



The Clarion
February 2020
Calvary Presbyterian Church

Meet our new Director for Children and Youth



Ashley is a Cuban American from Miami, FL who has spent the last thirteen years working in youth and family programs. She received her BA in English at North Carolina Central University, a Historically Black College. Between classes, Ashley worked as a coordinator for a youth program and taught team building and recreation, STEM, and art for children of all ages. At twenty-three, Ashley moved to San Francisco and worked at the Chinatown YMCA as PE Teacher, Camp Director and a leader in an after school program for children of special needs. While in San Francisco, Ashley earned her Master's Degree in Fine Arts for Motion Pictures and Television which enabled her to write, direct and

produce eleven short films. Three years later, Ashley moved to Los Angeles and began working with cancer families at the St. Baldrick's Foundation. She has spent the last four years helping families share their child's story to raise money for research grants. Ashley is currently in her second year of seminary at Claremont School of Theology, studying for her Master's in Divinity. She hopes to bring her passion for youth programming and her love for Christ and the Bible to Calvary. She is excited about getting involved with Sunday School classes and working towards building and developing the youth program.

Ashley is an avid planner and has about three different productivity note books she uses every day. She loves to read and particularly enjoys non-fiction. When she's not working or going to school, Ashley enjoys spending time with her fiance, Jen. They spend a lot of time together visiting art museums, trying new recipes and going on hikes with Jen's adorable dog, Billie.

Upcoming Events

Souper Bowl of Caring

February 2nd.

Winterfest

February 2nd.

Dinner at Door of Hope

February 12th
5:30 pm

Adam Tice and Sally Ann Morris Music and Worship Workshop

February 22nd
One-day Workshop
8:20 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Coffee and Crosses

February 26th 12 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Eclectic Music Festival is coming again to Calvary!

April 25th

Eisha Perry	2/1
Elizabeth von Bibra	2/2
Meagan Cisneros	2/4
Clifford Douglas	2/5
Jeremy Bruce	2/8
Fayrouz Malki	2/8
Orville Houg	2/10
Thomas von Bibra	2/11
Chante Griffith	2/14
Belinda Arrambide	2/17

Birthdays



Presbyterian Corner

Our faith,
our practice,
and our roots



Did Jesus really rise from the dead, and what does his resurrection mean?

Just as the cross of Christ is a mystery, in that we cannot fully capture or explain its meaning and power, so also is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Presbyterians affirm his central doctrine of Christian faith, expressed simply in the Apostles' Creed, where we confess of Christ that he "rose again from the dead."

Some throughout the history have found this hard to believe. After all, how many of our friends have come back from the dead recently? Yet this is precisely the point. Jesus Christ was divine and human. What is impossible for human power alone to accomplish can be carried out by the power of God. This is the Christian claim about the resurrection of Christ. God raised Jesus from the dead (Rom.10:9; 1 Cor. 6:14, 15:4; Gal.1:1). This is an event that happened in history, though it is totally unique from all other "historical event," as we refer to the normal "facts" of history today. As a result of the resurrection of Jesus: The Christian church emerged; the dejected disciples of Jesus were transformed into apostles of joy; and the Christian community met together for worship on the first day of the week in celebration of the resurrection—a major departure from their Jewish roots Sabbath worship.

The death of a human person has no power to bring salvation. But the death of the eternal Son of God, who was vindicated in his life and death by his resurrection —this brings salvation! Jesus died on the cross but "was raised for our justification" (Rom.4:25).

God raised Jesus from the dead. This means, among much else, that Jesus is alive forevermore and that we can have fellowship with him. The power of sin and death are forever defeated by Jesus' resurrection, and God's final victory at the end of the history is secured. Evil will not prevail! The resurrection makes our full redemption possible. It gives meaning to Christ's death, assuring us that the cross truly has the power to transform our relationship with God and with others (Phil. 3:10). The resurrection enables us to have a union with the living Christ through faith and "if we have been united with him in a resurrection like his" (Rom. 6:5). Christ's resurrection power enables us to

“walk in newness of life” (Rom 6:4) and give us the “living hope” of our own resurrection (1 Pet. 1:3). For “we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus” (2 Cor. 4:14), to live now and forever!

- from Donald K. McKim, *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers*

DID YOU KNOW ?

Some of the lights behind the Sanctuary cross aren't working and that is why the light have been left off during service?

Thank you!



Thank you to those who took on the Reverse Advent Box Challenge and put together food boxes.

The Mission Committee completed them with paper goods, utensils, hand wipes and can openers, and delivered them to Union Station Services in Pasadena.

Sip N Stitch News

In March 2008 we gave our first donation of 18 blankets to Door of Hope. A group of dedicated Calvary women who started this group thought this was a great project for the church. Going forth people that were coming started asking friends and relatives if they would like to be a part of this group.....and they did!

We are now starting our 12th year of donations with more than 2300 items given out. We have women from age 14 (community service hours) to 101 years old. Some like to knit at home and rarely spend much time on Saturday mornings with us and others don't ever miss. If you get up late, come anyway as there are no set hours for you to be with us. Doors open at 9 am every Saturday in B-6 (downstairs). There is a ramp on Oxley for those who don't do stairs.

All our goods were handed out in November and December and we are now ramping up for another banner year of giving. Please join us if you can! If you do not have the time but would still like to be a part of our Mission feel free to donate left over yarn or money to our group.

What happens to worship music when Adam Tice and Sally Ann Morris meet?

Two brilliant writers of contemporary, thought-provoking texts and tunes inspire!

Save the date: Saturday, February 22, 2020

One-day Workshop
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Calvary Presbyterian Church, South Pasadena
in cooperation with the
Presbyterian Association of Musicians

Attendance is free and open to all.
Lunch is served at \$12 per person.

Explore the fine art of hymn writing: you'll be singing, writing, listening, crying and laughing and making new friends. Listen to and learn from the remarkable contributions Adam and Sally have already given us in *Glory to God*, and that's just the beginning!

Sally and Adam were featured presenters at the **2019 Montreat Worship and Music Conference** in Montreat, North Carolina. Plan to join us at Calvary as we bring a taste of Montreat to Southern California.

Registration will be handled through the P.A.M. office in the Presbyterian Headquarters office, Louisville, KY.

https://docs.google.com/forms/de/1FAIpQLSfCmTWMJgoyAOMhURCRhPqs_l6dEslgR-NE7nRhgWDk81InxQ/viewform

Save February 22 and 23, 2020 for an Incredible Montreat-like weekend at Calvary.

Plan to be with us for a fun, exciting, and stimulating Music and Worship Workshop* on Saturday, February 22nd from 8:30 to 4:30. Sunday is Festival Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 AM followed by a lunch in South Parlor.

MISSION CORNER



SM The Super Bowl is just around the corner. While we do not yet know who will be playing one thing is certain at Calvary we will be celebrating **Souper Bowl**. We will be collecting cans of soup and other non-perishable food items on Sunday, February 2nd. Bring your soup cans to either service and place them in the available baskets to cheer on your favorite team.

Food will be donated to the St. James Food Bank. This is one way we live our mission as a Hunger Care Congregation.



February 8th

Choose from the following learning opportunities:

- Cross-cultural friendships
- Immigrant Accompaniment
- Meaningful gratitude for Church staff and volunteers
 - Led by the Rachel and Huw Christopher!
- Youth Ministry Relationships
- Caring for Creation
- Church employment law
- Deacons and Elder training

Carpools available to Arcadia from Calvary. The cost is \$10/person which will be reimbursed to you by the CPC Mission Committee.

Register at: <https://knoxpresbyterian.breezechms.com/form/Winterfest2020>



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression
Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources,
clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.**

The programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing: **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People** - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Pick up your Fish Bank in February and bring it back to church, filled with coins, on April 12th. (Checks also greatly appreciated!)



Hygiene Kits



Throughout Lent we will be collecting items to create hygiene kits. Kits will be split between 2 partner agencies. A favorite of Calvary, Angel Interfaith Network, and a new partnership for us, the San Fernando Valley Refugee Children's Center Inc.

In April we will meet together to create these kits.

Specifically we need:

Washcloths	soap
Toothbrush	toothpaste
Shampoo	deodorant
Comb	tissues
Lotion	small hand sanitizer
Chap stick	band aids
and socks (child and adult sizes)	

Place donations in the boxes in the Sanctuary, South Parlor or Fellowship Hall.

Imagine that you that you experienced a sudden illness that forced you to take unpaid leave from your job. How long would you be able to meet your financial obligations? What would you do if a family member needed you to care for them because they had fallen ill and this would require you stepping away from your job? How would you get by if you were a single mother escaping an abusive spouse and could not find adequate work that would enable you to feed, clothe and shelter your young children? Could you afford to pay for a sudden costly auto repair? According to a recent study, 40% of American families are one paycheck away from poverty! One single paycheck! The realities of our financial frailty are often overwhelming.

Calvary Presbyterian Church has been moved to take action! The Mission Committee has recognized our Church community's deep desire to help those in need, not just around the world, but also in our own neighborhood. So last year we set out to revamp and strengthen our ability to help with immediate emergency needs by setting up a Benevolence Fund and instituting a system by which resources can be shared quickly with those who find themselves in need. Over the course of 2019 we have been able to help dozens of people from within our immediate church family as well as from the local community at large. When a request for help comes into the church office, our staff immediately contacts members of the Mission Team Task Force who then make contact with the person making the request, confirm the nature of their need and then work quickly to deliver available resources. Recently a young mother made a request for food for her and her children just before Christmas. She shared that she didn't even have gifts for her young daughters, but that food would be enough. Our Task Force immediately provided grocery gift cards for her and sent a request out to the congregation for Christmas gift donations. Our Calvary saints quickly responded with dozens of gifts that this mother was able to give to her children and make their Christmas joyful.

The blessings have abounded as our Benevolence Fund has been regularly utilized and wonderfully replenished. If you would like to donate funds you can make donations to the Calvary Benevolence Fund at any time. Know that these funds will be shared generously and wisely. On the other hand, if you ever have a sudden need or become aware of one, please contact the church office to get information on how to receive assistance. All requests are held in confidence and treated with sensitivity and genuine care. Our church office also has a contact list for local agencies which can offer added assistance for everything from health care to emergency housing, so do not hesitate to take advantage of this amazing resource.



As Always, Keep Shining,

Reece Lemmon
Director of Spiritual Formation and Service





“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Leviticus 10:18, Matthew 19:19, Sahih Muslim =book



Network Partners:

The Department of Rehabilitation staff at LAC+USC Medical Center brought gifts for Angel Interfaith Network to their annual Christmas gathering again this year. Their donations included over a dozen XL - 4XL men's sweat pants and 10 pair of shoes for patients being discharged, along with \$300.00 in gift cards. Hospitalized patients will enjoy the crossword puzzle books. Pictured are Yumi Bledsoe and Karen Blen.



Trinity Presbyterian Church in Pasadena once again provided baskets for our teen patients who were in the hospital during the Christmas season. Lynn Beecher is pictured delivering the hand knitted teddy bears, soft warm fleece blankets and Target gift cards to the Gate House. When she saw the gift card, one happy girl said. “Now I can buy a bra!” The baskets brought so much comfort and joy.

Those We Serve:

Ernesto, a 34-year-old cancer patient, had surgery and was unable to work. He is the sole provider for his wife, 11-year-old daughter and 18-month-old son. His social worker called to request rental assistance and food coupons and Angel Interfaith Network was able to provide \$200.00 toward the rent and food coupons for his family. Ernesto was grateful for this helping hand.

Vencacio was homeless, but scheduled to go into transitional housing. A couple of neighbors in nearby tents were jealous and set his tent on fire. He is in the LAC+USC Medical Center Burn Unit where workers from the Los Angeles Housing Service Authority visited him and requested clothing. Thanks to our donors he will be receiving a change of clothes when he is discharged.

Urgent Needs:



There is an ongoing need for men's clothing and shoes, especially larger sizes - L to 5XL clothes and 8 to 15 size shoes.

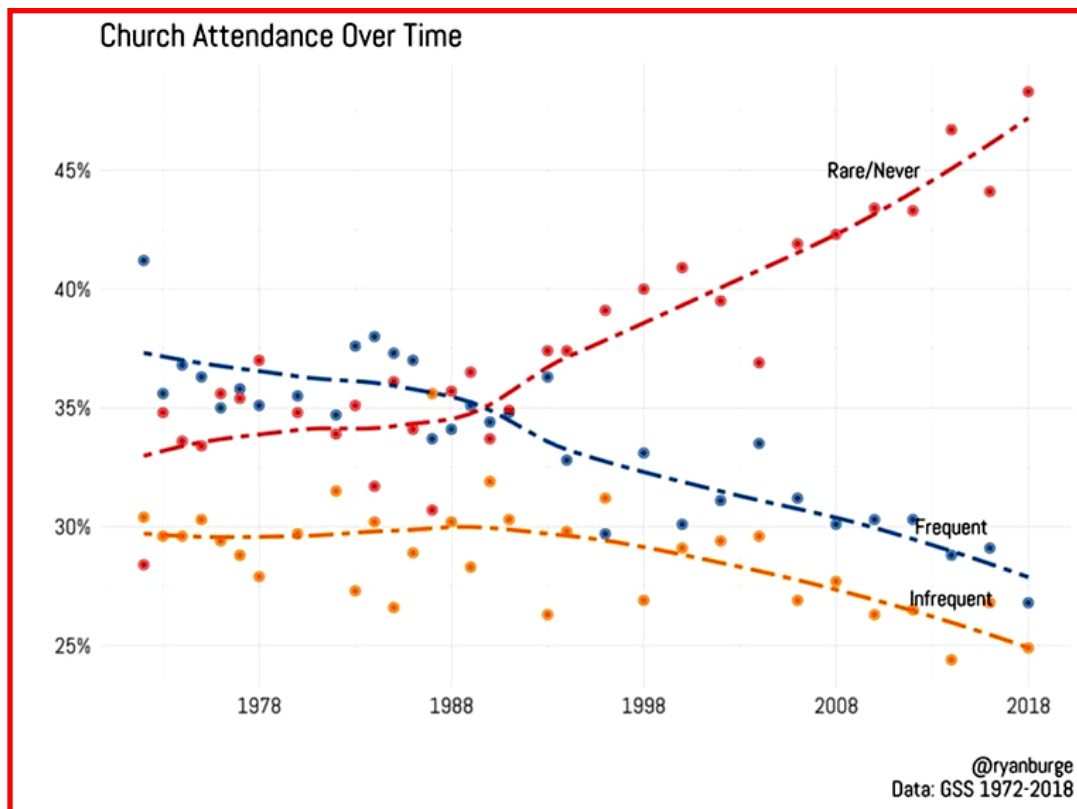


Become a Sustaining Angel:
<http://angelinterfaith.net/sustainers.html>

What Can We Do?

In previous articles in the Clarion I attempted to analyze how we at Calvary might best deal with a declining and aging membership. I believe, first of all, that we need to see our plight as a national trend and not something we at Calvary are responsible for. Second, in the process of seeking to draw people to our church we might take a good look at ourselves and see if we are attractive to the world outside our doors. Can we exhibit the kind of good works that the draws people to God? Dwindling attendance numbers tend to get people anxious and to find fault with others. That state of agitation is not attractive. We can resist it if we recognize it and determine that love will be our mode of interaction.

The chart below came from a January 14, 2020 Religion News Service article by Ryan Burge, an assistant professor of social science at Eastern Illinois University. It shows that in the early 1990s the number of regular church goers equaled the number of people who never go to church. But, since then there is a wide divergence. The number of regular church goers has continued in decline while the number of those who never go has gone up a lot. Currently almost half of Americans never go to church and only about a fourth do attend regularly.



According to the article, when asked about their belief in God, those who rarely if ever go to church say that they have a lot of doubts all the time. In great contrast, those who regularly attend church overwhelmingly say they have no doubts about their belief in God. This chasm of belief has a lot to say to us about the difficulty we have in wooing these folks into the faith. Our job of evangelism is defined by our ability to empathize with people of great doubt.

We also know that a parallel change in American belief took place in roughly the same time period. LGBTQIA+ people went from hiding in the shadows to calling for full equality and acceptance. We went from a national law forbidding gay marriage to a Supreme Court ruling making gay marriage legal in all states. Our denomination, Presbyterian Church, (USA), went from forbidding gay clergy and gay lay leadership to allowing them. On the agenda this year for the United Methodist Church is a dividing of the denomination into Methodists who are accepting of all people into leadership and those who strongly believe that homosexuality is sin and therefore exclude them from leadership. A divide exists between those who accept gay marriage and perform such weddings in the church and those who do not. A similar development has been happening within our denomination, the PC (USA), as those who oppose gay leadership and gay marriage are leaving the denomination to join the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). Five churches in our Presbytery have made this move. The latest took place at the January 2020 Presbytery meeting where the Presbytery accepted the negotiated terms of dismissal to ECO of the True Light Presbyterian Church in Alhambra.

At the Presbytery meeting one of the leaders from the True Light Presbyterian Church was asked to make comments on how he felt about their leaving the denomination and the process of doing it. He was gracious. He said it was bitter-sweet. He added that he has great respect and affection toward many people in the Presbytery. However, he felt the “theological” differences were too great to overcome within the PC (USA) because they could not get a pastor for their church (to their liking) who would affiliate with the PC (USA).

Traditionally people of Calvary have tried to keep differences of opinion low key. I am sure, though, if we had to vote on these issues, strong differences about what our policy should be would come to the fore. Just because we are officially a part of the PC USA does not mean that every Calvary member agrees with denominational decisions.

I am arguing that how we deal with our differences on important issues impacts the only Gospel many people will hear. Our unification in Jesus the Messiah is our key bond. We can resist dividing up along party lines. We can treat each other as the beloved of God. We can practice understanding others by listening to them. We can live the peace of Christ with each other. It may not come naturally, but the Holy Spirit of God indwells us making it possible. If we want to bring in those who never attend a church, we likely cannot do better than our mission statement: At Calvary we strive to “welcome everyone, deepen faith, and send all to love and serve as Jesus did.”

Ron Schooler

Current Elders & Deacons

Deacons

Pat Martinez-Miller '20

Linda Kopperud '20

Nathana Schooler '21

Elizabeth von Bibra '21

Cathy Riley '22

Lorna Venkataraman '22

Session

Carl von Bibra '20

Megan Guerrero '20

Sue Norton '20

Janet Douglas '20

James Jontz '21

Ron Schooler '21

Susan Shaver-Kane '21

Marta Renna '21

Thorsten Hoins '22

Alex Seo '22

Tony Garcia '22

Ben Furuta '22

Lisa Reynolds, Clerk

Come celebrate Ash Wednesday with us! Stop by any time from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26th. There will be a coffee bar set up in Livingston Hall. Grab a cup of joe, receive the imposition of the ashes, and take a devotional handout that you can do on your own.



FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 9am Music Preparation for Worship 9am Sip N Stitch
2 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10am Traditional 11am Informal 11:30m Coffee Hour Souper Bowl of Caring	3 2:30pm Traditional Worship Planning 7pm Boy Scouts	4 7pm Women's Bible Study	5 10:30am Men's Group Noon Kiwanis	6 8:30am Moms in Prayer 10am Moms Coffee 7:15pm Al Anon 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 9:15am Preschool Parent Committee Meeting	8 9am Music Preparation for Worship 9am Sip N Stitch
9 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10am Traditional 11am Informal 11:30m Coffee Hour 12pm Session Meeting	10 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm P.E.O. Chapter GF	11 10am Preschool Chapel 7pm Toastmasters 7pm Women's Bible Study	12 10:30am Men's Group Noon Kiwanis	13 8:30am Moms in Prayer 10am Mom's Coffee 7:15pm Al Anon 7:30pm Choir	14 10am Staff Meeting	15 9am Music Preparation for Worship 9am Sip N Stitch 1pm Troop 7 Ceremony
16 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10am Traditional 11am Informal 11:30m Coffee Hour	17 President's Day Office Closed 7pm Boy Scouts	18 7pm Women's Bible Study	19 10am Preschool Chapel 10:30am Men's Group Noon Kiwanis 7pm Deacon's	20 8:30am Moms in Prayer 10am Moms Coffee 7:15pm Al Anon 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21 10am Personnel Committee	22 8:30am Adam Tice and Sally Ann Morris Music & Worship Workshop 9am Sip N Stitch
23 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 10am Traditional 11am Informal 11:30m Coffee Hour	24 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm P.E.O. Chapter GF 90th Birthday Celebration	25 7pm Toastmasters 7pm Women's Bible Study	26 10:30am Men's Group Noon Kiwanis 7pm Mission 12pm -8pm Ash Wednesday	27 7:15pm Al Anon 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 5pm Wedding Rehearsal	29 9am Music Preparation for Worship 9am Sip N Stitch 3pm Wedding Ceremony

Session Highlights

At the January Stated Meeting, Session approved the following:

- Applying to participate in South Pasadena High School's Internship Program
- To have one worship service on Sunday, February 23rd, at 10:30 am
- The 2019 Statistical Report
- To offer the position of Director for Children and Youth to the most qualified candidate, Ashley Roque
- The annual election of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the Board of Trustees
- Communion dates for 2020
- The counters for 2020
- The commissioners for the 2020 Presbytery meetings

Calvary Presbyterian Church
1050 Fremont Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030
(626) 799-7148
www.cpcsouthpas.org

Sunday Worship:

Traditional: 10 am in the Sanctuary
Informal: 11 am in Fellowship Hall

The Rev. Millason Dailey
millason@cpcsouthpas.org

Maribel Valadez
Office Administrator
cpc.southpas@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:
9 am - 5pm, Monday - Friday



January Financials

January Budgeted Income \$16,066.33
January Actual Income \$14,855.00
January Budgeted Expense \$37,027.59
January Actual Expense \$34,272.70
January Food Bank Expenses: \$0.00

*These amounts reflect the operating budget only. Income numbers are purely from Sunday offering. Investment and property numbers are not included.