



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

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Epiphany 2006

Dear Friends,

The Christian season of Epiphany is upon us, having left Christmas behind with the passing of the old year into the new. Among the signs of Epiphany, the trek of the Wise Men from the East stands out as the most dramatic. As the story goes, these were likely astrologers who had noticed the star in the east and mounted an expedition to get a better look. Some also say that they were not Kings so much as representative of the intelligentsia of the culture. Hence, Wise Men.

Rarely am I much impressed by the pithy clichés on church signboards, but one I have remembered for some years now. The words welcoming people to a now unknown church were these: “Wise men still seek him”. I like that. It is simple, direct and insists we make some sort of decision. If we are wise, we will no doubt be among those who seek Jesus. Unfortunately, it glosses over a good bit of St. Paul who has a sort of bone to pick with wise men.

According to Paul, Christ is not found by those who are counted wise in this world. “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise”, he chirps to the church at Corinth. In other words, wisdom in the things of modern society, like technology, or politics, or sociology, or any of the various academic disciplines and professional pursuits does not necessarily prepare one to find God in Jesus. In fact, minds set on human achievement and power may be very ill equipped to imagine God living a human life. So, I wonder, really, if wise men really do still seek him.

I know desperate men do, hurting souls seek Christ; people who have lost everything and are clinging to the last shreds of self respect are looking for Jesus. Our churches are full of people who are not afraid to admit their needs, who leave their “I’ve got it all together” at the door of the place where Jesus is ready to work with the calamities of life. In our wisdom, we might prefer a more highly evolved Lord or one who could claim our obedience through raw power. But our wisdom is foolishness to God and our claims to be someone in our own right God finds a little pitiful. Be ready to stand before God without pretense this season of Epiphany. We may find ourselves ready for God to show us himself, his grace and mercy in the one who was born in Bethlehem.

Faithfully,

Steven

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A NIGHT IN VENICE
ITALIAN DINNER & AUCTION

Saturday, February 18, 2006

6:00 PM

in the Scaife Room

\$10 adults--\$5 children to age 10

LASAGNA (MEAT AND VEGETABLE)
LADLES OF HOT SPAGHETTI SAUCE
TOSSED SALAD
ITALIAN BREAD
RED WINE
WHITE WINE
FRESHLY GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE
COFFEE--HIGH TEST & DECAF
CANNOLI

Last year, 200 parishioners and friends enjoyed an incredible homemade dinner at our *Night in Tuscany*. It was a huge success in fellowship and dining. This year, we will travel to Venice and delight in our good fortune. We plan to engage an exciting duo who will play violin and accordion. They will stroll among the tables taking requests and playing music from Italy.

Parish Life has been able to invest in a number of kitchen items designed to make service fast and efficient. Diners will make their choice of meat or vegetable lasagna when signing up. This will expedite service. Again, we are imploring our great cooks to donate lasagnas, and our not-so-great cooks to provide salads. You will have an opportunity to sign up for those gifts after the holidays. We will offer spaghetti for the children, and childcare from 7-9 pm.

LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL MAKE LASAGNAS OR SALADS.

kniles1@adelphia.net



AUCTION TO ACCOMPANY NIGHT IN VENICE DINNER

Many fine items were held back from the auction in May...for two good reasons: 1) we wished to showcase those gifts from our parishioners and 2) we wished to provide a time and place for everyone in the parish to be able to have a chance on such great items. Now, we have the time and the opportunity.

On Feb. 18th, we will hold the big Italian dinner. It will be known as "A Night in Venice" this year. You will see the ad for it on the previous page in the Chronicles. From 6-7 pm, all the items will be on display in the ante-room leading into the Scaife. Each item will be listed and a paper bag will be next to it. You may place one or more tickets into any or all of the bags and hope that your # will be selected. We will be giving two tickets with the purchase of each dinner. And, we will be selling additional tickets if you wish to have more chances. This is an excellent opportunity to get one or more of many items totaling a couple of thousand dollars. Plan on attending and playing.

FREE TICKETS TO LASAGNA MAKERS THIS YEAR

Parish Life has a tidy little treasury so we are making this offer to those of you who like to cook and are willing to help us make the **Night in Venice** very special: **For each lasagna you make, you will receive a free \$10 ticket to attend the event.** If you don't cook, perhaps you will contribute a salad to your table. You are invited to supplement the wine PLC will provide, too. We want to make this both homey and modestly profitable to the church. So, we need you to buy tix, give whatever you can toward the dinner, enjoy the fellowship and the Chinese Auction. Two hundred parishioners, families and friends surely had a great time last year.

WHAT WILL YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE NIGHT IN VENICE?

Please email (kniles1@adelphia.net) or call (688-8985) and let us know that you plan to contribute lasagnas, salads, breads, or wines, etc. We will need about 20 lasagnas, 20 salads, and 20 loaves of Italian Bread, 40 bottles of wine. It's a big night. Help us if you can.



SENIOR CLASS OF CALVARY

Watch for publicity late January, and in the February Chronicles for:

RED BLAZER VARIETIES SHOW (The Amherst Male Glee Club)

4th Weekend March (DATE TBA)
Amherst High School
Theatre Auditorium

Watch for the
Sign-Up in Mid-February



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The ministry of pastoral care includes praying for each other. You have noticed that the Prayers of the People on Sunday morning are being offered by several members of the congregation, making it even more a prayer "of the people."

In combination with that, beginning January 1 five families each week will be added to the prayer list. Their names will be printed in the leaflet each Sunday, so that during the week all of us can think about those families and pray for them. The parish directory will be divided up, so by the end of the year every family will have their name included in these prayers.



Even though we do not always know each other, what a wonderful way to feel connected to the parish through prayer. Prayer is a powerful thing, both for the one offering the prayer, and for the one receiving it!

Priscilla Welman, Congregational Care
Committee member

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:
Kicking off the New Year!**

January starts off with our monthly Children's Ministry meeting on the second at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Make your voice heard with people who have fun while ensuring a strong children's program for kids at Calvary.

Giving to others is an important lesson for our kids to learn, whether it be through Sunday school or at home. We are taking the next step in developing our relationship between School #77 and Calvary's Kids. In January, we will be initiating a **pen pal program** with their second grade class. Teacher Amy Gorney will begin the dialogue by acquainting us with the 16 kids in her class. Our goal is for the kids in grades K-6 to learn about children who live elsewhere and to whom our monthly mission collections are directed. A bulletin board is planned for the downstairs hallway to be devoted to this **communications / mission exchange**.



Please continue to encourage your children to **attend Sunday school**. Remember that there is a reward program in place based upon strong attendance. We know that your time is valuable and the teachers at Calvary work very hard to pack a lot of education, fun and fellowship into that hour they spend with your children each Sunday. Your support of their efforts is greatly appreciated.



Thank you to all of those who participated in the **Christmas Eve service**. We are committed to incorporating music into the Sunday school program at Calvary. Your understanding and participation as we continue to work on ways to enhance the existing program is much appreciated.

On behalf of Children's Ministries, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words of support for our kids program at Calvary. We are a committed group and progress is being made. We look forward to another year of fellowship and fun with your children. Thank you for making Calvary their church home.

Lisa Maxwell
Co-Chair Children's Ministries Committee

CALVARY LEGACY SOCIETY

Your personal invitation to the **LEGACY SOCIETY KICKOFF BRUNCH** on Sunday, January 29 is in the mail and should arrive about the time you receive this. This is a new venture for Calvary which merits your enthusiastic response and support. Please return the reply card enclosed with your invitation right away so that we know how many "goodies" to order for this special parish-wide brunch. Child care will be provided between 11:30am and 1pm.

Our special guest speaker will be **Glenn Holliman, Vice President for Giving Services at the Episcopal Church Foundation**. Glenn was one of the first full-time directors of planned giving in the Episcopal Church. His extensive experience with charitable programs for the national church and other not-for-profit agencies make him uniquely qualified to speak to us about the role we all can play in Calvary's future. Many of you will remember him from the Woven in Unity Campaign, which he and his wife Barbara managed for us with such successful results.

You may be wondering **what the Legacy Society is** and how it affects you. Perhaps this is best answered by quoting from the **Vestry Declaration** of December 13, 2004, which says, in part:

With a deep sense of thankfulness for our lives here, we the Vestry of Calvary Church approve and support a program of planned giving as a parish function. We have individually reviewed our own planned giving as related to Calvary Episcopal Church, and enthusiastically encourage all members to do the same.

By following the Vestry's example and making a commitment to support the Calvary Endowment Fund, you will become a charter member of the Calvary Legacy Society and be recognized as one of Calvary's benefactors.

Come to the brunch on January 29 and plan to join the Calvary Legacy Society.

Planned Giving Committee
Frank and Wilma Cipolla, co-chairs



...from the Choir Room

As we welcome the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to simply offer dates for our special liturgies during the next few months.

February 5:	Evensong at 5:00 PM
March 1: ASH WEDNESDAY	Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 AM and 6:30 PM
March 5:	Choral Holy Eucharist for Lent at 5:00 PM
April 9: PALM SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM Tenebrae at 5:00 PM
April 13: MAUNDY THURSDAY	Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar at 7:30 PM
April 14: GOOD FRIDAY	Vigil from Noon until 3:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy at 7:30 PM
April 16: EASTER DAY	Holy Eucharist at 9:00 and 11:00 AM
May 7:	Parish Choir with Chamber Orchestra Concert at 5:00 PM
May 25: ASCENSION DAY	Combined Service with choirs from St. Paul's Cathedral at 7:30 PM

Please mark your calendars for these very special occasions and watch for more information about each of them. Each of these is an opportunity to celebrate the praise and glory of God's love through music. Thank you for your continued support as participants in these Liturgies.

...debi

**NEITHER RAIN, NOR SNOW, NOR
ICE...**

By 5 pm on Thursday, December 15th, when virtually all things with any sense were closed or cancelled because of the impending snow and ice storm, not one choir member had called Debi to inquire as to whether the rehearsal was cancelled. Each realized the importance of the rehearsals leading up to the Christmas services. Nothing more needs to be said.

Quote from a minister I interviewed for my interfaith marriage story:

"As long as Baptists marry Catholics, we'll always have Episcopalians in our church."

KBN

Mouths of Babes

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it. The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" he asked the pastor.

The pastor said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11:15?"

MISSION NEWS

On behalf of the Mission Committee, I would like to thank all of you for your support of the African Team Ministries Sale, our Mitten gift project for School #77, the Episcopal Home gift items, and the Compass House coffee and tea basket.

We recognized a profit of \$980 for the **African Team Ministries Sale**, less than in previous years, but enough to help the projects for which they were designated. Remember that all money goes directly to the African countries for improvements and education. It has been decided to suspend the sale for 2006, and we will evaluate it again in 2007, perhaps changing the time of year it is held. It may be that there are just too many projects running during the Christmas season.



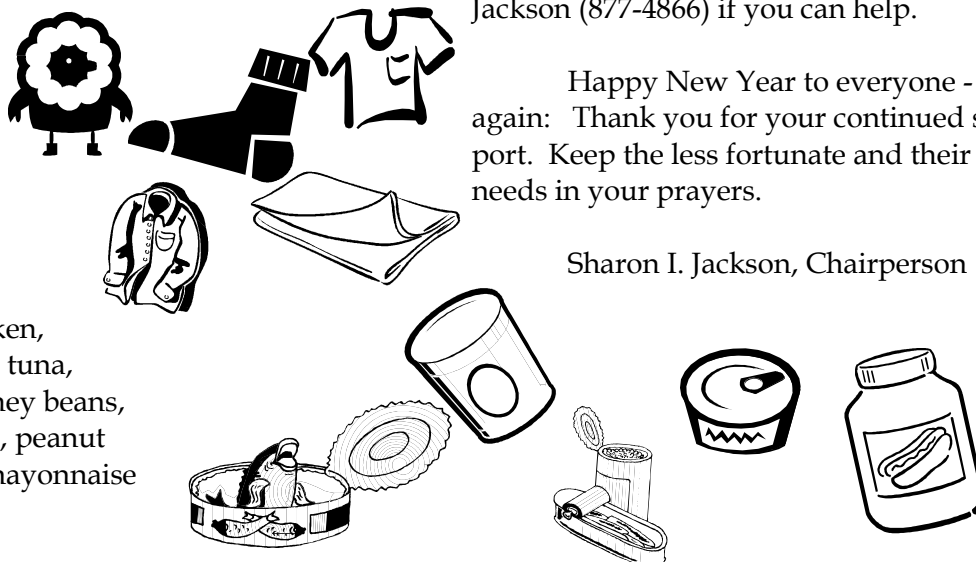
The **School #77 gift distribution** was held on December 20th. This is always a very exciting day for those of us who distribute the gifts at the school. The excitement and appreciation from the students is just such a rewarding experience. A number of gifts were not returned, so it was necessary to purchase gifts for these students.

Food Giving Sundays!!

Just a reminder that **Food Giving Sundays** will continue to be the second Sunday of each month: January 8th, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, and June 11th.

NEEDS:
adult coats,
socks,
blankets,
t-shirts, and
warm shirts

CANNED GOODS: chicken, chili, beef stew, tuna, peas, corn, kidney beans, pork and beans, peanut butter, relish, mayonnaise and carrots.



The December collection was highly successful. With the winter months and cold, snowy weather, the needs are greater. **HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS** is in desperate need of a new mobile soup kitchen. The present motor home is badly in need of repair and the costs do not justify pouring money into the aging vehicle. We will be conducting a fund raiser to help this project in the near future.

We will be serving **FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE** on Sunday, February 19th, April 16th, and June 18th. We have some new volunteers, but it would be nice to see some more. Again, this is the time of year when many homeless partake of the meals that are served. Joan Fischer (688-7647) or Jan Beam 634-4602) would be happy to hear from you.



Jeanne Eaton

(626-5066) would be happy to have some volunteers for **MEALS ON WHEELS** on Fridays for about 2 hours - even if you can only substitute. The snow birds have started to take flight, so there will be a shortage of drivers and deliverers.

The next **Mission meeting** will be held on **Sunday, January 15th at 8:45AM** in the conference room. We have one new member, but *we certainly would like to see more!* Please join us or call Sharon Jackson (877-4866) if you can help.

Happy New Year to everyone - and again: Thank you for your continued support. Keep the less fortunate and their needs in your prayers.

Sharon I. Jackson, Chairperson

...HERE WE GO, AGAIN!

Well, the holidays are neatly tucked away (or another mess was made by the traditional "gotta have them all together 'cuz they are family syndrome") and we are into the New Year. Those pesky resolutions have come around again and it is up to you to wrestle them into submission. This year, for your own sake, please give yourself a break.

Don't go on that darn diet roller coaster again. Resolve only to be moderate, not austere. That will work out better over time anyway.

Don't resolve to go to church every Sunday. Resolve to go more often and to participate more in the life of the parish. That's more realistic and more fun, too!

Don't vow to be more understanding of the shortcomings of others. Resolve to understand from whence they come and deal with them as an adult.

Don't promise not to speak about others behind their backs. Promise to seek solutions that will be beneficial to them when you do - and then promise to share those with them.

Don't promise to love everybody. That's just plain dumb. There are too many people on earth from whom you should (for the love of your own soul) keep a very healthy distance.

Don't promise to mend fences that are not your fences. Too many of us are fixers. We see something "broken" and we cannot rest until we "fix" it. Understand that we cannot fix the problems of others. We can stand by and be supportive if they choose to fix them themselves. Know that God did not put you on earth to replace Him. It is through Him that all things are done. Not through you.

I will admit that we are often conduits for getting certain jobs done. If you will stand back from yourself sufficiently long, look around at all the people whose lives you have infiltrated or they yours. You will see that God has brought you to them for a certain time because you have something that they need. Try not to withhold it. That's a good resolution. Realize that you are perched somewhat precariously on a tightrope. Balance is the key to staying on.

Someone once said, "all things in moderation" - and ain't dat the truth! KBN

The Value

To realize
The value of a sister,
Ask someone
Who doesn't have one.

To realize
The value of ten years,
Ask a newly
Divorced couple.

To realize
The value of four years,
Ask a graduate.

To realize
The value of one year,
Ask a student who
Has failed a final exam.

To realize
The value of nine months,
Ask a mother who gave birth
to a stillborn.

To realize
The value of one month,
Ask a mother who has given birth
To a premature baby.

To realize
The value of one week,
Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize
The value of one minute,
Ask a person who has missed
the train, bus or plane.

To realize
The value of one-second,
Ask a person
Who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one.
Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more
when
you can share it with someone special.

To realize
the value of a friend
or family member,
Lose One.

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

By George Mayer

"For I gave them the words You gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came for You, and they believed that You sent Me." (John 17:8) Jesus was the Incarnate God, sent of the Father. His miracles convinced them of His Messiahship. And, that is what they were designed to do! His words! They search our hearts! They open our eyes! They dispel our doubts! They set our lives afire! When we take these words seriously, things happen that only God could do! By continually listening to these compelling, magnetic words, there is born in our hearts the faith that here is the One who came from God. Our faith is awakened!

Keep reading the words of Jesus and take them seriously! Take them as a revelation of basic underlying truth! These words are indeed the words of God, spoken to you and for you! Nothing convinces like the matchless word of God! Here are the three things that Jesus came to do, and did. He said, "I came to give myself in a self-emptying ministry. I came to manifest an all-empowering name by which anything that needs to be done may be done. And, I came to speak compelling words that would awaken faith in men's hearts and cause them to believe." 1) a work accomplished. 2) a name manifested 3) words uttered to awaken faith. Jesus came from God and went to God. That is what the authentic Christian life is all about! We got our Christian life when we believed in Jesus Christ. It came from God! What happens to your life when you get through with it here on earth? Where does it go? Every Christian believes it goes to the Father! So these words are true of us, as well. Our lives came from God. Our lives go to God.

And what is in between? A life that glorifies the Father, manifesting before the world the name that empowers people; a life that speaks the words that grip human hearts and calls human beings to a realization of their own need and an understanding of truth and reality. In John 17, Jesus offers a prayer that includes all of us, and the astonishing thing is that there is not a word that you and I cannot pray as well. May God lead us to lay hold of the transforming, dynamic Christian life that Jesus Himself manifested. Keep us from being ineffective, ordinary Christians. Challenge us to be true followers of You, ready to fling our lives away for Jesus Christ in order to glorify our savior, Jesus.