

Calvary Chronicles



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

September 2006

Dear Friends,

As September arrives again we will be reminded of events which happened 5 years ago on September 11, 2001; as if we needed reminding. Since that time, we have been engaged in what is now commonly called the War on Terror as well as a more conventional war in Iraq. Underlying this violent and frightening activity is the struggle the western world seems to be in with Islamic fundamentalism. It is tragic that we have so few, if any, responses to religious intolerance other than violence. We all seem bent on destroying each other with all parties in the complex knot of warfare blaming the other for precipitating the bloody situation. I don't claim to know how to assign blame or solve the political and military crisis. That's not my job. I only can recommend that Christians take this time to recognize the flaws in our own religious attitudes with the assumption that God wants us to be transformed into the image of Christ, the one who is the Prince of Peace and who blesses those who live in the strength of humility.

We have a lot in our own Christian world to regret when it comes to the scourge of fundamentalism. I noticed a brief story on the news this weekend about a Baptist Church in Georgia whose pastor fired a Christian education leader on the basis of the supposed New Testament directive that women should be silent and not have any authority over men. One can cut and paste into 21st century lives all sorts of New Testament teachings with disastrously unloving results. We cannot allow ourselves to be oppressed by poorly understood religious teachings and attitudes which do not glorify a loving and accepting God.

In a similar fashion, the government of Nigeria, with the endorsement if not sponsorship of the Anglican Bishop in Nigeria, is likely going to pass pending legislation that would make homosexual activities a crime punishable by incarceration. I can't imagine any church bearing the name of Anglican would be so intoxicated with judgment that it would encourage official punishment to be meted out to people for whom Christ has died. This is symbolic of the evil inherent in contemporary Christian fundamentalism. If we seek to combat the dangers of Islamic terrorism, let us first assist Christ in ridding our communities of fundamentalist fanaticism which infects the Christian world. "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Faithfully,

Steven

CALVARY'S

"GARDENING ANGELS"

You may have noticed that from time to time, flowers pop up and weeds disappear around the church. There is a small, dedicated group of gardeners who try themselves away from their own gardens to work at making the Calvary grounds just a little more beautiful.

The group has been working for three years, and made modest, worthy progress. We've joined with others in the Spring Clean-up day, weeded and refreshed the plantings around the church wall, planted six hydrangeas at the church entrance and other annuals at key viewing spots around the church, planted annuals from Mischler's "flowers for free" program, and maintained the hosta garden in the Courtyard. With so much more to do, we're always looking for more people to join our efforts. Help comes in many ways – you don't have to dig! Watering will help!

On September 17th, the "Gardening Angels" will host Sunday Coffee Hour in the Courtyard (or the Lobby Link). Participate by buying plants and seeds for your own gardens, just in time for fall planting. The funds raised will be spent on spring bulbs and site-appropriate perennials for the church.

Some of the plants/seeds that will be on sale are:

Lamiums	Anemone
Rudbeckia	Cinquefoil
Hostas	Lady's Mantle
Sedum	Jupiter's Beard
Mallows	Lupine
Sweet Woodruff	Daisies
Hollyhocks	Thymus
Lysimachia	Hens 'n Chicks
Yarrow	Scented Geranium
Creeping Jenny	European ginger

And more!

If you'd like to donate plants/seeds or join the "Gardening Angels," please contact:

Geri Mycio – 689-9416
or
gerimycio@aol.com



HELP WANTED:

(Volunteer) Receptionist for small office. Duties include greeting guests, answering and directing phone calls, performing general office tasks (with ample and meaningful appreciation). Hours from 9:00 am-noon *or* noon-3:00 pm, one day/week, Monday through Thursday. No prior experience necessary. Benefits are unique, generous in their own way, rewarding and usually highly spiritual. Call Pat at 633-7800 X222 for further details.

Chronicles Publishing Guidelines

Calvary Chronicles publishes monthly September through June. To submit an article, you may place a "hard copy" (typed or handwritten) in the Chronicles mail box at the church reception/office, mail it to the church office (Attn: Chronicles), e-mail it (unformatted) to

chickscooks@verizon.net

(or to the church office), or stick it in the editor's hand when you see her (Christine Hicks-Usta)..

I do request you provide your name somewhere in or on the submission, in case I do need to call you with questions.

Please have material in no later than the **15th of the month prior to publication** to ensure inclusion. The sooner we receive it, the sooner the publication gets into homes.

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C OMMITTEE
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September 23

Welcome Back!

It's a Calvary tradition to host our annual Welcome Back dinner. This is a celebration of camaraderie to join hands and kick off the ecclesiastical year of worship and community. This event is always lots of fun, and entertainment is planned. Tickets will go on sale in early September. Bring a friend!!



October 13

TGIF - the 13th

We did this a couple of years ago, and can't recall why we didn't do it again - right away and often!! - because it was so much fun! Bring your beverage of choice and something to munch on. It's Friday the 13th - what could be safer than spending it in church?!



October 28

Hallo-Teen Family Night

What happens when you let teens plan a church dinner and Entertainment? We don't know, but it sounds scary! And why not?! It's HALLOWEEN!!



December 2

**Posh Christmas Dinner Dance Dinner and
Dance Evening with Food and some kind of
entertainment plus it's to raise funds and
dancing is may be involved available**

Okay, so this one is still in developmental stages as of this writing; but it involves Christmas time (for sure), and good food (for sure), and will be a major fund raiser (we hope!) for Calvary, in place of the spring "posh picnic." For sure, put the date on your calendar in the meantime, and stay tuned. Watch future Chronicles, read the Sunday church bulletin - or better yet - pitch in to help the Parish Life Committee put on the kind of event you'd want to attend and support!



December 17

Parish Christmas holiday festivities

It's a full day of holiday festivities at Calvary. There will be activities for children of all ages, plus the "Greening of the Church," Christmas-Caroling with our Organist Debi in Calvary's neighborhood, and a Pot Luck to finish a fun day.



January 27

Italian Night

This is the third annual (we think) Italian Night in January, a truly fun evening of sauce and pasta-tively the best entertainment there us - featuring performances by truly talented members of our choir.



February 16

TGIF - Valentine's

(See Oct. 13th, but less scary; maybe romantic! Definitely fun.)



February 20

Shrove Tuesday Supper

We promise something "hotter" than hotcakes. Stay tuned.



March 4

Holy Eucharist Pot Luck

An evening of Evensong and Fellowship.



May 18

TGIF - Season Finale

(See Oct. 13 and Feb 16, but without a theme, really. Still fun.)



The Parish Life Committee is always looking for help. You don't have to be creative. Truly, everyone has talents the committee needs to plan and execute Parish Life special events. Many hands make light work - and we always have a barrel of fun, too. Call Cindy Munschauer (632-3216) to join the fun. Whether you can help on one event or many, call!!

Η βιβλική ελληνική κατηγορία αρχίζει τις 13 Σεπτεμβρίου

**(Which means:
Biblical Greek Class Begins
September 13)**

Calvin Steck has volunteered to teach our new Biblical Greek class this fall, and invites all interested persons to participate. Here are the details so far:

- The weekly class will run Sept - May, Wednesday evenings starting at 7:00 PM
- The first few classes will focus on the Greek alphabet
- We will use a workbook that costs about \$40.00
- Yes - there will be "homework," but there are NO tests!
- This class is for anyone aged 12 and up; each participant proceeds at his own pace, according to interest and ability.

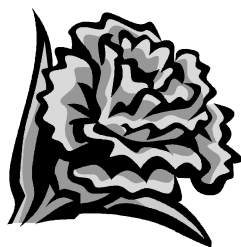
Please join what promises to be a fun and challenging experience--maybe we'll even have cookies once in a while!

The first class is Wednesday September 13 at 7:00 P.M. See you there!!!

Claudia Koczka

**A changing of the
Head Boutonniere**

After many years serving as head usher, Chuck Reid has turned over the job to Lou Butenschoen. Chuck took over as Head Usher during the rectorship of Jerre Feagin. He and Lynn Niendorf split the responsibility until the Niendorfs moved to Arizona.



Calvary owes a debt of gratitude for the time and dedication it takes to keep the Usher Team organized. For his many hours in the capacity of scheduling, recruiting and the administrative part of the job, we want to thank Chuck for his stellar service.

Thank you!

Prayer & Calvary's Prayer Chain

Jesus taught us to pray. When we say the Lord's Prayer, we are part of the Christian Community not only today but with past and future generations.

It has been over a year since the prayer chain members have had a meeting. I thought it would be timely, since everyone is returning from their summer activities, to gather and listen to the **Rev. Calvin Steck** talk to us about prayer.

Bring your thoughts and questions for discussion on **Saturday, September 9th at 10am** in the reception room at Calvary Church. This **meeting is open to everyone** in the parish and their friends, as well as members of the prayer chain.

Call **Joyce Clark** if you have questions about the meeting, at **741-9124**.

Circles



It's that time of year again to begin a new round (?) of Circles! Sign-ups will take place after the 10 AM service on September 3, 10 and 17. Groups will be announced on Sunday, October 1st at Coffee Hour.

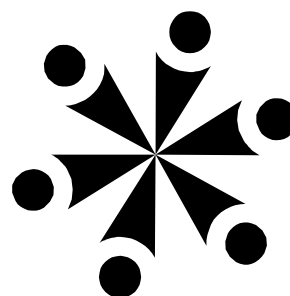
Have you experienced the fun, frolic and fellowship of Circles yet? This social arm of Calvary is not to be missed. Couples, singles and friends are always welcome. Sign up now!

For further information and/or questions, please call:

Helen & Ray Slominski 634-0093

Or

Susan & Jim Siepierski 634-5192



Coffee/Social Hour

Coffee/Social Hours resume **Sunday, September 10th**! Immediately following the 10:00 service in the Scaife Room, coffee/social hours offer you the opportunity to catch up with your fellow parishioners and welcome newcomers – and, of course, EAT (always a good thing)!!!

Again, I thank those who have hosted in the past, and I hope you'll sign up again this year. We also invite newcomers to participate. From personal experience, I can attest that it's a wonderful way to meet people and feel at home at Calvary. Consider sharing hosting responsibilities with a friend. If you would like to host but don't want to host by yourself, please call me and I will pair you with someone on the schedule.

Participation is fun and easy. A sign-up sheet with openings from September through January is posted on the easel in the Scaife Room. Sign up for your Sunday of choice and take an attached instruction sheet (contains detailed directions so you'll know exactly what to do).. Our Sexton, Mike Way, does the hard part – he makes the coffee!



It would be most helpful to have these openings filled by early October. This eliminates scrambling at the last minutes, and allowing us time to properly credit hosts in the Sunday Service leaflet..

Thank you for your participation in this important ministry that provides fellowship and the opportunity for everyone to become acquainted. If you have questions or would prefer to sign up by phone or email, please feel free to call me at 839-1309 or email me at mather@buffalo.edu

Janet Mather

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) - an Update

Since our last update at the beginning of the summer, we have been able to increase the number of pledges from 79 to 88 but we are still below the 102 pledges from the prior year. Unfortunately the average pledge this year is also down from last year at \$125/donor vs. \$176/donor in 2005. These figures translate to a total contribution from Calvary to ECS at \$10,995. to date vs. \$18,000. in 2005. While we still have the remainder of the year to increase our contribution, the trend has not been encouraging.

Now that people are returning from their summer vacations and preparing for the return to schools and the advent of the fall season, please consider participating in the 2006 campaign. If you have misplaced the material from the original mailing, pledge envelopes are available at the back of the church or by contacting an ECS coordinator.*

For those who have already pledged, we thank you for your gift.

*Bill & Joyce Clark,
Len & Nancy Knabelkamp

On Saturday, July 12, 2006, Colleen Day received her first degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. She has been studying under Grand Master Chong of World Class Tae Kwon Do for the past three years which culminated in her black belt testing this past April. This past Saturday was the formal presentation ceremonies and acknowledgment of her accomplishments. We would like to congratulate Colleen on this momentous occasion and wish her continued success.

Michael Day

Attention All Bible Buffs

The **Thursday morning Bible Study Group** will resume meeting on Thursday, September 14th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.. Join us in the Conference Room as we begin a study of The Gospel of St. Luke from The Interpretation Bible Studies. You will find fellowship and lively discussion in a friendly and informal atmosphere. Be a participant in discussion or a listener, but do come and bring your Bible!



Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer will resume on Thursday, September 14th from 9:30 to 10:00a.m. Meet in the Chapel.

Gloria Finley

**ADULT EDUCATION:
CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH:
September of A.D. 2006**

You are invited!

Adult education classes with Calvin Steck begin Sunday, the 10th of September, at 9.00 a.m.

You are invited!

We shall be continuing our study of the origins and formation of the canon of the Bible. Our foci this year are first, the Apocrypha, and then, the New Testament.

The Apocrypha are those books "between the testaments", books with names like *Judith, Esdras, Tobit, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Prayer of Manassah, I & II Maccabees*, and others. What are these books? Where did they come from? Why do we bother with them, when Protestant Churches do not? Where are they in the Roman Bible? Why do Episcopalians (and other Anglicans) have one more book than do the Roman Catholics? What is their authority in our Church?

The answers await you, Sunday mornings, at 9.00 a.m.

You are invited!

This portion of our study should be concluded by Christmas. Then, we move to the New Testament.

What is the earliest book written in the New Testament? Why did Christians even start writing books about the faith? Was all this writing really necessary?

How did the concept of a "gospel" get invented? What about other writings that did not get included in the New Testament? What about the *Gospel of Truth, the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, the Acts of Peter, of Andrew, of Pontius Pilate*, and others? What role did these books play in the formation of our New Testament?

Questions like these will be addressed, along with any other questions you may have.

So, come along, and join your fellow Christians in our study of the sources-book of our Faith.

You are invited!

Calvin Steck

CYM

Nursery News:

We are pleased to welcome Erin Hammil and Cecelia Kozcka to our nursery on a full-time basis. Erin is a Pre-K teacher at Quality Daycare, with a young son of her own whom we hope to see in Sunday school soon. It is our good fortune to have such good people in our nursery on a consistent basis.

However, to safely handle the number of very young children we anticipate utilizing the nursery, we *still need one parent volunteer each Sunday*. So, please check the sign-up sheet located outside of the nursery downstairs to see if there is a date that will work for you.

For those whose children will be new to the nursery this year, please make sure to fill out a nursery information sheet. These can be found on the easel located near the Milton Street entrance. Please come down and say "hello" to both Erin and Cecelia.

Many thanks to Cecelia for taking charge of our nursery during the summer months. We can now offer nursery care throughout the year! Thank you, Cecelia!

Sunday School to Start Soon:

It's hard to believe that we are getting ready for Sunday School to start on September 10th. Please make sure to register your child/ren so that we have their information on file. Forms can be found on the easel located near the Milton Street entrance. We look forward to welcoming your children back into the classroom.

Just a reminder that children ages four through sixth grade meet at 9:40 a.m. downstairs in the children's chapel, while children in grades 7 through 10 meet from 9 to 10 a.m. (classroom locations will be posted on the CYM bulletin board near the Milton Street entrance).

Look in your mailbox for a letter from Children and Youth Ministries (CYM) detailing our schedule for the year. The **Bissell Barn Party** is planned for **October 14th**, and we are joining forces with Parish Life in December for a *not-to-be-missed Christmas Bonanza*. We hope that you will attend as many events and committee meetings as your schedules will allow. Volunteer support is key to our growth, and we thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy schedules to support Calvary Kids! See you soon!

Lisa Maxwell



Mission News

ERIE COUNTY HOME

The Erie County Home is experiencing a shortage of supplies. Bingo prizes, toiletries, perfume, aftershave, jewelry, small stuffed animals, booties (either knitted, crocheted, or sewn), lap robes (at least 3' x 3'), and catheter bags would be greatly appreciated. A basket will be located in the coat room for your donations.

Mark these dates on your calendar:

September 10th

October 8th

November 12th

December 10th

**as these are the dates for our
FOOD GIVING SUNDAYS.**

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL PARTNER

Have you heard the news? School #77 has a new home, School #38, located on Lowell and Rhode Island Streets. This is a much larger, newly renovated school. Mr. Frioth will be the principal. Again, we will be working with the primary grades. Volunteers that previously helped at School #77 are very excited about the new venue and are planning to continue volunteering. We would like to see some new faces. This is such a gratifying experience. Many of us toured the building on August 23rd and were very impressed. We hope to have another tour in the spring for those of you who were unable to attend. If you are interested in learned more about the school or volunteering, please contact Sharon Jackson at 877-4866.



In September, our food will be donated to HOMESPACE-SECOND CHANCE. This is a non-profit organization that provides affordable, transitional housing and support services to homeless, single parents (ages 18-25) and their children. Second Chance is located at 1171 Michigan Avenue and offers many services to these young single parents. Our summer Food Giving Sundays were very disappointing. We hope that now that fall is coming, your response with food and monies will be more gratifying.

MEALS ON WHEELS:

Each Friday from the Senior Center on Audubon Pkwy. This takes less than 2 hours of your time (10:30-12:15PM) and the recipients of the deliveries are so happy to see you. The snow birds will be flying south sooner than later, so Jeanne Eaton (626-5066) needs to replenish her supply of volunteers.

FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE: For 2006, the remaining dates are October 15th and December 17th. FONP is located on Wadsworth and Hudson Streets. You can either meet at the church at 3:15PM or go directly to the site. It takes about 3 hours of your time and you will never experience more thankful people as you meet here. Remember, the homeless numbers are growing in leaps and bounds. Do contact Joan Fischer (633-8252) and let her know that you would be glad to help.

SUPPLY THEMES FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER:

Crayons (Crayola-24 packs)
and

Scissors (round or pointed tips).



A basket will be available as you enter the church hall for your donations.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MISSION, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL SHARON JACKSON at 877-4866.

**Here's one attempt to explain of why
God allows pain and suffering. It's
been circulating the internet. Maybe
you'll find some value in it.**

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job and the customer left the shop.

Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and un-kept.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!"- affirmed the customer..

"That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens, is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

⚡ Eulogy

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, *Common Sense*, who has been with us for many years. No one

knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, that life isn't always fair, and maybe it just was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies such as don't spend more than you earn, and reliable parenting strategies like adults, not children, are actually in charge. His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Tylenol, sun lotion or a band aid to a student; but, could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion..

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. *Common Sense* took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar can sue you for assault..

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm A Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him pass this on.. If not join the majority and do nothing.

FROM THE PCH...

By George Mayer

The Strategy

"That all of them may be One, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be One as We are One: In in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me." (John 17:21-23) Here is the strategy by which God intends to accomplish His objective; our Oneness, our Unity!

In truth, this prayer has been answered ever since the day of Pentecost! This strategy is not of human making! The business of making all Christians One does not depend upon us. It depends upon the Spirit of God! He came for that purpose! (Read 1 Corinthians) In His coming, the spirit accomplishes precisely what Jesus prayed for! This is the divine strategy by which the world may be led to believe.

All Christians are One--not in union or in unison, but in a spirit-endowed unity! This unity is created by and maintained by the indwelling spirit of God! True Oneness comes from the Spirit! We are One in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit! Wonderful unity!

Unity is the sharing of a life! Men and women all over the earth become members of that life by the new birth! As they become members of that life, they enter into a family circle so unmistakable and joyful that the worldlings will envy it. They will long to join the warmth and the fellowship of the family circle. When the church is like this, there is no evangelistic thrust more potent!

The world cannot resist the warmth of Christian love expressed! They will be won by our One-ness in the family circle of God. That is the divine strategy--to make all Christians share one life in one great family. When the love-starved worldlings see our Oneness, lived out in close and loving relationships in the church of Jesus Christ, they will want what we have and they will come to the One Who makes us One!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning September 1st

Regular Office Hours resume:

8:30 am - 4:30 pm Mon - Fri.

Pat is in the office
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday.

Diane is in
Monday through Thursday generally from
10:00 am - 3:00 pm.