



23RD ANNUAL HIV/AIDS HEALING SERVICE


This service of hope and healing is for everyone affected by HIV/AIDS, including people living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, families, and friends.

All are welcome!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23
AT 6:00 P.M.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
102 N. SECOND ST.,
DOWNTOWN MEMPHIS

 The Very Rev. William E. “Andy” Andrews III, Dean of St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral, will preach.

 An offering for The Ryan White Federal Program administered through CHOICES: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health will be collected.

 A reception featuring The Tony Thomas Trio will follow in Calvary’s Great Hall.



The Very Rev. Andy Andrews

For more information, please contact 901-525-6602 or visit www.calvarymemphis.org.

PRESS RELEASE/ FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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FR: Calvary Episcopal Church

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The Memphis Community HIV/AIDS Healing Service Committee is thankful for the promotion of this service, but asks that media representatives respect the privacy of service participants by not bringing cameras of any kind to the service.

23rd Annual Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Healing in a Time of HIV/AIDS

Sunday, October 23, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.
at Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. Second St., Memphis TN

On Sunday, October 23, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., Calvary Episcopal Church, 102 N. Second St. downtown Memphis, will host the 23rd Annual Ecumenical Service of Prayer and Healing in a Time of HIV/AIDS. The Very Rev. Andy Andrews, Dean of St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, will preach. The combined choirs from Calvary Episcopal Church and Calvary parishioner and harpist Barbara Christensen will provide music for this service of hope and healing.

From the beginning, the HIV/AIDS Healing Service has been a celebration of life! The early organizers of this ecumenical service recognized the power that prayer, community support, and hope would provide in the lives of those touched by HIV/AIDS. Each cutout shape in the muslin fabric sculpture that hangs from Calvary's beams during the month of October honors someone living with HIV/AIDS. The uplifting music and hope-filled prayers inspire courage for the living while remembering lives lost.

If ever there was a time for prayer and healing in a time of HIV/AIDS in Shelby County, the time is now! Tennessee, like many other states, has seen an increase in the reported cases of HIV/AIDS. As of 2008, 5,924 Shelby County residents were reported to be living with HIV/AIDS. The average number of HIV/AIDS cases diagnosed yearly in Shelby County from 2004 to 2008 was 441. Males in Shelby County remain disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS representing 70% of cases reported in 2008. By race, African Americans accounted for 87% of reported cases and whites accounted for 11%. Approximately 55% of HIV/AIDS cases reported in 2008 occurred among persons between the ages of 15 and 34.

During this year's service, an offering for The Ryan White Federal Program administered through CHOICES: Memphis Center for Reproductive Health will be collected. Memphis Center for Reproductive Health is a private, non-profit health care clinic offering a wide range of reproductive health services for women and men, as well as education and outreach for the community. MCRH does not discriminate based on gender identity, race, age, sexual orientation, body size, religion, cultural heritage, or disability. The Ryan White program provides HIV-related health care services to men, women and teens living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured. Reproductive health care is an important component of ongoing HIV medical care.

All are welcome to attend the HIV/AIDS Healing Service and the festive reception following in Calvary's Great Hall, featuring the Tony Thomas Trio. For more information, please contact 901-525-6602 or visit www.calvarymemphis.org.

Sources: Tennessee Department of Health HIV/AIDS Report: Shelby County, 2008.