

INTRODUCTION	2
WHO WE ARE	3
OUR HISTORY	3
OUR CONTEXT	4
OUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	5
OUR RESOURCES	6
OUR FINANCES	8
OUR LEADERSHIP	9
WHERE WE ARE GOING	11
VISION FOR MINISTRY (OUR PURPOSES AS A PEOPLE OF GOD)	11
GOALS	11
OUR NEXT PASTOR	13
APPENDICES	14
CURRENT PROGRAMS	14
BUDGET	15
CONGREGATIONAL IDEAS FROM FOCUS GROUPS	22

Introduction

For the last five years, the people at Calvary Presbyterian Church have been engaged in asking ourselves these questions: who are we as a people of God, why are we here in this place at this time and what is God calling us to be and to do? The impetus behind beginning to ask these questions was the retirement of our long-time minister, who had served Calvary for over 25 years.

Because the retired pastor's tenure was so lengthy and the need to discern the direction for the church so great, the interim pastor was allowed to remain for a longer-than-usual term to guide the congregation spiritually, administratively and self-reflectively, as we regrouped and began to move forward toward a new vision for ourselves.

Rather than a beginning, this Mission Study process is the culmination of many opportunities the congregation and its leaders have created to reflect on the above questions. Starting several years ago, we began to engage ourselves in conversations, in small and larger groups, informally and formally, about our identity and our direction. We also engaged in a study of our historic building and its maintenance and restoration needs. As well, we reached out to the community and began to open our doors to various groups. The dialogues we held and the information we gained have guided and informed this Mission Study.

In the fall of 2007, Session decided to begin this process of self-reflection and assessment that has resulted in this document. A Mission Study Team of 10 members was formed and chose to use Percept's survey to gather information from our congregants and about our community. In addition to the paper-and-pencil survey, we conducted a set of three congregational focus group meetings in which Team members guided the congregation through two-hour focus groups. These groups began with biblical reflection on our call, provided information from Percept's Context Report and the local census to allow reflection on the characteristics of our community, and asked a series of questions to get the views of our congregants on what we are called by God to do, who are our neighbors and what the potential elements of our vision and mission could be.

As well, we conducted a focus group involving the leaders of four community and spiritual organizations (with written and verbal input from several more) who have intersected with Calvary in some way. We asked them to give us their views of our strengths, the needs of the community and how we might begin to address them. All of this input, including some of the congregational reflection work done over the last several years, was synthesized by the Mission Study team and is reflected in this document. Many of the Team members have written elements of this document, and the Team, along with Session members and other church leaders, have had a chance to review and comment on the study, and their suggestions have been incorporated.

While this study will be used to inform the search for a called pastor, its purpose and influence goes much beyond that. This study process, the chance to reflect, question and see ourselves thorough community eyes, has been enlightening. We have discovered that, in addition to finding some answers, we have also found more

questions. We regard this study as expressing our vision as we see it at this time with goals for mission and action that not only follow this vision, but also give us the opportunity to keep asking more questions. It is an inspired feedback loop, if you will, a way for us to remain always open to seeing ourselves as we and others see us, eager to discern, and act on, God's call to us.

To express this, we have developed an updated **Mission Statement**:

Calvary Presbyterian is a welcoming congregation of talented and tenacious Christians. We seek, by the liberating and compelling grace of God, to follow Jesus the Christ's example as we honor God and are actively involved in neighborhood and community.

Who We Are

Our History

The roots of Calvary Presbyterian Church were set when a Presbyterian mission was established by the Bethlehem church to serve the needs of the city of Newburgh. It was an outreach set up "in communion with the Church of Scotland," shortly after the disbandment of the Revolutionary Army and its encampments. This Presbyterian Society was founded in Newburgh, 1784. (*Note: another source says 1763.*)

In 1773 the First Presbyterian congregation, as they came to be known, met in a New England-style wooden meeting house at First and Montgomery Streets. In 1793 a colonial wooden church was built on the burned-down warehouse site. In 1817, pews were installed.

The congregation split in 1855 when 55 members withdrew and organized Calvary Church in 1856. The original group kept "First Presbyterian" for their name. Calvary built a red brick church on Liberty St. (later demolished), next to where First Methodist is today. The First Presbyterians secured land in the historic glebe district (a 500-acre piece of land originally granted as a charter—the German Patent—by Queen Anne of England, to a group of Palatinate German refugees in 1719) and commissioned Frederic Clarke Withers (a well-known architect of the day who built many of Newburgh's important homes) to design and build the Gothic-style stone building that was completed in 1858. It was proclaimed "the first correct Protestant Gothic church in North America." [Note: We are in possession of the original contract to secure the "graystone" necessary to construct the building. The cost to build was \$45,000.] Built within historic Old Town Cemetery, 1st Presbyterian was featured as the very first church in J. Nutt's 1891 book of Newburgh's history. Its beautiful stained glass windows are by American artists.

Mid-nineteenth-century Newburgh was a prosperous river city of 30,000 or so where many church denominations and faiths were supported. The split in the church had something to do with an upset that took place over a choice of a new pastor, according to a small newspaper article published about a century later. The breakaway congregants of Calvary comprised a group of influential and apparently well-funded families ("female suffrage" was mentioned).

Historically, Calvary has always been known as a “helping”, and even an “activist” church in the community. In the 1850s and 1860s Presbyterians were apparently active as abolitionists in the Hudson Valley.

In the latter 19th century, this was the first church in the state to be lit electrically, and it was done by none other than Thomas Edison. After lighting “one square mile” of New York City (the most possible at the time), he turned his attention to Newburgh, and specifically to this church and one square mile of our area. The Deyo family of Newburgh, his host family, may have belonged to Calvary Church.

Ernest M. Skinner designed and built 1st Presbyterian’s important pipe organ in 1937, replacing the one from 1860. In 1956 Fellowship Hall replaced the original hall and study. Several significant unions took place in the current church, among them the reunion of the Calvary and First congregations in 1945 and the merger of North River and Westchester Presbyteries into the Presbytery of the Hudson River in 1961.

The biggest event in the life of the church in the past ten years has been the retirement, five years ago, of the long-term pastor after 28 years of service. This brought inevitable changes. Some of the membership left when the minister did, and others have joined. Although the pastor and some members of the congregation have always been involved in community activities, we have, over the past five years, begun to open our building to, and to become more involved with, a variety of community members and organizations. Through a generous donation to restore the Skinner Organ, more focus has been put on it, the history of the church and its relationship to future use. Finally, there has been a shift in the leadership structure of the church to one in which authority is less centralized and members of the congregation are becoming more involved and having more of a say in the leadership of the church.

Our Context

Calvary Presbyterian is a “place of renewal in a renewing city.” The church building and attached hall occupy a key location in the City of Newburgh, at the intersection several existing neighborhoods, one challenged by poverty, drugs and despair, another in which historic houses are being restored and gentrified at a rapid rate and another where Habitat for Humanity has renovated or built several dwellings. Soon to be a fourth adjacent neighborhood is a new development of 30 waterfront acres with housing, commercial, retail and open space, which will draw new people to our area.

Currently, the neighborhood immediately surrounding Calvary is characterized by extremely high ethnic diversity, where approximately 33% of the population is Black/African American, and 33.6% of residents (of any race) are Hispanic or Latino. Approximately 40% of our area residents are white, non-Hispanic. The lifestyle diversity of our area is high, with a median age of about 27 and median family income of \$32,500 (in 1999 dollars). Of a total of about 9,000 occupied housing units, 70% are renter-occupied and 30% are owner-occupied. Twelve percent of the total housing units are vacant. At least 25% of the families in this area are below the poverty level. Thirty-six percent of residents speak a language other than English at home, 22% haven’t graduated from high school, and only 12% are college graduates. The primary concerns of those in our neighborhood are day-to-day financial worries, getting

adequate food and dealing with the stress that living with these kinds of issues creates.

At the borders of our immediate neighborhood, within 15 miles, are several different areas from which we draw members. To the north is Balmville, an area with an affluent population, many large homes with Hudson River views and high-income residents. To the northwest and west is the Town of Newburgh, a suburban area which, as one moves farther away from the City of Newburgh, becomes more and more rural and includes many family and commercial farms. To the south and southwest is New Windsor, another suburban area bordered by more rural areas. As New York City dwellers move north and higher incomes allow larger houses, the diversity of housing in the Town of Newburgh and the surrounding towns has increased, and many large and expensive homes have been constructed. Property values have increased and the issue of affordable housing for residents who live and work in the City of Newburgh and the surrounding areas has become central.

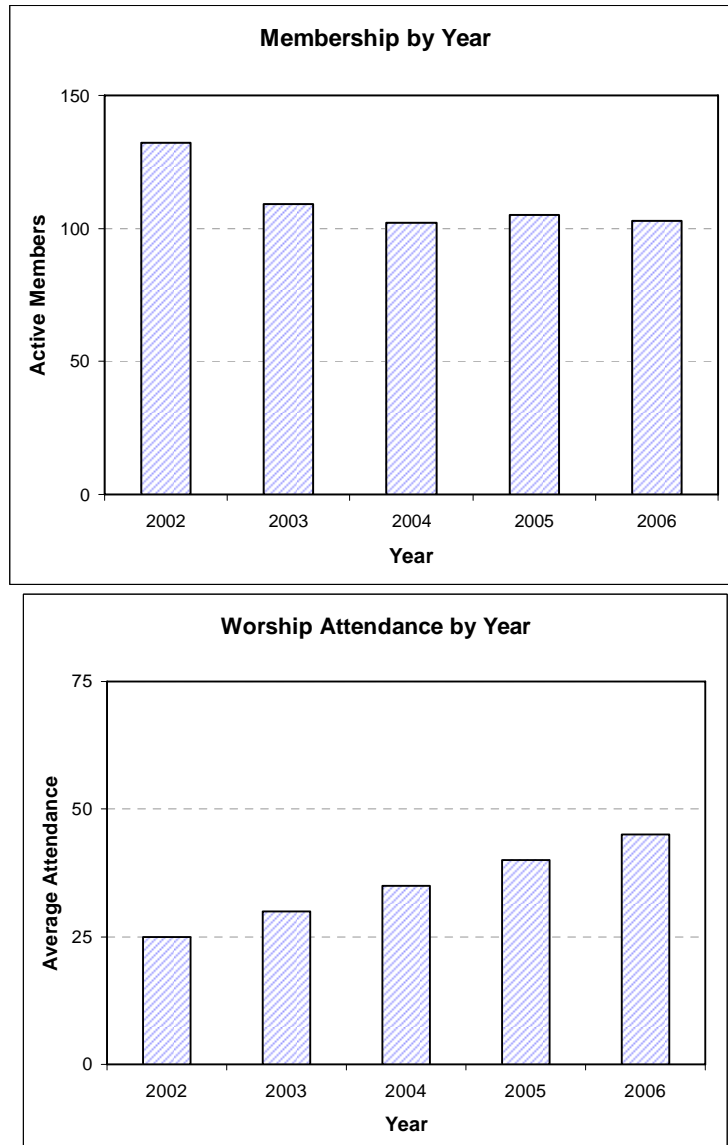
In addition to these areas, the characteristics of which influence our “neighborhood,” there are several distinct populations within these areas that are also included in our wider community of neighbors. The Presbytery of the Hudson River, which includes Orange and surrounding counties, has the largest prison population of any Presbytery in the country. The farming areas that border the suburbs have a substantial population of migrant farm workers, almost all of whom are foreign-born, and over half of whom are undocumented. A growing population of artists is developing in Newburgh, developing studio and retail space. Because we are geographically located within the designated Historical District (the largest in NYS, north of Manhattan) an increasingly large part of the immediate population is made up of commuters who are buying the architecturally important homes. This population is denoted by high educational and income levels, cultural contributions and diverse backgrounds (a range of ethnicities, cultural heritages and sexual orientations).

Our Church Membership

Our current membership stands at 103, and has stayed essentially the same for the past four years. Worship attendance has been increasing, from an average of 25 per Sunday five years ago to an average of 45 today (see graphs below). Of the congregants surveyed (approximately 110 members and friends) 65 (63%) responded and provided demographic information. The median age of our congregants is 62, with 43% age 65 or over. Thirty-six percent of the congregation is age 47-65, and no one from the age 25-46 group responded to the survey (although there are several people of this age and of the 12-25 age group who are members). We have no ethnic or racial diversity in our congregation, and we come from very traditional households with an above-average presence of married people and two-parent families. We are well-educated with 96.6% of us having graduated from high school, 27% with college degrees, and 41% of those have done post-graduate work. Our primary daily concerns are related to maintaining affordable housing, day-to-day financial worries, and maintaining health insurance. Concerns about family problems such as teen/child issues, alcohol/drug abuse, and abusive relationships are reported for about 10% of our respondents. We see good schools, neighborhood gangs and social injustice as community issues of concern.

About 18% of respondents live within two miles of the church, another 20% live between 2 and 4.9 miles away, 38% live between 5 and 9.9 miles away, 13% live between 10 and 14.9 miles away and 13% live 15 miles away and up. While we draw members from a range of the areas described in our Context section, one of the reasons given by new members who are now attending Calvary is that they wish to engage the issues and needs of the City in a meaningful and Christ-centered way, and look to Calvary as, once again, a place of intersection of faith and community.

Our membership statistics for 2002-present are:



Our Resources

Our Buildings

The people of Calvary are blessed to be housed in a historic sanctuary, with an attached Christian Education building more recently added.

Sanctuary: This Gothic structure, modeled after a church in England, was the first American church designed by Frederick Clarke Withers and was built in 1858 on lands granted by Queen Anne of England in 1719. The pews, with the original doors/gates still in use, provide seating for 670 individuals. The sanctuary is handicapped accessible and has a pew which has been modified for this purpose. The church is located two blocks west of the Hudson River and in the East end of the City of Newburgh, in the largest historic district in New York State outside of New York City. The choir loft has space for 50 individuals and is also the location of our 1937 Skinner organ. Over the chancel and pulpit area is located a round stained glass window with Jesus, Martha and Mary featured, which was quite remarkable for that era. The interior of the church was constructed using multi-toned stones native to the area, and the roof of the church is finished with patterned slate. Architectural details include round and polygonal columns and gothic arcades in the interior and wall buttresses on the exterior. The stained glass windows are by American artists and many are based on the Bible story illustrations of Hoffman.

Maintenance required in the next five years: The bell tower is in need of immediate repair of loose cap stones and deteriorating mortar joints. The wrought iron ornamental fence that encloses two sides of our church property either has to be removed, repaired or replaced. The buttresses that help support the exterior walls are also in need of extensive masonry repairs. Several electrical problems should also be addressed.

Christian Education Building: This facility was constructed in 1956 and is attached to the Sanctuary where it replaced a small chapel and Sunday school building. It is a three-story structure with a finished basement that contains a commercial kitchen, a large activity room, a separate office and two rest rooms. The main floor, accessed from the street by means of four steps (not handicapped accessible) contains the church offices, a large fellowship hall, a stage, a kitchenette, a music storage room, and two storage areas with floor-to-ceiling wooden accordion type sliding doors. Access to the Sanctuary from the fellowship hall is through the original doorway to the replaced chapel. There is one restroom on this level. The top floor level has two classrooms and a large room with a curtain wall that can be divided as needed into classrooms or a parlor. There are an office, a nursery, a janitor room, a janitor closet and two restrooms on this level. The exterior of the building is decorative stone. The roof is flat with three-foot-high parapets which complement the historic architecture of the area.

Maintenance required in the next five years: The flat roof has serious leaks and should be replaced. At the minimum, repairs should be attempted although this has not been successful during the last several years. Retaining walls around the exterior and sidewalks are deteriorating at an accelerated rate. Immediate masonry work should be commenced.

A facilities condition study by a certified architect has been completed.

Remodeling to increase the usability and flexibility of our Christian Education Building should be minimal in order to meet our mission and ministry needs for the next 5-10 years.

The total assessed value of the church and the educational building is \$423,600, which equates to a full value/market value of \$2,118,000, as the City is assessing at a rate of 20%.

Our Finances

The current financial status of the membership is good, as evidenced by the survey results that indicate a median annual income of \$62,500. The current financial status of the church, however, does not reflect that of the congregation. The average annual pledge amount for 2008 is about \$30/week per giving unit, which is an excellent amount. However, the expense of maintaining our large sanctuary and educational building is not proportional to our membership and income.

During a five-year period, we have withdrawn earnings and sold securities from our portfolio in order to meet expenses as indicated: 2004 - \$27,000; 2005 - \$30,000; 2006 - \$63,590; 2007 - \$50,000; 2008 - \$47,000 (estimated)

As of December 31, 2007, the church's entire memorial, restricted and unrestricted funds are invested with Oppenheimer & Co., Inc. in these accounts:

Calvary General account:	\$ 47,375
Calvary Special account:	\$101,630
Calvary Capital account:	\$260,685
Total Invested:	\$409, 690

The General account contains memorial, restricted and unrestricted funds. The largest restricted amount is \$28,500 for restoration of the 1937 Skinner Organ.

The Special account was created by a donation of \$43,500 which was the cost to build the church in 1858, by a long-time member to honor his wife, who is still very active in the life of this church.

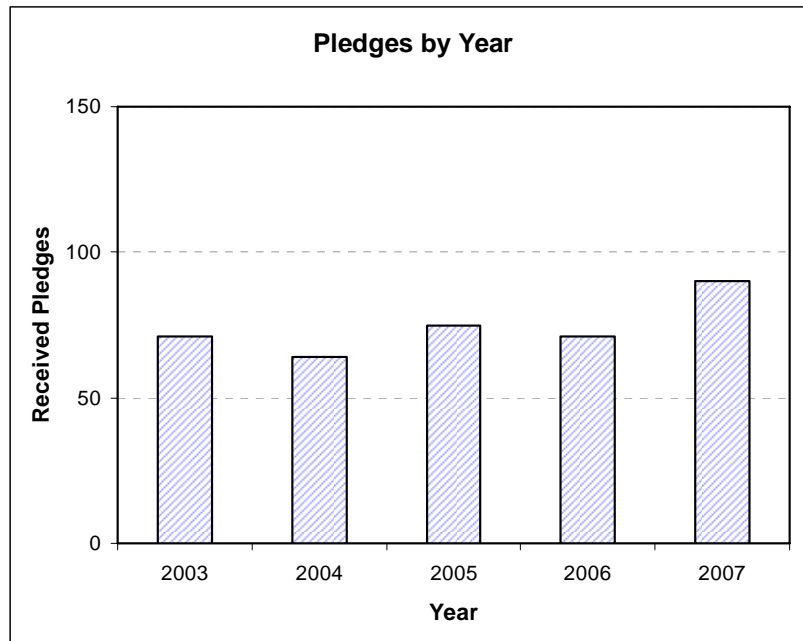
The Capital account was created in 2007 from the net proceeds of the sale of the manse. The net amount was \$249,500. By agreement with Presbytery, the amount in this account shall never be less than \$125,000.

The Chairman of our Finance Committee along with a financial advisor employed by Oppenheimer manage the investments. The Finance Committee and the Session provide oversight.

Benevolences/Mission – 2007

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,500
Pastor Discretionary	542
Port Jervis Fund Relief	300
Presbytery Hudson River	1,000
Souper Bowl	150
Est. value of use of facilities	

By community groups	\$ 45,000
Total:	\$ 48,492



Future stewardship plans at the present are focused on the completion of the Facilities Condition Study and the possible Capital Campaign that will provide some of the funding for this project. Other stewardship initiatives are yet to be discussed and finalized.

Our Leadership

We are served by paid staff of a full-time minister, a half-time secretary and a part-time organist/choir director. We also have a volunteer bell choir director. Our Session is comprised of nine dedicated individuals who are aware of the realities pertaining to Calvary Presbyterian Church. The Board of Deacons numbers seven. These leaders are willing to work hard and want to experience the success of their church. Currently, four of our members serve on entities of the Presbytery. Many have been attending and leading this church for decades and are certain that with God’s guidance and a caring, enthusiastic pastor we can all work towards the continued growth and renewal of Calvary Presbyterian Church.

In the past four years, the leadership and governance of the church has become more participatory and collegial, and new faces have appeared on boards and committees. We need, however, to continue redeveloping more functional committees, task forces and volunteer networks, in order to enable and sustain our mission going forward.

Periodic focus groups of congregational members and community representatives, as well as community meals and other events, will leaven our thinking and practice.

In addition to functioning as a place of worship and ministry, many community groups are central to our mission and identity. Foremost among these is Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh, with which Calvary Church has worked closely since its inception eight years ago, providing meeting space, volunteers and board members. We have also provided impetus and leadership for PresbyBuild.

As well, we currently house the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy led by Sr. Ilyiana Hernandez and we have involved her in our worship and as a guest preacher. The Rural and Migrant Ministry's Youth Arts group meets in our building, led by Andres Chamorro. Rev. Steve Ruelke (Ecclesia Ministries) is a frequent guest preacher and has involved our youth and other members of our congregation in his street ministry to the homeless in Newburgh. Our literal neighbors, Rev. Milton Best, Sr. and the congregation of Best Temple across the street from our church, are eager to join us in developing some neighborhood activities. Other community members with whom we have opened dialogue include Tom Popowich-Prison Ministry.

Thoughts of involving Sunday School students in more mission projects, starting a Vacation Bible School, mission collections for One Great Hour of Sharing and varied Adult Bible Study classes are some of the ideas we are considering or would like to develop more. Community dinners have been discussed. New homes will be built close by, in the near future, as part of the redevelopment project occurring in Newburgh. These new residents can be contacted as they move into the area to invite them to our church. Other ways of letting neighbors know that our doors are open to them will be beneficial to help the congregation grow. We would like to continue to embrace God-inspired changes to help fulfill our church's ministries.

It is clear that Calvary sits at the intersection of all these groups and dynamic areas. We are housed in a beloved historic structure, draw our members from the neighborhood and the surrounding suburbs and rural areas and care passionately about discerning and doing God's work in this spot. Much of the work and learning that has taken place over the past five years, and in the Mission Study process, relates to understanding ourselves in relationship to the community around us. It has allowed us to begin to look outward as well as inward, to confirm our intention to stay in this location and to hear God's call as we seek to truly understand our role at these crossroads.

Understanding all this, we reached out to our congregation and our community through this Mission Study process to begin to articulate our vision for our future and the ways in which we will begin to live that vision. Here it is.

Once again, our Mission Statement:

Calvary Presbyterian is a welcoming congregation of talented and tenacious Christians. We seek, by the liberating and compelling grace of God, to follow Jesus the Christ's example as we honor God and are actively involved in neighborhood and community.

Where We Are Going

Vision for Ministry (Our Purposes as a People of God)

1. To continue to renew, nurture, and engage our congregation and community through dynamic worship, learning, and fellowship, in light of God's persistent love in Jesus.
2. To establish The Center for Community Life at Calvary Church.
3. To value and celebrate our roots and our history in the City of Newburgh.
4. To let our light shine.

Goals

To continue to nurture and engage our congregation and community through dynamic worship, learning, and fellowship, in light of God's persistent love in Jesus

1. Welcome all people to a place of seeking, celebration, mourning, equipping for discipleship, artistic performance, and affirmation of God's persistent love.
2. Maintain and diversify our "traditional" worship with, for example, newer music, healing and wholeness, increased use of the congregation's musical and speaking skills, additional service times.
3. Provide spiritual, intellectual, and moral nurture and enrichment for all ages, through preaching, teaching, and mission.
4. Strengthen and equip our membership to lead and contribute, resulting in improved and increased stewardship of time, talent, commitment and resources.

To establish The Center for Community Life at Calvary Church:

A place in which to welcome, listen, comfort, and encourage our neighbors and ourselves in seeking for faith and purpose, and struggling with the obstacles and opportunities of our individual lives and families, and of our common life.

1. Rename the Educational Building "The Center for Community Life at Calvary Church"
2. Continue our church's tradition of being a hospitable place, by using this building as "common ground" for our congregation and for the various components of our neighborhood and the wider community

- a. Sponsor (monthly) community dinners, beginning with the constituencies of the congregation, the Nora Cronin Academy, Youth Arts Group, Best Temple, Ecclesia Ministries, and Living in Jesus Ministry
- b. Publicize the availability of Fellowship Hall (“Common Ground”) for community meetings and other events
- c. Continue to welcome musical and other artistic performances
- d. Encourage entities of the presbytery to find periodic meeting space at Calvary Church
- e. Explore establishing the Center as a 501c.3 organization

To value and celebrate our roots and our history in the City of Newburgh.

1. Based on a Building Conditions Study completed by Marilyn Kaplan, Preservation Architect, develop and begin to implement a long-term building maintenance plan; write grants to support this plan.
2. Continue efforts to restore the Skinner pipe organ
3. Explore the purposes and feasibility of a Capital Campaign. Encourage gifts and bequests to Calvary Church.
4. Host events in conjunction with the Historical Society of Newburgh Bay and the Highlands.

To let our light shine

1. Each person share the Calvary Church story whenever we have the opportunity
2. Purchase new signs for the front of the church and for the Center for Community Life. Install clear, consistent signage in the building interior and at the South St. entrance.
3. Identify person(s) who will help remove the covering from our light by:
 - a. Updating and keeping current our newspaper and cable listings and the church website.
 - b. Creating flyers, brochures, and exterior signage for special events.
 - c. Improving internal communication via Glad Tidings, email, telephone chains, and other means

- d. Shining our light in the blocks around the church via mailings, flyers, etc.
4. Encourage members and friends of the congregation to continue their participation in other community groups, and sponsor occasions for them to share their concerns and experience with the congregation

Our Next Pastor

The qualities we seek in a pastor flow from our vision and mission. We would like the person who accepts the call to Calvary to do so because he/she is drawn to and excited by the potential that exists in our particular situation at the crossroads and intersections of the congregation and community described above. We seek someone who can:

- Dynamically fill our worship, spiritual and educational needs;
- Actively support, develop and expand leadership opportunities in the congregation, opening us to new possibilities of service;
- Openly engage our congregation and community in dialogue and partnership to develop our vision and goals.

APPENDICES

Current Programs

Circle of Conversation: Sunday morning Adult Group

Sunday School Classes

Confirmation Class

Vocal and Bell Choirs

Monthly Book Club

Church potlucks

Community Blood Drives

4th of July Fund Raiser in Cornwall

Rummage Sales

Souper Bowl of Caring

Habitat for Humanity: Volunteers and use of church space; PresbyBuild; annual Walk for Housing

Meeting space for community groups and presbytery entities

Participation in ecumenical service and projects

Budget

Congregational Ideas from Focus Groups

What God is Calling Us To Do		
Preach the Gospel	Minister to direct neighbors through food, service, education, financial counseling, housing	Proclaiming God's Love, helping poor in spirit, oppressed
Comfort the brokenhearted	Appeal to community	Being in community, sharing burdens
Liberty to the captives	Open doors to others, organizations	Supporting each other
Reach out to the local community	Helping community	Find/.fill our niche
Feed the poor	Not turning anyone away	Fostering Church Community
Evangelism	Helping oppressed/brokenhearted	
Renewed Faith	Serving others	
Hospitality to all	Helping each other	
	Supporting existing programs	
	Witnessing faith	
	Opening doors to other denominations	
	Small groups-developing deeper spirituality	
	Outward manifestation of inner spirituality	

Our Strengths		
Involvement		
talents	Talents/abilities of members	
inclusion	friendliness	Fellowship within congregation
Edifice (organ)	Building structure	Facility/building
Community openness, sharing of space	Sharing building	
Increasing sharing of faith w/in congregation		Non-threatening worship environment
nurturing		Friendly, relaxed, natural but with dignity
Habitat involvement		Dedicated to church continuing in community
Sharing the load		
Spiritual powers		
Financially generous	generosity	
Strong/long history	courageous	

Calvary Presbyterian Church Mission Study

Location x 3	location	Location - intersection
commitment	Dedicated & faithful	Dedicated people supportive of each other
	music	Musicians/musically-oriented folks
	Maturity, life experience	
	Congregational ties to community organizations and churches w/similar demographics	Building use by community
	education	Educational advantages
	Involvement and commitment to church and community mission	Members serving community
		Members with business experience, connections
		Tempered change
		Comfortable worship
Our Challenges		
Money constraints	Fear of change, pretty resistant	We've always done it that way
Resistance to change	Fear of people unlike us	Insistence on finding a minister instead of ministry
Neighborhood "barrier"	location	Need more improvement in making people feel welcome
Edifice worship	Non involvement	Bathrooms (lack of)
Not enough people/energy	Not enough people	age
More goals than resources	Not enough time	building
Lack of parking	Age of congregation	\$
Leadership development/lack of motivation	Financial issues	listening
Forgetting to rely on God	Edifice	Inertia, cultural
English speaking	Lack of bathrooms, accessibility, parking	Lack of advertising
Not handicap accessible	Differences in culture	Location /parking
Emphasis on tradition	Methodology of contacting and beginning to get to know others—haven't introduced ourselves	Lack of a compelling and clearly-stated vision

Calvary Presbyterian Church Mission Study

Ways to overcome Challenges		
Increase membership (bring a friend to church, organ recitals)	Education level that clarifies fear	Gradual change, explain, get on board, try, flexibility
Try new things, don't change everything	Exposure to others, change, move slowly	Enough advertising
Share it-Invite people in (hip hop nite)	Information, better communication	Open, let people see communication
Satisfy the "me" (spiritually) and attract more people	Sign-all are welcome	
Abundance mindset	Take more positive attitude	
Open lot on Grand Street	Make buildings and grounds more approachable	
Other visions presented	Open house	
	Signage	
	banners	
	Activities that bring people in	
	Have things at different times	
	More people	
	fundraisers	
	Compelling mission to contribute to	
	Valet parking	
	Capital improvement	
	Go/come exchanges with other churches	
	Mechanism to address issues of change: information, periodic communication, support for others, connect with mission of church	
	Have young people do sermons	
	Combine with outreach to invite others	

Mission Ideas		
Shared ministry – Spanish – Migrant ministry	Music programs	Minister to core/congregation
Help provide basics – more, ongoing	Bilingual services, Spanish Russian Gaelic	Address communication with PR – letting community know who we are and what we do, sharing building is positive, share information about faith-based activities
Have programs brought in (Safe Homes, Young Mothers, Stress, ESL, Cornell Extension, Teen Programs, Spanish Lessons)	Addressing stress level of neighbors in surrounding community	Connecting faith with works, integrate faith
Holiday Outreach (tree of giving)	Getting to know some of the people in community	Figure out how to be more inclusive of others
Art/Artist Outreach	Youth-oriented programming	Figure out how others perceive us
Partner with more organizations (Project Life)	Solving some of the communities' problems, eg. Financial counseling	Increase congregational numbers
Involve Sunday school in programs	Community VBS	Get community social/service input but also faith input
Vacation Bible School with neighbor churches	Paying attention to green concerns/environmental impacts	Identify what Calvary and members are doing in community
Involve neighbor churches in services	Ideas are things that anyone could do, we have to explain to ourselves and community what all this has to do with God/Christ, why this matters	Share information in fellowship
Open to comm. via Historical/Cultural	Growing congregation	Outreach committee trained to integrate community activities
Mission Collections: OGHs, Blanket Sunday	Christian education for ourselves, understand who we are and why we're here	Identify community needs (seasonal?) and hook up with people who are doing it
Adopt a Church in need; a family; a mission program abroad, adopt a child	Sharing faith with each other eg. Bible studies, circle of conversation	Public relations committee
Partner w/Carricks even	Spiritual nurturance of	Coordination function-need

Calvary Presbyterian Church Mission Study

though they're Methodists or Palms, Nora Cronin School	ourselves	someone or committee to integrate tie to faith
	Open to sharing faith	Expanding neighborhood—global mission
	Education of our kids in Sunday School and youth groups	Create a way to continue dialogue meetings, keep communication open
	Recognition of Mother's day, mothers in community, babysitting, Fathers, parents, family	weddings
	Recognition of church or community accomplishments	
	Participating in community as "Calvary Church"	
	Internal Expo. Of individual mission involvements	
	Teen-safe activities	
	Mission-aware activities that generate \$ and services to community in ways that make us known as a church	
	Services more risk-taking in music, message, clapping, guitar	
	Bits of praise music now and then	

	Main Elements of Vision		
	Preach the gospel in many modes	1. Serving Others	
	Reach out to the community to: attract more members, meet their needs	2. Visualize Change	
	Partner in programs for community	3. Increase Membership	
	Nurture the faith of congregation	4. Sharing Facilities/Programs	
	Welcome committee emphasize hospitality	5. Education—us, and kids	
	Stimulate/motivate involvement	6. Connecting Service to Spirituality	
	Respond to needs of “larger” church	7. Witnessing – outreach	
	Embrace God-inspired Change		
	Seek Inspiration from God and respond		
	Main Elements of Mission		
	Overarching community connection coordination	1. Make church friendlier to others	Connecting Faith with Works, integrate faith
	Evangelical, multi-lingual services	2. internal expo of individuals get to know each other better, building blocks for small groups	Identify community needs (seasonal?) and hook up with people who are doing it
	Start Conversation with Community – what are their needs? Bring in relevant programs.	3. Coordination and knowledge of what we’re doing so we can reach out more effectively	Public relations committee
	Global Mission	4. spiritual groups	Coordination function-need someone or committee to integrate tie to faith
	Connections w/neighborhood churches and Steve Ruelke—meet basic needs	5. Sister church –here? International? Awareness of interconnection-fair trade coffee fundraiser? Trips?	
	Adult growth - spiritual	6. Rotation with other churches – August?	
	Build Children’s programs	7. taking community problem and trying to resolve it	
		8. tie youth in more—website, service, blog	

