



Summer 2025

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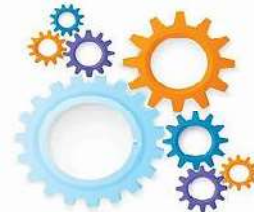


Ganaraska Woods Church Picnic

Saturday June 14, 2025

10 a.m. to after dinner. Lunch provided. Dinner potluck. Pool OPEN. Pray for good weather. Suggested donation of \$20 per person, under 18 is \$10, under 12 free. If you want to come down Friday night speak to Shawn about accommodations. Please let Shawn know if you'd like to attend so he can plan the lunch.

Spotlight



Many Moving Parts – One Purpose

Hey Everyone! As many of you are already aware, we are trying to sort out the best way to reconcile our church's real estate with our capacity. Our aim in all of these efforts is to "maintain and prioritize ministry, mitigate our shortfall of financial and human resources while maintaining the vision of who God is calling us to be as a church."¹

So much has happened since we last met! The Building Committee has heard Bob Mitchell's ideas for the Sunday School building. Patricia and I attended a conference called "Reimagine: Church, Land, and Community." The Mission Team is reviewing both our family discussions, and discussions with other churches. I've been talking with friends at Toronto Baptist Ministries (TBM) and Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBOQ). Shawn's been talking with Community Centre 55. Kelley and I connected with an architect through a cousin of mine. Victoria Drysdale and I met with Nathaniel Erskine-Smith to talk about affordable housing, which resulted in some great advice.

My head is reeling! So many conversations, but all with the same goal in mind – to "maintain and prioritize ministry, mitigate our shortfall of financial and human resources, while maintaining the vision of who God is calling us to be as a church."

In this *Spotlight*, we're going to do our best to fill you in on some of these conversations and also ask for your help to move things along too.

But before you read the following pages, as we continue forward towards the next round of discussions and decisions, and whenever you think of your church family and the building we currently inhabit, will you please pray this prayer with me and the whole church?

Dear God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

*We don't know where all this is going, or how it all works out. Give us Your peace that is past understanding. You hold us in the present, and in all that is to come. You see the land and this building at 72 Main Street. You see its present state, its potential, and the plans and the purposes YOU have for this place and space. You know its history and its future. Here in the present Lord, looking at ideas, pondering possibilities, amidst discussions and decisions, **Please**, align our hearts to your desires for 72 Main Street, and for the future of Calvary Baptist Church. We want to see You glorified with what we do with the building, and how we treat one another and our neighbours as we make these decisions.*

Give us grace for one another, and grace to trust You more.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thank you for taking the time to ponder, pray, discern, decide, and act alongside us in these important decisions. May God grant us a spirit of unity in the midst of these big decisions! *Love & Blessings, Pastor Ruth*

¹ From the introduction to "Index to Questions We Are Asking," part of our April 6th Huddle Package.

Hebrew 12: 1-2 ... and let us therefore run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

As a Church family we have been encouraged to pray and look to Jesus, to God's will, relinquishing our own views and desires for the future of Calvary. Change is always difficult. We fear the unknown. It's not easy to let go and go forward in faith. We strive for unity in Christ, unity as a family in His purpose for us.

Since the report from the Transformation Team in 2015, Calvary has recognized the need to adjust to the reality that our family has decreased in size over time, but our obligations towards real estate upkeep and maintenance has put a great strain on our budget. It diverts us from our mission to seek, know and worship God and learn how to be the voice and hands of Jesus in our community.

Our journey has taken us through a variety of different options over time, that were presented to the members at our Huddles, but had failed to achieve consensus. Although rentals have sustained us, they are not enough to assure our future. We have also looked into development opportunities with Parish Properties for guidance, failing to reach consensus as to which direction to take. This experience has, however, helped us to clarify our mission and recognizing the needs of our community, and look at how we can use our facility to God's glory.

Recently, our focus on prayer, our many discussions, the work of the Ministry Strategy Committee and the Building Committee are beginning to give us clarification. We are so grateful to Dr. Margaret Fitch for leading us through the recent survey exercise. This survey looked at the order of preference of four options. It revealed that the majority of our members prefer a partnership approach with variations. Your leadership continues to research a number of possibilities.

We are also grateful to Gordon Moore for his work with Bob Mitchell on the sale and development of the back parking lot since April of 2023. There have been some obstacles but Mr. Mitchell continues to pursue this. Recently, the Building Committee was given a presentation by Mr. Mitchell on an option to sell the 1929 building for development of 10 private units which would preserve the exterior of that building. There has been no financial analysis. This still leaves us with the concerns to upgrade the sanctuary. Leadership continues to research options including partnerships, potential supportive housing and looking at the journey of other churches as they change with the times. This is not only the responsibility of leadership, but as we all have ownership we also have shared responsibilities. All of us, in unison, need to move forward in prayer and faith, to discern what is the will of God in our neighborhood. ... *not by might nor power, but by my spirit, says the Lord Almighty. Zachariah. 4:6b*

Through this long process of discernment, the one thing that remains constant is our desire for unity with one another and unity in God's will. We have grown in Christian nurture, in prayer, in getting to know one another and in welcoming newcomers. God does have a plan for us! Let's continue to encourage each other, listen to each other openly and have faith that God will make a way. We are in this place for such a time as this. We are challenged with opportunities.

So why focus on this as Christian Nurture? I'm so grateful that our seniors at home feel connected and included, that we continue to rejoice together and to grieve together. With a determined united family our challenges are opportunities. For if God is for us, who could be against us. *Your sister in Christ, Tina Timmermans*

Choir & Praise Team

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your hard work, dedication and the time you've committed.

The choir will take a break from rehearsals. We'll return on September 14th to prepare for the church Anniversary Service on October 5th.

During that time the Praise Team will meet at 10 a.m. If you are interested in participating in either please contact Hanna: music@calvary-baptist-church.ca

Dr. Hanna Kim DMA



Government Support

Victoria Drysdale and Pastor Ruth met with MP Nathaniel Erskine-Smith to talk about affordable housing, which resulted in some really good advice (to develop a proposal asking some developers to come up with ideas on how to align our church's different dreams for what the building is, should remain to be, and could possibly become). A meeting with MPP Mary Margaret McMahon will be scheduled to see what provincial grants may be available.

Birthdays

June

3	Garry Kelley
10	Jack Vitto
12	Victoria Drysdale
18	Lyoid Lopes
24	Peggy Reiser
27	Kent Faulkner
29	Emily Sneyd



July

3	Nathan Palubski
7	Lyall McAllister
17	Rex Deverell
21	Pat Dewar
26	John Cambridge

August

1	Rita Shelton Deverell
3	Bob Long
20	Jen Henry

Upcoming Events

June 24th – Final Prayer Time til Fall

June 28th – Young Adults
(20/30ish) Board games picnic in Taylor Creek Park. BYO (non-alcoholic) drink, snacks to share, and a blanket to sit on as we play games. If rainy - at Pastor Ruth's.

June Preachers:

15	Rev. Rex Deverell
22	Rev. Andrea Cambridge
29	Rev. Ruth Bartlett

July Preachers:

6	Shelley Faulkner
13	Rev. Ruth Bartlett
20	Rev. Rex Deverell
27	Rev. Ruth Bartlett

August Preachers:

3	Rev. Andrea Cambridge
10	Rev. Andrea Cambridge
17	Rev. Rex Deverell
24	Shelley Faulkner
31	Rev. Ruth Bartlett

Anniversary Sunday: October 5th
Special speaker Rev. Leanne Friesen, Executive Minister of the Canadian Baptists of Ont & Que.

On Summer Hiatus: Prayer & Provision Time & 55+ Games afternoons.

Church, Land & Community

On May 13 and 14 Pastor Ruth and I had the opportunity to attend a conference at Wycliffe College, examining Church, Land and Community. Over the two days, there were plenary speakers and group sessions and opportunities for networking. A noticeable reality was that as Calvary is deeply involved in discussions and research as to what options are available to us as a congregation, we are not alone as there were representatives from churches across the GTA who are going through similar processes. Also present were architects, builders, consultants, developers, and not-for profit organizations, discussing available options as well as church communities sharing their journeys and choices made.

The main theme was the relationship between the church and land. Land and land ownership has been valued versus the sharing of land and all that comes from the land. Group discussions included processes, resources and funding, Truth and Reconciliation, housing policy and alignment of mission/ministry with property. There was representation from a multitude of protestant church communities including Anglican, Alliance, Baptist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian and United.

There are several interesting projects in Toronto and the GTA that we would be willing to discuss with the congregation, as well as organizations that have had positive working relationships with church communities to bring change to their congregation and the community in which they exist and engage.

A few thoughts: Church — learn your place

- a) history of the place you are in
- b) learn the place (what's going on in a 5K radius)
- c) God, what would you like us to do and be in this place?
- d) What should we do and how should we be in this place?

The second theme was The Commons which is where thriving is available for everyone. Some on purpose, some by accident, but we need intentionality and cultivation of those things. This allows for "Belonging," a shared consolation of practices which invites in and exists among multiple ways. 1 John 3:2

Some important thoughts for us to consider for our Calvary community is that in our decision making it is not just about the Calvary community but the wider community in which we exist:

1. What more can we do than simply meet our churches' needs and instead meet our community needs?
2. What has been and what will be. Do not throw it away, instead reimagine and reuse.
3. Art of Becoming a Neighbour; stop trying to do everything but work alongside those with whom you can have missional alignment.

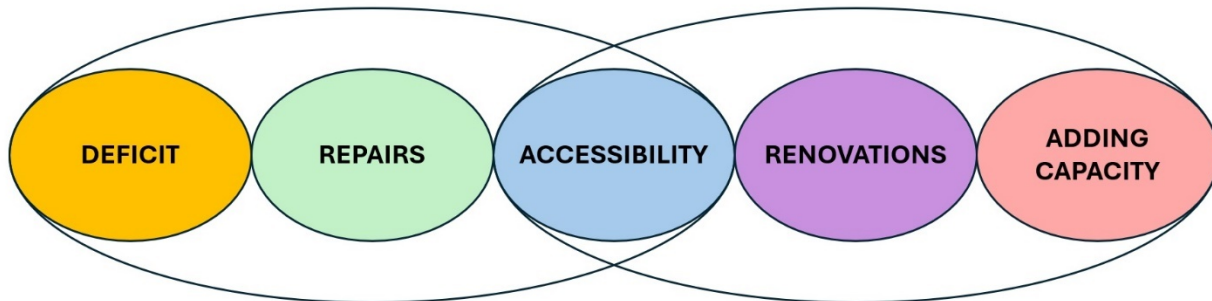
There was a representative from the Canadian Institute for Empirical Church Research (CIECR) who can help us with contextual data of our church's neighbourhood.

At the conference, it was said "we need churches to be our moral compass" and Jimmy Carter said, "we must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles." We look forward to applying some of the learnings we gathered at the conference as we continue our process of discernment and decision making at Calvary.

Patricia Elkerton & Rev. Ruth Bartlett

As we aim to “maintain and prioritize ministry, mitigate our shortfall of financial and human resources while maintaining the vision of who God is calling us to be as a church,” one of the things that has become apparent to me in our church family discussions, is that we're trying to solve different issues.

In fact, when I broke it down, we're trying to solve for two sets of three issues. I'm not a math person, but hopefully this diagram will help both of us understand what I'm trying to say:



On the one hand, we have a monthly deficit of approximately \$5,000 per month, a long list of necessary repairs (*you can see the April 6th Huddle documents for that list*), and making our building accessible.

On the other hand, we need to make our building accessible, taking on renovations that would override the repairs (*since those things we'd be trying to repair would instead be updated with the renovations*), and finally, getting some money in the bank to add capacity for ministry (*whether that might include bolstering current staff/salaries or adding new positions, having more of a rainy day fund, or having the resources to start new ministry initiatives*).

In both of these scenarios, we would end up with a building that would be functional and liveable, but how we get to that point is different, and what that looks like in the future is different as well. With the first set, if we can find the funds to take care of these three issues, where does that leave us at the end? How do we prepare when other maintenance issues arise? With the second set, we have an upgraded facility, but how plausible is it that we'll have financial stability going forward? If we do end up with a significant surplus, what tradeoffs will we have had to make along the way?

With that in mind, I'd like you to take a look again at the list of suggestions made by you all for ideas moving forward. As you look at the list, think to yourself: “which issues is this idea trying to solve for? Is it plausible?” then also spend some time in prayer asking God which set of issues we should be focusing on.

... see chart on page 5

Back Parking Lot

On another note, in regards to trying to mitigate our financial resources, on April 23rd, 2023, we signed a contract to sell our back parking lot to developer Bob Mitchell. Since that time, Bob has not been able to get anyone to sell their properties (or any portion thereof) to widen the driveway. There are three conditions in Schedule A of the agreement. C is that the builder had three years from the date of acceptance to secure planning approvals from the city of Toronto to allow the construction of residential townhouse units on the land. Therefore, according to the contract, Bob has until April 23rd, 2026 to come up with a solution before we would be able to excuse ourselves from that deal.

It's Not Just Calvary

A third of Canada's Christian architecture, some 9,000 churches, will close in the next 10 years, according to the National Trust for Canada. There are approximately 27,000 places of worship across Canada, which means about one-third of them will be sold, demolished or abandoned over the next decade.

In light of this scary prediction, Calvary's challenges are certainly not ours alone. But our hope is grounded in God, who is the creator and sustainer of the universe. The future of Calvary is in God's hands. And our Lord is working in this very specific situation. We are God's instruments. As we prayerfully consider our options, we need to surrender all and listen to God's leading.

Victoria Drysdale, Worship Team

Summary of Ideas	Wording from Interviews Collapsed
Pursue a co-ownership model	Whole property approach. With ministry partner. 50-50 arrangement with clear criteria.
Obtain expert advice/skills	Realtor, legal, developer, property sales, trusted agent, negotiation, managing transactions, project management, strategic planning, marketing.
Need research	Financial and feasibility assessments. More information about the building and costs, valuation.
Define clarity re structure for work	Internal committee. External 'group' under direction of Calvary committee. Structures and decision-making. Clarity re decision and authority from congregation.
Make a decision	Go forward. Step out in faith.
Find the 'right' partner	Need clear criteria. Affiliate with other Christian organizations. Concentrate on advertising, networking and campaigns to find right partner.
Reach out to community	Growth congregation/children. Create exciting vision for a community centre. Gather input for what is needed to have a useable space for church and community.
Rental agreements	Increase rent. Target those who would want to rent/use space. Hire a person to pursue rents.
Finding alternate income streams	Fund-raising in neighbourhood. Find bridge financing. Check government funding/grants.
Consult with other churches	Those with similar issues. Explore models used. Explore challenges and lessons learned, regrets. To use the space/sanctuary (alternate times for services).
Connect with other agencies in community	Those doing social justice work. Those concerned with low-cost housing. Look outside church circles.
Decide about GW	Find a way to make it work/better utilization. With right partner, full investment. If cannot make it work, sell. Sell GW. Sell and rent back as needed. Contact Weston's about GW.
Deal with back parking lot	Determine status. Decide on going forward with it/not.
Renovate & update 72 Main	Will cost money. Pass fire inspection. Support 72 Main/need to use our space. Reconfigure space under sanctuary. Put in as many floors as possible. Affordable housing into building. Note that heating, engineering and ducts etc in Sunday School building How much work is needed/what is cost? Need to discuss ideas for modernizing Plan something that revitalizes space and draws attention to it
Redevelopment	Trio church with partner and developer. Low-cost housing. Sacred and secular condo. Invest money, work with partner, professional vision re what could happen.
Develop volunteer base	For committees. For 'jobs' around church. For ministry.
Need project management team	Capable (with right expertise). Capacity.
Focus on Ministry	Prayer. Encourage growth.
Be open to new possibilities	Entertain new ideas – look beyond same old ones. Consult beyond church circles. Explore partner who would do something new
Sell to ministry related organization	CBOQ. CBM.
Find smaller worship space	Project group for relocation (temporary or permanent).

When Patricia and I were at the conference, one of the suggestions that people made is to learn from other churches' successes and mistakes. We've spoken with some churches already, and there are plenty more churches we can learn from, but the leadership can't do interview all these churches ourselves!

During my school placement back in 2018, I was working on a project researching how churches have redeveloped to better serve their community's needs. From that, I formulated some interview questions that we can use to ask churches and organizations those same questions, now with a focus on how they can be applied here at 72 Main Street. These questions can be tweaked as needed for non-church organizations too!

What we're asking of you is, if you would be willing to buddy up with another member of the congregation to together ask these questions of suggested churches and organizations, and record the answers. Once you find a buddy and choose a church, let me know and I'll give you the interview questions. Once you have the results, you'll send them to Shelley to save and sort.

We the leadership would be so grateful if you would be willing to help us with this important task of learning from other churches and organizations to help us gather best practices as we move forward.

Here's the list of churches and organizations to be interviewed (as suggested from our interviews with each of you, as well as other friends and colleagues we've been talking to). Please let us know of any that should be added:

St. Gabriel's Passionist Parish https://stgabrielparish.ca/who-we-are/parish-history/	Hope United (office expansion + band rental agreement) Hope United Church Worship, Music Performances, Rentals, Community, Main, Danforth, East End Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Tapestry
Evangelical Presbyterian Church https://www.epctoronto.org/	Phoenix Foundation – Parkdale United Church	PALS
St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church <i>It was suggested, but I cannot find if/how/when they did renovations ...</i>	Beach United Church https://beachunitedchurch.com/our-building/	Christie Gardens <i>(senior's residence model)</i>
Riverdale Co-Op https://riverdalecoop.ca/685-queen-redevelopment/	West Hill United <i>(rent-back model)</i>	Bethel Green https://www.realtor.ca/real-estate/28293878/206-645-millwood-road-toronto-mount-pleasant-east-mount-pleasant-east
Nightwood	Knox Presbyterian Church	Fallingbrook Heights Baptist Church
Any Other Suggestions?		

Here's a list of churches and organizations we've already talked to:

● St. Aidan's ● Walmer Rd Baptist ● Danforth Church ● Toronto United Mennonite Church (TUMC)

In Progress: ● Weston Park Baptist Church

● Bloor Street United aka "Cielo Condos"

While we've not interviewed them, this was featured at the conference Patricia and I attended, and details about the presentation will be provided at the end of the month. One of the features of this build is that it's a multi-faith centre with offices for different denominations.

Thanks for considering buddying up to take part in this project as a part of our group discernment!

Love & Blessings, Pastor Ruth

A New System

We have found an opportunity to simplify the financial record keeping roles historically carried by the treasurer and the office administrator. Calvary plans to engage a firm called Church Bookkeeping to take over the record keeping and statutory filing responsibilities previously carried by our in-house administrator and past volunteer treasurers. The firm, based in Waterloo, provides remote bookkeeping services for churches Canada wide. Services include the full accounting cycle, payroll, reporting and preparing statutory filings for the Canada Revenue Agency.

Calvary is Seeking a Volunteer to Fill the Role of Treasurer

Going forward, the treasurer role will shift from being hands on to an oversight role, acting as a liaison with the bookkeeping service and reporting financial results to the leadership and church members. This will allow the volunteer to participate in the church leadership at a strategic level, something that is needed and greatly valued. Calvary is entering an exciting period of change and we invite members to prayerfully consider whether they have the skill set to fulfill the role. If you feel called to take on this role, please contact the office or our Vice-Moderator, Shelley Faulkner.

Calvary's Financial Position to the end of May reflects mixed blessings. Calvary was blessed to receive the second instalment of a bequest of \$104,000 earlier this year, which is funding our monthly operating losses of approximately \$5,000. The unfortunate news is that the \$50,000 buffer that the congregation approved for urgent spending on building maintenance has been spent, largely on fire safety and other related expenses. While we should be able to meet our obligations through the end of this calendar year and for several months into 2026, the monthly shortfall will continue until we agree on our future real estate needs. The leadership is prayerfully working with the congregation to arrive at a decision in the coming months, in part so that we can begin to mitigate our financial shortfall.

Mission Team

Ganaraska Woods Report

The Ganaraska 'Farm' Commission, Shawn Ronson (chair), Shelley Faulkner, Sharon Mole, Barbara Sneyd, Paul Sneyd, Kent Faulkner, and Brian Sneyd (property manager), have been meeting with The Ministry Strategy Committee since the fall of 2024 to discern and reimagine the ministry of GWRC.

Ministry Tours (with outside groups conducted by Pastor Ruth, each tour was conducted without any prior history about Ganaraska):

1. **November 2024** – Christine (postulant for priesthood in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto; passionate about retreat spaces and creative prayer) & Sonya (heavily involved in Alpha Canada and planning of Alpha retreats) - Friends of Ruth
2. **February 2025** – Shelley (leadership experience in Christian Camping and developing young Christian leaders, interest in retreat spaces) & Bryan (passionate youth ministry leader) - friends of Ruth's from ~2012 when Ruth did an internship at Emmanuel Baptist
3. **March 2025** – CBOQ Staff (Leanne - Executive Minister; Adam – Associate Director of Finance and Administration; Matt – Director of Next Generation Ministries/ED of Camp Kwasind; Tanya – Children and Family Ministries Associate)

Each tour was extensive and recorded via audio and is being transcribed to text. All the interviews were conducted while walking around the property and indoor facilities to get opinions, suggestions, and needed improvements. Currently, the info is being distributed to both GWRC and MSC. A meeting will be held in July to discern ministry opportunities and potential new partners.

Group Bookings:

- We are continuing to serve groups, both church and Girls Guides.
 - Seven Group events have passed thru our door between January 1- June 8, 2025.
 - Six more events are expected before the end of August.
- We have had three new inquiries about renting the space.
- As well the return of Oshawa, Calvary Baptist Church Summer Day Camp programs is wonderful.

... continued on page 8

The Building Committee, Gord Moore (chair), Carol Carney, Fred Sneyd, and Shawn Ronson, plus Tina Timmermans (MT Rep) met with Bob Mitchell for an update on the back parking lot sale and to hear a proposal to redevelop the 1929 North building.

The Back Parking Lot Update:

- After two years making overtures with residents who back onto the space to sell all/part of their property, being rebuffed it seems that any development of the back parking lot, while viable, is challenging. 1 year remains to close this deal.

1929 Building Presentation:

- A short, informal presentation, a reimagining of the 2005-06 proposal. The goal is to create 10 units, each a 3 story townhome, 1,500-2,000 sq. ft., between \$1.5 and 2.5 million each, all within the footprint and silhouette of the 1929 building. Using the gymnasium space as underground parking with a private elevator for each unit. Little public space to maintain for condo owners.
- Work on a preliminary budget to est. revenue and expense costs to be able to generate net revenue to the Church, are still to follow.

Info about Bob's other projects. He has done several developments around Toronto including the YMCA seven story condo at Kingston & Beech.

Projects similar to our building (links in the names below):

1. [Hepbourne Hall](#), year 1990 at 110 Hepbourne St. It was a Sunday school extension for the Dover Court St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.
2. [Claremont Hall](#), in 1995 at 34 Claremont St., originally an extension of the Cyril and Methodius Roman Catholic Episcopal Church.
3. [The Glebe](#), in 2004 at 660 Pape Ave. was an extension of the original Riverdale Presbyterian Church. The church remains on site in their original attached sanctuary and this is probably the best comparable to Calvary Baptist Church.

Please speak with a member of the Building Committee if you have questions or concerns.

Gord Moore (chair), Carol Carney, Fred Sneyd & Shawn Ronson



Your Feedback is Important

We encourage you to prayerfully read the *Spotlight* material and share any feedback with anyone in leadership. Every voice is important as we listen for God's guidance.

Ganaraska Woods ... continued from page 7

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Oshawa, who joined us in 2024, had some unanticipated changes this year. We hope to have them back in 2026.

We are confident that the income generated by these groups will meet the budget for 2025.

Future:

- We are also speaking with some folks who live in the area around GWRC including:
 - Local church ministers.
 - The Local Farmers Market owned by Jamie Ferguson regarding a potential partnership.
- The option of selling the property is still up for consideration.

If you or someone you know wants to book the space for an event, please reach out ganaraska@calvary-baptist-church.ca

Speak with a member of the Ganaraska 'Farm' Commission if you would like more info.



Calvary Baptist Church

• **Pastor:** Ruth Bartlett rbartlett@calvary-baptist-church.ca • **Pastor Emeritus:** Rex Deverell

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

• **Administrator:** Kelley Maloney calvaryonmain@calvary-baptist-church.ca • **Custodian:** Jim Yolevski

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