



CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2024



*Respectfully Submitted,
Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session
Sunday, ????*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEETING AGENDA	3
2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES	4
2024 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES	5
STATISTICAL REPORT	8
BUILDING & FINANCE	9
Building Administrator's Report	9
Building Improvement Task Force	10
Finance Report and 2025 Budget	11
WORSHIP, EDUCATION, & COMMUNITY LIFE	14
MISSION & CONGREGATIONAL CARE	16
Mission	16
Congregational Care	17
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT	18

MEETING AGENDA

- Open with prayer
- Recognize Moderator (Rev. Nikki Blanks)
- Establish Quorum
- Approve minutes from previous Congregational Meetings
- Recognition of Members
- Election of Ruling Elders, officers, and Nominating Committee members
- Committee Reports:
 - Building and Finance Committee Report
 - Presentation of 2025 Budget
 - Worship, Education, and Community Life Committee Report
 - Mission and Congregational Care Committee Report
 - Nominating Committee Report
- Q & A
- Close with prayer

2023 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

March 10, 2024

The meeting was held in person in the sanctuary as well as on Zoom for remote members.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session, at 11:45am. Aaron Tindall-Schlicht was recognized as the sitting Moderator, as appointed by Moderator Rev. Nikki Blanks. A quorum was established as present.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting on 3/5/2023. **M/S/P***

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2022 Special Congregational Meeting on 12/17/2023. **M/S/P**

Cindy Thomas was recognized for her 13 years as Clerk of Session. Beth Van Gorp was recognized for her 6 years of service on Session. A commemorative plaque was dedicated to James Keehn in memory of his life and contributions to Calvary.

Nick Heger was elected Treasurer and Aaron Tindall-Schlicht was elected Clerk of Session for 2024.

Kingsley Ezeuwa was nominated as a new Elder; he was presented on behalf of the Session by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht. Motion to elect Kingsley Ezeuwa as a new Elder for Calvary, for a three-year term on the Session. **M/S/P**

Reports were given by the following:

- Statistics: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
- Building: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
- Finance: Nick Heger
- Worship, Education, and Community Life: Carolyn McCarthy
- Mission: Margaret Keehn
- Congregational Care: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
- Nominating and Personnel: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht

There was a brief Q&A after the reports. The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht at 12:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session

***M/S/P=motion made, seconded, approved.**

2024 SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting of the Congregation

August 25, 2024

The meeting was held in person in the sanctuary as well as on Zoom for remote members.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht at 11:52 am.

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Elder and Clerk of Session, was recognized as the Interim Moderator, appointed by Session and Moderator Rev. Nikki Blanks. A quorum was established as present.

Motion to approve the resolution to authorize Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc.'s Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program loan for \$104,100 as detailed in the attached document "Certification/Resolution for Church Congregation." **M/S/P***

The meeting was turned over to the corporate board, and Margaret Keehn, President, was recognized to lead the corporate meeting.

Motion to approve the resolution to authorize the Wisconsin nonstock religious corporation Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc.'s Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program loan for \$104,100 as detailed in the attached document "Certification/Resolution for Church Corporation." **M/S/P***

The meeting was returned to Interim Moderator Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, and was adjourned and closed with prayer by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht at 12:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Clerk of Session

***M/S/P=motion made, seconded, approved.**

CERTIFICATION/RESOLUTION FOR CHURCH CONGREGATION

I, Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, the duly elected and qualified Clerk of Session of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc., do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the congregation held on the 25th day of August, 20 24, at which a quorum was present.

RESOLVED, the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc., ("**Congregation**") desires to provide approval for the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc., (the **Church Corporation**") to borrow money from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc. ("Lender") funded by Endowment Funded Loans:

Amount of Loan: \$104,100.00

Type of Loan (check one)

Secured Loan: ✓
(Evidenced by a Promissory Note and secured by a Mortgage/Deed of Trust)
Congregation's corporation holds fee simple title to the property to secure the loan.

Unsecured Loan: _____
(Evidenced by a Promissory Note)

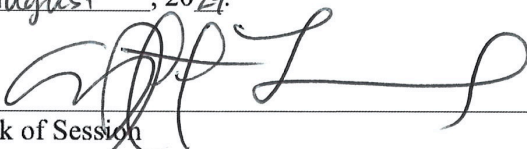
Purpose of the Loan (check one)

Construction: _____

Non-Construction: ✓

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Congregation approves the Church Corporation entering into a loan as indicated above.

I further certify that this resolution has not been modified, revoked, or rescinded and is in full force and effect this 25th day of August, 2024.


Clerk of Session

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
Typed or Printed Name

CERTIFICATION/RESOLUTION FOR CHURCH CORPORATION

I, Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the corporation of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc., a Wisconsin nonstock religious corporation do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a meeting of the corporation held on the 25th day of August, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

RESOLVED, the Calvary Presbyterian Church, Inc., a Wisconsin nonstock religious corporation ("**Church Corporation**") desires to borrow money as follows from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc (Lender) funded by Endowment Funded Loans:

Amount of Loan: \$104,100.00

Type of Loan (check one)

Secured Loan: ✓
(Evidenced by a Promissory Note and secured by a Mortgage/Deed of Trust)
Church Corporation holds fee simple title to the property to be used as security for the loan.

Unsecured Loan: _____
(Evidenced by a Promissory Note)


Purpose of the Loan (check one)

Construction: _____

Non-Construction: ✓

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Church Corporation is authorized to enter into a loan as indicated above and that the officers of the Church Corporation as listed on the attached Certificate of Incumbency marked Exhibit A are authorized to sign any and all loan documents, including but not limited to the Deed of Trust/Mortgage (as applicable) and Promissory Note as authorized agents of the Church Corporation.

I further certify that this resolution has not been modified, revoked, or rescinded and is in full force and effect this 25th day of August, 2024.


Secretary of the Corporation

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht
Typed or Printed Name

STATISTICAL REPORT

2024 Church Statistical Report

Church Calvary **PIN** 9417
Presbytery Milwaukee
Address 628 N 10th St, Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone 414-271-8782 **Fax**
Email calvarychurchMKE@gmail.com
Web Site <https://bigred.church/>



Membership

Prior Active Members	38	Adjusted membership	38
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	0	Certificate	0
Youth Professions	0	Deaths	1
Professions & Reaffirmations	0	Deleted for any Other Reason	0
Total Gains	0	Total Losses	1
Total Ending Active Members	37		

Baptisms

Presented by Others	1	Average Weekly Worship Attendance	18
At Confirmation	0	Friends of the Congregation	3
All Other	0	Ruling Elders on Session	4
		Do you have Deacons?	No

Age Distribution of Active Members

17 & Under		People with Disabilities	
18 - 25	3	Hearing impairment	1
26 - 40	9	Sight impairment	0
41 - 55	9	Mobility impairment	0
56 - 70	9	Other impairment	0
Over 70	7	Gender Distribution	
Total Age Distribution	37	Women	17
		Men	20
		Non-Binary	

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under	1	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	
Elementary School (K-5th grade)		High School (9th – 12th grade)	
		Total Youth	1

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	3	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
Black/African American/African	8	White	26
Middle Eastern/North African	0	Multiracial	0
Hispanic/Latino-a	0	Total Racial Ethnic	37

Budgeted Income 115,000

Budgeted Expense 115,000

Receipts

Regular Contributions	42,600	Bequests	6,000
Capital Building Fund	105,000	Other Income	61,000
Investment Income	0	Subsidy or Aid	0

Expenditures

Local Program	110,000	Investment Expenditures	0
Local Mission	1,200	Per Capita Apprt	
Capital Expenditures	186,000	Other Mission	0

Saturday, February 8, 2025

Page: 1 of 1

BUILDING & FINANCE

Building Administrator's Report

This past year has been a transformative period for Calvary Presbyterian Church, marked by growth, infrastructure improvements, expanded community engagement, and an increased reputation as a hub for theatrical and cultural events. With significant developments in building maintenance, arts partnerships, and security, we have set a strong foundation for future success.

Theatrical Arts & Community Engagement

- **Branding of Theatrical Events:** We successfully solidified "Calvary" as the branding identity for our theatrical events, attracting growing interest from the arts community.
- **Room Repurposing:** Room #2 has been transformed into **Talley Hall**, and the second-floor room into **Bradford Studio**, honoring the founders of the building. These spaces now provide affordable rentals for rehearsals and training, fostering a vibrant artistic community.
- **New Theatre Partnerships:** Secret Handshake Productions and Prism Theater Company have joined our community, bringing additional artistic diversity. Prism Theatre Company has been offered "Room #1" at a nominal rate of \$5 per rehearsal day to support the future of Milwaukee Theatre.
- **Danceworks MKE Residency:** Danceworks had a two month established an ongoing residency at Talley Hall, enhancing our role as a creative arts hub.
- **Vanguard Productions:** The highly anticipated performance of *My Name is Rachel Corrie* was moved to the Calvary Sanctuary, generating significant buzz and attracting media coverage from *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Shepherd Express*, and *Wisconsin Muslim Journal*.

Facilities & Maintenance Improvements

- **Presbytery Loan & Elevator Repair:** We successfully secured the Presbytery Loan, allowing us to complete the much-needed repairs to our elevator. This update ensures full **ADA compliance**, greatly enhancing accessibility for all visitors and event attendees.
- **Plumbing & Janitorial Solutions:** McCoy Plumbing resolved long standing plumbing issues, improving the overall functionality of our facilities.
- **Hallway Closet Cleanup:** We cleared out the downstairs hallway closet, donating the accumulated clothes to a local homeless shelter, reinforcing our commitment to community service.
- **Fire Safety Upgrades:** Fire extinguishers and fire exit signs were updated, including the addition of a fire extinguisher in the Sanctuary balcony, ensuring compliance with safety regulations.
- **Wi-Fi & Security Enhancements:** We successfully updated the Wi-Fi in the Sanctuary and installed an upgraded **Ring Security Network**, including recordable video capacity for

enhanced security.

- **Roof Maintenance:** A possible roof leak was identified on the eastern side of the church, with inspections and maintenance plans underway.

Weddings & Special Events

- **Successful Weddings:** This year, we hosted eleven weddings, including the 247-person **Vogel Wedding**, which showcased Calvary's potential as a premier wedding venue. The **Ingrilli Wedding** featured a unique copper pipe wedding arch, later repurposed for donation.
- **Proposal for Wedding & Event Advertising:** To increase bookings, we are considering a **subscription to The Knot or Wedding Wire** for enhanced exposure and client engagement.

Community Initiatives & Partnerships

- **CPR Certification LLC:** Weekly CPR classes continue to thrive, with additional Saturday sessions added due to high demand. This program not only benefits the community but also provides sustained financial support, contributing **\$400 per month**.
- **Homeless Outreach Success:** With the help of Ericka Crowley from Community Advocates, Ms. Smith, a homeless woman residing on our steps, has secured public housing before the winter months.

With the successful elevator repair, expanded arts partnerships, and continued facility improvements, Calvary Presbyterian Church is positioned for a bright future. The past year has reinforced our role as a cornerstone of creativity, inclusivity, and service in our community. As we move forward, we remain committed to fostering a welcoming and dynamic environment for all.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, church session, and community members for making this year a remarkable success!

Submitted by Joshua Pohja (JP),
Building Administrator

Building Improvement Task Force

In 2024, a Building Improvement Task Force was established in order to evaluate the need for capital improvements to Calvary's building, and execute said improvements. The group was led informally by Tom Kriofsky, Margaret Keehn, and David Peters. The needs isolated included:

- Elevator removal and replacement
- Roof replacement
- Steeple repair
- Stained glass window repair and upkeep

- Storm window refurbishment
- Masonry refurbishment

It was determined that the non-functional elevator—which put us out of ADA compliance and made it difficult to host events and weddings in the sanctuary—was the highest priority issue. The Task Force will reevaluate the feasibility of Calvary’s other needs in the future.

After a thorough search lead by Tom Kriofsky, Express Elevator was contracted to do the work, and Aaron Tindall-Schlicht applied for and was granted a loan for Calvary through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP), an investment and loan organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (Please see *2024 Special Congregational Meeting Minutes* for loan details.)

Express broke ground over the summer, and the loan funds were received in the autumn. The elevator project was completed in October, and painted by Carolyn McCarthy.

We are confident that the increased business and rentals that we will be able to accommodate with a functional elevator will cover the expense of our monthly loan payments.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Tindall-Schlicht,
Clerk of Session

Finance Report and 2025 Budget

Recognitions:

- **Joshua Pohja (JP 2.0)** – has continued as Church office manager and is a true asset to the church!! A huge thank-you to him for often going above and beyond, especially with pursuing additional renters. Utilizing this beautiful space for the community is an important and he has successfully made bank deposits and cut checks to our vendors.
- **Michael Napier** – our accountant has continued doing a great job in his role as bookkeeper closing the books monthly and providing reports to the treasurer and session for Calvary. In 2025 he will continue his work which also includes providing Donor Statements each quarter to Church members.
- Also thank you to our **Budget team** of Margaret, JP, and I

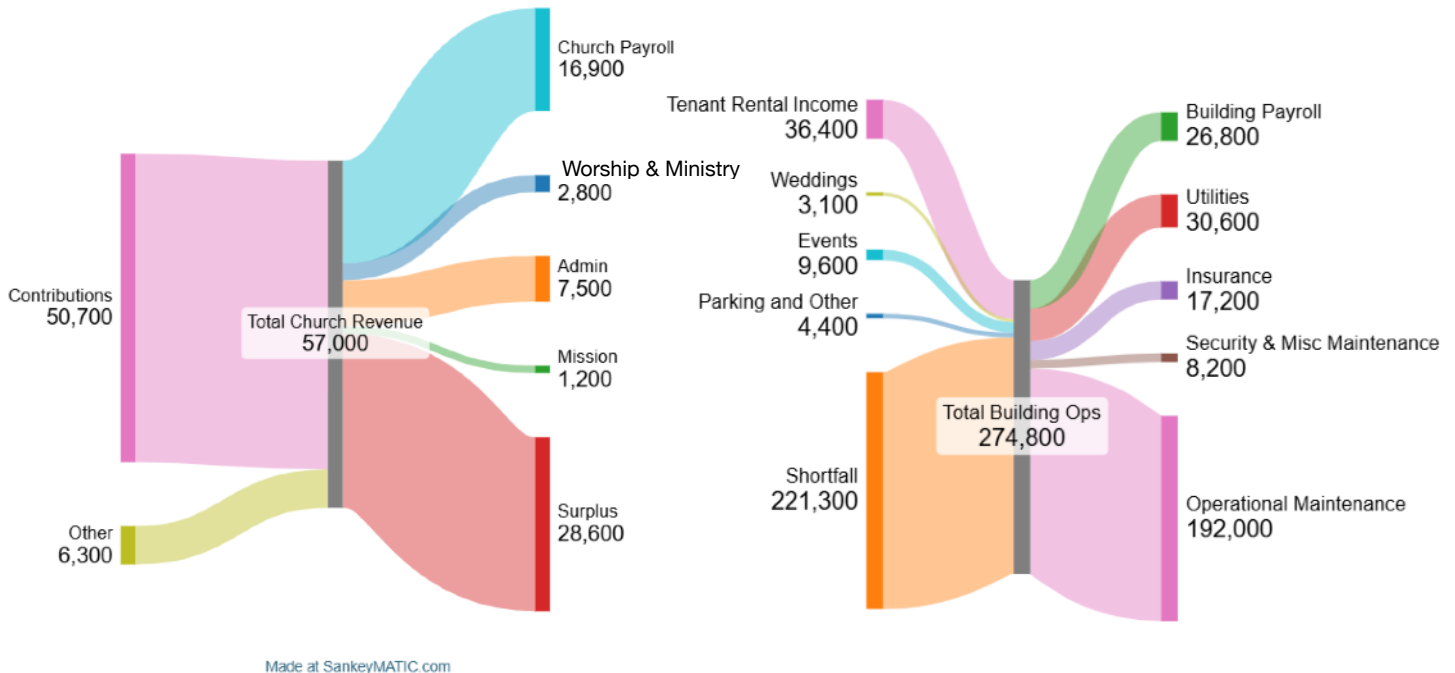
2024 Financial Recap (Normal Church Operations):

- A big win for the year – and a big capital expenditure – was completing the upgrade of the elevator. To finance this project, we spent a downpayment amount of \$92k in cash and took out a loan for \$104k of debt, which we will pay back over the next fifteen years (monthly payment of \$802 at 4.6%).
- Calvary’s 2024 operating results were in the red with an aggregate deficit of \$6,300 (excluding the capital expenditure of the elevator which totaled \$186k)
 - Hypothetically excluding the elevator would result in a building deficit of 35,300; and a consolidated loss of 6,300.

- Including the cash-basis expense for the elevator and loan gets us to an aggregate loss of 192,300, as illustrated below.
- Our balance sheet on 12/31/24 shows \$101,000 in the bank (including \$3,500 in our Capital Campaign account). This is down from 12/31/23 cash balance of 190,000

Church 2024 Actual Results:

Building 2024 Actual Results:



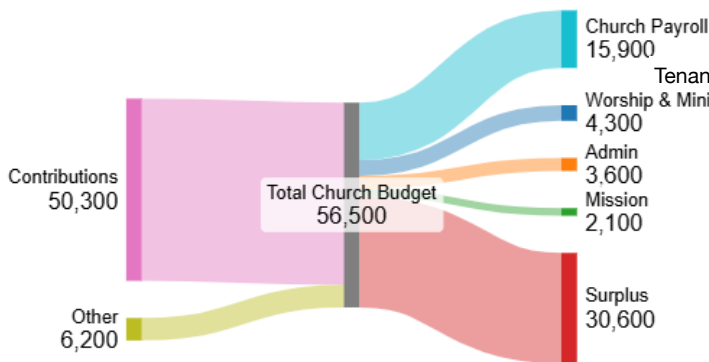
Planning for 2025:

- JP is working diligently to bring in additional rental partners; new tenants continue to be sought out. In addition to this revenue stream bringing in some much needed funds; more shows and more wedding rentals in our beautiful building helps to bring our neighborhood community together at Calvary.
- The Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Vanguard Productions, and FeverUp Candlelight concerts are just some of our non-permanent renters
- Seeking to advertise our wedding space to book more weddings
- Interchange Theater Co-Op continues renting the lower level of the building for improv live theater shows and classes
- Based on a forecast that hopes to better maximize our space, and does so in a realistic manner **we have assembled a budget for 2025 which falls short of our currently expected expenses and obligations (by approximately \$6,200)**. Meaning we project our total expenses to exceed our total revenues for the year ahead.
- Furthermore, this one year budget does not allow much cushion for unknown and unexpected repairs and capital improvements – something we know is inevitable with our beautiful, old, and expensive building. We have deferred maintenance on many of the beautiful windows, and other areas, due to financial constraints. A common rule of thumb might suggest saving 1-2% of the value of the building... for a

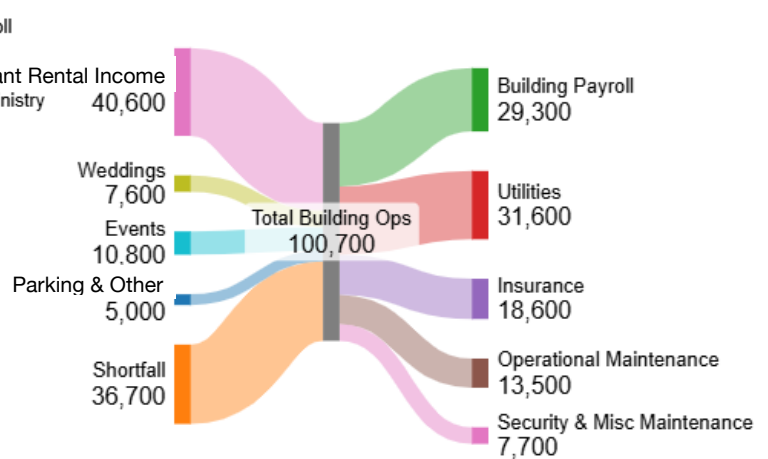
\$2M building this would be 20,000-40,000 each year. This hypothetical shortfall is also not accounted for nor budgeted for in the year 2025, though we hope to be in a place where we can set aside some money in a capital fund for future repairs at some point in the future.

2025 Budget snapshots:

Church 2025 Budget:



Building 2025 Budget:



Respectfully submitted,
Nick Heger,
Treasurer

WORSHIP, EDUCATION, & COMMUNITY LIFE

In 2024, Calvary Presbyterian Church continued its calling to worship God. We continued to learn and grow together as a welcoming, accepting Christian community in downtown Milwaukee.

In 2024, Calvary's Worship Committee consisted of Kingsley Ezeuwa, Beth Van Gorp, Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, Jonnie Guernsey, J.P. Kastner, and Carolyn McCarthy, committee chair.

Worship Services:

- Preaching was provided by members of the Worship Committee as well as others, including Ashanti Cook, Rev. Nikki Blanks, Rev. Jeff Tindall, Rev. Fiona Nicolaisen, Russ Koenig, Richard Harter with storytelling by Tom Kriofsy and Sara Thomas.
- We created a standard guidance document for preaching.
- The weekly worship leader took responsibility for that week's Google Slides and Google Docs, assisting guest preachers as needed.
- We had our first Hygge Sunday!
- Lent and Easter: We used Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects to guide our Lenten worship. We used a fresh call to worship during Lent.
 - Aaron led our Maundy Thursday service which included a light meal of soup and bread.
 - Palm Sunday palms were purchased at Stempers by Jonnie.
 - We gathered for Easter sunrise at Atwater Park and then met at Calvary at for the 10:30 am service which featured several short sermons.
- We worshiped outside at South Shore Park followed by lunch at the beer garden.
- From October 13 through Advent, we incorporated "Falling Leaves" themes in the services: reflecting on transitions, changing colors, beauty in change, light and darkness.
- During Advent, we enjoyed chosen stories in place of sermons. We blessed the items collected for the Christ Presbyterian Church Toy Drive. Christmas Eve service was "Lessons & Carols" Worship at 7pm.
- Technical support: Tech is now a column to our worship planning spreadsheet. Aaron arranged and taught Worship committee members the tech set up, providing a written document, labels and photographs of all wires and attachments to make the setup clear.
- Communion transitioned to intinction.

Worship Music (led by Aaron Tindall-Schlicht):

- Aaron provided music and coordinated the musicians Melissa Simes, Jane Han.
- Musicians were joined at various times by others, including: Cindy Thomas, Jonnie Guernsey, and Sara Thomas.

Education, and Congregational Life

- Beth facilitated Theology on Tour, a monthly book discussion. We read Black Sheep and Prodigals by Dave Tomlinson and then started Braving the Thin Places: Celtic Wisdom to Create a Space for Grace by Julianne Stanz

- Communications: Aaron facilitated and improved production of the weekly newsletter, augmenting and organizing that email. The MeetUp website was not used consistently.
- We coordinated several Second Table Potlucks including the elevator potluck celebration.

Social opportunities also included:

- Food for the Journey Fundraiser at Calvary.
- PCUSA Election Prayer Vigil 11/5/24
- Calvary Presbyterian Church attended *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* in sanctuary.
- Selected summer concerts in the parks.
- Liturgy for Vital Congregations at North Shore Church.
- Trivia Night at Hoyt Park.
- Worship at South Shore Park followed by lunch at the beer garden.

We continue to strive to create a welcoming and meaningful worship experience as well as fellowship opportunities for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn McCarthy,
Chair

MISSION & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Mission

Without a working elevator we had some limitations inviting people into Calvary for Labyrinth. However we did do great work externally, helping our neighbors.

Project Stay

We had a meeting with the new leadership at Project Stay. Ms. Green replaced long time principal Ms. Meriweather. Ms. Green has increased student body from 120 to 140 students. These students face challenges, but with support and proper guidance can graduate with promise.

Action items:

- **First:** They needed an **incentive** program to make the students work harder. Nick delivered 40+ Buck t shirts for distribution to honor roll students
- **Second:** Project Stay is/has created a foundation to allow an easier way for us to offer financial support
- **Third:** They asked for **Joy** at the holiday. Tom, Nancy, Margaret, Dave, Debby, Beth, A.J., JP, Sarah, Nan, and others supplied an entire Christmas dinner at school. Ham and all the fixings. Cookies from Nancy and Tom were superior. We had take home bags, and nearly all were used. I could feel the joy.

Red Card

The **Calvary Community Resource Cards** have been prepared, updated and distributed to those in need in the community since 2021. The cards were initially designed for the homeless to carry in their pockets, as they provide access information for emergency shelters, meals, clothing and basic needs, mental health services, employment, education, advocacy services, housing, healthcare, substance abuse, food pantries, elder care, and other community agencies. The cards have been used by churches and schools to provide community resource information to families. Saint Vincent de Paul includes the cards in their packet for every client. The Milwaukee City Health Department has the cards available at their intake desk. Several elementary schools in the central city have cards available at their office and have copied and sent them home with students. And Calvary Presbyterian Church has a box outside the front entrance that is kept filled with cards for passersby and students.

Since 2021, there have been over 2,500 cards and just printed 1,500 more. We plan to update the card with current data in 2025 and redistribute to groups that have received them. Large distributions to Milwaukee Health Department (350), Church of the Gesu (500), and St. Vincent de Paul (400).

Capuchin Walk

In June 2024, a small team of Calvary members and friends participated in the Capuchin Walk for the hungry. We raised over \$1,000 to support Capuchin Community Services. Despite our small size, we raised enough money to land in the top ten teams, thanks to generous donations from the congregation and community support.

Congregational Care

The elevator stopped functioning in December 2023. Which made coffee hours and second tables impossible to continue for most of the rest of the year. Weddings continued with the rental of a portable chair lift. We were able to host a special Baptism in April.

We had one person express interest in becoming a member at Calvary by transfer of membership. In the spring we were saddened by the loss of a longtime member, Don Thomas, and in the fall former longtime member Joan James also passed.

The church remained active in a number of ways. After the elevator was replaced we resumed coffee hours and second table dinners. We held our annual picnic at South Shore Park followed by a lunch at Terrace. Members also participated in the Capuchin Walk. Theology on Tour is a book club that meets in members' homes to discuss books.

We ended the year by sending toys to the Angel Tree/Toy Drive at Christ Church. We also started a Little Lending Library at Calvary.

Many cards, letters, and calls were made to members and friends of Calvary throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events happen.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Peters

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee was formed in 2024 to address the need for new members of Session, and consisted of Jonnie Guernsey, Nan Kim, Carolyn McCarthy, and Aaron Tindall-Schlicht (Session member).

John-Paul (JP) Kastner has gladly accepted nomination to the Session, and will be nominated at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Aaron Tindall-Schlicht will be nominated for his second term.

2024 Session and Officers

RULING ELDERS *(Classes graduate at the end of year indicated.)*

Debby Peters, class of 2024, 2nd term

Margaret Keehn, class of 2024, 2nd term

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht, class of 2024, 1st term

Kingsley Ezeuwa, class of 2026, 1st term

MODERATOR

Rev. Nikki Blanks, Moderator

CLERK

Aaron Tindall-Schlicht

TREASURER

Nick Heger

CORPORATE OFFICERS

President: Margaret Keehn

Secretary: Aaron Tindall-Schlicht

Treasurer: Nick Heger

Respectfully Submitted,
Aaron Tindall-Schlicht,
Clerk of Session