



Spotlight



Continue in What You Have Learned

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it." (II Timothy 3:14)

In September 2020 Calvary Baptist Church celebrated 126 years of presence and ministry in the Beaches Community of Toronto. Wow!

During those years the participants in the fellowship suffered the effects of wars and pandemics. They sent many of their young people to serve their country in those wars. At home they served their communities using skills of healing, teaching ESL, and offering grace and comfort to the neighbourhood.

Over the years the church has seen prosperity and poverty – responding to the first with generosity that enabled the building of the sanctuary and associated building – and to the second with compassion and caring, most notably in establishing the Grace Pascoe Care Centre.

"... Continue in what you have learned ... because you know those from whom you learned it ..."

Today, Calvary is facing several challenges. COVID-19 regulations and protocols limit opportunities for gathering; the Care Centre has been temporarily closed because the space does not allow for serving clients in a way that respects the social distancing rules. How do we continue in what we have learned from those who have worshipped in and ministered out of this place before us and from our ultimate leader, the Lord Jesus?

The Lord has been gracious to Calvary Baptist over the past eight months, and this offers hope and assurance that there is still a place in God's plan for this gathering of God's people to continue in worship, mission and ministry from 72 Main Street in Toronto.

We are witnessing clear answers to the intentional prayers of the people of Calvary Baptist. We continue to engage in vibrant and meaningful worship and learning opportunities, not just on Sunday morning, but through Provision Time and regular Prayer Times through the week. Those responsible for pastoral care are finding creative ways to consistently care for members of the fellowship. The Leroux Froebel Day Care, the church's tenant in the Sunday School wing, is re-opened and flourishing. The church's finances have stabilized.

The Leadership is daring to dream of a realistic way to re-open the Care Centre to serve and help relieve the poverty in our neighbourhood. We have hired a well-qualified, committed young pastor to articulate and lead the implementation of a vision for renewal and continued outreach to the neighbourhood.

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Fall 2020

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Birthdays

October

- 6 Diane Tisdall
- 9 Heather Mains
- 15 Andrea Cambridge
Shelley Faulkner
- 27 Sandra Farrant
- 30 Barry Tisdall



November

- 1 Shelton Deverell
- 13 Cynthia Sneyd
- 15 Julie Patton
- 19 Domenico Vitto
- 23 Nancy Moore
- 24 Alexander Kelley

Ongoing Events

Mondays – **Provision Time** @
7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays & Fridays – **Prayer
Time** 9:30-10 a.m.

Did You Know ...

Love & Prayers

Wishing a speedy recovery for Bob Long who is recuperating in Michael Garron Hospital after surgery.

Renewal Team Letter

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ of Calvary Baptist Church. As your Renewal Team writes this, we are reminded of Psalm 127:1a,

"If the Lord does not build the house, it is useless for the builders to work on it."

We first met in September 2019 and every week for the following four months. In 2020 we continued to meet but, as has happened with many other initiatives, were interrupted by COVID.

While it may not seem that we've been doing much during this time, in the past six months, we've prayerfully met six times. Once, we met with Pastor Cid Latty of CBOQ, out of which came the prayer and fasting. Four times we met with you, the congregation through virtual meetings (twice in Q&A's with Parish Properties, and in response, twice as a congregation). Most recently, we got together as a team on September 25th to debrief the thoughts and concerns that were raised at the meetings concerning parish properties, and to plan out our team's next steps. Since Pastor Ruth started on August 1st, she has been talking with different members and leaders in our community of The Beaches/East York, to start to listen to what God may be calling us to with and amongst our neighbours.

Charles Spurgeon said, "There are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in his service. We ought to muse upon the things of God, because we thus get the real nutriment out of them ..."

COVID offered us the opportunity to pause, and to dig deep into our relationship with God. We know it's been tough these past six months. God has given us this time of rest to be strengthened and renewed by Him to be ready for the harvest. Fall has come and the harvest is here!

God has moved in this church community! in the Renewal Team, the Mission Team, those who have been praying and fasting. We have been reminded of who God is and that He is

actively at work in us and through us. The Spirit of God has been busy here!

As a church, with 25 people who have been receiving weekly prayer and fasting updates, we have done 20 weeks of prayer and fasting and will continue, being rooted and grounded in Christ as we seek to discern our role in what God is up to in East Toronto.

Our trust and faith in God are strengthened through prayer! God's will and His way are revealed in prayer, and as we share what God is saying to each of us, His church! We've listened after the Parish Properties Questions and Answers sessions, and are taking a step back to re-evaluate given the feedback from those meetings.

In the near future, we'll meet with those who have been praying and fasting, to hear what God has been saying to each of us, and then work as the Renewal Team with Pastor Cid Latty to help us, to trace the line of the future ministry that God has planned for the congregation of Calvary Baptist Church, to discern what God has been growing for this time of harvest.

1 Peter 5:7-11; *"Turn all your anxiety over to God because he cares for you. Keep your mind clear, and be alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion as he looks for someone to devour. Be firm in the faith and resist him, knowing that other believers throughout the world are going through the same kind of suffering. God, who shows you his kindness and who has called you through Christ Jesus to his eternal glory, will restore you, strengthen you, make you strong, and support you as you suffer for a little while. Power belongs to him forever. Amen."*

Your Renewal Team:

Shawn Ronson, Howard Moriah, Patricia Elkerton, Ruth Bartlett & Tina Timmermans.

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Worship Team

Welcome to Calvary Baptist Church – LIVE & VIRTUAL!

The recent rise in Covid-19 cases is concerning our Team, and we are keeping a close eye on provincial rules, as we continue with a small group in the sanctuary. If at any time we feel it is in the best interest of the Calvary congregation to move to on-line services only, we will let our church family know. Below is information about sanctuary worship as of the beginning of October.

It has been over six months since we have been able to worship and fellowship in the sanctuary of Calvary Baptist Church at 72 Main Street – it seems like forever, doesn't it?

For the last month we have been able to conduct live worship services in the sanctuary. The Ontario Government and the appropriate health authorities published permission for worshipping communities to resume worship gatherings indoors, for up to 30% of the capacity of the sanctuary – but, with some rigid restrictions that have made worship look and sound quite different.

Church staff, the Mission Team, Worship Team and Trustees have reviewed the possibilities and limitations – with particular concern for any who might be vulnerable in the gathered congregation, and with regard for the needs of the Leroux Froebel School that rents space from the church.

There has been so much positive feedback about the virtual worship services that have been conducted each week and broadcast live over computer, 'phone and Facebook, that the leadership are committed to continuing worship in this form. So, if it is less convenient for you to come physically to the church, or if you would prefer to avoid larger gatherings until some more permanent resolution has been found for COVID-19, you will still be welcome and able to worship with us from your home, as you have been doing since March 2020.

Please review the following protocols that the church will be observing. If you are unable, or simply do not wish, to comply with any of these limitations, please continue to worship with us online until such a time as the rules are relaxed, or you are comfortable with the level of compliance.

Please note that NO EXCEPTIONS will be permitted. If even one person insists on entering and refuses to comply with the protocols, the service will be cancelled and the space evacuated in the same way as if there were a fire alarm.

As You Enter

- There will be two entrances to the Sanctuary – the Main Street door and the Benlamond steps to the south of the Sanctuary (fire exit). *Note: If you require the wheelchair ramp call Rev. Cambridge ahead of time at 647-922-9320 so we can watch for you. **No-one is allowed to use the double door entrance from the parking lot.*** (Exception: a staff person to disarm the alarm system, and to unlock doors from the inside.)
- You will be greeted by an usher who will take your temperature (if it is elevated you will not be allowed to enter).
- Masks that cover the nose and mouth at all times are **required** for those 2 years and up (if you do not have a mask, one will be provided). For those who have pre-existing medical conditions who are unable to wear masks for an extended period, face shields are available.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the table on entrance.
- You will be asked to confirm your name and contact information on entrance - necessary for contact tracing in the event of an infection being identified.
- Every other pew is roped off. Red tape indicates areas of the remaining pews that are not available to sit in. Please maintain social distancing from people not in your own family group or 'pod', and remain in your seat throughout the service.

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LIVE & VIRTUAL! *continued from page 3*

- The only washroom available for use is the one at the back of Clarke Hall, between the kitchen and the Resource room. Please don't be alarmed if an usher accompanies you – he/she needs to ensure no-one enters other areas of the building.

Changes to the Service

- No physical "Passing the Peace" – stay in place and gesture with your hands.
- No congregational hymn singing – feel free to stand, raise your hands and hum – **no singing!**
- Pew cushions, Bibles, hymnals and extra envelopes have been removed. The offering plate is on the table as you enter.
- There will be no bulletin, the order of service/liturgy/etc. will be projected onto a screen at the front of the sanctuary.
- Sadly, there is no after-service refreshment time. But do use the parking lot as an opportunity to connect while socially distancing.
- The Nursery/Sunday School has been temporarily discontinued.
- Communion will be with single-serve, prepackaged elements and, on the appropriate Sunday, may be picked up at the table as you check in at the beginning of the service.

Before You Come (please self-diagnose)

If you answer 'yes' to any of the following questions, please do not attempt to attend the Sunday morning worship service in person. We are so happy to welcome you online:

1. Are you showing any flu-like symptoms? (Fever, cough, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat or loss of taste or smell)
2. Are you in a high-risk category or have any underlying medical conditions?
3. Have you been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
4. Are you currently awaiting results from a COVID-19 test?

Calvary Baptist Church has been so blessed over many years to enjoy fellowship and worship together in a beautiful space that enhances our experience that God is with us and shows His delight in our worship directed to Him. We are thankful we are able to **carefully** worship in the sanctuary once again.

And we continue to offer thanks to God, that we are able, because of the special skills of several of our fellowship, to worship in virtual space.

As we move into a Fall that is very different from those that have gone before, we trust that you will find the best option for comfortable worship, so that we may truly continue to worship together, in Spirit and in truth.

Continue in What You Have Learned

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All of this has taken an enormous offering of time commitment and prayer by the volunteer leadership of Calvary Baptist: the Mission Team under the leadership of Tina Timmermans; the Worship Team under the leadership of Victoria Drysdale and Rex Deverell; the Communications Team under the leadership of Kent Faulkner; Pastoral care led by Shelley Faulkner, and the Renewal Team, led by Shawn Ronson and Pastor Ruth Bartlett. And, each one of you, as you pray for the leadership, participate in fellowship opportunities, and continue to offer your tithes and offerings to the Lord's work in this place.

"Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of ..." Because the Lord is answering prayer and Calvary Baptist Church continues to be a part of God's great plan for this city.

Andrea Cambridge, Interim Pastor

September 2020 – Treasurer’s Report

Financial Statements for the 8 Months Ended August 31

INCOME	2020		2019
	Actual	Budget	Actual
General Offering & fundraising	47,083	49,656	46,124
Leroux	54,000	54,323	71,600
Heavenly Light & other rentals	1,000	8,000	14,140
Grant & Gov't Subsidy	16,829	5,000	12,792
Investment income	4,194	3,150	4,222
TOTAL INCOME	123,106	120,129	148,878
EXPENSE			
E - Facilities Team	47,343	56,067	54,557
F - Ministry Support and Admin	4,505	8,800	8,517
G - Worship Team	3,143	3,353	1,703
H - Christian Education Team	785	2,067	1,926
I - Pastoral Care Team	1,197	2,600	2,025
K - Finance & Stewardship Team	4,083	6,067	5,780
L - Salaries and Benefits	58,989	92,167	109,450
TOTAL EXPENSE	120,044	171,120	183,958
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 3,063	\$ (50,991)	\$ (35,080)

The financial position for the first eight months of the year is a testament to the dedication of the Calvary family to keep church open while navigating the challenges of the pandemic and a change to our pastoral staff structure amid renewal efforts.

Taking these challenges into account, our financial position is much better than expected, in that going into the 2020 fiscal year we were aware of the revenue shortfall due to changes in the arrangements with various users of the building. Accordingly, the approved budget allowed for a loss for the year. General offering has been sustained, as Calvary members have generously continued to provide financial support throughout the period of COVID 19 closure. While income from rentals and fundraising is lower than anticipated, expenses have been significantly lower as programming and building costs were reduced through the period of shutdown. We are grateful that Leroux is now current with rental payments notwithstanding their operating challenges. In addition, the wage support received from the federal government has been a much-needed lifeline.

The net result is that we generated a modest surplus of \$3k instead of the operating shortfall of \$50k that was budgeted. This is largely due to the cost savings realized this year and is good news, as the church will have several months of breathing room while the leadership and the renewal team work with the congregation to arrive at a long-term plan for a sustainable future.

In addition to the operating fund results above, I am pleased to report that the sale of 10 acres of Ganaraska farmland concluded at the end of July. Of the proceeds of approximately \$129k, \$25k was advanced to the Ganaraska ministry for capital and operating purposes, while \$100k was invested in a bank certificate in accordance with the investment policy for reserve funds.

As always, we are most grateful for the support of the congregation.

Heather Mains, Treasurer

Ganaraska Woods

God has blessed Calvary with the Retreat Centre for 50 years. Excellent years of memories, meals, camp fires, singing and praising God, refreshing trail walks to renew one's faith and many personal experiences with God.

What else to say ... the pandemic has made it very difficult to have any groups use the space during the spring and summer of 2020.

Normally we'd be getting prepared to host Thanksgiving dinner for the people and friends of Calvary unfortunately we've decided to cancel that this year. We have faith we will be able to gather again at The Woods, just not right now. We are holding the door open to host a New Year's Eve gathering.

We are going to remain positive and leave the doors open as it were through the Fall of 2020. COVID regulations haven't allowed for overnight camps or sharing of rooms of non-related people. We are going to accept small groups of related individuals, Families of Faith that want to use the space but do their own cooking. Using the space to celebrate or grieve together or both. All contingent upon the current COVID restrictions from the local health authorities. Please contact Paul Sneyd or Cynthia Sneyd for more details and availability.

I would like to especially thank Brian Sneyd for keeping up with the maintenance of the facility and property.

The property sale of the front 10 acres to a local farmer has finally closed. With a portion of those funds the roof which was in need of repair has been completed. Thanks be to God.

Please keep the Commission of people that supervise the operations as well The Ganaraska Woods Retreat Centre in your prayers. Ask Jesus to guide us into a safe and vibrant future that will bring Glory to God. Amen.

Commission Chair, Shawn Ronson

A Letter to My Family

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I greet you with the peace of Christ!

We've all been forced to halt most of the activities we used to take for granted. I do miss you all! Yet, I feel we've been given the gift of a "pause." Although we have been physically apart, I feel we're getting to know each other more personally, I thank God for the gift of technology and I thank him for the people who have enabled us to worship together on Sunday and continue our Provision and Prayer times.

This pause has also given us the opportunity to closely discern what God is leading us towards as we search for renewal. As a family of Christ, what is our purpose? How do we serve our community and share the Good News?

The recent Membership Meetings, hosted by the Renewal Team, shows that there are still questions to be answered. As a family, we are bound to have a variety of opinions but remember:

Proverbs 19:21 "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

We continue with intentional prayer and fasting, in faith that as we trust and obey, he will make our way clear.

In August we welcomed Ruth Bartlett as our Associate Pastor. She comes to us with an MTS (Master of Theological Studies) in Community Urban Development from Wycliffe College. She continues her studies to complete an M.Div. (Master of Divinity). She is a strong member of our Leadership Teams and an encouragement to all the others who are working together towards a new Calvary on Main – a church with a clear purpose, sustainable and meaningful in service to the Lord and the neighbourhood around us.

May God be with each one of us as we continue to pray, discuss and plan towards a refreshed mission, using all we are and all we have for his glory.

Tina Timmermans, Moderator

The Main Thing • Calvary Baptist Church

• Interim Pastor: Andrea Cambridge acambridge@calvary-baptist-church.ca

• Associate Pastor: Ruth Bartlett rbartlett@calvary-baptist-church.ca • Pastor Emeritus: Rex Deverell rexdeverell@ca.inter.net

• Music Director: Han Na Kim music@calvary-baptist-church.ca

• Administrator: Tanya Hardeo calvaryonmain@calvary-baptist-church.ca • Custodian: Jim Yolevski

• Grace Pascoe Care Centre: 416-691-2899 gracepascoe@rogers.com