Our Mission Statement

Grace-Calvary Church is open to all people for communion with God and each other in Christ. Within and beyond this historic church, we strive to do God’s work: nurturing our spirits, reaching out to those in need, and valuing and caring for the diversity of God’s creation.
Grace-Calvary: The Place
While Habersham County is noted in the Song of the Chattahoochee, Clarkesville is known for a tributary of the Chattahoochee River—the Soque River. The Soque surrounds Clarkesville on the west and southwest sides of the city, and the river is known for its scenic beauty and trophy trout fishing. Clarkesville, the county seat of Habersham County, is a small 2.49 square mile area with a 2020 Census population of 1800. Since its founding in 1823, Clarkesville has been known as a tourist destination, and today tourism and second homes are important factors in the community.

The per capita income of Habersham County is $23,046 (2019) and the median household income is $50,563 (2019). 18.8% of Habersham County residents are over the age of 65, and retirement living is prominent in Clarkesville. In the 1990s, Rand McNally named Clarkesville the second best place to retire in the United States.

Habersham County’s largest employers are:
- Fieldale Farms (poultry): 1500 employees
- Ethicon (division of Johnson & Johnson): 825 employees
- Tencate (protective textiles): 485 employees
- Habersham County Schools: 458 employees
- Steel Cell (metal fabrication): 382 employees

North Georgia Technical College is located in Clarkesville, and Piedmont University is 4 miles south in Demorest.

In addition to the Soque River, other outdoor recreation areas nearby include Lake Russell and Nancytown Lake, Tallulah Gorge State Park, Lake Burton, Lake Seed, and Lake Rabun.

Clarkesville is conveniently located close to two international airports, 92 miles from Hartsfield-Jackson in Atlanta and 94 miles from Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport.
Church Campus

**HISTORIC SANCTUARY**

Grace Protestant Episcopal Church was founded in 1838 by families who vacationed in the North Georgia mountains to escape the heat and danger of fever in Charleston and Savannah. It was the sixth Episcopal parish to be established in Georgia. The church, built by Jarvis Van Buren in 1842 in Clarkesville, is the oldest church building in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. In 1974 its name was changed to Grace-Calvary when it merged with the Calvary Episcopal Church in the neighboring town of Cornelia. The building has undergone extensive restoration over the years but retains its original box pews with doors designed to shut out drafts and windows with most of their original hand blown glass. The church’s high pulpit is typical of the period when southern Episcopal churches stressed the spoken message over the Eucharist and liturgy. Grace-Calvary remains a superb example of Greek Revival architecture due to the great importance that has been placed on the structural integrity of the building.

**THE HENRY ERBEN PIPE ORGAN**

One of the church’s main treasures is the pipe organ, built for the church by Henry Erben of New York City in 1848. Erben is considered the most outstanding organ builder of the period. The oldest working pipe organ in Georgia was completely restored in 1988 and is played at every Sunday service.

**LABYRINTH OF THE HOLY CROSS**

Grace-Calvary’s Labyrinth, designed by local artist David Wall, was installed in 2010. A hand-crafted metal and stained glass Celtic cross sits atop a stone memorial in the center of the labyrinth. Many travel the path of the labyrinth as a form of meditation and prayer.

**ST. JULIAN HALL**

Named for St. Julian Lachicotte, priest at Grace-Calvary from 1981-1990, St. Julian Hall has Sunday School classrooms (for children and adults), a nursery, a large commercial-grade kitchen, and a spacious meeting area upstairs. The basement was renovated in 2019 to better accommodate the numerous outreach programs held at Grace-Calvary.
Church Campus

**PARISH OFFICE**

During the tenure of Julian Lachicotte, a house across the street from the church was purchased and converted into offices. The building contains separate offices for the rector, office manager, financial administrator, and the office volunteer. In addition, the building has a full kitchen, a small sitting area, a choir practice room, and a large meeting room. This building is also utilized by many community outreach groups.

**CHAPEL OF THE HOLY CROSS CEMETERY**

Eleven years after Grace Protestant Episcopal Church was built in Clarkesville, Georgia, the Chapel of the Holy Cross was constructed just four miles away on New Liberty Road. Completed on October 13, 1853, the chapel housed monthly services for members who were unable to make the long journey into the village of Clarkesville. A small cemetery was established adjacent to the chapel for church burials. Gravesites at the Chapel of the Holy Cross Cemetery are available to members in good standing of Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church, their parents and their children, or at the rector’s discretion. The cemetery is administered by a committee composed of lay members of the parish, the vestry liaison to the committee, and the rector, who make provisions for the perpetual care of the cemetery.
The Diocese of Atlanta is a diverse and expansive faith community with 117 communities focused on worshiping a living and loving God and working for a better world in the name of Jesus Christ. More than 50,000 members in 11 convocations spread across 75 1/2 counties in north and central Georgia make up the Diocese.

Our Diocesan Purpose Statement, adopted at Annual Council 2015, informs all aspects of our common life: "We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually."

We are a Christian community blessed with vibrancy, variety and vitality. Our diocesan bishop, The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, was elected in June 2012 and ordained and consecrated on Oct. 13, 2012.

The Diocese of Atlanta was carved from the Diocese of Georgia in 1907. As part of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese is connected to the worldwide Anglican Communion of 70 million people in 38 provinces. The Diocese is also engaged in a special companion relationship with the Diocese of Cape Coast in West Africa.

The Diocese of Atlanta actively supports the ministry of The Episcopal Church and its presiding bishop, The Most Reverend Michael Curry.

STAY CONNECTED

OUR WEBSITE IS WWW.EPISCOPALATLANTA.ORG

FOLLOW US: FACEBOOK | TWITTER | INSTAGRAM | YOUTUBE

SIGN UP TO OUR EMAIL LIST TO RECEIVE EMAILS FEATURING DIOCESAN-WIDE NEWS, EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND INSPIRATION.

FOLLOW BISHOP WRIGHT: FACEBOOK | INSTAGRAM
Grace-Calvary: Today
Worship

Grace-Calvary’s historic significance is a defining feature of the church and one which endears parishioners and others to it. This simple space provides a sacred atmosphere for our worship. Although we have a broad theological base and come from a variety of backgrounds, we find an accepting and loving common ground in Christ as we worship together.

Our Sunday services follow the liturgical calendar by observing each season with traditional services. Advent, Christmas and Epiphany provide opportunities to prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus, culminating in a Feast of Lights on Epiphany. Lent allows us to prepare for the glory of the Resurrection as we reflect upon our lives as God’s own, beginning with a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and followed by the Liturgy for Ash Wednesday. We often have a Lenten evening study series. As Easter approaches, we augment the traditional liturgy with our own touches. Our Palm Sunday procession starts at the labyrinth, and we vary our services during Holy Week with Evening Prayer, a Taize service, an Agape service in St. Julian Hall with liturgy and a Mediterranean meal, and liturgies on Maundy Thursday that include foot washing and stripping of the altar, and Good Friday services. Easter Sunday begins with a Vigil at sunrise, followed by two services, with breakfast and an Easter egg hunt in between.

Other occasions are supplemented by annual traditions on feast days, such as All Saints’ Day with Soup with the Saints at the Church cemetery, blessing of soil on Rogation Sunday, an outdoor Pentecost Service followed by a picnic at the labyrinth, a visit from St. Nick on the Feast of St. Nicholas, and the Blessing of the Animals commemorating the Feast of St. Francis at the labyrinth. The labyrinth serves as a place for quiet solitude and prayerful reflection, but during the pandemic it also provided us with a beautiful shaded venue for outdoor services.

While the congregation values the contribution a choir makes to worship, the status of our choir is unclear, due to COVID guidelines. At present we have an organist who serves for both Sunday services. It is our hope to resume a full choir and guest musicians as soon as possible.

A Worship Committee, comprised of the Rector and representatives from Altar Guild, Music Ministry and other groups meets 2-3 times a year to review current practices.
Parish Life

Grace-Calvary’s active parish life has many committees, guilds and other groups that provide opportunities for all who are seeking meaningful community participation. Several groups are designated as ministries, and these report to the Vestry as needed.

**GUILDS**

Five guilds coordinate efforts to ensure a meaningful worship experience at Grace-Calvary. The Altar and Flower Guilds assure that worship services are supported appropriately, and a Bread Guild provides homemade loaves for the Eucharist. The Wedding and Funeral Guilds work with the Altar Guild, the Rector, and office personnel to provide a meaningful service.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS**

This group safeguards the physical environment through routine maintenance and periodic rehabilitation of the various buildings and landscape.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The mission of the Order is the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism with a confidential prayer list maintained by all members of the chapter. Formed in 1983, the Alice Driver Chapter is an active part of life at Grace-Calvary. The DOK provides assistance to the rector as needed such as prayer shawls for shut-ins, funeral receptions, Sunday morning coffee hour snacks, and other services requested by the rector.

**FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

Volunteer teams serve a full breakfast throughout the morning, providing opportunities to welcome newcomers and encourage fellowship. This popular event allows those who attend different services to come together regularly, thereby strengthening our sense of community.
MEN’S SOFTBALL TEAM
Our softball team creates interest in our church within the community and helps to draw young families to our church.

FOYER GROUPS
Foyer Groups provide an excellent way to get to know those with whom we share a pew, those who attend a different service, and newcomers. These groups are randomly organized by a Foyers Committee, and meet monthly usually in member’s homes or at a restaurant. Newcomers are invited to join an existing group during the year, and every fall new groups are formed.

PARISH LIFE
This group plans and coordinates all parish-wide events such as a Pentecost Picnic, Agape meal, etc. This creates opportunities for interaction not available at Sunday services.
Outreach
In accordance with our mission statement, we seek ways to minister to one another and to reach out to others. The church was instrumental in beginning several local outreach programs which have grown over the years to provide needed services for county residents. Examples include the Soup Kitchen, Sharing and Caring (a thrift shop), and the Foothills Counseling Center.
The church also provides regular welcoming meeting spaces for many local groups not otherwise associated with the church, such as AA and Al-Anon meetings, Foothills Counseling, local farmers market and blood drives.
As our ability to respond financially has been constrained, we have responded with donations of time, talent and material across a wide spectrum of need such as Building Ramps, Habitat for Humanity, local animal shelter, prison ministry, Christmas caroling to shut-ins, and partnering with a local elementary school during the Christmas season to provide for children of families in need.

Christian Formation
Grace-Calvary’s rich heritage of Christian formation inspires and instills confidence in the future as we rebuild our programs in the wake of the pandemic. Our small parish has produced a remarkable number of youth leaders at the Diocesan level in recent decades. We aim for that tradition to continue!
Our Sunday School program for ages 5 - 13 uses small groups for “The Sunday Paper” and “The Sunday Paper Junior” lectionary-based curriculum. Two teenage parishioners recently represented Grace-Calvary at the Diocesan Youth Council 2022 event at Camp Mikell, and we hope to re-establish a youth group on our campus.
Adults are nurtured and stimulated in the weekly “Adult Forum” class where there are lively discussions about engaging books chosen by participants. Grace-Calvary has traditionally sponsored the Sewanee-based Education for Ministry program, which will continue in years to come as we fully recover from pandemic shut-downs.
Our comfortable facilities and committed volunteers provide fertile soil for the exploration of God’s word together. We look forward to enriching past traditions while we remain excited about the possibilities of new and different ways to learn from God and from one another.
FINANCIAL, MEMBERSHIP, & ATTENDANCE DATA

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY AS OF 12/31/2021:

Cash in Banks & Certificates of Deposit $280,274
Fixed Assets (Land & Buildings) $825,172

Total Assets $1,105,446

Liabilities $2,872
Unrestricted Net Assets $865,231
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $79,490
Permanently Restricted Net Assets $140,098
Net Income $17,755

Total Liabilities & Equity $1,105,446

OPERATING RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$256,259</td>
<td>$224,891</td>
<td>$205,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$258,106</td>
<td>$224,133</td>
<td>$188,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>($1,847)</td>
<td>$758</td>
<td>$17,755</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEMBERSHIP DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Communicants</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>337</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Sunday Attendance</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grace-Calvary: Tomorrow
Goals

What is important to us at Grace-Calvary is to revitalize and engage the people of our church and community. We look forward to working with our new rector:

- To attract new people, especially families with children.
- To provide more opportunities to form meaningful relationships (for example, small groups, nurture friendships, shared meals, etc.).
- To nurture the spiritual development and growth of our members, cultivate our lay leadership and strengthen our pastoral and outreach ministries.
Grace-Calvary is a strong congregation with committed members, dedicated leadership, and is poised for the opportunities change will bring.

We are surrounded by the beauty of the North Georgia Mountains and are blessed with a welcoming and warm congregation.

We are committed to maintaining a visible presence in a growing community and embracing the unique position of the Episcopal Church in the world.

Our historic and intimate church building attracts both newcomers and locals.

Our beautiful campus serves as a cornerstone for many local outreach programs for which we have a longstanding commitment.

Attracting young people and families with children is a challenge that Grace-Calvary shares with many churches today.

We recognize the importance of listening to the needs of our parish and community in order to develop activities to engage more involvement and participation.
Rector We Seek

We are looking for a rector to partner with us to empower the laity to serve Christ. Our new rector will provide strong communication and flexibility to connect us with one another and our community to do God’s work. We hope to grow our ministries with someone who is nurturing, energetic, and excited to shepherd us into the future. Our goal is to find a rector with whom we can form a loving relationship.
Candidates should submit materials through the Diocese of Atlanta's online application system linked here.

Contact
Robin Warren - Office Manager
office@grace-calvary.org
706-754-2451

Dolly Ritchie - Chair of Nominating Committee

A Special Thanks to all who contributed photos for the Grace-Calvary profile, especially Laura Kerby and Lane Gresham.