

# Calvary Chronicles



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

February 2007

Dear Friends,

This issue of the Chronicles will come to you as Epiphany concludes and Lent begins. It's helpful to me to think of Lent as the Sabbath season for the church which calls us to a time of rest and renewal. While this is not the customary theme for Lent, I think it is a dimension we can usefully include in our life of faith. In order to participate fully in a time of repentance and preparation, it is necessary to step back from our ordinary lives of being busy with projects or single minded pursuit of goals and reflect on just what the meaning and purpose of all this activity might be.

We are people who don't value "downtime" very much, as if we should feel guilty about taking time for refreshment and reflection. Accomplishment is the trophy we all work for without taking much time to ask the question "why?" Gaining in position or possessions is a personal duty for most people which is implanted in our psyches on a par with the drive for food, shelter and reproduction. We are not machines anymore than we are simple beings of instinct; we can and should consider the larger questions of meaning and purpose. That's why we are followers of Jesus and not simply robots of routine.

So, this Sabbath season of Lent, we might slow down and consider the whys and wherefores of our lives. If Jesus is our model, what is missing from life as we now live it which keeps us from life more nearly like his? Have I taken a wrong turn somewhere and found myself less interested in the common good and more obsessed with what's good for me? Am I blaming more than I am accepting responsibility? Are others more of an annoyance than a blessing; do I find myself avoiding relationships with people I find difficult or "high maintenance?" Are my energies over-invested in the material stuff of the world at the expense of emotional and spiritual connections with others and with God? These are some of the questions we might allow ourselves to ask of ourselves this Sabbath Lent. The answers might be uncomfortable, but whatever disturbs our equilibrium might move us into a new, perhaps healthier way of life. And, along the way, it wouldn't hurt to pray for the grace and power to change.

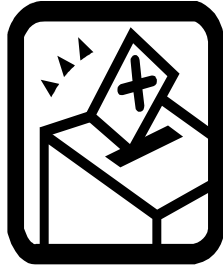
Use Lent this year as time away from chronic, habitual quest for success. Look around and see what you might have been missing. A new life might just be waiting to get started.

Faithfully,

Editor: Christine Hicks-Usta  
Administrative Assistant: Karen Sandburg  
A monthly publication; not published July or August

## Election 2007

The elections are done, and the results are in. Welcome Cari Evans as your new Junior Warden, and the latest vestrypersons to serve a three-year term are:



**Bradley Archdeacon  
Susan Kirkland  
Wendy Schutte.**

Our junior warden brings freshly to the job a just-ended three-year stint on vestry. While some might have welcomed a break from nearly-monthly meetings, Cari stepped into a greater role instead. We are especially lucky to have one so familiar with the issues and topics of the church under her belt, and thank her for answering this call.

Brad, Sue and Wendy assume the reins for departing members Steven Dyson, Patti Rooss and Cari Evans. Thanks to all for their efforts on behalf of Calvary. Special thanks to Steve Dyson, who stepped in to fulfill the term of Peter Ruddy who curtailed last year. Thanks go out to Peter, too, for his two years of service. Thanks to Patti Rooss for her significant contribution in the financial arena. And, again, to Cari, who has assumed a more pivotal role.

We also note the service and retirement of Bruce Davidson, who has thoughtfully and earnestly completed his two year term as Warden. Bruce's contributions shaped and formed new policies and ideas to benefit every corner of Calvary. His experience and service will be missed, but Bruce continues his leadership in Stewardship, sings in the choir, and contributes in so many other areas of Calvary. He's never far away.

**Thanks to all for your  
service and time!**

## *A Sunday you don't want to miss!*

What are you doing on

**Sunday, February 18?**

Of course you will be in church... and do we have a wonderful surprise for you!

The Parish Choir of Calvary Church will host the

## **Choir of Ridley College**

during the 10:00 service. Coffee hour will be hosted by the Parish Choir (you know what that means!) . More information can be found in future service leaflets.

## **ATTENTION SENIORS!**

Have you heard about the Pension Protection Act of 2006? Congress passed a law last August that allows donors who are 70 ½ years of age or older to make charitable gifts from their IRA and exclude the amount of the gift from adjusted gross income? This is good news! Not paying tax on an IRA withdrawal is the equivalent of getting a tax deduction.

To qualify:

- Transfers must be made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity (e.g., Calvary).
- Transfers may be made anytime up to December 31, 2007.
- Transfers may be included in mandatory IRA withdrawal amounts.

If this applies to you, ask your tax advisor for more information. This could be a win-win situation for both you and Calvary!

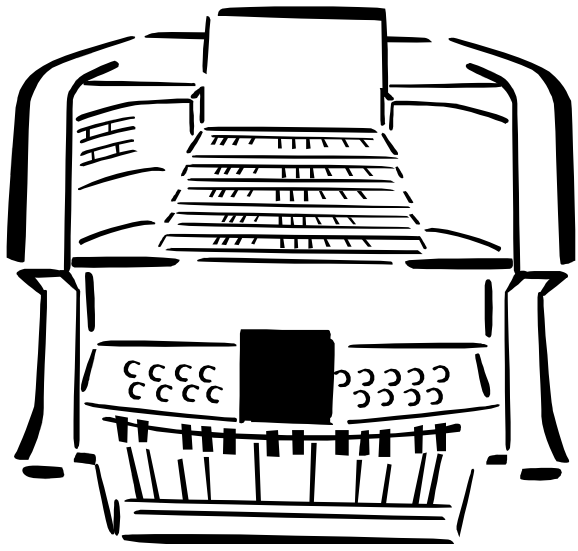
Helpful hint provided courtesy of your  
Planned Giving Committee

Episcopal Community  
Services presents...

“A Night of Music and Magic”

at the  
Historical Riviera Theater

7 pm Preshow Concert  
on the Mighty Wurlitzer



Friday, February 23, 2007  
7:30 pm

Featuring  
Joyce Runkel,  
Mistress of Ceremonies

The Lisa Taylor Dancers  
in *Peter & the Wolf*

Dare 2 Dance

Magician Will Robertson

A Cappella Fellas

Friends of Harmony

The Shrine Chanters

Tickets - \$10 for adults; \$5 under 21

For tickets or additional information contact Joyce Runkel, 876-6238

*“Just around the corner,  
There’s a rainbow in the sky.  
So, let’s have another cup of coffee  
And let’s have another piece of pie.”*

Irving Berlin, 1932

COFFEE HOUR  
HOSTS NEEDED!!!

Coffee Hour!! What a lovely way to catch up with friends, meet new church members, and enjoy a wonderful cup of coffee (or tea or juice) and enjoy some refreshments!!

I offer thanks to everyone who has volunteered to serve as coffee hosts over the last several months – and also to those who have already signed up for an upcoming Sunday.

The new sign-up list has been posted on the easel in the Scaife Room. Please feel free to sign up for a convenient date. Help yourself to an instructions sheet detailing the responsibilities of the host(s). Our sexton, Mike, makes the coffee, so the host(s) needs only to provide the juice, cream and food. Consider signing up with your church group or a friend. If you have questions, please contact me (829-1309, [mather@buffalo.edu](mailto:mather@buffalo.edu)).

Our goal is to offer our congregation refreshments **every** week. Please sign up for a Sunday and help us to meet that goal!!



## *from the Choir Room...*

We at Calvary have been blessed with a music ministry that thrives not only for Sunday services, but also for special events and Evensongs. Your choir rehearses tirelessly and offers a spirituality that is one of the cornerstones of this parish. However, we are musicians only secondarily. First and foremost, we are worshippers. Our music is our prayer. Our offerings are to serve God and to inspire those who listen and join with us in our homage to appreciate and to validate His Word, His life and His sacrifice.

Our next Evensong service will be on Sunday, February 4 at 5:00 p.m. In addition to anthems of Johann Eccard and Egil Hovland, noted composer Ron Martin will be on hand to play as the choir sings his Evening Canticles as well as the anthem "The Altar.." Commissioned by St. Paul's Cathedral / Buffalo to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of organist and choirmaster Dale Adelman, this poignant setting of the George Herbert poem of sacrifice and praise was composed mostly in one day. As it happened, the day Ron set aside for this task was September 11, 2001.

The Parish Choir has been invited by Mr. Martin to sing this same service the following Sunday, February 11, at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Main St. in Buffalo. This service will take place at 4:00 pm.

It is our prayer and our hope that you will support this very important and very crucial aspect of our church's infrastructure as participants in this service. We will be singing not only for God, but also for you - our church family. Bring your family and your friends.

...debi



## The gifts of God for the people of God



**W**e remember God's greatest gifts in the Eucharist. God calls us to use all our gifts in ministry by giving of ourselves and our means.

Leaving a planned gift to your church's mission reminds the next generation of your enduring faith and beliefs.

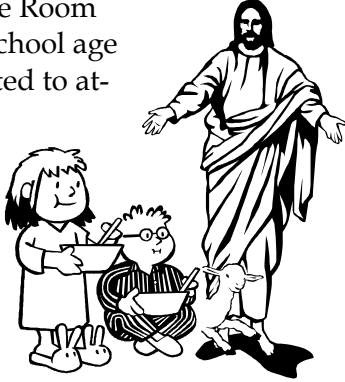
Contact the  
Planned Giving Committee to find out how you can  
leave a lasting witness.

Please call Frank or Wilma Cipolla at 839-0410

# CYM

*Don't miss out on the many activities being planned by and for the children/youth of this parish over the next several months.*

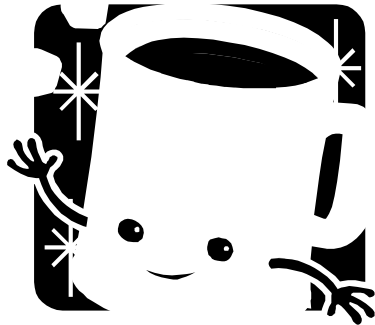
January 21<sup>st</sup> Breakfast with Jesus will take place in the Scaife Room and all Sunday school age children are invited to attend.



January 28<sup>th</sup> Youth Eucharist Planned with Jay Phillippi and Steven Metcalfe in the Scaife Room at 9 a.m. Jay will also be providing the sermon during the ten o'clock service.

February 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop's Ball has been hosted by Calvary for years. Let's support this annual youth event. The festivities will take place from 7:00 pm -10:30 pm and tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5.00. It's open to 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Bring a friend and have some fun!

February 11<sup>th</sup> will be our Sunday to host coffee hour. There will be a Valentines Day craft for the kids, courtesy of Andrea Turton, and enough goodies to go around! With decorations by our own Cinda Stone with contributions by the Sunday school classes, this coffee hour promises to tantalize all of the senses!



A date will be confirmed shortly in March for our annual ice skating party. This event is co-sponsored by Corner House Nursery School and takes place at The Pepsi Center followed by pizza and pop. With more than 100 skaters attending last year, we anticipate another skating spectacular.

Based upon the success of the Truman Show, The Rite 13 class is planning another movie night soon. Other activities being considered by the youth are bowling nights and mission activities in conjunction with School #30. EYE-type events are what youth are requesting, so please consider what you can offer in the way of social events. Maybe you have a home in the country that would be a fun meeting place, or would like to chaperone the kids to a concert, or you have an idea for something that would appeal to teenagers just wanting to get together, talk and have a good time. If so, we'd love to hear from you.

A special thank you to Hally and Taylor Stone, Alexis Miller, Kelsey Mildenberger and Dan Archdeacon for attending our January CYM meeting at the Creekview. Your input and suggestions were much appreciated! We hope to see you at our February meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

For more in-depth coverage of Children and Youth Ministries meeting, please read our minutes posted on Calvary's website or pick up a copy on the Calvary Kids bulletin board located near the Milton Street Entrance.

Lisa Maxwell, Co-Chair, Children and Youth Ministries

## Stewardship 2007

*The Stewardship Committee is grateful to those of you who have made financial commitments through pledges to Calvary Church for 2007. We thank you for your generosity to the many ministries at Calvary that support Christ's work here in Western New York.*

## Mission News

### FOOD GIVING SUNDAY

On New Year's Day, a friend and I were making our way to the HSBC Arena for a Sabres game. As we proceeded down Washington Street, we passed many homeless people sleeping in doorways with all of their belongings in a shopping cart. I couldn't help but feel guilty because I was going to a hockey game and they were sleeping out in the cold. I realized that these were the people serviced by the Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Soup Kitchen. Approximately 1200-1500 meals are served each month, the majority of the recipients being males. Many of these are the homeless people. The daily menu consists of a hot meal, sandwich, dessert, and a beverage.



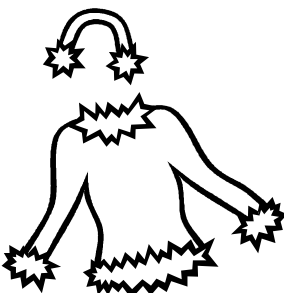
At this time, the needs list consists of...

#### CANNED GOODS:

**Beef**  
**Chicken**  
**Diced Tomatoes**  
**Beef Stew**  
**Chili**  
**Cream of Mushroom Soup**  
**Gravies**  
**Hot Sauce**  
**Tuna**  
**Kidney Beans**  
**Mayonnaise**  
**Pork 'N Beans**  
**Peanut Butter**  
**Relish**  
**Rice**  
**Corn**  
**Peas – and**  
**Carrots.**



Since winter is an especially difficult time for these people, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, jackets, and sweaters would be greatly appreciated.



## HEARTS FOR THE HOMELESS...

will be the beneficiaries of our Food Giving Sunday on February 11th. If you cannot carry food items to the church or if you forget, monetary donations are definitely acceptable. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### A SPECIAL THANKS

- to Bill and Joyce Clark for donating a bassinette to Homespace-Second Chance. They were even kind enough to deliver it to the facility on Michigan Avenue. Homespace was desperately in need of another bassinette as they were expecting 3 more babies.

- to Children's Mission for helping to defray the cost of some special programs for school #30. They have also been collecting books for the children. Lisa Maxwell has been kind enough to deliver the books to the school.

### SCHOOL #30

I am pleased to inform you that we have provided the monies for 4 programs for the children at the school. On December 19th, K-4th grades saw the Wonder-makers – Winter Wonderland (2 performances). On February 6th the 5th-8th grades will be entertained by Jama, Jama, an African Drum and Dance Ensemble-A Young Audience Program.

Obtaining buses for the school children to go on field trips is very costly. For that reason, the programs are held in the school and benefit more of the children.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 11th-Food Giving Sunday to benefit Hearts for the Homeless.

February 18th-Friends of the Night People.

March 11th-Food Giving Sunday to benefit Homespace - Second Chance.

March 14th-Mission Meeting-10AM-Conference Room. At 9:15AM, we will meet in the lobby link to sort items from the bins. We'd love to have some extra pairs of hands to help with the sorting. It is a very easy job with more people to help.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE appreciates your support.

Sharon Jackson

## PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

by George Mayer

Last time, we were being led into the “river of living water” by God. And the first step was to wade in up to our ankles. However, this step is not adequate in order to live the Spirit - derived life to the fullest.

“He...led me through water that was knee-deep.” This is the second step. Have you experience “knee-deep” Christianity, the place of hungering and thirsting for God, the place of seeking His face? At this stage, a Christian is not satisfied with being merely born again, but hungers for something deeper.

“He...led me through water that was up to the waist.” Now, the waters of the Spirit are beginning to possess us! There is less of us now and more of the grace of God. Our own power has been swallowed up in the waters of God’s power. We have grasped the fact that it is “not by might nor by power, but by my spirit”, says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6). This is how the Christian life is lived. It is not our human desire to do something for God, but our Spirit-led submission and our dependence upon God that leads to abundant life.

But, we still have to take the final plunge into the river of God’s life: “Now it is as a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in - a river that no one could cross.” At this point, we are utterly committed. We are in over our heads. We are swept along in the current of God’s grace.

Because of this “river”, the land becomes fruitful. Everywhere the “river” flows, things begin to sprout, bloom, and hum with life. This “river” flows right through the middle of live (Revelations 22:102). Have you found the river of the Spirit yet?

Until we have taken that plunge, life is nothing but a plodding, dogged, difficult path full of frustrations and spiritual defeats. But when we immerse ourselves in the mighty, gushing torrent of the “river of living water,” once the Spirit of God flows through us and over us like a rushing, life-giving river, then the entire Christian life begins to make sense.

May this be our goal: to become God’s city, God’s eternal dwelling place, God’s temple through which His river of life flows. May we plunge ourselves fully into the river of His Sprig, immersing ourselves in the refreshing coolness of its life-giving depths, discovering its healing power for our lives today - and the life to come. Amen!