

HISTORY OF CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

***2020 East 79th at Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44103***

- 1880** Beginning January 1, 1880 with 73 presents, in an abandoned wooden chapel, which was moved to E. Madison (Now 79th Street). Growth to 250 required the building of a spacious stone chapel in 1883. (now Fellowship Hall) with 200 members and 300 in Sunday school. Known as Calvary Chapel, Mission of Old Stone Church, served by ministers in rotation.
- 1888** Cornerstone laid for Sanctuary MDCCCLXXXVIII (longest Roman numeral date possible since the birth of Christ).
- 1890** Large Sanctuary completed and dedicated on Jan. 5. (Same worship service repeated January 7, 1990) Bolton Chapel founded as Mission of Calvary united also with Old Stone Church in Collegiate organization, ministers in rotation.
- **** **1891** Calvary Presbyterian Church incorporated May 22, and 311 charter members received. Dr. Mears and Dr. Freeman, pastors.
- 1900** Gym was built, a first for a church and still a prime asset. Dr. T.S. McWilliams called, pastor for 12 years, 272 members added to rolls. First telephone installed in 1903. A Collinwood Mission Chapel was begun & supported many years. It became Immanuel Presbyterian Church.
- 1910** Cleveland's first missionaries sent to China. Dr. and Mrs. Dilley served there many years for Calvary. More utilities added. Lot to west bought for open space, Mr. Adelbert Higley called to pulpit in 1915.
- 1920** More people moved into this neighborhood, apartments replaced big estates, many moved to suburbs but kept membership. Mission Sunday School begun in Shaker Heights Fenway School. Merger with Bolton Avenue Church in '22 created a strong, active church and made Endowment Fund possible. Radio broadcast begun.
- 1930** Church adjusted to Depression by increasing care to needy and thoughtfully restricting operating costs. Affirmed again to stay in the city.
- 1940** Focus on prayer for peace in WW-II as in WW- I. Transition from 29- year pastorate of Dr. Higley to Dr. John Bruere in 1945. Many lively activities nurtured Christian camaraderie and concern for the neglected in inner city.

- 1950** Two lots on 79th purchased for parking and play yard. Garden on West planted with four WW –II memorial trees. Baby care during worship service begun. Integration of membership began quietly and naturally. Pastor and members joined in vigorous neighborhood clean-up campaigns.
- 1960** “Religion That Works” radio program Sunday at 9 a.m. was initiated and proven a strong mission in Northern Ohio. 300 children in Saturday-Sunday Youth program. Hough riots coped with and proven non-interruptive. NOAH INC born to address low-income housing needs. Sudden death of Dr. Bruere brought the call of Dr. Roger Shoup.
- 1970** Thoughtful and prayerful integration continued. Calvary Choral Group flourished. Justice-Line panic phone system used for anonymous reports of crime in community. Houses and apartments being raised. The Restoration Campaign successful raised capital funds and renovated major portions of church sanctuary and kitchen in particular.
- 1980** Mr. William Kight called as pastor, Church responded to needs of members and neighbors with clothing and food, AA program begun many years ago, continues. The building of Rainbow Place II and I on 79th St. Food and clothing given to needy continuously. Mental health program.
- **** **1988** 100th Anniversary of laying of Cornerstone celebrated with Special Worship Service and Luncheon. Church in time of transition. Two years with interim pastor.
- **** **1989** Midtown Area a wasteland for several years awaiting development. Dr. Tyrone Burkette called as pastor. Congregation anticipates challenges of rebuilding the area to re-strengthen Calvary Presbyterian Church.
- **** **1992** Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Incorporation with special Worship Service and Luncheon.
- **** **1999** Rev. Adrian T. Lynum called as pastor. At time of ordination, congregation suffers serious decline, as neighborhood has not rebuilt adequately.
- 2006** Dr. Rev. Bertrice Wood served as Temporary Supply Pastor. Day Care returns to Calvary. Mid-Town Corridor completed along Euclid.
- **** **2009** Calvary Celebrated 129 years on the corner of East 79th and Euclid Avenue. Rev. Floyd Rhodes, Jr. served as Temporary Supply.

- 2011 May 2011 Calvary entered into a two-year partnership with Glenville New Life Community Church. Pastor Rick Gillespie-Mobley, Pastor Toby Gillespie-Mobley and Pastor Kellie Sullivan served as rotating pastors.**
- 2012 The first exploratory meeting took place at Calvary on 12/8/12 at 8am to discuss the possibility of a merger with Glenville New Life.**
- 2013 On June 2, 2013 Calvary Presbyterian Church voted to merge with Glenville New Life Presbyterian Church. Calvary Presbyterian Church held its last worship service on September 1, 2013. The new church will be known as New Life At Calvary with the first official service on September 8, 2013.**
- 2018 Celebrates 5th Year Anniversary as New Life At Calvary!**
- 2019-2020 New Life At Calvary responds to the Global Pandemic by increasing our online service. The church closed along with the rest of the world in February of 2020. We remained closed until June of 2020 reopening on Father's Day. We were one of the few churches that remained open during most of the Global Pandemic. We were able to provide a safe and warm space for many people that struggle with homelessness and housing insecurity.**
- 2020 Rev. Dr. Pastor Toby Gillespie-Mobley retires on December 31, 2020 after 35 years of Ordained Ministry. We held many celebrations on her behalf. Pastor Toby became the first Pastor Emeritus of New Life At Calvary and her painting was hung in the library**
- 2021 New Life At Calvary donates historical records to the Western Reserve Historical Society for preservations. The records include Bolton Presbyterian church, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Glenville Presbyterian Church and a few records from New Life At Calvary.**
- *** Rev. Dr. Rick Gillespie-Mobley retired on December 31, 2021 after 37 years of Ordained Ministry. We held many celebrations on his behalf. Pastor Rick became the 2nd Pastor Emeritus of New Life At Calvary and his painting was hung in the library.**
- 2022 Rev. Kellie C. Sullivan becomes the first African American Female Solo Senior Pastor of New Life At Calvary on January 1, 2022. She begins with Pastor Antonia S. Martin as the Assistant Pastor of NLAC. A Pastoral Search Committee begins work on hiring a full-time Associate Pastor.**

New Life At Calvary Celebrating 142 Years

