

# THE REVIEW

WINTER 2023



FIRST &  
CALVARY

A full-page background image of a winter landscape. In the foreground, there are bare, thin tree branches reaching across the frame. Below them, a dense forest of evergreen trees is covered in a thick layer of snow. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

# CONTENTS

WINTER 2023



WELCOMING GUESTS & EMBRACING NEW  
COVENANT PARTNERS.....4-7

MSU BAND LUNCHEON BACK AFTER TWO  
YEARS.....8-9

FIRST & CALVARY INTRODUCES ITS FIRST  
ALPHA COURSE.....10-13

RABU! FALL YOUTH RETREAT  
REMINISCING.....14-15

MOPS 2022.....16-17

A TIME FOR CHANGE - F&C ADOPTS  
NEW MISSION STATEMENT, TAGLINE, AND  
VALUES STATEMENT.....18-19

# WELCOMING GUESTS & EMBRACING NEW COVENANT PARTNERS

BY DON EVERTS



**Rev. Don Everts**  
Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

One of the highlights of 2022 for me as the Pastor of First & Calvary has been welcoming new folks.

Sometimes this means welcoming guests. Plenty of people who come to worship on a Sunday are experiencing our church for the first time. One of the reasons I walk out to the back of the sanctuary after the

benediction each week is to be available for any new folks who want to stop and say hi.

It's great to meet these new friends, and it warms my heart to see how welcoming the rest of you are in greeting new folks and making them feel seen and welcomed. I once heard a pastor mention "30-second rule" that they used at their church: no one would greet their dear friends in the church until 30 seconds after the service ended. Those first 30 seconds were for welcoming new people. Based on what I've seen, our congregation already has these instincts in a big way!

Some first-time guests come back for a second or third time and,



eventually, contact me when they “want to learn more about” First & Calvary. We usually meet up in my office where we can get to know each other and where I can answer their questions about this wonderful congregation. I love getting to know new people and getting their perspectives and questions about First & Calvary.

When folks are contemplating making First & Calvary their church home, they’ll often reach out to find out about church membership – or “covenant partnership,” as we call it in the ECO denomination. So, in lieu of a formal membership class, we meet, and I walk us through a conversation about theology, church history, polity, and the various ministries of First & Calvary. These are often deep conversations and are an absolute joy.

You should know that I’m very open-handed with people exploring Covenant Partnership. This process really is between them and God and is a part of a larger journey. But when they do feel called, I have them fill out a Covenant Partner Questionnaire and our session then joyfully considers them as Covenant Partners. This year alone, we’ve welcomed 25 new Covenant Partners! We’ve welcomed them all in worship, but I wanted you to see all their smiling faces here in the Review at the end of the year.

In the New Year, I expect to develop a “Discover First & Calvary” class or meeting that occurs monthly or quarterly – so stay tuned! But until then, I’ll keep smiling as I get to meet and welcome guests and help shepherd and welcome new Covenant Partners through wonderful conversations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Evers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and the last name "Evers" clearly distinguishable.

*SEE PICTURES ON PAGES 6-7*



GRACIE BAUER (FAR LEFT) AND  
MADELEINE BAUER (SECOND FROM THE RIGHT)



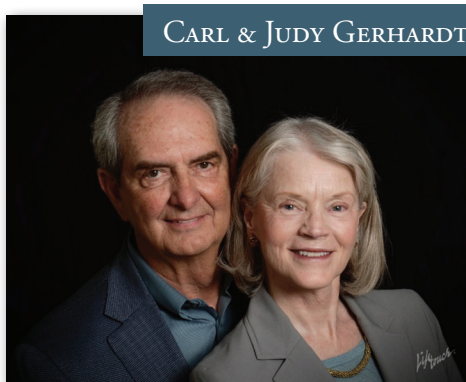
HAYDEN RILEY JARVIS



KATLYN SCHALLER



KIM PHIPPS



CARL & JUDY GERHARDT



CYNTHIA MCHANEY



AUGUST & SAMUEL DANCEY



JOHN, WENDY, KALEI AND KIRRA COLLINS



KAREN WOODALL



# MSU BAND LUNCHEON BACK AFTER TWO YEARS

BY ROBIN JAQUES



For many years prior to the Covid pandemic, First & Calvary Church provided lunch to the Missouri State University Marching Band the week before the beginning of the fall semester. With classes not yet started, and the MSU cafeterias not yet open, the staff of the marching band had come to rely on First & Calvary to help feed their 300-plus group one day during the five-day band camp.

In 2020 and 2021, the program was temporarily discontinued, but with the removal of the Covid mandates, Missouri State University reached out to Reverend Don Everts to ask if F & C would be inter-



ested in reviving the program. The response from Don, our Campus Committee, and Minister of Outreach Wendy Everts was an emphatic “yes.”

So, on August 16th, First & Calvary opened its doors to 350 students from the MSU Marching Band. Volunteers grilled hotdogs and hamburgers under

the portico. At the same time, two long rows of tables in the South atrium were loaded with food to appeal to every dietary need of the students, from vegan and vegetarian offerings to peanut-free options and more than 30 dozen homemade cookies for dessert.

The young guests and staff of the MSU marching band loaded their plates and gathered in the North atrium to dine, where Rev. Everts welcomed the group by telling them that he, too is an MSU Bear (Don is in a graduate certificate program) before blessing the meal. The event was seamless in its execution due to the hard work and planning on the part of volunteers and staff. Not only were all 350 students fed, but seconds were offered and enthusiastically accepted. The genuine appreciation and courtesy of the band members were mentioned by many who volunteered for the event.

Several weeks after the event, Reverend Don Everts and Wendy Everts, Minister of Outreach, received a thank-you note from the organization to our congregation, and all the student musicians signed more than a dozen thank-you posters. You can find the posters and notes framed and exhibited on the main floor hallway overlooking the North atrium.



# FIRST & CALVARY INTRO ITS FIRST ALPHA COURSE

BY ROBIN JAQUES

On September 29th, First and Calvary introduced its first Alpha course. Wendy Everts, Minister of Outreach, coordinated the successful 7-week course. This evangelistic course seeks to teach the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. Its organizers describe it as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life."





Twenty-nine volunteers from the church helped with childcare, table leading, table decoration, set-up, cooking, clean-up, and as conversation leaders at the tables. In addition, several church scholars led a theater program for the children in childcare which was warmly received. Attendance was robust, with ten full tables of eight, including a full youth table.

It was a significant time for those attending, with many wonderful conversations around the table. We had seven individuals attend who were not from First & Calvary Church, who so enjoyed the experience that they invited four others to join. In addition, one of the children in attendance enjoyed the theater program so much that they asked two others to come to experience the program.

Wendy Everts stated, "It's a wonderful thing to be a part of the body of Christ working together, believing God still transforms lives."

**ODUCES**

**E**

The following is Hayden "Riley" Jarvis' experience and witness to the Alpha course.

"To preface, at the time, I had only been going to First and Calvary for about three months after just moving to Springfield for my first job as an Architect. I only started attending a church three years before at Kansas State University. So I had no previous Christian education or regular church attendance, two years hampered by COVID-19 restrictions/regulations.

As a result, I had a multitude of questions with no fo-



rum to ask them, just for example, "Who/What is the Holy Spirit?", "Can the sins accrued during the 24 years of my life be really forgiven?" and most importantly, "How/where do I start reading the Bible?" which I had never read independently before going to Alpha.

For so long, I had always been alone trying to figure these things out and get-

ting the motivation to read the Bible, so having a place where I could meet new people and talk with them about these things once every week in this new city was something my soul needed. After five weeks, I felt comfortable enough to start reading a chapter daily, and I have been doing so ever since.

After beginning to read, I realized what I had been missing out on as the word of God started to parallel with what I was experiencing or worrying about at that moment (which gave me comfort and peace that I had never experienced before). After going to Alpha, I also know more about the congregation. They know more about me, so gone (for the most part) is the "Are you a Missouri State Student?" question that had kept me in a causality loop of repeated conversations...

At such a pivotal time in my life, I am glad I took the step, for my spiritual life would have continued to stagnate, as I now feel confident that I truly can begin to learn the word of God and have the community and openness to discuss it with others."

Riley Jarvis





# RABU! FALL YOUTH RETREAT REMINISCING

BY JAMIE SWOPE



This October, Pastor Don and I filled my minivan with sleeping bags, gear, and youth and made the 3.5-hour drive to Waterloo, IL, to gather with youth from a sister ECO church for a Fall Retreat. I was grateful for some uninterrupted time with this sweet bunch of students and expected it would be a great weekend. But I did not anticipate how deeply the Spirit would move among us as we grew closer to each other and the Lord.

The speakers for our retreat were our very own Pastor Don and Madeleine Bauer. When I started here, Pastor Don shared with me a vision the Lord had given him to equip young preaching apprentices. That vision resonates with me because we need the younger generation to reach their peers with the gospel. Within weeks, I saw this vision in action as Madeleine quickly responded that she had been feeling the Spirit's lead to grow as a preacher and minister to her peers. So, Pastor Don, Madeleine, and I began meeting weekly for an hour for preaching mentoring, with our time soon focused on preparing for speaking at the retreat. Through prayer, Bible study, and brainstorming together, four talks emerged on the theme Rooted, based on Colossians 2:6-7:



“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflow-

ing with thankfulness.”

After all the preparation, seeing those talks unfold at the retreat was deeply encouraging. Madeleine passionately preached to her peers alongside Pastor Don. And the Spirit used their preaching to work within the hearts of the youth at the retreat. On the first night, we gave the students temporary tattoo markers and taught them a Bible memorization system that Madeleine frequently uses. The youth wrote the first letter of each word of the Colossians memory verse for the weekend on their forearm and quickly began putting God’s word in their hearts. The “rooted and built up” part of the verse forms the acronym RABU! So that became our quick chant and encouragement for one another over the weekend! This is a system I’m personally inspired by, and I know many of us will use this tool again.

The retreat was equally parts spiritually deep and FUN! The students were divided into two teams, The Delightful Dragons and the Killer Princesses. They competed fiercely, including a challenge to protect a rubber duck with a bin full of duct tape, paper towels, rubber bands, and other supplies to make it as difficult as possible for the other team to get to their duck. The silliness added to the bonding we formed with each other and the students from our sister church. We closed the retreat by having the students from each church prayed for by the students from the other church. By the end of the weekend, we were joyfully exhausted from deep conversations, crazy camp games, and devotional time with the Lord. God is on the move among our youth at First and Calvary and beyond!

# MOPS 2022

BY ROBIN JAQUES



2022 saw the introduction of the MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers - program at First & Calvary Presbyterian Church. Wendy Everts, Minister of Outreach, began the program to meet the needs of women in our community, offering training, entertainment, and rejuvenation time for moms by providing childcare and general support in a non-judgmental atmosphere for moms regardless of religious affiliation.

First & Calvary debuted the program in the fall by sponsoring a nursing and changing booth at the annual Springfield Cider Days.

What began as a play date for preschoolers developed into an evening and weekly morning program. As of December 2022, ten moms attend, with six from outside First & Calvary. We are encouraged by the impact the moms reported in their lives.

By providing superior childcare, women with preschool children can meet other mothers of young children in an unhurried atmosphere,



participate in crafts, and enjoy lectures on time management, stress relief, and a variety of different subjects specific to the needs of mothers of preschool children.

Previous MOPS mom Brenda Bauer explains the value that the program provided to her when her daughters were small. “We were encouraged to leave our image of Christian Perfection at the door. Instead, MOPS is a place to have support in our honest, messy lives.”

This year, Buttons Bowers led the group in a door-hanging craft for fall, and Jen Reed, one of the MOPS mentors and leaders, spoke on stress and techniques for relieving stress. In addition, Faith White led the group in a devotion on the meaning of balm and a craft making bath balms.

Jen Reed and Ann Schaller served as mentors for these young moms by attending the MOPS group, listening to the interests and concerns of the participants, and by checking in on the young women when they couldn't attend.

Wendy hopes that in 2023 the program will continue to grow to meet the needs of young mothers in the community.

# A TIME FOR CHANGE F&C ADOPTS NEW MISSION STATEMENT, TAGLINE, AND VALUES STATEMENT

BY ROBIN JAQUES

In August 2022, Session formally approved a new mission statement, tagline, and logo for First & Calvary Presbyterian Church. After prayerful deliberation, the church adopted the following:

We are a loving church family of all generations  
that's been worshipping in the heart of Springfield since 1844.

Our mission is to labor alongside our Father as he  
draws people to Jesus & grows them as disciples.

We value:  
everyday conversations & historic confessions  
serving others & campus hospitality  
the life of the mind & the beauty of the arts

As these pairs of values illustrate, we embrace fruitful tensions and the beauty of the and.

This is why we embrace our (admittedly somewhat long) name and have chosen the ampersand (&) as a visual moniker for the identity, mission, and values of our congregation.

(Notice that the panes of color in our ampersand are taken from actual panes in our sanctuary's stained glass!)



# FIRST & CALVARY

a house of prayer for every generation



FIRST AND CALVARY  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
820 E. CHERRY ST.  
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65806

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SPRINGFIELD MO  
PERMIT #801

A large, colorful stained glass window with various geometric and organic patterns in shades of blue, orange, yellow, and green, serving as the background for the lower half of the page.

# FIRST & CALVARY

a house of prayer for every generation