

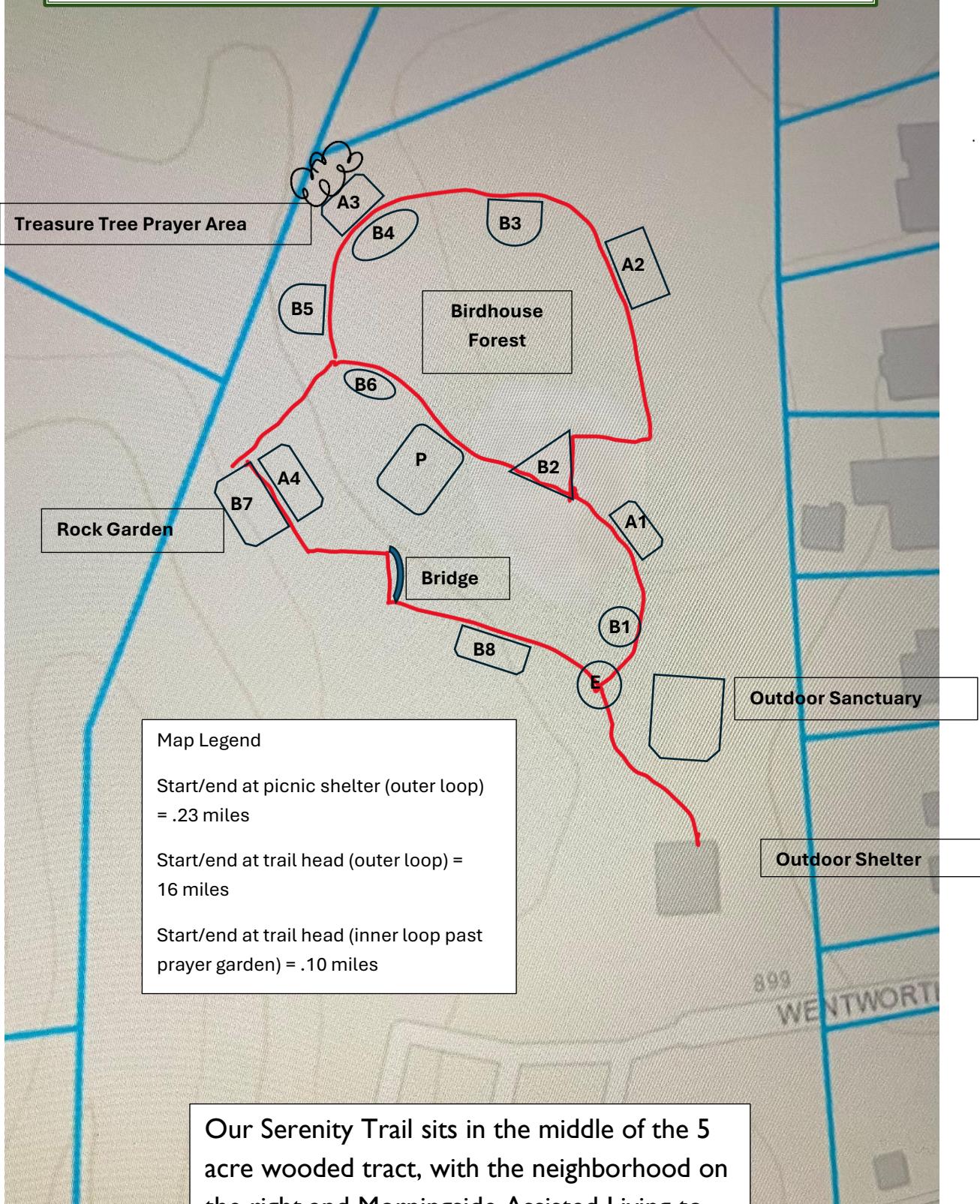
When Calvary's present 12 acre campus was acquired and the building dedicated 25 years ago, the congregation committed to being good stewards of the land and facilities. Part of that was/is developing ministries and opportunities that can enhance interaction with our surrounding community.

Early last year, our Stewardship Committee raised the idea of developing a walking trail through the almost five-acre undeveloped wooded natural area behind the picnic shelter and outdoor chapel. This proposal gained traction as several members began working together to actually lay out a path for the trail and brainstorming as to the best use for the area. As the design plan came together, further work has occurred this winter and early spring, with certain areas identified and marked for planting beds, self-reflection and meditation and an area dedicated for individual worship and prayer.

There are numerous opportunities for individuals to donate plants and hardscapes in specific areas that can be marked in honor or memory of loved ones. In addition, there will be benches and similar items that can be purchased and donated in honor/memory of others. A member has already offered to construct and donate a footbridge over a wetland area, and one of the large gardens has been adopted, but there are so many more opportunities and will continue to be as the area continues to be cleared.

Stewardship and Congregational Life Committee members hope you will be as excited about this project as we are! We hope that it will be an area that both the congregation, the neighborhood and the community at large will embrace and use for years to come!

Serenity Trail Map



Our Serenity Trail sits in the middle of the 5 acre wooded tract, with the neighborhood on the right and Morningside Assisted Living to the left.

Our Vision

Entrance to the trail.....Create and install an arbor that could be dedicated in memoriam.



The arbor, made from cedars on the property, will mark the entrance/exit to the Serenity Trail, which is located to the left rear of the Outdoor Sanctuary area. We do have a memorial commitment to adopt the arbor and will finalize the design and begin construction!!

Our Vision continued...

Flower/Planting Beds

There are many areas along the path that can be made into plant beds. We have identified several and more can be added as we continue to establish the path. Please see the map for a legend of locations and the final page for suggested adoption fees.

Area A1 before.....



4' benches will have the opportunity to have a memorial plate attached to the back.



Scripture Posts can also be added in the gardens with the benches as an additional way to remember a loved one.

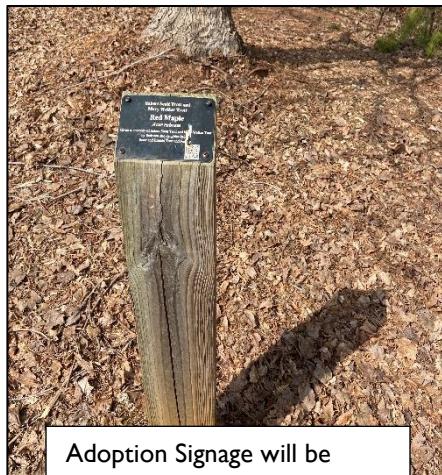


Our Vision continued...

Flower/Planting Beds

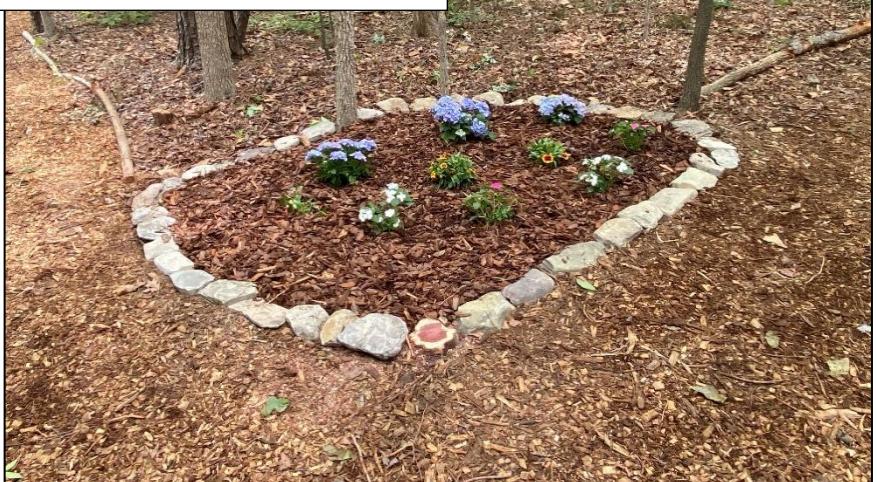
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Long term vision of areas along the trail, as areas are filled in here and there with native NC plants.



Area B2 after.....

See map legend for location. NOTE: this area has been adopted.



Our Vision continued...

Treasure Tree & Prayer Tree

"We can learn a lot from trees: they're always grounded but never stop reaching heavenward." - John Muir

Calvary has what would be considered a "treasure tree" on our property....a very old/protected tree. To the right of the large tree is an old cedar tree where the barbed wire from the original fence has grown into the tree..this cedar will be our "prayer tree".

We plan to create a prayer area here with benches, plant material and flowers, along with a vessel to hold cloths over which you can pray about a concern, tie it to the "prayer tree", signifying releasing the concern to God's care.



"Prayer Tree"

Example of prayer ribbons tied onto trees.



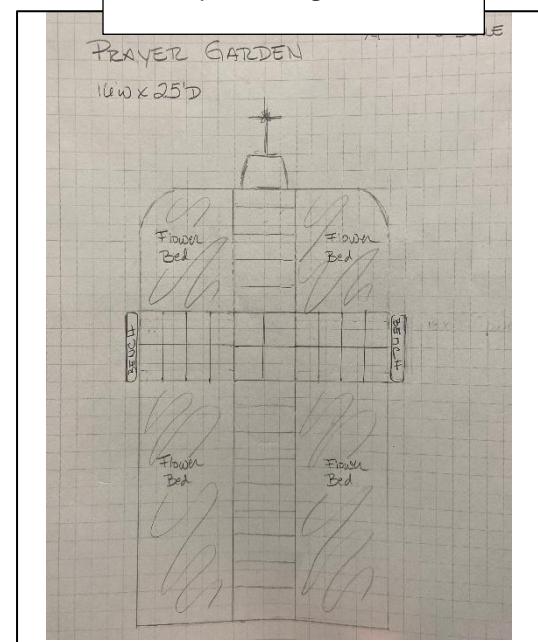
Vessel for ribbons

Our Vision continued...

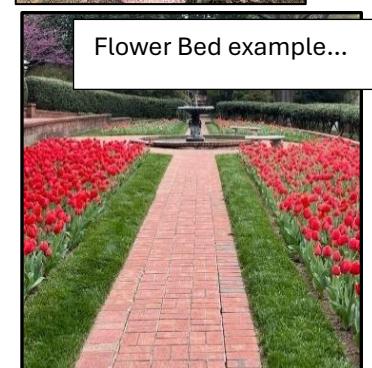
Central Prayer Garden

As the trail was being developed, we found a piece of a decaying old tree in the middle of the trail, that had taken the shape of a cross. It was clear that we were on the “right path” and we decided that this would be the perfect location for our prayer garden! The concept for this area is to create a cross in the ground using pavers, make flower beds in each of the open areas of the cross, set benches on each side AND place the rugged cross on a pedestal at the back.

Concept Drawing



Rugged Cross
made from
fallen trees
on property.



Flower Bed example...

Our Vision continued...

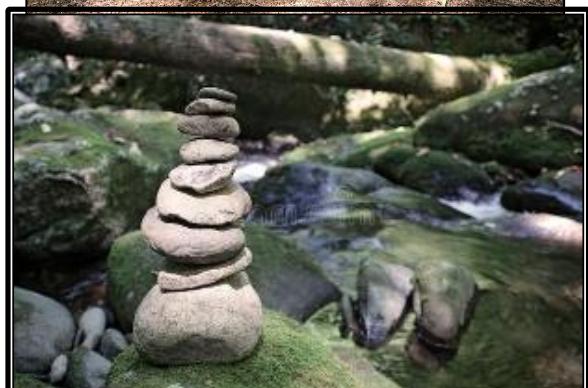
Birdhouse Forest

As a way to nurture God's creatures, we will create a "birdhouse forest" throughout the wooded area! The congregation can make, purchase and hang colorful birdhouses and feeders in our forest. (feeders will be maintained by the person who donated) This would also be a wonderful project for our Calvary youth!!



Rock Stacking/Meditation Area

Directly across from a small garden with scripture post will be a rock stacking garden area. Stacking rocks can symbolize balance in life, it can demonstrate patience, intention, gaining strength (having confidence to work through hardships), also gaining peace and unity in life.



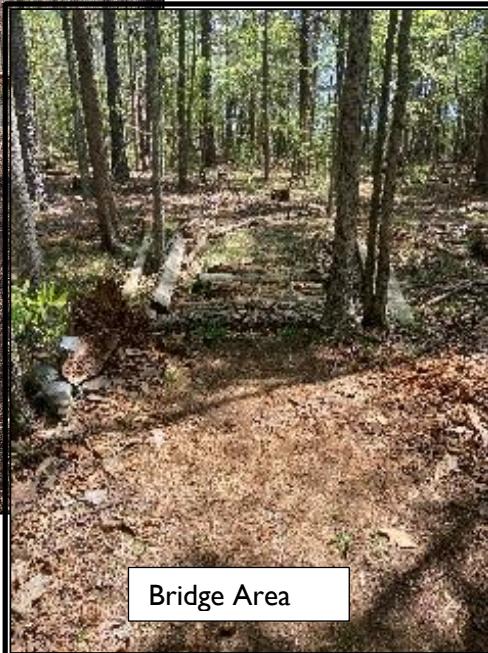
Area A4, located across from the rock stacking area, will include a bench and planting areas on each side

Area B7 will include the rocks for stacking, along with greenery to create a serene setting

Our Vision continued....

Footbridge

There is an area that becomes a creek bed when there is a lot of rain. One of our church members is building a foot bridge to cross this area, so the trail can be used all seasons! PS: do not be alarmed by our trail mascot..... 😊



Final Thoughts...

This project will take years to fully develop and will be ever evolving, but will be a wonderful addition to the Calvary Campus and will hopefully become a destination location for all people....see the back page for ways you contribute/adopt an area.

As the Serenity Trail project is not included in previous congregational spending plans (budgets), the initial work has been primarily self-funded by volunteers who have provided labor and materials, as well as some financial contributions to the "Trail Fund" which has been established and approved. Clearly there will be a need for additional funding to purchase materials (plants, landscape and hardscape). Members and friends of the congregation are asked to assist in any way or manner that they are able in helping see this project through. This assistance can take the form of monetary contributions to the fund, providing labor or materials or any combination of the two. Also, there are opportunities for individuals or families to "adopt" certain designated areas along the trail. "Adopting" an area means that you make a contribution to the trail fund in an amount to cover the costs of acquiring/installing the materials needed for that site. Several areas are already identified and roughly cleared. There can be many others, based on the interest. Areas that are "adopted" will have discreet signage showing the donor and the person(s) honored or memorialized. The areas for adoption, along with the recommended "adoption fees" are as follows and are shown on the trail map:

<u>Area</u>	<u># Avail.</u>	<u>Map Designation</u>	<u>Suggested Adoption Fee</u>
Prayer Garden (already adopted)	1	"P"	\$2,500.00
Trailhead Entrance (already adopted)	1	"E"	\$1,500.00
Large Plantscape Area 4 (with bench *option to purchase bench alone - \$375)		"A"	\$750.00
Small Plantscape area 8		"B"	\$300.00

PLEDGE TO ADOPT/CONTRIBUTE

I wish to adopt the following Serenity Trail area (map designation) : _____

This is given in honor/memory of : _____

I will confirm this pledge so as to reserve my selected area(s) by June 15, 2025 by making a donation to the Trail Fund (payable to Calvary, designate trail fund) in at least the suggested amount for the area selected. (Sites will be tentatively held upon receipt of this form until June 15, at which time any unconfirmed areas will be released for selection by others).

I wish to donate \$ _____ to the Trail Fund during the remainder of 2025.

Donor Name