



## CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

### November 2005

This is not the rector speaking. In fact, I only hope after I'm done filling this empty white space on the front of Chronicles this month, I don't end up excommunicated or something. Not that I plan heresy, but you never know what will come out when I sit down to write something.

We are urged every November at some point to think about things for which we are grateful. Here's what I've come up with:

I'm grateful to the pilgrims for coming here. They made freedom from religious persecution, and America (and freedom) in general, possible under what must have been impossible odds and conditions. -- I'm grateful for Calvary Church. It was a good place for a kids during the 50s and 60s. I'm sure I learned a lot, though recollection is spotty. -- I'm grateful for school. I learned a lot there, too, though I'm a little light on specifics. Somewhere along the line I did "get it," that I could string thoughts together for my own conclusions. Wrong as so many were to begin with (I got better), they were the start of something. I didn't go to church after I started stringing these thoughts together, which may seem like a bad thing. It wasn't - I'll get back to that shortly. (This was the 60s - it was "cool" to say "God is dead," and stuff like that.)

I'm grateful for my family. My parents loved me, and my sisters alternately loved, then tolerated me. -- I'm grateful for loss. In it, I had the chance to restring some thoughts together, ending with a completely different conclusion. I came back to church, and my sisters became more benevolent - and I with them. -- I'm grateful for sisters. I know I have a sister in my house when my shopping list is amended to include, after milk, flour and sugar, "monkey's paws" and "heroin and/or cocaine." This always makes me laugh, even though it is now a very old and very tired joke that we play over and over again.

I am grateful for being able to play in the Scaife Room kitchen from time to time. -- I'm grateful to be able to work on the church publication. It's fun. -- I'm grateful Calvin preaches from time to time, and even more grateful he does it in English, rather than one of the ancient tongues he speaks.

Oh, I know I have missed ten billion other things, things you're saying, "I can't believe she didn't include (fill in blank)." And you're right. Perhaps you can string together a few of your own thanksgivings. And maybe it's time to do some thanking in person.

Thanks, Steven...Dave...Sela...Mom...Dick...Bruce...Sam...Peg...

Margi...Pat...Karen...Kathleen...Debi...

CHU

Co-Editors: Kathleen Bryce-Niles and  
Christine Hicks-Usta

Administrative Assistant: Karen Sandburg

A monthly publication; not published July or August

# Senior Class

## November/December Events

**Saturday, November 12**

Tour Old NY Central Railway Terminal

9:30am - 11:30am. Cost \$10/person

also

Tour Pierce Arrow Auto Museum

12:00pm - 12:45pm. Cost \$10/person for guided tour

(providing minimum of 25 people - otherwise, \$6)

**Dutch Treat Lunch** - Chef's Restaurant 1:00pm

Meet at Calvary Parking lot for car-pooling at 8:45am

Central Railway Terminal: 495 Paderewski Dr. Buffalo

Pierce Arrow Auto Museum: corner of Michigan and Seneca, Buffalo

Sign-up near reception desk through November 6<sup>th</sup>

Or... call Prestons: 632-5862 or Clarks: 741-9124

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### BPO HOLIDAY POPS

With Marvin Hamlich

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

2:30 performance - Tickets \$34/person

Bus from Calvary Parking Lot - Price TBA

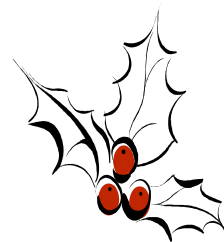


We have 50 good seats - Both Balcony & Downstairs Seating  
SIGN-UP During November Sundays

**DEADLINE: Sunday, November 27th**

Payment Will Reserve Seat/Seats

Questions: Bob.Julie Preston 632-5862 Or Cy.Marlea Crowther 634-2279



### Helping Hands In Memory of...

It is a Calvary tradition that following a funeral or memorial service, a reception is often held in the Scaife Room offering a time and place for family and friends to meet. It is also tradition that volunteers from Calvary's congregation arrange the receptions, and there are two ways you can help:

- Baked goods such as cookies, nut breads, etc. that can be frozen are needed. These items can be baked at your convenience and brought to the church during office hours.
- "On call" helpers are also needed to assist with the reception set-up, serving, and clean-up.

If you would like to volunteer for either opportunity, please call Marty Gingell at 836-8665.



The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**, chaired by Bruce Davidson, is in the process of developing a slate of candidates for 3 vestry positions and 1 warden position to be voted upon in January. Candidate recommendations of willing, eager and committed members of the Calvary family are most welcome.

According to the Calvary Church By-laws:

- active members of Calvary Church 18 years of age and older shall be eligible to be elected or appointed vestry person.
- confirmed active members of Calvary Church 21 years of age and older and having served for at least one year as vestry person of Calvary Church shall be eligible to be elected or appointed Warden.
- active members are defined as follows: All communicants of the Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are considered communicants in good standing.

If you know of such a person, or are interested yourself in being considered for the slate of candidates, please fill in a nominating slip, available in a service leaflet and drop it in the nominating box in the Reception Room. The committee will consider all recommendations when finalizing the slate of candidates for election.



## Stewardship Campaign

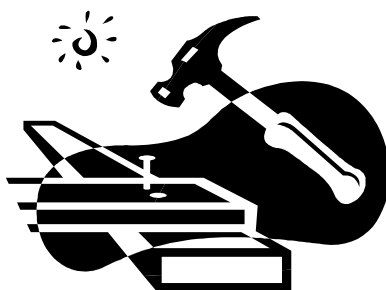
This year's stewardship campaign is underway. Many of our fellow parishioners participated in a workshop and personal note writing on October 8th. Letters and personal testimony have also been shared as the campaign culminates(d) on Commitment Sunday, November 6th.

"Sourcing Our Faith," the theme for this year's stewardship campaign has taken a word that is most often a noun and put that noun into action as a verb. Being a good steward of God also means to take action on His behalf.

As you reflect on your experiences at Calvary and prayerfully consider your pledge for 2006, I invite you to join the vestry and other members at Calvary in sourcing your faith.

Faithfully yours,

Bruce Davidson



## Capital Improvements and Finance

This past year, the vestry authorized a new loan application to retire more expensive debt and to fund capital improvement projects. After competitive proposals were obtained and reviewed by the Finance Committee, a 10 year loan in the amount of \$285,000 was obtained through HSBC.

The proceeds from this loan have been dispersed as follows:

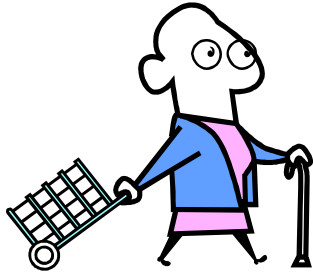
- New roof over the north side of the main church \$ 45,000  
(This south side was completed in 2004)
- New roof insulation \$ 15,000  
(With the main roof now completely insulated, we will realize significant energy savings. However, with sharply higher energy prices projected for this winter, a dollar savings over last year will not be realized.)
- New roof in the rectory \$ 10,100  
(The property warden negotiated a significant cost reduction over bids received by having this work done in conjunction with the main church reproofing.)
- New roof and repairs over elevator \$ 3,800  
(This was the only item whose cost exceeded the estimate. Significantly more repairs were required than was evident on the outside.)
- Resurfacing rectory hardwood floors \$ 1,300
- Repay Calvary Endowment \$43,997 of funds borrowed to do initial reroofing in 2004.
- Pay off line of credit \$147,710  
(This was long-term debt left over from the Woven in Unity campaign.)
- Undispersed Funds \$ 18,093  
(The flat roof, originally budgeted to be redone, has been put off after further review.)

The one major project that the property committee, under the guidance of Wes Stone and Jack Newall, is undertaking is the resolution of the water leakage in the Children's Chapel and elevator shaft area. Proposed solutions are being evaluated and further communication will be forthcoming on this issue.

Contact Bruce Davidson to discuss any questions or make comments on this matter.

## Commentary

As I reluctantly age, I find myself moving more and more toward ecclesiastic heresy in my thoughts on organized religions. Once sufficiently old enough to have both experience and a modicum of wisdom under the belt, one has to look at some of the machinations and politics of religion with a more jaundiced eye. Additionally with age has come a



bizarre assurance that I am both closer to the grave and the truth about that all this life business signifies.

For some years, I have been quite positive that I am privy to God's thoughts on far

too many issues...Unlike those who are committed to proselytizing their fantasies as truth, I have tried to keep much of that God shares with me to myself. However, it seems selfish to withhold this critical information from others. From what God tells me, He is generally pleased with much of what we are doing as a species. Strange as it may sound...

He rather enjoys the pomp and circumstance with which we associate our worship of Him. And, to the consternation of many, he likes all of us the same...the Anglicans, the Romans, the Presbyterians, the Baptists, the Jews, the Muslims, the Buddhists and even the Zoroastrians, if any survived the last inquisition in their area. He likes the churches, the mosques, the caves and the synagogues. He thinks it is all very nice.

Sadly, He gets perturbed that we have ignored so many suggestions, pleas, invitations and exhortations that He has sent our way because we have been so very busy erecting edifices, electing vestries, electrifying sermons, and generally ignoring the one main thing asked of us...to love each other. To understand that God asks just that one thing as proof of our belief and love of Him is to pretty much figure out the sealed orders with which we were put on earth. After that, all else is mere speculation.

When we leave church and knock each other over getting out of the parking lot, jockey for position at the buffet tables, titter at the silly dress some old lady is wearing, notice the frayed cuffs on someone's suit, glare at the noisy child, speak ill of someone else's faith, pretend that all that goes on in church is someone else's work to do, leave a church because we don't think this person or that person should be allowed to worship with us let alone minister to us, make assumptions about



this intention or that action, these are the things that make God contemplate the arrogant state of our immortal souls....

As Anglicans, we have one set of answers. Only God knows just how many answers are out there. Remember that He thinks all this is "nice" but that loving each other is essential to getting it Right! So, in that vein, let me conclude by saying that I love you all, in general, but, in specific, I have not reached that elevated state of excellence where I don't recognize your frailties just as you recognize mine. We need to help each other quite a bit more. Let's start again right now. KBN



### QUICK START TO PLANNED GIVING

Your second opportunity to find out about quick and easy ways to make gifts to Calvary's Endowment Fund is **Sunday, Nov. 6, at 11:15 am**. Come to the Reception Room after the 10 am service, enjoy coffee and light refreshments, and hear presentations by some of Calvary's experts in the field. Bob Goods will talk about wills, bequests, and trusts; Betsy Greno will cover investments and other financial instruments; Dick Thompson will share his knowledge about insurance. Child care will be provided.

At the first program on October 16 an elite group of 20 received a packet of informative handouts prepared by the Planned Giving Committee; these will also be available on Nov. 6. A lively question/discussion period showed a real depth of concern for long-term support of Calvary's mission.

These new information programs are the run-up to formation of the Calvary Legacy Society, which will kick off in late January with an elegant brunch. Watch for your invitation in the mail after Christmas!

The goal is to have every member of Calvary make a commitment for the future benefit of our parish. No gift is too small or too large. Everyone can help - this means you!

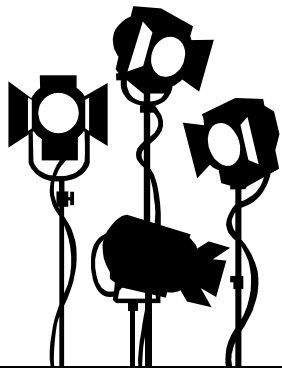
Planned Giving Committee  
Frank & Wilma Cipolla, Co-chairs

## "A Night On Broadway"

Over 160 parishioners and friends enjoyed the program jointly sponsored by Parish Life and the Parish Choir. The Planning Committee, co-chaired by **Dick Welte** and **Posy Dayton**, included **Carolyn Russell, Debi Overton and Kathleen Niles**. The evening was divided into three parts: a cocktail hour, an hour of music and an hour for coffee and desserts

The cocktail hour showcased the incredible culinary expertise of our Calvary cooks: **Julie Preston, Dave Nuzzo, Dick Welte, Cindy Munschauer, Margi Butenschoen, Joan Fischer, Nancy Golightly, Chickie Holt, Karen Davidson, and Cris Hicks-Usta**. Dick felt we should have high quality appetizers and asked Cris to gather some of our classy clan to make them. We were not disappointed. We determined that doing our best to rid ourselves of long lines to get wine and hors d's was a good idea. So, we placed a bottle of red and a bottle of white wine on each table and we passed trays of appetizers to be certain that all were served. This was particularly helpful to our seasoned citizens who did not have to stand for long periods of time.

The centerpiece of the night was the performance by our **Parish Choir**. To say that it was outstanding would be a gross understatement. The entire choir sang songs that we know and love from some of the great musicals that have graced the Great White Way. The section leaders, **David Campbell, Karen Davidson, Janice Bommer, Larry Bernard, JoAnn Peperone, and Posy Dayton** along with **Allie Metcalfe** each did astounding solos while the choir, *in toto*, performed magnificently. There were a few tears and many cheers for each and every one of our "Broadway" stars. And, if you missed this performance, they continue to appear to our great joy every Sunday at 10 pm. Posy and Debi selected some great music!



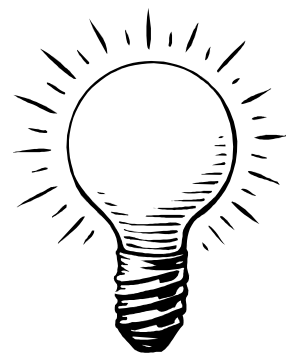
In the midst of the performances were "pop-up" vignettes prepared by Dick Welte and executed with great animation by **Peggy Brunton, David Fiegel and Claudia Kosczka**. The humor was enjoyed by all.

The last part of the evening featured coffee, cheesecake and wonderful fellowship. PLC purchased carafes so that coffee could be at each table and huge New York style cheesecakes were delivered to the tables to share. In

fewer than ten minutes all present were served with a modicum of disruption to their pleasantries. All went extremely smoothly and no lines were in evidence. Much of the credit for this goes to those faithful who position themselves in the kitchen before and after events ensuring quality work for the enjoyment of others. It is always dangerous to list names because someone will be forgotten...please accept apologies for any indiscretion but some people need to be noted for an exceptional job...those who worked tirelessly include: **the Prestons, the Butenschoens, the Bruntons, Bonnie Hellriegel, Kim Alexander-Thomson, Dave Nuzzo, Cris Hicks-Usta and Sela, the Lippards, Jan Waack, Joan and Nelson Fischer, Bill Holt, and Dick Welte**, and so many others whose angels nudge them forward when work is to be done. We thank them all. And, lest we forget, a huge thank you to **Debi Overton** for her work with the singers and all the gifts she brings to Calvary's Music Ministry.

Look for us to come back with another Night in Italy...perhaps Milano this year. Somewhere around the end of January or the beginning of February we will put together another spectacular evening of wine, pasta, entertainment and desserts....last year, close to 200 joined us for this event.

See you there. KBN



The next Parish Life Committee meeting is Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 P.M. in the Reception Room.

If you enjoyed the Broadway Night, and would like to help the committee put upcoming events together, they sure could use your help! Come to the

**November 9th**

meeting, and bring your unique talents and ideas!!!

## *...from the Choir Room*

With Christmas only five weeks away, once again we find ourselves at that time of year when we wait with hope for what we know will be fulfilled as God's promise. The word **Ad-vent** means "coming". As Christians we mark this season as one of expectation and anticipated hope of a Messiah who will bring peace, justice and righteousness to the world.

On Sunday afternoon, December 4, the Parish Choir will offer our traditional welcome to this beginning of our liturgical year. At 5:00, our annual **Service of Advent Lessons and Carols** will be presented. Anthems and traditional congregational hymns will ornament the lessons of anticipation.

Invite your friends, bring your family – let us begin this new liturgical year in true Calvary fashion – **TOGETHER!**

*Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee! (Laurentius Laurenti 1660-1722)*

Peace to all.  
...debi



## Children's Ministry

### Dates to Remember:

\*October 30<sup>th</sup>/November 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. practice in the sanctuary for the final musical practice of "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God."

\*November 7<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Meeting

\*December 10<sup>th</sup>: Advent Celebration/Craft Night (more details to follow)

\*December 17<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Pageant. More details forthcoming from Rev. Baxter.

### T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U!

A Big Thank you to Andrea Turton for her tremendous job as co-chair of the Children's Ministries Committee providing the Calvary Kid's leaflet each Sunday and the other communication vehicles that are all around the church. Thank you Andrea!!

### E-Communication Saves Money; needs help!

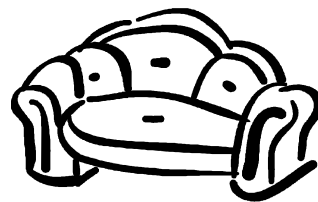
In an effort to save postage while improving communication between Sunday school and Calvary's families, we want to begin communicating with you via email. If you have quick fingers and a compassion for kids, we need you! We need someone to input the email addresses of approximately 100 families. There is no deadline, though the sooner the better for our postage meter. Please contact Lisa Maxwell or Andrea Turton if you can help out. You would be revered by all!

### Sunday School

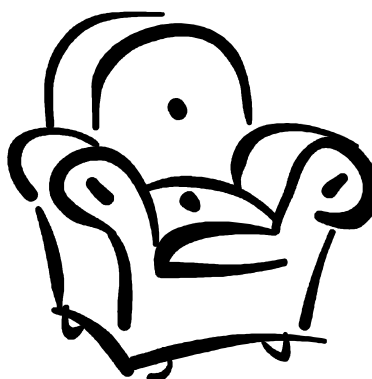
Sunday School is going well. Attendance continues to be strong and the interaction between the kids inspiring. Thank you for allowing the teachers to share an hour with your wonderful kids.

### Sit Upons Needed

The Seventh Grade Sunday School Class need a place to sit!! They are looking for **donations of upholstered furniture** for their room. If you have usable (as in reasonably clean and in good condition) **UPHOLSTERED** furniture (you know, the kind with stuffing and cloth), please contact either Emily Sityar or Mike Maxwell. They will help make the necessary arrangements to get it from you and into the classroom.



Thanks!!



Prayers From the Pew...  
By: George Mayer

My life has been so rich since I have discovered a personal relationship with the Creator of life! That is what the knowledge of God brings! You are of Christ, and Christ is of God! We are One! There is nothing of nervousness or defeat in the true Lord's Prayer. Instead, there is a resting upon a vibrant, living relationship with God, the Father!

Jesus stands at the door and knocks, ready to make the riches of a relationship with God available to us--riches beyond our imagining. We have only to open the door and receive those riches! The Lord's riches cannot help anyone whose door is shut and barred from within.

So take hold of that relationship which is available to all who believe in Him (Jesus!) Live that relationship, day by day and hour by hour--and your life will be richer, higher, broader, deeper, larger than you could ever imagine!

Our Father, what pathetic beggars we are! We possess such marvelous riches, yet we enjoy so little of them. Lord, strike away the shackles of our unbelief. Stop us from discounting the Truth contained in the true Lord's Prayer (John 17), which Jesus prayed before going to the cross. Save us from this terrible trap of slipping back in "normal life" as we call it, and being the same old person that we were before.

God, help us to see that in Jesus Christ there is eternal life, light, liberty, abundance. make us hunger and thirst for the vast, unbounded, enlarged life you offer us! We pray in the name of Jesus, amen!

"I have revealed You to those whom you gave Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to me and they have obeyed Your Word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me." (John 17: 6-8).

"I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began." (John 17:4-5).

Jesus' work was characterized by a continual self-emptying--a laying aside of glory! He voluntarily surrendered His Right to be worshipped, His right to the glory that belonged to God. Jesus made Himself nothing taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness (Phil, 2: 6-7). Self-emptying glorifies God!

#### Lost and Found:

A pair of clip-on Brooks Brothers magnetic sunglass (that fit onto regular sunglasses, in other words) has been found. Ask at the office if they're yours.

### Hear Ye, Hear Ye

The Next Issue of  
**Chronicles**  
is  
December, 2005

And the **deadline** for this issue, and all issues henceforth is designated as the

**15th of the month prior**  
except in the case of June and July, when  
Chronicles takes sabbatical of July and  
August issues.

Also, submitters, if at all possible, kindly do not format your work, as in most cases, this must all be undone before laying out the publication. Use MS Word if you have it, font Book Antiqua (11) if you have it, and if not, just type your text into a standard e-mail, noting where your article begins and ends. Thanks!