

*Calvary Episcopal Church,  
Rockdale*

**PARISH PROFILE**



**Celebrating 175 Years**

**1833 - 2008**

# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>About Us</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>HISTORY</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>PRESENT STATUS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Mission:</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Location:</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Members:</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Our Worship</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Our Organizations and Programs</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Our Communications:</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>PROPERTY</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>FINANCIAL STATUS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>FUTURE STATUS</b> .....	<b>11</b>



## **Introduction**

Who are we? Where have we been? Where are we Headed? Who will lead us?

These are some of the questions that have arisen as Calvary Parish has conducted its self-study in the search for a new Rector. The resulting Parish Profile that follows, here, suggests some answers to the questions.

The Discernment Committee was given the task, under the direction of the Parish Vestry, of compiling a profile to guide the search, as well as to help in charting the course of future development of the Parish.

The Committee presents this Profile in the hope that those who read it will find in it a prayerful look at the history of the parish, its present status, its current financial condition, and the beginning of the development of a new vision of its future in Christ.

### **The Discernment Committee**

Karen Warren, Chairperson

Eleanor Evans, Secretary

Joseph Bardroff

Frances Bender

Micah Brunner

Sally Burkam

Dorothy Laxton

Emily Murphy, Youth Representative

Margaret Quaile

Bonnie Stufflet

## About Us



**Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale**

**PO Box 452**

**Glen Riddle, PA 19037-0452**

**Office: (610) 459-2013**

[calvaryepiscopalrockdale.org](http://calvaryepiscopalrockdale.org)

### **2008 VESTRY**

Ernestine Franz	Rector's Warden
Kurt Brunner	Accounting Warden
Eleanor Evans	Secretary & Hospitality Chair
Ralph Painter	Treasurer & Publicity
Fran Bender	Hospitality & Stewardship
Wilmer Evans	Parish Growth Chair
Jill Ann Graham	Property Co-Chair
Margaret Quaile	Property Co-Chair & Anniversary Chair
John Smyth	Stewardship Chair
J. Karl Thomas	Cemetery Chair
Russell Turner	Property & Cemetery
Karen Warren	Discernment Chair

### **Delegates to Convention and Deanery**

Micah Brunner, Ellen Stone, Stella Thompson

Alternate: Lisa Brunner-Bireley

### **Church Secretary**

Ernestine Franz

### **Organist and Choir Director**

Bob Johnston

### **Sexton**

Wayne Roberts

Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

**HISTORY**

Calvary Church, Rockdale was founded in 1833 by a merchant from Philadelphia, Richard Somers Smith. It was born through the efforts of his spouse, Elizabeth, and daughter, Clementina, as a Sunday School for the children of the workers in the nail mill that Mr. Smith owned. The main shaft that turned the machinery in the mill still exists, and may be seen supporting the floor of the church from the undercroft. In 1834 Bishop Onderdonk licensed Kingston Goddard to hold services for the rapidly expanding congregation. By 1835 the Bishop had suggested the name Calvary Church and admitted the Parish to representation at Diocesan Convention. The Reverend Marmaduke Hirst was appointed missionary.



With continued growth it was soon decided that a proper church building should be raised. Mr. Jesse Palmer agreed to build the church for a sum of \$250.00, and on August 17, 1836, the Right Reverend H.J. Onderdonk laid the cornerstone. On April 12, 1837, the Reverend Mr. Marmaduke Hirst was appointed Rector. After Mr. Hirst's resignation in June 1838, the Rev. Alfred Lee became Rector, serving until 1841 when he was elected the first Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware.

By 1868 the church was in need of enlargement and wings were added to the edifice, creating a transept and giving the Church a cruciform shape. The church had come a long way since its humble beginnings in a vacant room of Mr. Smith's mill when Calvary's semi-centennial was celebrated on Sunday, June 24, 1883. On February 28, 1884, Richard Somers Smith died at age 95, having served Calvary for 50 years as communicant, Sunday School superintendent, Vestryman, and warden.



The seventy-fifth anniversary of Calvary was celebrated on Sunday, June 28, 1908, during the tenure of the Reverend Jacob F. Weinman, and its one hundredth anniversary celebration was held on Sunday, June 18, 1933, with the Reverend Richard Kemp officiating. The one hundred-twenty-fifth anniversary was observed with a banquet at Green Ridge School on Sunday, June 11, 1958. Many parishioners still recall this anniversary and the tenure of the Rector who oversaw it, the Reverend J. Wesley Rennie. Following Mr. Rennie's death in 1962, the Reverend James F. McKendrick, Jr. became Rector and served until 1968.

On January 20, 1970, the Reverend Arthur F. Brunner accepted a call to Calvary. The former Sunday School building was soon remodeled to (barely) house a family of seven and a new office building was erected on church grounds shortly thereafter. Many repairs were made to the church and decorative items were added. Additionally, young women were introduced as acolytes and women became layreaders and chalice bearers for the first time in the history of the Parish. During the months of May and June 1983, Calvary celebrated its one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary in grand style. On December 31, 1997, Father Brunner retired, thus culminating the longest rectorship in the history of our church.

The Reverend Robert C. Granfeldt accepted Calvary's call on February 11, 2000. During "Fr. Bob's" tenure many repairs have been made to the church buildings including the refurbishment of our magnificent stained glass windows. Our Fair Acres, Rose Hill, and Riddle Village programs flourished, and our involvement in the Memorial Day Parade and Calvary Day (celebrated on the Feast of the Holy Cross) were greatly expanded. Father Bob retired on May 31, 2008.

Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**



Rectors who have Served Calvary Church and their Years of Service

The Rev. Marmaduke Hirst	1835-1838
The Right Rev. Alfred Lee	1838-1841
The Rev. Benjamin S. Huntingdon	1841-1847
The Rev. Charles W. Thomson	1847-1848
The Rev. Charles Breck	1848-1853
The Rev. John K. Murphy	1853-1868
The Rev. William Ely	1868-1874
The Rev. James Walker	1874-1893
The Rev. L. R. F. Davis	1893-1896
The Rev. George Miller	1896-1903
The Rev. C. B. Williams	1903-1906
The Rev. Jacob F. Weinman	1906-1913
The Rev. John P. Bagley	1913-1928
The Rev. Richard Kemp	1928-1941
The Rev. John C. Knewstub	1942-1945
The Rev. John R. Huggins	1946-1951
The Rev. J. Wesley Rennie	1952-1962
The Rev. Harry S. Longley (interim)	1962-1963
The Rev. James F. McKendrick, Jr.	1963-1969
The Rev. David E. Kenney (interim)	1969-1970
The Very Rev. Arthur F. Brunner, M. Div.	1970-1997
The Rev. Charles Wissink (interim)	1998-1998
The Rev. Joseph T. Rivers, III (interim)	1998-1999
The Rev. Robert C. Granfeldt	1999-2008
The Rev. Kristine F. Hill (interim)	2008-

Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

**PRESENT STATUS**

**Our Mission**

**To worship the Lord.  
To serve the community.  
To grow the church.**

**Our Location**

Calvary Episcopal Church is situated in the western corner of Delaware County, an historic, suburban county bordering Philadelphia. Our membership comes largely from Middletown Township (Media) and Aston. Our children attend the Rose Tree Media and Penn Delco School Districts. Our church is located on 11 beautiful acres which include the church, cemetery, office building with Sunday school room, rectory, sexton's house, and woodlands. We are located in an older, mostly residential area, although recent years have seen the continuing growth of new housing developments nearby. There are a few businesses and light industries operating in the Parish neighborhood.



**Our Members**

You will find a very comfortable, family atmosphere at Calvary Church. We are a small parish with very loving, caring members. We call ourselves the Small Parish with the Big Heart. Most of the members of Calvary Church are aged 50 or more, and we have somewhat more female than male members. Most members are married, although we do have about 20% who are widowed or divorced. Attracting young families is one of the greatest needs of our church. The majority of our adult members have some kind of post high school training or classes, bachelor's degree, or graduate degree. Most of our members have attended Calvary for more than 10 years. About one-third have always attended Calvary; about one-third are Episcopalians who have transferred here; and about one-third have come to us from other church backgrounds. Our members have come and continue to stay at Calvary because of family or friends and because of the style of worship.

Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

**Our Worship**



A very loyal one-third of our members attend the Sunday, 8 AM, quiet service with Rite I. About two-thirds of our members attend the Sunday, 10 AM, service with Rite II, a traditional music program, and a coffee hour following. Calvary also offers a Rite II Wednesday, 10 AM, service with the service on the third Wednesday of each month being a Eucharist of Healing with the laying on of hands. Some residents of Rosehill, a privately licensed MR treatment facility in the neighborhood, regularly attend the Wednesday service. Each month, the rector and some members of Calvary also provide worship services at Fair Acres Geriatric Center and Riddle Village retirement community. Besides these regular services, Calvary enjoys seasonal worship services: a family service and midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, the Feast of the Nativity, Epiphany Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

**Our Organizations and Programs**

Calvary is blessed with many dedicated members who volunteer their time as lay readers, intercessors, chalice bearers, ushers, greeters, and choir members each Sunday, as well as a committed Altar Guild that prepares the church for all services. Calvary provides a nursery during the 10 AM Sunday service, and we have just recently finished a Children’s Chapel for our youth. Attached to the office is a newly remodeled Sunday school room for our older children, staffed by dedicated teachers.



Calvary is also fortunate to have an active group of church women in The St. Elizabeth Guild. The Guild annually hosts a November Fest and Dinner, a Spaghetti Dinner, a Strawberry Festival and Yard Sale, and a Holiday Dinner.

A new and very active group in the church is the Parish Growth Committee. This committee hosts an outreach table at Middletown Pride Day and Aston Community Day, a Pancake Supper, Calvary Day, sets up a welcome table for all church events, and was the sponsor of the recent Calvary Cookbook. In addition, members of this committee sponsor FISH – Free Instruction & Study Help – where students can receive homework help every Tuesday afternoon.



The Vestry has many vigorous committees working to serve the church. They are: the property committee, the stewardship committee, the cemetery committee, and the hospitality committee. The hospitality committee, besides organizing the treats for coffee hour held after the 10 A.M. service, sponsors the Memorial Day Community Picnic and the Parish Breakfasts.

For adults, there is a Bible Study group that meets after the 10 A.M. service during the school year. In the summer, this group becomes a Rector’s Discussion Group.

One of the newer activities taking place at the church, meeting once a month, is the Readers’ Theatre, created by a talented member of the parish. Calvary also sponsors the 12 week GriefShare program, on a regular continuing basis. Our facilities are also used by the American Legion auxiliary and we are proud of our long-term relationship with Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is truly a blessing that so much is accomplished by so few!

Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

**Our Communications**

Members of Calvary are kept informed of events at the church through the Sunday church bulletin and the Chimes. The Chimes is the newsletter and calendar that is put together and mailed by the Rector each month.

For almost three years, Calvary has also had a website that contains the Chimes, calendar, Parish Bulletin Board, sermons, pictures, and information about the church.

A new service for those with e-mails has been started, called "Calvary Connections," a weekly e-mail that will inform members of recent and upcoming events, birthdays, anniversaries, and other news.



Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

**PROPERTY**

Much has been accomplished since an earlier version of this report was generated, ten year ago. Improvements have been made to all main buildings that include the Church, Sunday School building, Rectory, and the Sexton's house. These structures require almost constant upkeep in accordance with their age and usage.



The beauty of our church building has been enhanced by the ongoing process of refurbishing the stained glass windows. A major project was recently completed with the removal of the reredos screen behind the altar to reveal, once more, our largest stained glass window. What a wonderful improvement. In addition to being able to enjoy the beauty of the window, the congregation has also been afforded the benefit of a great deal of additional light. The total cost of this project was covered by church group fundraising and individual donations from the congregation and from friends of Calvary Church. Earlier, the entire interior (walls and ceiling) was repaired and painted. And just over two years ago we were both proud and relieved to install a wheelchair lift outside the main doors of the church to welcome our older parishioners, visitors, and those with special needs.



The undercroft of the church building also received a good deal of loving care over the past two years: walls, doors and heating pipes in the entrance hall and meeting/activity room were painted; the storage cabinet/countertop in the meeting room was relocated to the entrance area to make better use of space; a new ceiling and ceiling fans were installed. Donations of new carpet and, most recently, two air conditioning systems completed the main Undercroft areas.

The children's nursery was also completely redone. It is now very cheerful and inviting with the walls painted and detailed with drawings of items attractive to children. It has been renamed "God's Garden." A former choir room is the new home to the children's altar and the old reredos. Painting and a donation of new carpet completed our new Children's Chapel.

The Office/Sunday school building received major attention: the walls were replaced with new, white, and bright material; the ceiling and trim work were painted; air conditioning and a new bathroom installed. The exterior work included repairing and coating the roof, installing a new front door, stairs, and ramp.

Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

The sexton's house required extensive repairs and renovations prior to the arrival of our present sexton, Mr. Wayne Roberts. Recent work on the rectory includes repairs to the slate roof and painting the interior.

Last but not least, it should also be noted that the grounds and cemetery surrounding the church properties continue to be well-maintained, and in the summer it is especially cheery to view the pretty flowers that greet you as you enter Church.

This report cannot be complete without thanking the people involved in church property improvements and maintenance, and a special nod is due, especially, to the leaders who undertook all this work and the time they devote to this cause. Nor can we forget the many people who participate in the work parties and who donate materials, time and effort to accomplish all that needs to be done.



On reading the foregoing one might ask, what more needs to be done? The answer, of course, is there is always more. The good news is that Calvary's people remain undaunted; nothing seems to be overwhelming. We have a history of pitching in and overcoming obstacles through stewardship and sweat equity.



Calvary Episcopal Church, Rockdale  
**Parish Profile**

**FINANCIAL STATUS**

Our annual pledges and actual receipts for the past three years are as follows:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
PLEDGES	\$129,674	\$118,280	\$122,279
PLEDGE RECEIPTS	\$116,407	\$109,075	NA
PLEDGING UNITS	60	63	64

In 2007 we had a deficit of (\$4,985.97). Actual income of \$169,805.48 fell approximately 1% below budget. Total expenses of \$174,791.45 exceeded budget by 2%. Despite the deficit, we did complete our pledge to the Diocese of \$5,900.

Our 2008 budget of \$184,812.44 represents a 7.9% increase versus the 2007 budget. Pledge income of \$122,279 represents 66% of the total. The pledge income if paid in total would represent an increase of 12.1% over actual pledge income received in 2007. The Rector's salary is the largest expense item, at 27.7% of total budgeted expenses. Pension and Health/Disability Insurance together account for another 17.7% of the \$184,812.44. Fuel expenses are also significant at 7.3%.

Through August, actual pledges received are \$75,225, which trails the budgeted amount by \$6,294, or 7.7%. Pledge income does tend to lag during the summer months. Expenses are running below budget by more than \$12,000, resulting in a current surplus of \$1,011. Part of this surplus is tied to salary savings due to the Rector's retirement. Also, we have just started to pay our pledge to the Diocese in September. The pledge totals \$5,900 and must be paid over the next three months.

We continue to do improvements to the Physical Plant, including painting, cleaning, and refurbishment of the Rectory. These improvements have been paid out of our Building Fund, which has a little over \$15,000 remaining for future needs.

Our Trust Fund Assets, held at T. Rowe Price and The Church Foundation, total in excess of \$121,000. Interest income from these funds are used for general operating purposes.



**FUTURE STATUS**

As much as we continue to delight in our long and proud history, we must look forward. While we currently offer a variety of worship and outreach programs, we have a strong desire to grow and with that we realize that we may need to change. A recurring theme found in our survey, in general discussions at coffee hour, and in the Parish Growth Committee is the need to increase our visibility both in terms of advertising (through signs and other media) and general community involvement. We seek to attract and retain new members, especially younger families and youth in general, while not alienating current members or turning away any older prospective members. We want to be inclusive, but we recognize that we are a rapidly aging congregation.



We show a strong desire to continue our Rite I, Rite II, and Wednesday morning services. We also want to continue our active ministries to the Fair Acres Retirement Community, Riddle Village, and the Rose Hill School. Additionally, there is some enthusiasm for potentially adding new services and styles (i.e., Saturdays and variety of music/worship) as we attempt to attract new members. We are determined to remain committed to pastoral care of the elderly, sick, and those in need, which is increasingly imperative given our aging demographics. The members of Calvary seek to increase our print and personal communications, foster a greater sense of

fellowship and community by having more fellowship events, and continue to develop our Spirituality. And though we have a tradition of eating well in the parish through dinners and other festive occasions and services (such as the Agape following Easter vigil), we've also heard calls for more social events geared to younger audiences such as "coffee house-style" musical performances, game nights, bowling outings, and charitable outreach programs.

We certainly have some ambitious goals that are largely due to the fact that we'd like to share our hidden gem with the rest of the community. We know we have some truly dedicated members and a wealth of ideas, but we seek someone dynamic enough to help us bring out more from our present members (as opposed to the 10 percent of members doing 90 percent of the work rule) and, indeed, help us develop new members and leaders.

