

Calvary Episcopal Church–Parish Profile

MISSION STATEMENT

Calvary is an inclusive, progressive and creative community. We stand with those in need: the poor, the sick and the friendless. We actively invite all people to experience and celebrate our Living Lord. We seek a Christ-centered life, connecting us to God, one another and the creation around us.

GOALS

Through a series of congregational meetings, using the Appreciative Inquiry Summit format, parishioners were able to give voice to their thoughts regarding the direction and vision of Calvary Parish for the next 3–5 years. From a diverse group, common themes emerged. The goals for Calvary are:

- To find a spiritual leader who will continue the use of traditional liturgy but be progressive and accepting of new things
- To be open to creative change, to stay current and to educate and inspire our members
- To increase participation in services and programs, such as ECW, choir and Altar Guild, and to help make the church a focal point for life's experiences
- To encourage more youth participation
- To encourage our young adults to accept more leadership roles
- To expand outreach programs and increase our reputation for providing services to the community and for performing mission work
- To increase the size of our congregation by bringing back lapsed members, attracting young families and singles and encouraging participation by the elderly and handicapped
- To encourage more interaction with St. Luke's
- To continue to have a strong and creative music program dedicated to tradition but open to new ideas
- To continue using, appreciating and maintaining our buildings and grounds
- To maintain good financial standing by being fiscally responsible stewards of our resources

THE PARISH SEARCH COLLECT

Blessed Creator, Searcher of Souls,

Who brought your people, over the centuries, to form congregations led by spiritual leaders who proclaimed the Gospel by word and deed:

Help us to use our hearts and minds to seek, invite and engage a spiritual leader; that we, as a congregation, may continue to serve you as we are spiritually led by one of your own choosing.

In your holy name we pray. AMEN

PARISH & PEOPLE

Calvary is an historic church. Its people are inclusive, welcoming, supportive and diverse. We cherish and are known for our extraordinary musical program. We offer a traditional worship service but welcome the opportunity to offer innovative services unique among churches in our area, such as our Bluegrass Eucharist in the Fall. We are committed to an active and ongoing outreach program that will not only benefit our community but will encourage participation and spiritual growth among our members.

Calvary values tradition. Many of our members can trace their connection to Calvary back for generations. However, we are a diverse parish that is committed to progressive and creative ideas. We welcome challenging and inquiring hearts and minds.

Almost twenty years ago, as it is today, Calvary was faced with the search for a new rector. Since that time, with one notable exception, not much has changed. The core values that governed that search are still applicable today. Over the past twenty years, however, our relationship with St. Luke's has grown very strong. We join with St. Luke's in sharing our priest and deacon. Although each church stands independent of each other, this relationship makes us stronger as individual churches and as a community.

Calvary has a wide range of ages represented in the congregation. Currently we have 340 Confirmed Members in Good Standing. Of those, 36 are 16 years old or younger. We are a diverse group, but we take pride in the feeling of being a close and supportive community.

LITURGY & WORSHIP

The regular worship services at Calvary consist of an 8:00a.m. Holy Eucharist each Sunday in All Saint's Chapel and at 11:00a.m. in the Church. Holy Eucharist is celebrated using Rite I at the 8:00a.m. service and Rite II at the 11:00a.m. service. A mid-week celebration of the Holy Eucharist is held every Wednesday at 2:00p.m. at The Albemarle, a local retirement community where several of our parishioners reside.

The 8:00a.m. service of Holy Eucharist is consistently attended by approximately twenty to thirty persons. The 11:00a.m. service has attendance ranging from 75 to 150 persons, depending on the time of year. Our corporate worship services are conducted with reverence, dignity and precision, and are enhanced by the impressive beauty of our church.

An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols is held. On Christmas Eve there is a special 5:00 family service with Holy Eucharist; then at 11:00p.m. there is a Festival Eucharist. Other special services are held on Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. In recent years we have rotated locations of our Maundy Thursday and Pentecost Sunday services with St. Luke's Parish. The Pentecost service is celebrated with parishioners wearing red and attending a joint parish picnic. A churchyard service is held on Easter Sunday at 7:30a.m., followed by Holy Eucharist in the Church at 8:00a.m. A service of Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 11:00a.m, where children flower a cross prior to the Easter Service. On several occasions in the Fall, we celebrated a well-attended Bluegrass

Eucharist in our churchyard followed by a pig-picking of Eastern North Carolina Bar-B-Que. In addition to all these services, we have an annual service for the Blessing of our Animals at St. Luke's.

Calvary Parish has 6 chalice bearers who serve three-year terms. They serve in rotation and assist in all services. A large number of youth serve as acolytes and are well trained by our acolyte master. Calvary Parish has an excellent adult choir, and the quality of our music programs adds much to the worship services. The organist/choirmaster, a professional musician, is a paid member of the parish staff. In addition to leading the adult choir, he oversees both a junior and a little angels choir.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The goal of Christian Education is to offer parishioners of all ages a program that will give opportunity and encouragement through a variety of challenging educational experiences for direction in Christian living. Our youth programs are led by a paid part-time Christian Education leader.

Adult Christian Education is offered on Sunday mornings at 10:00a.m. , Children's Christian Education is offered through our Wonderful Wednesday afternoon program and Christian Education for our youth is provided through EYC.

Special seasonal events provide opportunities for the entire parish family to participate in timely activities of broad interest. Advent and Lenten studies in recent years have provided interesting topics of importance to the life of the parish. Vacation Bible School reinforces our commitment to teach our young people more about Jesus and his teachings. In addition to the children of Calvary, the grand-children of our parishioners as well as children from around the community attend to explore the stories of the Bible and to enjoy Christ-centered educational activities. Several parishioners are in various stages of the four-year program, Education for Ministry, which is taught and led by the laity.

A frequent topic of conversation is the need and desire to strengthen the Christian education program at Calvary. We hope our next rector will bring new ideas, a fresh approach and inspiration that will help us reach new heights of success in this important aspect of our Christian life.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & PROGRAMS

Calvary's vestry is composed of twelve parishioners elected for three-year staggered terms. In addition to its traditional responsibilities for parish governance, the vestry provides leadership through representation on the committees responsible for our parish programs.

The Christian Formation Committee supports the activities of all youth groups, particularly those of the EYC. The EYC seeks to provide fellowship and support for its members and to carry out service projects.

Calvary's Altar, Flower and Needle Point Guilds are composed of a faithful number of male and female parishioners who labor to enhance our sanctuary for each service.

Episcopal Church Women seek to serve God and to do His work. Annual fund-raising events provide for parish needs and support of organizations and projects serving the community outside budgetary requirements. The ECW is active in the convocation and the diocese with several people holding various offices on these levels.

Our acolytes are a flourishing group of young people from grades four through twelve who quite willingly and faithfully receive training and serve as crucifer, torch bearers, flag bearers and banner bearer.

The Parish Life Committee is responsible for fellowship gatherings such as an annual parish picnic, an annual oyster roast, Christmas dinner, and a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Additionally, Calvary has an active Young Adults group. The Young Adults gather on a regular basis not only to socialize but to support each other as well. They provide fellowship for one another outside of regular church services and functions including offering meals to families with newborns. It is a way for these members at similar phases in their lives to nurture their relationships at church as well as in the community.

Through our committees and organizations we strive to offer every parishioner an opportunity to give of time and talents to serve our congregation. We need a rector who will strongly guide and willingly support us in our endeavors.

OUTREACH & COMMUNITY

Community outreach has traditionally been an important part of the life of Calvary Parish.

Tarboro Community Outreach Center (TCO) is the product of ecumenical, business, and individual efforts to establish a facility which seeks to meet the needs of the homeless and destitute. Calvary Parish was instrumental in its development and continues to support its functions. The Food Pantry, which began at Calvary Church, is now a part of TCO.

The Community Enrichment Organization, which helps children in need, keeps an office in Calvary's Memorial Hall. The Teen-Mom Mentors (Parish members paired with teen-aged moms) is one of its programs.

Calvary Church pre-school is a non-denominational pre-school serving children ages two through four years. For more than thirty years, this pre-school has brought educational and social opportunities to children in Tarboro and Edgecombe County. This school is open to all children, and financial aid is available.

Mission trips to Costa Rica have been an integral part of Calvary Church in past years. Medical, construction, and education aid highlight this mission work by adults and young people. Recently, Calvary has partnered with Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, in continuing these trips.

Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi coast, Calvary Church extended its outreach to St. Patrick's, Long Beach, Mississippi, as that parish worked to rebuild its church.

Calvary Church continues its outreach, both within the community and beyond.

DIOCESE & CONVOCATION

Calvary Parish, Tarboro, is in the Diocese of North Carolina, one of the largest dioceses in the United States. The diocese encompasses the central part of the state, extending roughly from Tarboro in the east to Charlotte in the west. Diocesan headquarters are in Raleigh, the state capital, which is a little more than an hour drive from Tarboro.

The diocesan website is: <http://www.episdionc.org>

The diocese publishes a quarterly magazine, The North Carolina Disciple, which focuses on topical issues and items of interest to diocesan members.

The website for the magazine is: <http://www.episdionc.org/ncdisciple>

Calvary Parish is in the Rocky Mount Convocation, which consists of parishes located in six counties in the northeastern boundary of the diocese. The present Dean of the Rocky Mount Convocation is the Rev. R. Scott White, rector of Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount.

The life of both the Diocese and the parish is enriched by our active and on-going participation in Convocation and Diocesan affairs.

HISTORY OF CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The present Church was built during the ministry of Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire during the years 1859–1868. The architect was an Englishman, William Percival, whose work can be seen elsewhere in Tarboro and North Carolina.

A search for earlier Episcopal endeavors in Edgecombe County would yield little. St. Mary's, the original Church of England parish in the county located eight miles northeast of Tarboro, was finished about 1749, but today not a trace of it remains. Its register was burned as waste paper and the congregation was attracted to a new wooden church in the newly incorporated Town of "Tarborough."

After the Revolutionary War, the Church of England was virtually outlawed. Not until 1819 was an Episcopal congregation formed in Tarboro by the Reverend John Phillips. His ministry covered the area between Raleigh and Washington, North Carolina, and in a few years his communicants had dwindled in number from ten to four.

By 1833 the church was growing, and in that year the congregation of Calvary Church incorporated, formed a vestry and called a minister. In 1834 Town Lot No. 44 was granted to the vestry by a trust left by an eighteenth century clergyman, the Reverend Henry John Burgess. On this lot, located in the southern part of the present churchyard, a small frame church was built in 1840.

All who are thankful for Calvary Church and its beautiful churchyard should mark well October 1842. It was then that the Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire arrived to head

the parish. In addition to caring for the spiritual lives of his congregation, he had a fence erected around the churchyard and then proceeded to plant it full of both native and exotic trees and shrubs.

The congregation, small as it was, soon outgrew its church. While plans were made to erect a larger church, the vestry acquired a half-acre lot on the northeast side of the churchyard. An adjacent half acre was given to the church by a group of prominent citizens.

In 1859 the thirty-three communicants of Calvary Church began work on the new building with a subscription of \$9,000. The plans called for a church which could accommodate a congregation of 500. The population of Tarboro in that year was around 1,200. By 1860 the walls, towers, spires, roof and floors were done, but the construction was interrupted when the Civil War began. Windows and doors were boarded up and stayed that way until 1866.

In the interim between the end of the War and the repercussions of the Reconstruction, a healthy cotton crop enabled the parishioners of Calvary to contribute an additional \$10,000 to finish the Church. It was consecrated on May 10, 1868. Finishing, furnishing and refurbishing have proceeded over the years causing many to acclaim Calvary the most beautiful church they have ever seen. This feeling is only enhanced by the beautiful and botanically diverse churchyard.

In the last seventy years, Calvary church has proved to be an excellent training ground for young clergy. From this parish, three former clergy became bishops: M. George Henry, Gray Temple and John S. Spong. Our most recent rector, the Reverend William E. Smyth, served the people of the parish from January of 1992 until he retired as rector in June of 2010.

LOCATION, BUILDINGS & STAFF

Calvary Church is located in the historic district of downtown Tarboro. The Church is a few blocks from the County Courthouse, City Hall, and the three other downtown churches - Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist. The Gothic-style Church is built of red brick. The Cheshire Memorial Parish House and All Saints' Chapel, housed in the same building, were built in 1922. The brick cloister connecting the Parish House and the Church was given as a memorial in 1926, and in the same year the brick wall surrounding the churchyard was given as a memorial. The interior of the Church is adorned by many beautiful stained glass windows, all of which were given as memorial gifts over a period of time.

In 1958, the Vestry and congregation realized that the Parish House was no longer adequate for Christian education and church school purposes. A detailed study was made, and property was acquired on the North side of Church Street across from the existing Parish House. A building fund campaign raised \$150,000, and the new two-story brick building was erected. Memorial Hall houses the present church school rooms, two parlors, a kitchen, and a multi-purpose room which is used as gymnasium, dining room, and meeting room. A pre-school for two-, three-, and four-year-old children has operated in this building for over thirty years.

Cheshire Memorial Parish House now houses the rector's office, administrative offices, music room and acolyte, choir and clergy vesting rooms. The auditorium of the Parish House, known as Clark hall, is used for receptions, group meetings, lectures, concerts and other similar activities.

In 1971, Calvary Church received a challenge gift from a faithful parishioner to help finance the purchase of a new organ. This organ is of German make, designed and constructed by the Zimmer Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, and was installed and officially dedicated on September 24, 1972. It is a two manual organ with nineteen independent ranks of pipes, suited especially for baroque music with modifications for liturgical use.

Calvary maintains a two-story, colonial style residence for its rectors and their families. The Rectory, located at 1008 Saint Patrick Street, is a few blocks from the church in Tarboro's Historic District. It was built in 1940 and renovated in 1960. It has four bedrooms; three full bathrooms and a fenced in back yard.

Realizing the necessity to rebuild, improve, and update the buildings, Calvary Parish has been blessed by numerous Capital Campaigns. The most recent, raising \$775,625 was held in 2007. This money has been designated for maintaining and updating Calvary's beautiful buildings.

The staff consists of a part-time parish administrator; a part-time director of Christian Education; a part-time organist and choir director, who is a professional musician; and a full-time parish secretary. The parish also has a full-time sexton/groundskeeper. In addition to the paid staff, Calvary has a Vocational Deacon assigned to the parish by the Bishop.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Calvary parishioners consistently demonstrate a generous and giving nature. Currently we have 166 Pledging Units. The generosity and commitment of the congregation through the years helped establish and helps maintain numerous Special Funds and six Trust Funds.

The six Calvary Parish Trust Funds are:

1. **Churchyard Memorial Endowment Fund** – used for the upkeep of the churchyard
2. **Memorial Endowment Trust** – used for outreach
3. **The D. Russell Clark Fund** – the Vestry's Discretionary Fund used for non-budget expenditures
4. **Calvary Church Preservation Trust** – used for the upkeep and maintenance of the Church building
5. **General Endowment Fund** – used in the general operating budget of the parish
6. **Rector's Discretionary Fund** – used at the Rector's discretion

Special Funds at Calvary are numerous and currently are well funded. The Special Funds are:

1. **Friends of Music** – Special Music Programs
2. **Memorials** – Undesignated and Used at Vestry’s discretion
3. **Bequest – A.D. Bruce Jr.** Vestry: For access
4. **Anne Clarke Ruffin Fund** – Scholarship
5. **Capital Campaign Balance** – Architect Fees
6. **Brinkley & Pauline Howell Memorial Fund** – Undesignated
7. **Archives and History**
8. **Interest to Date**
9. **Ruth Clark Charitable Remainder Trust** – Churchyard Account
10. **Ruth Clark Charitable Remainder Trust** – Vestry Discretionary
11. **Jane L. Long TUV** – Gift – Undesignated
12. **Elizabeth Ferry Scholarship Fund**
13. **Conrad J. Logan** – Bequest – Undesignated
14. **Eagles Charitable Lead Trust**
15. **2007 Capital Campaign Funds**

Calvary consistently strives to incorporate stewardship into everyday life on a year round basis. We are fortunate to have such generous and committed parishioners as we move forward.

THE TARBORO COMMUNITY

Tarboro, North Carolina, a town of approximately 11,000 residents, is the county seat of Edgecombe County. The town was established by the North Carolina General Assembly as “Tarborough” on November 30, 1760. Tarboro was made the county seat of Edgecombe County by the General Assembly in 1762. The town, rich in history and steeped in tradition, prospered because it was the county seat as well as a trading center for a productive agricultural region. Tobacco has long been one of the main crops, with corn, cotton and peanuts as important secondary crops. Farmers have now diversified and are raising fruits, vegetables, poultry, pigs and beef cattle for market.

Tarboro was considered primarily an agricultural community for many years, with only a small number of locally-owned industries. However, in the post World War II era, through progressive leadership and the formation of a city-county industrial board, numerous industries and businesses have located here during the past several decades, giving Tarboro an enviable economic base. Several of our industrial plants are owned by well-known national corporations.

Tarboro is located on the Tar River in eastern, coastal North Carolina, seventy miles east of the state capital, Raleigh. The town is strategically situated in the center of a rapidly growing region along the main corridor between the Piedmont and the Outer Banks. It lies only 20 miles east of Interstate 95, is approximately 125 miles from the beautiful North Carolina beaches and is within easy reach of the North Carolina mountains. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and Duke University are all less than 100 miles away.

East Carolina University, located in Greenville, NC, 35 miles southeast of Tarboro, offers, in addition to the Brody School of Medicine, a range of academic and degree

programs at the undergraduate, master's, specialist, and doctoral levels in medicine, dentistry, nursing, teaching and business.

The area public schools fall under the jurisdiction of the Edgecombe County Public School System. There are 15 schools in the system serving a diverse student body of about 7,500. Advanced Placement and Honors courses are offered at the high-school level.

Additionally, there are several private schools within a short drive from Tarboro. Members of the parish have children that attend both private and public schools.

Tarboro is a town which blends the old with the new. It is a good place to live, work, play, rear a family and retire.

Local Area Links:

- [Edgecombe County Cultural Arts Council](#)
- [Edgecombe County Memorial Library](#)
- [Edgecombe County Relay for Life](#)
- [Edgecombe County Veterans' Military Museum](#)
- [Tarboro Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [The Daily Southerner](#)
- [The Fountains at the Albemarle](#)

Local Government:

- [Edgecombe County Government](#)
- [Town of Tarboro](#)

Economic Development:

- [Carolinas Gateway Partnerships](#)

Education/Schools:

- [Edgecombe County Schools](#)
- [Edgecombe Community College](#)

Healthcare:

- [Heritage Hospital – University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina](#)

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Chairman:	William E. Urquhart, Jr.	
Vice-Chairman:	Thomas F. Womble III	
Committee Members:	Anna R. Barnes	Reginald A. Moss
	Joanne H. Leland	A. Lloyd Owens III
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