



## *Calvary Church*

In September of 2017 Calvary Church, Golden celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! From 1867 to the present day, Calvary has been an integral part of the wider Golden community.

The seeds which grew into the vibrant Calvary congregation of today were planted in the year 1867 by the Rt. Rev. George Maxwell Randall, the first missionary bishop of Colorado, and by pioneer local community luminaries,

among them W.A.H. Loveland, Edward L. Berthoud, and Captain George West. William Loveland donated the land for the church building, and a local individual gave \$1,000 for materials. On September 26, 1867, Bishop Randall laid the church's cornerstone, and when completed the following spring, the building was described in contemporary newspaper accounts as "the finest church in the territory."

From the very beginning Calvary was deeply rooted in the soil of Golden City (later just "Golden") and in its residents' lives. Bishop Randall, concerned as well with local education, led efforts to found a secondary school, a school of theology, and what became the Colorado School of Mines. Calvary's buildings are located on Arapahoe Street between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> street, in the heart of downtown Golden and across the street from the CSM campus.

Calvary Church, closely interwoven with the history and heart of Golden, has aimed for the last century and a half to be a positive presence in the community. From hosting modest social events in the city's early days, Calvary has blossomed as a resource partner with other Golden churches in the Together Church, with community non-profit groups, the Golden Rescue Fund, Christian Action Guild, Golden Backpack Program, GoFarm, Salvation Army in Golden, Golden Community Garden, Golden Police Department chaplains, and a school-year Free Lunch serving hundreds of Mines students each week. Calvary's reach extends well beyond the town, actively supporting Denver's St. Francis Center for the Homeless with volunteers, the Action Center in Jefferson County, Freshwater Project in Malawi, and water filters for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Originally envisioned as "a fine church edifice on the town square," Calvary has been blessed with the resources to restore and maintain what is now the oldest Episcopal church building in continuous worship use in Colorado and Golden's oldest surviving church structure. Over the years that first building was added to, and when the congregation and the needs of the greater Golden community outgrew the original space, church members built the Great Hall as multi-purpose worship space and a Ministry Center of meeting rooms and administrative offices. More recently, Calvary was able to purchase the historic Armory building across the street to be maintained as a place of welcome, service, and connection for the whole Golden community.

Currently, there are five worship services every weekend at Calvary supporting a congregation of all ages. The people of Calvary give thanks to God for 150 years of blessings and are grateful for a future of opportunity to love and serve others in His name.