsidered what decision was best for Calvary, and changed our course a few times. Thanks to Bryan Gorney, Howard Craig, Janet Newall, Larry Bernhard, Dennis McCoy, and Jim Greno for the consultations and repair work they initiated. We are happy to welcome Abbey McCoy as our new tenant.

Calvary's vibrant parish life was evident in our Fellowship gatherings, our Outreach projects, our Pastoral Care programs, the robust attendance of our in-person and live-streamed worship and Great Music offerings, our Sunday School, and the lively presence of Pixie Village Preschool. Bryan Gorney revitalized the Property Committee and completed long-deferred repairs and upgrades to our buildings and grounds. Thanks to the work of Dale Harten, Joan Scalfani and Dennis McCoy, Calvary's Common Ground Speaker Event for Salva Dut's Water for South Sudan attracted a large turnout from across the region.

Calvary has had fundraisers such as the Garage Sale and Pub Night in recent years, but for the first time in years, Calvary has an official Fundraising Committee. In April, Joan Scalfani brought together 14 energetic and creative people to brainstorm a list of fundraisers that would help Calvary meet the Operating Budget goal to raise \$20,000 in 2025. Somehow, I became chair of this committee, but each individual fundraiser quickly acquired its own chair, committee, and program. The Krolick's Chicken BBQ, chaired by Bryan Gorney, raised over \$1,100; the Garage Sale chaired by Pat Zebrowski and the Preview Night Sale organized by Dennis McCoy raised almost \$2,700; Fr. Robert's 30th Ordination Anniversary Evensong Reception chaired by Bryan Gorney and myself raised over \$4200; and the spectacular Big Band Dinner Dance and Silent Auction chaired by Janet Metcalfe raised over \$25,000. It was exciting to get involved in these fundraisers and witness their fruition, and I especially enjoyed working as one of Cris Hick's Kitchen Crew. Combined with other programs and Fellowship events, Calvary's total fundraising income was over \$35,400! Many thanks to all who helped to achieve this success, not only in terms of income but also with regard to volunteer engagement, church fellowship, and positive impact on the local community.

In the midst of all these happenings within our parish, our diocese was in flux. In May, Calvary's clergy Fr. Robert and Deacon Leann and lay delegates George Faeth, Janet Newall, and Joan Scalfani voted to determine whether or not the Diocese of Western New York remained in partnership with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Later, they helped elect Stephen T. Lane as interim Provisional Bishop of Western New York. As warden, I attended diocesan listening sessions. One session proposed that each church write a parish profile for the Bishop Search Process. Using Robert F. and Ruth L Berner's *A History of Calvary Episcopal Church*, the church website, a previous Calvary profile, and some interviews, I completed the questionnaire for [Calvary's parish profile](#), which was displayed at the Diocesan Convention and is posted on the diocesan website, along with profiles of other parishes in our diocese.

One of my goals as Warden has been to recruit chairpersons for committees that lacked one or that had Fr. Robert standing in as the chairperson, adding on to his more central duties as rector. Fortunately, some positions were eventually filled: Ted Andrews became the chair of Children & Youth Ministry; Marcy Diaz became chair of Newcomer Events, and Janet Newall became chair of the Endowment Committee. At the Vestry Retreat last April when I bemoaned the difficulty of filling chair positions for committees, Cathy Dempsey-Sims (our Vestry Retreat co-ordinator) advised the vestry to simplify Calvary's organizational chart to better fit the church's volunteer base. This led the vestry to revise Calvary's Bylaws so that committees such as Fundraising, Planned Giving, and Capital Campaign are contained within the Stewardship Committee, which does have strong leadership under Dennis McCoy and a vibrant membership. Although the vestry did not do a Mutual Ministry Review this year as planned, recruiting leadership for our committees, relieving Fr. Robert of multiple chairmanship duties, and "right-sizing" our ministry structure were useful steps towards a future Mutual Ministry Review.

Cathy Dempsey-Sims offered two other pieces of vestry advice that I took to heart. First, she instructed the vestry to go through Calvary's Parish Directory page by page, and for every day of a week, to pray for all the parishioners listed on a page until we had prayed for everyone. Praying in this way and interacting with people at church, through committee work and at social gatherings has helped me to feel closer to my Calvary family. Second, Cathy Dempsey-Sims suggested that we publish bullet-point highlights of our vestry meetings in the parish newsletter. Since I already wrote the Wednesday e-news updates with Alice Brown and attended vestry meetings as a Warden, I started posting the Vestry Meeting Highlights.

I served as chair of the Nominating Committee with a terrific team who worked hard to find a very promising slate of candidates for warden and vestry. My best wishes to this year's wardens and vestry members!

For my final undertaking as Warden, I worked with Janet Newall to update Calvary's Employee Handbook, which hadn't been revised since 2017. We will present a first draft of the revised handbook at January's vestry meeting. Going forward, I plan to remain actively involved at Calvary, and I highly recommend the experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Sityar

Two Year Warden's Report: Bryan Gorney

My last term as Warden was during the Covid-19 pandemic. We were in uncharted waters then, yet Calvary Church came through it financially sound and with a new way of interacting with each other. We now have zoom meetings and live-streamed services. It has been almost six years since that time. I saw the church growing with new faces every Sunday and a vibrant parish life. Then we were hit by the pandemic. Today, I see us gaining momentum and getting back to where we were and moving forward.

I want to highlight some of our accomplishments in 2025:

- 28 Milton had major electrical and plumbing/drainage improvements. The property was refreshed with a newly painted interior. New major appliances were given to the church, and landscaping improvements were made. The property is now leased.
- Pixie Village approached us with a request for additional space. We were able to accommodate them. They will be consolidating their operations at Calvary beginning in Fall 2026. This will provide the parish with additional operating income.
- Ashes to go continued to grow in popularity with over 1,000 people participating.
- We had a banner year in fundraising with a very successful dinner dance/auction.
- The Common Ground event, "Water for Sudan", was very successful and well attended. A donation to the project was made.
- The Outreach committee added a second team to volunteer at Friends of Night People. We now visit monthly as well as continuing our quarterly financial support.
- Outreach also made a commitment to Our Little Roses mission with the adoption of a student as well as a planned mission trip to Honduras later in 2026.

As we begin a new year with a new vestry, I look forward to continuing to serve in leadership as your Senior Warden. It is imperative for the vestry to think strategically. The capital improvement needs of our building must be addressed. We need to look into the future when we will have the need to hire a new Parish Manager, a Property Manager, a Music Director, and Rector. What do we want Calvary to look like in the next three to five years? We need to start having these conversations now.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Gorney, Two Year Warden

Music Report: Roland Martin

Summary

The 2025 Great Music at Calvary began with a concert on March 2 built around the poetic works of George Herbert. This concert involved choir and soloists, piano and string instruments, and focused on the primary work of the program, Ralph Vaughan Williams pivotal work, *Five Mystical Songs*.

Lent was upon us immediately following this, as well as our preparations for Holy Week and Easter. Our annual Good Friday program centered around settings of the *Reproaches (Improperia)* by three different composers, and concluded with a cantata by J. S. Bach. Our Easter service involved choir, organ, brass and percussion instruments for a truly joyful celebration.

The 2024-2025 choir season came to a close in June (Trinity Sunday), just a few weeks after an Eastertide Evensong in May.

The summer months brought the return of our carillon concerts. Four carillonneurs from three states and Great Britain dazzled us with beautiful playing, each recital followed by a brief concert showing off many talented regional musicians, including some from our own choir.

Choir rehearsals resumed after Labor Day, with a vengeance, as there was much to get to right away. After only three rehearsals we sang Evensong, this one celebrating Father Robert's 30th anniversary of Ordination. Five weeks later we gave a concert presenting the first complete performance with orchestra of my George Herbert cycle *Such Glorious Gifts*. We were joined by the choir of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and by 23 musicians from the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Our final Great Music at Calvary program for 2025 was Lessons and Carols on December 14.

Despite the polish and higher public profile of the Great Music series, it is really in the Sunday to Sunday work of the choir, the "ordinary", where the truly amazing things are accomplished.

2026 objectives

The Great Music series is already planned out through the winter concert of 2027. In 2026, we still have the winter concert *Mass Appeal*, the program on Good Friday, Evensong on May 3, Evensong in September, the fall concert on November 2, and Lessons and Carols, date TBA. Dates and times can only be fully solidified after the release of the Buffalo Bills' schedule in May.

Extensive repairs are planned for the organ, including getting the back organ working again. This work will be done over the summer.

We are still waiting on reports from Meeks and Watson, a carillon servicing company in Ohio, regarding needed work on the carillon. We have funding in place for one more season of carillon concerts, but not beyond that. I expect this summer's carillon series to be planned and in place by mid-February.

Plans are afoot for the dedication concert for the harpsichord which we acquired in October. We are also planning a festival week of Renaissance and Baroque music with this instrument as its focus. We hope to hold this in mid- to late May.

3-year goals

The continuance and flourishing of the Great Music at Calvary program. Fundraising by the Director of Music.

The continuance and growth of the carillon program. Fundraising by an appointed person other than the Director of Music.

The full repair and restoration of the organ. Funds are in place, but should be replenished over time.

The repair and restoration of the carillon. Some funds are in place, but they are probably insufficient.

The establishment of an Early Music Festival each spring, independent of the Great Music series.

The continuation of a strong choir with strong leadership and strong support of the congregation and vestry. This is our greatest resource in the music program. It is not contingent only on financial means, though that is certainly necessary, but on the love of music, the gathered support and pride in this institution that Calvary has traditionally shown. More than anything else, we need this to continue. It is Calvary's charism.

Christian Formation Sunday School and Youth: Ted Andrews

Sunday School Teachers:

Cinda Stone
Wes Stone
Amy Gorney
Vanessa Andrews
Ted Andrews
Natalie Bottomley
Kelly Blackey
Kelly Sandburg
Laurie Kaiser
Amber Sastry

As many of you know, Calvary is one of the few Churches within the diocese that has an active Sunday School program. We have three classrooms with around 20 children: elementary, intermediate and senior. We have four new students this year in our elementary and intermediate classes. All classes continue to use the same curriculum, Weaving God's Promises. In addition, in my senior class I am covering the catechism in the Red Book of Common Prayer as this is required for confirmation. This year's senior class has two students who will be eligible for confirmation, Sam Bunting and Grace Andrews. The age for confirmation in the Episcopal Church is now sixteen. Before confirmation, the candidates will take a six-hour class with Father Robert who will review the Catechism.

In 2025 the Sunday school classes hosted a coffee hour in an effort to let the congregation know who they are and what they are learning. We are hoping to do another this spring. In addition, some of our senior class members have volunteered to set-up and serve at several fundraisers, including the very successful Big Band event. This spring, the students will be assisting with some of the grounds clean-up as well. Each fourth Sunday of the month is Children's service during which the students serve as ushers, crucifer, intercessor and readers.

Sunday School opens at 9:30 with Father Robert leading a Children's Chapel service during which he reviews the gospel that will be discussed in the 10am service. Sunday school classes start at 9:45 and end at 10:30.

We continue to try and generate interest in a Children's Youth group which would focus on fellowship and community outreach.

Respectfully submitted.

Ted Andrews

Christian Formation

Adult Education: Dale Harten & Joan Scalfani

Adult Christian Education is our daily exercise of discipleship, to grow in faith by the grace of God, and it is also the ministry of encouraging one another in our ongoing walk with Christ.

Committee. Our committee and our events are open to all – and often overlap with people working in other committees and ministries at Calvary. Those active in planning and putting on recent events have included: Lorrie and Brad Archdeacon, Lisa and Tony Barone, Brian Bolton, Ro Cherpak, Howard Craig, Amy Gorney, Liz Harten, Carlos and Marcy Diaz, Melinda Mets, Stephen and Pauline Dyson, Ellen Marshall, Patty Rooss and co-chairs Joan Scalfani and Dale Harten.

Accomplishments.

Common Ground Series – Our guest speaker series began in the fall of 2016, with notable speakers on issues of human concern, usually on Sunday at noon, once or twice a year, including a light lunch. We had one excellent presentation in 2025. On Sunday, June 22 at 12:15pm, Calvary Episcopal Church presented its 14th Common Ground lecture, featuring Salva Dut, the Founder and Chief Strategy Director for Water for South Sudan, Inc. Salva is the inspiration and vision behind this humanitarian not-for-profit organization providing access to fresh water and hygiene education in remote villages of his native South Sudan and the reason for the book, *A Long Walk to Water*, which was available for sale & signature at the event.

The Future. Goals, and what we need to get there.

Currently we are working on a spring lecture which will feature one of our own Calvary members. We need your ideas and contacts for future Common Ground event speakers! Each time, we have found speakers from personal contacts of our members. Tell us about interesting people you know who might like to be our guest speaker. And help us make the connection and make it happen.

We still need to improve Wi-Fi coverage in Hughson Hall, which will help Common Ground, etc. We also need your interest and support, by attendance in our events, and by participating in the committee to plan and put together the events.

“With hope, faith, and perseverance, you can accomplish anything. I urge you to just keep walking and when you fall, remember me.” – Water For South Sudan Founder Salva Dut

Fellowship: Lorrie Archdeacon & Amy Gorney

This ministry is responsible for helping strengthen fellowship amongst our parishioners, building bonds with our newcomers, and welcoming our visitors. We do this through our Coffee Hours, potlucks, Fellowship social events and the special receptions that are held throughout the year. The Fellowship Committee is co-chaired by Lorrie Archdeacon and Amy Gorney.

This year we successfully held coffee hours following the 10:00 service throughout the entire calendar year. We were able to accomplish this with the assistance of the Vestry, several parish committees, along with individual families and parishioners who generously took turns hosting coffee hours throughout the year. Because we recognized that hosting a coffee hour might sound intimidating, we experimented with offering another way that an individual parishioner could contribute to a coffee hour. In July we began designating one coffee hour each month to be a "Potluck" coffee hour. We announced the date in the Calvary News and asked that six individuals sign up in the reception room to bring a plated item for that date. This approach has worked well and has brought us a few new volunteers to help provide food for our coffee hours. We will continue to offer this opportunity most months throughout the year. Our coffee hour hosts are listed in the Sunday Service bulletins and also listed on a table tent in the reception room. We also try to make an announcement at the beginning of each coffee hour to introduce our hosts. When committees are hosting, they can use this time to speak briefly about how they serve the church. Special thanks to Ellen Marshall who regularly continues to prepare our coffee and assists with setup and cleanup most Sundays.

The following list is a summary of all the Fellowship events that took place in 2025.

The Shrove Tuesday Jambalaya Dinner was held Tuesday, March 4, 2025. Parishioners were not charged for attending but were encouraged to make a free will offering. Cris Hicks and her kitchen team provided an enjoyable and tasty meal as always which included homemade macaroni and cheese casserole as an alternative entrée. The Fellowship committee advertised this as a family-friendly event and had craft activities and decorate-your-own cupcakes for the children attending. All attendees were encouraged to participate in decorating the Alleluia Banner and the burning of Palms. The Attendance at this event was 73.

Derby Eve Party took place on Friday, May 2, 2025. This event was also offered to our parishioners as a free will offering. The meal included fried chicken, glazed ham and biscuits, a Kentucky Brown inspired pasta casserole, coleslaw, sautéed green beans, and Chocolate Derby Pie for dessert. Mint Julep mocktails were available as well. Kudos to Cris Hicks and her kitchen team for providing a wonderful meal. Although we had fewer attendees (43) than the previous year, those who came had a wonderful time as indicated by the many compliments we received. We believe that the late Easter (April 20) with its corresponding late Spring break had an impact. We were not able to promote this as well as we had the previous year. It should also be noted that there was a memorial service scheduled for the next day.

Calvary Family Picnic was held Sunday, June 8, 2025 in Hughson Hall. Typical picnic food was offered including hot dogs and hamburgers (both meat and plant based), assorted salads, with watermelon and ice cream novelties for dessert. Several games were set up in the back of the hall for adults and children to play as well as crafts and face painting (provided by Deacon Leann). We had a very good turnout of volunteers helping to set up, grill, serve, and clean up for this event. Attendance was over 90. Because we encouraged parishioners to attend regardless of whether or not they had signed up, it was difficult to get an exact final count.

Special Strawberry Sunday Coffee Hour was offered on Sunday, June 29, 2025. In lieu of the typical coffee hour fare, we provided fresh strawberries, strawberry shortcake and/or sundaes as a special

seasonal treat. Coffee, tea and lemonade were also available. We set up extra chairs and tables in the reception room to encourage more parishioners to join the coffee hour. We expect to repeat this event next year.

Summer at the Beach was held on Tuesday July 29, 2025 in Hughson Hall. This was the third year that the Fellowship Committee has presented a July weeknight event. Each year we have had a different theme. This year Hughson was transformed into a beach style venue thanks to Amy Gorney's creativity and group of volunteers. Our dinner, which was once again prepared by Cris Hicks and her dedicated kitchen team, featured guacamole & chips, coconut shrimp, vegetable kebabs, pulled pork, marinated chicken thighs, coleslaw, peach salad, corn on the cob and ginger raspberry ice cream cake and a berry crumble for dessert. Guests were welcome to dress in casual (no bathing suits) summer attire. Beach balls and games were available to enjoy, but most people just seemed to enjoy a fun evening with their Calvary friends. Sixty-four people attended.

Kickoff Sunday was held on Sunday, September 14, 2025. Although we continued to offer our full schedule of worship services throughout the summer months, our choir and Sunday school did not meet during that time period. Kick Off Sunday was a way to recognize and celebrate the start of a new program year. It was the opening day of Sunday school and also featured the return of our Parish choir to the Sunday 10:00 service. After the 10am service, parishioners then made their way up to Hughson Hall for a tailgate inspired buffet brunch of pizza, chicken wings, bags of chips and popcorn as well as a variety of homemade salads. Most guests also took advantage of our make-your-own-sundae bar for dessert. Games were set up in Hughson and face painting was provided by Deacon Leann. We also raffled off a Bills tee shirt and hat. As with the family picnic, it is difficult to count everyone who came because we get a lot of attendees who have not signed up previously but who join us spontaneously the day of the event. We believe that some sharp-eyed parishioners were able to record most of the attendees and that the estimated attendance of 90+ is accurate.

Special Receptions: The Fellowship Ministry collaborated with the Vestry for the reception following the September 21st Choral Evensong which celebrated Father Robert's 30th anniversary of Ordination. We also planned and organized the special receptions that were held following the October 26th Great Music "Such Glorious Gifts" concert, and the December 14th "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols." These special receptions are open to all those attending the concerts and help us extend Calvary's hospitality to the broader community.

Going forward this year and in the future, we will seek more opportunities to collaborate with the Vestry and other committees. We are hoping to have a special event sometime this winter for Newcomers and provide more opportunities for new parishioners to make connections and feel comfortable. We would also like to engage more with our Sunday school families to encourage participation at our family-friendly events. If you are a newcomer or a Sunday school family, we would be very interested in hearing your suggestions. Please feel free to email either of us with your thoughts. We are continuing to see more people from our Saturday 4:00pm and 8:00am Sunday services at our Fellowship events. This is a trend that we will continue to encourage. Publicizing our events at all services with in-person announcements has proven to be effective and will be continued whenever possible. Fellowship meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday of the month in the Reception Room. Our meetings are offered in a hybrid format (in-person and via Zoom.) They are also announced in the "Calvary News" and are listed as a reminder in "This Week at Calvary" in the week that they are scheduled. We are always happy to add new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie Archdeacon and Amy Gorney

Pastoral Care Ministries: Elizabeth Harten

It is very humbling to acknowledge that we failed to accomplish all our goals this year, but there were silver linings in many forms all along the way. Pastoral Care fell into some disarray in 2025, mainly because some of our pastoral care providers become pastoral care recipients, and it was a struggle to make our usual visits and meetings. Calvary's blessings were numerous all year, however, as many individuals jumped into action whenever a request for help was made, and sometimes even before a request could be made. Personally, I was very moved by the unprompted and sincere support and attention I received from so many members of the congregation, who just were doing what they do for others all the time. It truly was just as God intended—for His Church to provide all types of care for one another, although we still do need a Pastoral Care Committee and a plan to do better in 2026!

Our Accomplishments

The **Pastoral Care Team**, made up of Fr. Robert, Ellie Yuhasz, Elizabeth Harten, and Deacon Leann McConchie, maintained a spreadsheet of visits made and cards and flowers sent to over 70 parishioners on our pastoral care lists, but our meetings and communication were random throughout the year. The purpose of these meetings is to identify who needs a card, a call, a visit, or anything else we can provide. Respecting the privacy and confidentiality of these individuals is essential, making it all the more important to let Fr. Robert, Alice Brown, or a member of the Pastoral Care Committee know when someone is ill or experiencing a life-changing event; we depend on parishioners to alert us to their needs or the needs of others we can serve.

The seven **Eucharistic Visitors** took Home Communion to the permanently homebound parishioners and others, who were unable to attend church due to illness. 40 visits with Communion were made in 2025, but countless other visits were made in friendship and to help with errands and rides. The requests for Home Communion continued to grow, as does our need for more Eucharistic Visitors.

The **Congregational Care Committee** sent out over 1200 birthday, get well, sympathy, thinking of you, and congratulations cards, made dozens of phone calls, and sent out 6 college care packages in 2025. Rides to church events and healing meals were provided to about a half dozen parishioners. We are very grateful to Kathy Marshall, who graciously took over the massive job of sending out the birthday cards.

The **Altar Flower Ministry** delivered 94 bouquets and plants to parishioners from the altar arrangements. Lisa Barone, Robert Firestine, and Patty Rooss volunteered to provide invaluable help with this ministry in Ellie Yuhasz's absence. We are very grateful for their help and the help of all those who made flower deliveries. Trish Whalen designed and donated beautiful silk flower arrangements for each season to be used on the altar when no live flowers are donated.

Many amazing bakers and servers jumped in to help the volunteers who set up for and cleaned up following the 7 **Funeral Receptions** that were hosted at Calvary in 2025. While many of our regular workers were convalescing from surgeries, paper products and beverages were purchased, linens were laundered, and dishes were washed, among the numerous reception tasks performed. Even after sending plates home with the bereaved families, often many baked goods were leftover and could be shared with Sunday Coffee Hours. It may have looked as if these receptions put on themselves, but many hours of work went into providing this most rewarding mission, allowing families and friends the time and space to be together to remember and mourn their loved ones.

Good Grief, our peer support group led by Howard Craig, Ellen Marshall, and Patty Rooss, averaged between 15 – 25 participants at their meetings, with about two-thirds of the group coming from the community. The 11th annual Comfort at Christmas service brought in 65 attendees, with 134 online

viewers. They continued to send out the grief book series to parishioners and any others, as requested, who suffered a loss, and remain a resource listed in both the Hospice Buffalo and Roswell Park directories. They also continued to help other churches that have started their own grief support groups.

The nimble fingers of the 20 knitters and crocheters in our **Hands 2 Hearts** group gave away 4 baby blankets, 2 prayer shawls/lap robes, 12 preemie blankets to Sisters Hospital, 37 winter hats to Outreach for School 30 students, and 31 hat/mitten/scarf sets to Outreach for Friends of Night People; additional baby blankets and prayer shawls were made to have on hand for future gifts, along with more than 100 worry dolls that have been knitted and crocheted to keep the basket in the reception room full for anyone to take. Over a decade ago, when this ministry began as the Prayer Shawl Ministry, knitters and crocheters worked on their own to produce shawls and baby sweater sets. While some continue to work on their own, today this group meets regularly to discuss and collaborate on other projects we can support and to socialize and share their tricks of the trade with one another.

The **Parent Ministry** continued to struggle to find ways to support young parents, but **Mothers Prayers** continued to flourish. This group of 10-12 mothers and grandmothers met regularly to pray for their children, grandchildren, and others in the parish. Their bonds of friendship built on faith and prayer continued to provide comfort and strength amid feelings of powerlessness.

The **Pet Ministry** held its third annual Pet Memorial Service in May, attended by 22 individuals grieving or supporting those who suffered the loss of a pet. In October, the annual Blessing of Animals brought pet owners of 27 dogs and 5 cats (represented in photos) to Calvary's courtyard for a short service, a blessing, and refreshments for all species. From collections at the Blessing of the Animals and from the listing of pet names to be honored and memorialized in the e-News, we raised \$246, which we supplemented from pet memorial money in our account, to send \$300 to the Pet Food Pantry at St. Martin-in-the-Field Episcopal Church on Grand Island. The Pet Ministry continued to recognize pet losses and new pet additions to our families, collect donations for area pet rescue organizations, and provide helpful safety hints and event information for our pet families.

Calvary's 40+ **Prayer Chain** members honored all prayer requests from members of the congregation and the greater community, while respecting privacy and confidentiality. A Prayer Vigil was organized by Emily Sityar, and parishioners prayed at designated hours from 8pm on Maundy Thursday until 8am on Good Friday either in St. Luke's Chapel or at home.

Goals and Needs

In 2026, we will work to improve communication and the understanding of what we do at Calvary, what we do for the greater Buffalo community, and what we do to support the missions of Outreach and other committees. It is important to clarify that Pastoral Care not only serves the needs of the parish, but that we regularly reach outside the walls of the church. It is a mistake to think that we are simply an "Inreach" committee—the flipside of Outreach. Through our faith and presence, Pastoral Care serves and supports inner emotional and spiritual needs at times when individuals require prayers and safe space, or are grieving or feeling forgotten and alone, and assists with the practical needs that nurture individuals' well-being, connect them to others who understand their struggles, and provide a context in which faith may grow and heal the feelings of brokenness in a challenging world. Having the opportunity to do these things is a gift not just to those we serve, but even more to ourselves. To share God's love and serve his people—to bring a smile to a sad and lonely face—is the most meaningful work we ever do in this world.

We will continue to support Fr. Robert in caring for the homebound and those parishioners not physically able to attend church services in person, and we will continue to seek out training and instructional opportunities to make us more effective in what we do.

We will work to recruit more volunteers to this mission. A great deal of pastoral care work is done by a small number of parishioners, and this is not sustainable. We need volunteers in every capacity: saying prayers—the existing members of the prayer chain have been challenged to invite one other person to join our force; making calls and visits with Home Communion; preparing meals and giving rides; looking out for your neighbors and pew-mates to make us aware of the pastoral needs of the congregation and to help supply them.

The Flower Ministry is one of the most appreciated groups in Pastoral Care. Taking others a gift of flowers from the altar is both a physical and a spiritual reminder that they are connected to the parish and are not forgotten. The work of this ministry has been accomplished by just a few hands for many years, and we desperately need help to keep it going. It is not a huge time commitment and can be done on Sunday following the 10am service or even on Monday morning. Making smaller bouquets from the altar arrangements is easy and fun to do—even a child can help do it. Delivering bouquets can be a quick stop on your way home before the football game or your weekly pilgrimage to Wegman's. Flowers are not donated for the altar every week or during Advent or Lent, so it's just a part-time job, and individuals can partner up or families can sign up to do just a time or two a year.

We need input from the parents of young children. While Mothers Prayers provides great value to mothers with grown children and grandchildren, we have been unable to identify ways in which we can support and ease the load for busy, young parents.

We also need a steady stream of communication and input about individuals' needs and ways we can serve one another and a succession plan to sustain our current work. Please take a moment or two to think of ways in which you can be a part of our mission and make 2026 the year you put your good intentions into pastoral care!

Outreach Ministries: Amy Gorney and Emily Sityar

Committee Members in 2025: Lorrie Archdeacon, Larry Bernhard (Vestry Liaison), Ro Cherpak, Chris Coburn-Miller, Howard Craig, Karen Davidson, Janice Delucia, Marcy Diaz, Norine Eaton, Amy Gorney (chair), Betsy Greno, Sandy Handy, Elizabeth Harten, Ellen Marshall, Julie Preston, Cindy Primus, Patty Rooss, Joan Scalfani, Emily Sityar (co-chair).

Outreach Ministries is a channel through which parishioners can reach out with compassion to vulnerable and less fortunate people in our community and beyond. Some outreach endeavors involve active volunteer participation throughout the year; others involve collection drives and/or financial support made possible by free-will offerings and bequests to Calvary's endowment.

1. 2025 Accomplishments

School 30: Supporting Buffalo Public School #30 (BPS #30) remains a predominant Outreach ministry in terms of parish participation. Last winter, Calvary and Pixie Village sponsored the Our Stories Book Drive to collect K- Gr. 8 books featuring stories that reflect BPS #30's diverse student body. As in previous years, Outreach sent volunteers to help at BPS #30's Field Day, ran a successful school supplies drive, and held the annual Adoption Ceremony. During the Mitten Tree Drive, Calvary parishioners purchased fleece jackets and books, and volunteers distributed them to 108 second and fourth graders. Outreach funds and free-will donations totaling \$1250 allowed the first grade teachers to buy presents for their 55 students. Calvary's Hands to Hearts knitters made 37 hats and mittens for primary students.

Friends of Night People: Friends of Night People (FONP) provides food, clothing, medical care, counseling and hope to those in need in Buffalo. Last year, Outreach donated \$3000 to FONP. Forming a second team of volunteers allowed Calvary to serve at FONP monthly instead of every other month and attracted new and former volunteers to participate. Volunteers served about 160-220 dinners nightly, with increasing numbers reflecting rising food costs. Outreach collected clothing for FONP, including 31 hats and 9 pairs of mittens made by Hands to Hearts members, and sponsored a successful sock collection drive.

Family Justice Center: The Family Justice Center of Buffalo (FJC) helps victims of abuse escape unhealthy relationships. Continuing our long-term support for FJC, Calvary donated \$1680 to FJC and held a very successful snack drive for clients visiting the downtown center.

Refugee Ministries- Outreach donated \$1000 to the Refugee Partnership Crisis Response Fund when local agencies lost their funding in early 2025. Calvary donated backpacks and school supplies to the Journey's End Refugee Services (JERS) Refugee Summer Camp and made a \$2,500 donation to JERS as a sponsor of their 40th Anniversary Celebration.

In November, Calvary delivered 26 hand-knit sets of scarves, hats and mittens as well as many socks and toiletries to JERS. The winter sets were made by Hands to Hearts members, other parishioners, and friends outside of the church. All donations were very much appreciated.

Stitch Buffalo: In May, Outreach held Calvary's first Stitch Buffalo pop-up sale to support refugee women who made the craft items.

Calvary Bins: Calvary's donation bins, located just inside the Pixie Village Preschool hallway, are frequently filled by parishioners. Every month, volunteers delivered clothing and household goods to Friends of Night People and/or St. Peter's "Threads of Hope" Linen Pantry.

Our Little Roses Luncheon: Church of the Advent hosted a fundraiser luncheon at Calvary for Our Little Roses School (OLR) in Honduras. Members of Advent were very grateful to use Calvary's more spacious facilities. Due to this collaboration, Calvary deepened its involvement with OLR, committed to sponsoring an OLR student, and donated \$500 to OLR in December.

Other Donations: Calvary donated \$1500 to Water for South Sudan at the Common Ground event in June. Unsold items from Calvary's Garage Sale were donated to FONP, St. Peter's Threads of Hope Linen Pantry, Stitch Buffalo, Clara's Closet, and Goodwill. Outreach end-of-year donations were sent to Feed More WNY, Amherst Meals on Wheels, Buffalo City Mission, and Hearts for the Homeless.

2. 2025 Objectives

Outreach's objectives for 2026 are as follows.

- We will provide opportunities for Calvary members to live out their faith in service to others.
- We will reinforce long-standing relationships with organizations such as BPS #30, FONP, FJC, and JERS, and we will develop new ties to organizations such as Stitch Buffalo and OLR. We will volunteer, run collection drives, and financially support these organizations. Calvary will sponsor a mission trip to Our Little Roses in Honduras in October.
- We will respond to rising needs by increased support from the Outreach budget. The 2026 Outreach Budget increases Calvary's annual financial commitment to FONP to \$3,600, creates a new line item of \$1000 for OLR, and commits to \$500 in support for St. Peter's Threads of Hope Linen Pantry to purchase small housewares for refugee and formerly homeless families.

3. 3-5 year goals and resources needed to get there:

1. Outreach hopes to increase parish awareness of and involvement in Outreach ministries. We will use various ways to communicate these opportunities and try to be attuned to the needs which most stir people's compassion. Most of all, we need committed volunteers and adequate funding.
2. We will collaborate on Outreach projects with Sunday School and Pixie Village, as well as other parishes in our diocese.
3. We will engage with more charities in our local community, such as the Williamsville School District's Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Gorney and Emily Sityar

Communication Committee: Ryan Fleming

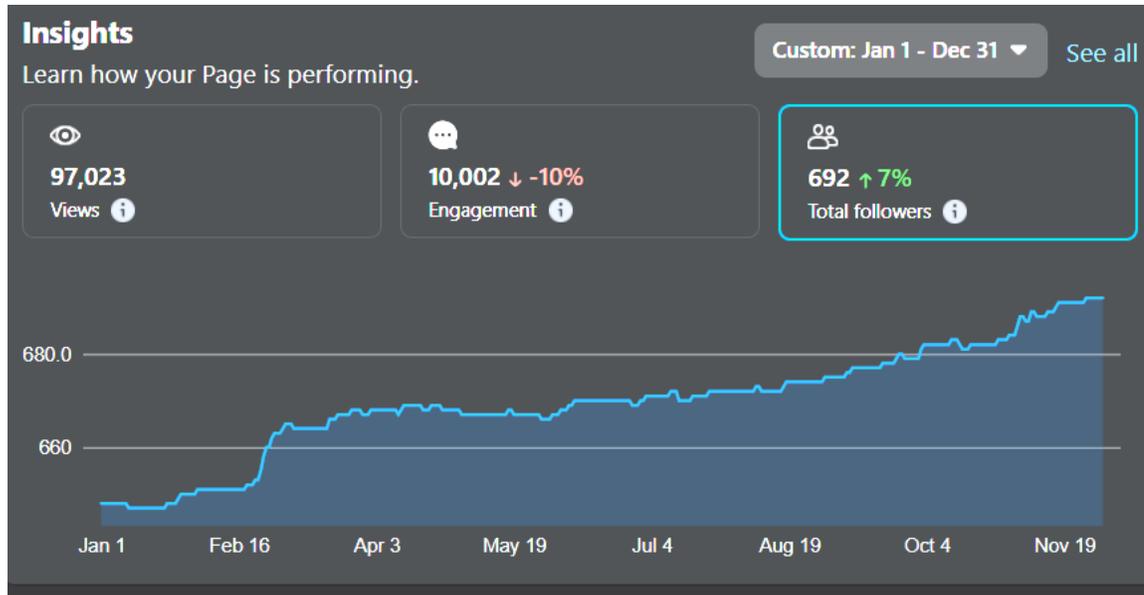
Members: Ryan Fleming (chair), Alice Brown (ex officio), Ellen Marshall

Regular visitors: Lorrie Archdeacon, Emily Sityar, Fr. Robert Harvey, Laurie Kaiser

Thank you to outgoing members Melinda Mets and Joan Scalfani for their invaluable insight and contributions over the years!

2025 accomplishments

- Our church Facebook page has become a key element of our communications strategy. Did you know that we got almost 100,000 views in 2025, while increasing our followers by 7%?



- Our top-performing post was video of dancing at the Big Band fundraiser in November. Here's a look at the top five:

Preview	Views	Viewers	Engagement	Net follows	Impressions
Published • Nov 11, 2025	1,623	893	187	0	1,043
Published • Jun 8, 2025	576	--	143	0	267
Published • Jul 30, 2025	559	--	123	0	249
Published • Dec 14, 2025	781	438	114	2	471
Published • Jul 21, 2025	404	--	108	0	256

- We are using artificial intelligence that has been trained on our past press releases to write new ones, which we have a human check before submitting to media outlets. This has saved our small group valuable time.
- We are also using AI image generation models to create custom, attractive graphics for promotion of some of our events on social media.
- We resolved several camera hardware issues affecting our streaming services as and when they arose, avoiding a costly technician call.

2026 Objectives

- We are investigating alternative app providers for our closed-captioning services, as our current provider has intermittently cut out at inopportune times.
- We are exploring means of connecting our parish family digitally, perhaps with the establishment of a Facebook Group that would enable more organic connections between families, highlight volunteering opportunities, sharing event photos, and more. We have done well to keep current with technology in our one-to-many comms, streaming services, etc., but we have yet to foster a place where Calvarians can connect digitally directly with each other. Many church members are already friends on Facebook, and so this seems like a good next step with some organic momentum to have another way of connecting and strengthening our community.
- YouTube has been identified as another channel with a huge and relatively untapped (for Calvary) built-in audience. We will continue our Calvary Conversations series and see what other content areas we can develop here, to supplement the success we've had on Facebook.
- We plan to draft a "communications playbook" with simple instructions for setting up the physical sandwich board outside church for events, a streaming camera troubleshooter, closed captioning system setup instructions, and some other promotional tips and tricks that will serve our church and reduce reliance on particular individuals.

Three-Year Goals and resources needed to get there

- We will establish a vibrant, engaged community that is both in-person and online, connected, clearly aware of and engaged with volunteer/service opportunities.
- We will improve the performance of our systems (CC, cameras) and see where we can improve.
- We will keep our church future-ready, highlight the good works of our parish to attract new interest and membership, and ensure that it is easy to get to know us, get involved with us, and stay connected with us, whether in-person or digitally.
- We request continued budget support at present levels from the Vestry to enable us to fulfill our mission.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Fleming, Committee Chair

Property Committee

Property: Bryan Gorney

2025 Major Accomplishments:

- Increased committee membership. The committee is currently made up of the following members: Paul McKenna, Wes Stone, Brad Archdeacon, Jim Porter, Jack Saviola, Carl Zabrowski and Bryan Gorney.
- Increased project management reporting and delegation of duties/projects.
- 28 Milton renovations: replaced the main electrical panel, installed a sump pump and bubbler, fixed the drainage issues in the basement all according to current village code, landscaping in both the front and back yards, repainted every room on the first floor. New tenant as of October 2025.
- Hughson Hall improvements: kitchen repainted, new banquet chairs, enhanced lighting in hall, mitigated drainage issues along the south side of the building.
- 19 Milton (rectory) improvements: complete tear off and replacement of roof, removal of evasive bamboo in yard.
- Church: painting of sacristy and forthcoming new flooring, paint repair in the Milton St foyer, addition of five designated handicapped parking spaces.
- Choir room improvements: new filing cabinets, new window blinds, new chairs.

2026 Major Objectives:

- Enhance our administrative reporting by developing a more comprehensive vendor list and project management schedule.
- Prepare additional classroom space and bathroom improvement in the church basement. Pixie Village will begin leasing effective July 2026.
- Address landscaping and maintenance around the church buildings and Kryder Courtyard.
- Assess potential tree removal along Cayuga Rd and Milton St.
- Possible replacement of carpeting in Hughson Hall.
- Develop a detailed monthly maintenance schedule for the various mechanics on the campus.
- Assess the need/role for a building manager position.
- Begin a deep assessment of each church building.

3-year goals and the resources needed to get there:

- Complete a long-term strategic plan to identify the capital needs/improvements of the church buildings. Prioritize the needs and develop a timeline for completion.
- Capital fund raising to achieve the long-term strategic plan.

Property Committee
Arts & Furnishing: Jim Porter

The Arts & Furnishing Committee was not asked to participate in any decisions requiring their input in 2025. The committee is ready to reconvene as needed.

Property Committee
Churchyard: Linda McKenna

For 2025 Calvary Churchyard, the Board members were Brad Archdeacon, Charles Golightly, Linda McKenna, and Pat Zebrowski. Our responsibilities are to maintain the sacred grounds where deceased parishioners and their family members may be inurned and remembered in a respectful location.

We work with the Property committee to maintain the grounds, including plants, grass, walkways, walls, and stones. We contract the incising and some of the grounds work to local firms who have the equipment and skills required. Otherwise, the plantings and upkeep are done by Board members. We are addressing the issue of trees along the exterior of the Churchyard walls to prevent any possible damage to the structures.

Wes Stone has provided the site plans for Sections A and B for the office wall. This allows us to visualize available gravesites for purchase.

For 2025 I recorded 10 deaths, 11 funerals, 5 gravesite purchases, and 10 inurnments.

Our annual expenses cover routine office supplies and payments to our contractors. I don't foresee any major changes in 2026 or the immediate future.

In 2026 we will continue to update our records, maintain our oversight of the Churchyard spaces, and provide compassionate and respectful services to families.

We welcome additional Board members. Please contact any of us to join this ministry.

Linda McKenna, Churchyard Secretary

Parish Growth and Support Stewardship: Dennis McCoy & Janet Metcalfe

Gracious and loving God, giver of every good gift, thank you for blessing this parish: for the joy of worship; the gift of music; the nurture of children, and the call to serve others in your name. Fill us with love, gratitude, and hope. Guide us to be faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The makeover of the stewardship committee continued in 2025, through its members, Carlos Diaz, Mark Bunting, Emily Sityar, Dale Harten, Jim Porter, Michael and Janis Bommer, Guy Whalen, Cindy Munschauer, Dal Giuliani, as well as co-chairs, Janet Metcalfe, Reverend Dr. Robert Harvey and Dennis McCoy.

It was decided to divide the year into two halves: the first half dealing with a celebration of lay ministry; and the second half dealing with the pledge campaign. In the first half of the year, there were presentations on behalf of Outreach Ministries. The goal for 2026 is to enhance the focus on lay ministries, so as to explain the goal of these ministries and offer parishioners the opportunity to become involved.

The second half of 2025 focused on the annual pledge campaign. The committee hosted a coffee hour to kick off the campaign. In addition, there were changes made to the formatting of the pledge card and the accompanying letter. The committee also wrote a prayer specific to stewardship, which was read during the prayers of the people for the entirety of the campaign.

The results of the pledge campaign were very heartening. For the second year in a row, pledges increased. On behalf of the committee, thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge. If you did not, please consider pledging. It is never too late.

For 2026, as mentioned above, the committee hopes to enhance the programming during the first part of the year to highlight the many ministries and programs here at Calvary, and to let parishioners know how they might become involved. The annual pledge campaign itself will remain much the same as it has been for several years now. The committee is considering some additional programming regarding stewardship during the campaign.

In 2025, the Vestry decided to close the Capital Campaign and Planned Giving Committees. The responsibilities of those committees were added to the stewardship committee. Therefore, in 2026, the stewardship committee will begin the groundwork for a capital campaign and will reintroduce the opportunities for planned giving to the parish.

Over the next three years, the committee hopes to continue the year-round program; to launch a capital campaign, and to revitalize the planned giving at Calvary. In order to accomplish these goals, the committee will need additional members. If you have an interest in participating, please contact one of the co-chairs. If you are approached to join the committee, please do consider joining us for this important work.

Yours faithfully,
Reverend Dr. Robert Harvey
Janet Metcalfe & Dennis McCoy,
Co-Chairs

Finance

Endowment Committee: Janet Newall

Endowment Committee:

- Janet Newall (Chair)
- Stephen Munschauer
- Pam Agostinelli
- Betsy Greno

2025 Endowment Account Activity

	(\$000's)
Beginning Market Value: 1/1/24	\$ 2,082
Contributions	151
Payments and Taxes	(65)
Fees	(10)
Income Earned	18
Appreciation/(Depreciation)	365
Ending Market Value: 12/31/25	<u><u>\$ 2,389</u></u>
YOY Net Increase	\$ 307
YOY percentage increase	15%

2025 Portfolio Activity:

- Year over Year Investment Portfolio balance net increase was 15%
- Payments include 2025 budget draw
- In December, Calvary received two anonymous gifts. One is an unrestricted gift of \$12,000. Another gift of \$50,000 is to be used for building repairs.

2026 Goals:

- The 2026 budget endowment draw approved by the Endowment Committee is \$ 75,300. This amount is less than the allowed draw of \$84,032. (4.25% of 3-year rolling average). The Endowment Committee adopted a conservative approach with the 2026 draw based on the volatility in the market and a planned level spending in 2026.
- Meet with ECF (Episcopal Church Foundation) annually to review portfolio mix and strategy.
- Determine 2027 budget endowment draw.

Three Year Goals and Resources Needed:

- Preserve the corpus

Finance

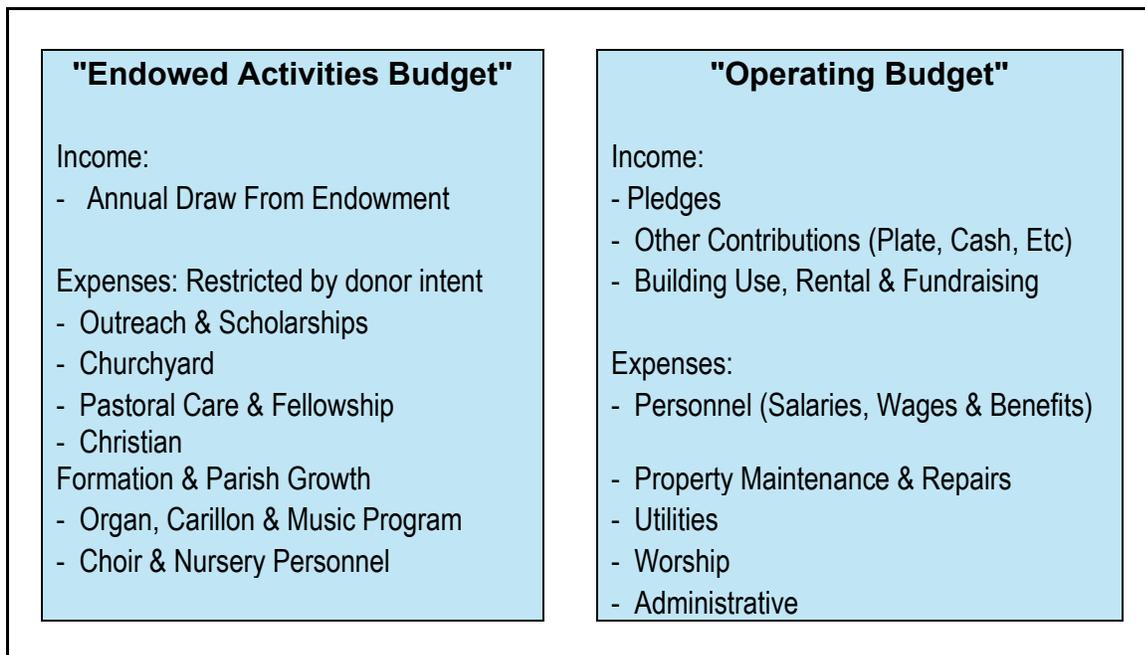
Finance Committee: Michael Bommer, Treasurer

Introduction

As a reminder Calvary manages its annual finances with two budgets: (1) the Endowed Activities Budget, funded by an annual draw from the Endowment; and (2) the Operating Budget funded primarily by pledges solicited during our annual Stewardship campaign, as illustrated in figure 1. We manage our Finances via these two budgets in order to enhance the visibility to all our parish funding sources and to make clear how we expend our financial resources in service of our parish and our mission.

We successfully transitioned change in treasurer from Charles Golightly to myself in the first quarter of 2025. We have also moved to a new web version of the accounting software in order to increase access and visibility for its users. This reduced the cost of our bookkeeping service who performs the month-end close, as our accountant can now work remotely. As always, Alice Brown has been an instrumental part of keeping me and the entire church informed and on track.

Figure 1. Calvary Parish Budgets



2025 Actual to Operating Budget Performance

We exceeded our expectations for Income in 2025. Pledges are within 2% of the budget. This was an improvement over last year and a good foundation for our 2025 operating income. Other contributions, which include non-pledge and undesignated gifts were over budget by 9% and other income, which includes building use, rent and fundraising was also over budget by 36%. Other income showed the benefit of a strong fundraising year. There were many successful fundraising events during the year. The Big Band Dinner & Dance was exceptional exceeding \$25,000. There was unplanned rental income from a new tenant at 28 Milton which started in October 2025. Our successful year is summarized in the diagram below.

Operating Expenses: Total expenses came in at 94% of our plan. There may be more to accrue that we have not accounted for yet. Admin expenses are down significantly from budget due to the previously mentioned decrease in bookkeeping expenses. All other expense categories fell at or under budget this year. This puts our finances at a great position for 2026.

2025 Operating Budget Performance

* Actual data as of 1/19/26

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	% of Budget
Operating Income	\$ 538,100	\$ 563,259	105%
Operating Expenses	\$ 539,100	\$ 507,812	94%
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ (1,000)	\$ 55,447	

2025 Endowed Activities Budget Results

The endowed activities surplus will be returned to Calvary’s local reserve funds, according to origin, to be available for future uses.

We had a better year in spending to our budgets in most of the endowed categories. Only a few groups did not spend their full budget and remained well under. The numbers for endowed activities are summarized in the figure below.

2025 Endowed Activities Budget Performance

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	% of Budget
Endowment Income	\$ 64,860	\$ 64,860	100%
Activities Expenses	\$ 60,380	\$ 48,329	80%
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$ 4,480	\$ 16,531	

2026 Operations Budget

The pledge income in the budget is conservative at this point. We are still awaiting final contributions from a few parishioners. Other contributions were based on the 2025 actuals. Other income includes the increased rent for 28 Milton. There will be a rent increase in the fall for Pixie Village, however that change in pricing is yet to be determined.

Although there are not many significant changes to the expense budget, we added \$40,000 to salaries in hopes of adding either a part-time or full-time property manager. There was also a significant increase in supply priest costs from the Diocese. As in the 2025 actuals, our accounting expense is significantly less in the budget. We added 10% to the utilities and most other categories are either the same as the previous year’s budget or similar to their 2025 actuals.

Although we are showing a deficit at this point, there are a few opportunities for increased income that are not currently included in the budget mentioned previously. These changes are depicted in the diagram below.

2026 Calvary Operations Budget Summary

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	% Diff	\$ Difference
Revenue				
Pledge Income	427,800	430,000	1%	2,200
Other contributions	44,200	44,700	1%	500
Other Income	66,100	90,350	37%	24,250
Total Operating Income	\$538,100	\$565,050	5%	26,950
Expenses				
Diocesan Commitment	66,093	65,519	-1%	(574)
Personnel *	321,021	368,254	15%	47,233
Administrative	38,500	25,150	-35%	(13,350)
Music	1,000	1,500	50%	500
Worship/Spirituality	15,700	12,250	-22%	(3,450)
Communications	3,750	3,250	-13%	(500)
Property expenses	62,971	61,419	-2%	(1,552)
Utility expenses	33,294	35,648	7%	2,354
Total Operating Expenses	\$542,329	\$572,990	6%	30,661
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$4,229)	(\$7,940)		

2026 Endowed Budget

The draw for this year's budget is larger than 2025 but is still within the 4.25% allowed. The main highlight of the draw is drawing money from churchyard fund for tree removal.

For expenses, we have an increase in scholarship due to high demand. Most of the other categories are budgeted the same as the prior year. The organ repair project that will be performed in 2026 to fix the back organ in the church is not included in this budget, and will be drawn as needed later in the year. These changes are shown in the figure below.

DRAFT 2026 Calvary Endowed Activities Budget Summary

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	% Diff.	\$ Difference
Permanent Endowment Fund	0	0		0
Women's Programs Fund	1,680	1,700	1%	20
Choir Fund	1,080	1,100	2%	20
Capital Improvements Fund	0	0		0
Kryder Organ Fund	5,000	5,000	0%	0
Carillon Fund	0	1,800		1,800
Churchyard Fund	0	6,700		6,700
Scholarship Fund	0	2,400		2,400
General Endowment Fund	57,100	56,600	-1%	(500)
Total Endowment Income	\$64,860	\$75,300	16%	10,440
Total Scholarship	0	5,000		5,000
Total Outreach	12,680	14,000	10%	1,320
Total Personnel	21,000	21,000	0%	0
Total Music Instrument Upkeep	4,000	5,800	45%	1,800
Total Christian Formation	3,500	3,500	0%	0
Total Fellowship	8,500	8,500	0%	0
Total Pastoral Care	3,700	3,700	0%	0
Total Parish Growth/Support	2,500	2,500	0%	0
Total Search/Sabbatical Reserves	4,000	4,000	0%	0
Total Churchyard	0	6,700		6,700
Total Endowed Expenses	\$59,880	\$74,700	25%	14,820
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$4,980	\$600		

In summary, 2025 showed a surplus in operating income and spent close to the budget in the endowed operations. With a conservative 2026 budget, Calvary is well positioned to meet our goals in the coming year.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 20 MILTON ST., WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221
 716.633.7800 | WWW.CALVARYEPISCOPAL.NET