

Calvary Chronicles



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

March 2007

*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be **revealed**.* Romans 8:18

Dear Friends,

I greet you from the deepest part of the winter blues. Most of us struggle to keep up, above the downward pull of this season's inevitable cold and frozen gloom. We long for more light, more heat, the sweet balm of a Spring evening. The Lord has cast us into a time of trial in a season where life seems barely to drag on toward a future which is so slow in coming that our senses can barely detect any signs of hope. Here is where our faith is tried in looking for a better day. Now is when we simply hang on, with hope clinging to unseen promises that "now" will turn into the glories of the salvation we at long last see.

We are people of seasons and of moods as much as we are enlightened souls whose minds know things are different from what they seem. Faith sometimes needs the intellect to guide us beyond the places where we feel cold and unloved. God will make right everything that may feel wrong and his love will cut through every prison into which life casts us. Whatever grieves or crushes will give way to the peace which is always ready to come in, always just ahead. Expect a breakthrough of dazzling light.

Faithfully,

...from the Choir Room

Some would say that the season of Lent is a time for serious, disciplined self-examination, a time spent in intensive prayer and repentance before the cross of Calvary – a dark and somber time to examine ourselves carefully.

Indeed, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

We began the journey on Ash Wednesday, at the service for Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes. Plan now to continue your journey with us on Sunday, March 4, at 5:00 PM, as we will celebrate a service of Holy Eucharist for the Lenten season. The choir will sing the Communion Service in F Major by Harold Darke, and a setting of the beloved spiritual "Steal Away," by Dale Adelman.

Join us in this journey of remembering the time of our baptism when Jesus washed away our sins, providing us newness of life to celebrate in the triumph of Palm Sunday and the glory of His resurrection on Easter Day.

...debi

LOOKING AHEAD – Part II

On Sunday, March 11, Amy Maxwell from Hospice Buffalo, in conjunction with our Rector Steven Metcalfe, will present Part II of the very popular program offered last March called "Looking Ahead to Life's End." It will take place at 9am in the Scaife Room, replacing Calvin's regular Adult Education class, and will be both a presentation of information and a conversation about services that are available from the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care. Amy Maxwell is associated with the End-of-Life Education program at Hospice and is well-equipped to talk about issues related to care-giving, self-advocacy, and advance directives. This is a unique opportunity to learn about resources that we and our families can draw on at the end of life. Plan to attend this important program.

"Looking Ahead to Life's End" Presented by Amy Maxwell, Hospice Buffalo

**9 A.M.
Sunday, March 11th
Scaife Room**

Co-sponsors:
Planned Giving and
Congregational Care Committees

FEED YOUR SOUL AND BODY

On March 4th, our renowned Parish Choir will present our **Annual Choral Eucharist** at 5 pm. The Parish Life Committee extends an open invitation to all parishioners to both create and attend one of Calvary's outstanding Pot Luck dinners after the service.

There will be **no charge for this event**. Simply sign on to make a **main dish, salad or side dish**. Parish Life will provide soft drinks, coffee & dessert.

Our choir is a wellspring of our church. On January 27th, they provided the entertainment for "A Night in Milano"...On February 4, they presented a glorious Evensong at Calvary...on February 11, they repeated that Evensong at St. Joseph's RC Church on Main Street...and on February 18th, they provided the desserts and staffed the coffee hour after the concert by the Ridley Choir.

They are there for us whenever we need them. We ask that you extend yourself to **both** attend the March 4 Choral Eucharist and stay for dinner and fellowship with the choir and each other. **Sign up at the Ticketron in the Reception Room the next two Sundays.**

Info – contact: **PLC Chair, Cindy Munschauer 632-3216** or Kathleen Niles 688-8085.

**Sunday - March 4
Choral Eucharist - 5 pm
Pot Luck Dinner - 6 pm**

THY WILL BE DONE

An argument could be made that the business of death is so taxing that there ought not to be other demands associated with such an event. Unfortunately, we are not let off the hook so easily. While considering issues relating to death and dying may seem difficult or frightening, avoiding them could have significant ramifications. One oft quoted statistic is that close to 70% of Americans die without having created a will, potentially causing heirs to lose money to taxes, or preventing beloved family members, friends, or charities from receiving any funds.

Making a will is about more than avoiding giving any extra funding to Uncle Sam (though that can be a helpful side benefit). We are all familiar with the phrase "last will and testament" and testament is a key word. Our wills are our last chance to state our values about whom and what we loved for throughout our lives. Not only do we have the opportunity to provide a secure future for our loved ones, we could also contribute to the sustaining of a valued charity.

We may also want to consider how a will becomes a reflection of our values. For example, some people choose to include a Christian Preamble in their will. This preamble clearly shows the individual's appreciation for the gifts that God has given throughout life. Individuals may also choose to make a bequest to the parish where they have worshiped for countless Sundays, or to a specific parish ministry where they have given their time and talent. Opportunities to demonstrate love and thanks for all that God has done for us abound throughout life and as we face death. We should be careful to seize those chances where we can.

For further information about the Christian Preamble and leaving a bequest to your parish, please contact Frank & Wilma Cipolla @ 839-0410.

Your Children and Youth Ministry Committee has been hard at work implementing a new curriculum. This curriculum has been developed based upon many meetings with teachers, parents and Steven. It is a three-year program that is designed to provide continuity from class to class providing each child with not only an understanding of the stories of the bible but to engage them in discussion of the traditions and ideas contained therein. We are fortunate to have such talented and dedicated Sunday school teachers at Calvary.

I would like to give you a snap shot of what is happening downstairs. We invite you to come visit your child's class. Soon we will be scheduling "Moving Up Day" for children who will be changing classes in the fall. This way they can meet their new teacher and have a day to experience their new class in advance.

If you sat in on the Primary Class (grades 1-3), here is a sample of what you might expect to see. For the past three weeks, the Primary Class has been learning about Jesus' parables beginning with The Good Samaritan. The children acted out portions of the story and then worked in teams to create murals depicting the sequence of events. These murals have been displayed behind the table at coffee hour for the past couple of Sundays. You don't want to miss them!

This past Sunday, they heard the story of the Parable of the Sower. The children had fun re-telling the story of an "edible" parable. They retold the parable using graham crackers (to simulate the ground), colored sprinkles (as seeds), M&Ms (for rocks), fruit roll ups (for weeds) and chocolate frosting (for soil). They used a thinned frosting under the M&Ms to represent the shallow soil and generously applied regular frosting to represent fertile soil. It was great fun!

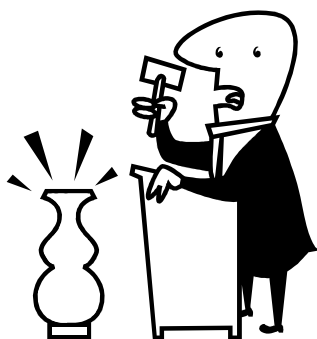
On February 25th representative "actors" from all three Sunday school classes re-presented their play "Breakfast with Jesus" to the entire congregation. Music will also be a part of this very special service. We hope that you will take the time to thank the performers for their efforts and to your Sunday school teachers for loving what they do for Calvary Kids.

Lisa Maxwell, Co-Chair CYM

“Milano” Was A Great Place to Visit

Another cold winter night was warmed by the fellowship and spirit of the people of Calvary when we gathered for dinner, entertainment and an auction on January 27th. While it takes an enormous effort on the part of scores of parishioners to pull off the kind of success that our Italian Nights (Venice, Tuscany & Milan) have had, we get better and better at delivering a hearty meal with benefits each year.

Kudos to Dave, Cris and Sam for the Herculean job of putting a hot plate of lasagna or spaghetti on over 165 place settings in just under twenty minutes....try that one Chef's!!! The runners who carried the plates and sauce were phenomenal. Thanks to all who donated incredible items to the auctions, silent and live, with our Dave Fiegel handling the mic work. Letters have gone out to each of our generous benefactors.



Thanks to Karen Davidson's team who made the Scaife look like an elegant Italian restaurant...to Karen Sandburg whose programs are always outstanding...to Debi and the Parish Choir members who practiced both individually and as a group to give us such a fine musical interlude...to Julie Preston for organizing and supervising the auction...the live auction raised \$4000 and the silent auction raised almost \$1600. The calculations are not yet complete because we need to add in ticket sales and subtract expenses... however it is creeping toward \$7000...thanks to Cindy Munschauer for her leadership... to me for the obsessive-compulsive genes that



do the logistics... to the clean up crew who makes certain Mikey doesn't come in to a mess on Sunday morning ... and , most of all, to you, the parishioners who stepped up and donated the wine, the lasagnas, the salads, the breads, the cheeses, some of the desserts and paid for a ticket in order to do so.

In truth, it has been my greatest fear these last few years that someone will notice that I ask you to do it all and still reach in your wallet for a couple more bucks for Calvary. So far, no one seems to have caught on. When you all do figure it out, I guess I will have to go back from whence I came....naw, that isn't going to happen. I rather love being an Anglican and intend to ply my trade as long as you allow. Bless your hearts, your souls, and your willingness to play along for love of God and church.

Kathleen

Church squirrels

(a tiny bit of humor)

There were Five country houses of worship in a small TEXAS town: The Presbyterian Church,



the Baptist Church , the Methodist Church, the Catholic Church and the Jewish Synagogue. Each church was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the Squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

But -- The Catholic Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard about the Jewish Synagogue, but they took one squirrel and had a short service with him called circumcision and they haven't seen a squirrel on the property since.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 1	Palm Sunday	8 & 10 AM 5 PM	Holy Eucharist/ Liturgy of the Palms A Service of Tenebrae
April 5	Maundy Thursday	7:30 PM	Holy Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar
April 6	Good Friday	Noon – 3PM 7:30 PM	Good Friday Vigil Good Friday Liturgy
April 8	Easter Day	9:00 & 11:00 AM	Festival Holy Eucharist

Easter At Calvary Flower Fund

*To help defray the expense of special
Easter flowers and plants.*

In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

Given by:



Please return this form to the Church Office by March 25th.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We know it's Shrove Tuesday when Jim Greno shows up carrying his shovel. It's the harbinger of pancake flipping about to happen at the annual Calvary Pancake Supper. Under the relatively new auspices of our own Sam Alessi, the event went off as flawlessly as ever. The pancakes were hot; the service was stellar, and the crew too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say it was wonderful to see some new faces in the kitchen, and we hope they reappear in another year.

Thanks to all – and especially Sam - for a successful and fun Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

Mark Your Calendars for May 11th!

Our Parish Life Committee is at it again - planning another wonderful soiree of fun and fellowship! This special event will happen **Friday, May 11th from 7-10 p.m.** Details are not finalized, but rumor has it one fantastic "**Sax Man**" has been booked by Tom and Joanne Doran.

PLC needs people to help with this event. A planning meeting has been scheduled for **Thursday, March 8th** in the Reception Room. It's going to be a whole lot of fun, so we encourage you to join us, and bring your fresh ideas with you. As they say, the more the merrier!

**For more information, please contact
Cindy Munschauer at 632-3216.**

Prayers from the Pew
By: George Mayer

I hope that many of you are enjoying your swim in “the river of living water.” If so, have you discovered yet that God is full of surprises?

Mere superficial pressures never determine life’s outcome. The result that seems logically inevitable as you face a situation is not necessarily what will happen if you trust in the invisible God who rules visible human affairs.

This is the great lesson of the Book of Daniel, so beautifully expressed in this prayer to God: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him.” (Daniel 2:20-33)

If you are intimately linked with the Living God of the universe, you don’t need to worry about what the crowd is doing – or even what our “leaders” are doing. The same God who created the world is able to carry you through and to work out every situation of your life, no matter how impossible it may seem.

You may not realize it, but we are in exactly the same position today that Daniel was in so long ago! The world lives with the idea that there is no God, or that if He does exist, He has no real power. God doesn’t do anything. He doesn’t change history. He doesn’t affect human lives. He doesn’t enter into situations and make any difference. That is the world’s philosophy.

But, every believer who walks faithfully, obeying what God says regardless of threats, temptations or pressures, is eventually placed in a pivotal position and is given the privilege of opening the eyes of men and women to the fact that God exists, that He is not dead, that He is at work in the world, and that He must be reckoned with.

Remember Shadrack, Meschach and Abednego and the fiery furnace? Their faith and trust in God was total! They teach us that some things are more important than life. It is better to be dead and obedient to God than alive and disobedient to Him. We profit more from walking with God and dying with God than by living after disobeying Him.

If you can relate to this kind of loyalty and complete commitment to God, then you are indeed swimming in “the river of living water.”

PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME BEG!!!



We are still in need of hosts for coffee hours. Please consider taking a turn. You can host by yourself, with a friend, or with your church group. It will give you the opportunity to hone your baking skills (or your shopping skills). You’ll catch up with old friends, make new friends, **be popular!!** Come on – give it a try!

It’s easy! All you have to do is sign up for your Sunday of choice on the easel in the Scaife Room and pick up an instruction sheet that tells you everything you need to know to be a host. Mike makes the coffee and sets everything up. You just have to provide the juice and the food!

So, doggone it, throw me a bone and sign up today!

Janet Mather

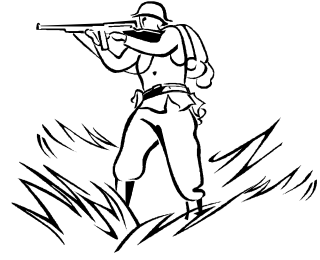
February 17

Hi Guys,

So I know I have not written in a bit, but I've been busy with training and having fun. Because I am an MP I get to do a lot of high speed training like learning how to drive Hum vies. Those things are sweet but are also a beast to drive. I also trained shot and qualified on the M9 pistol, definitely a nice weapon to shoot. People were saying over xmas that I had lost a lot of weight, well I weighed myself little while back and I was 154 lbs before I left I was 174 lbs. I've been working out extra here definitely getting back into shape. On the last PT test I did 76 push-ups and 71 sit-ups and a 14.28 min in 2 miles. I have not done that well in a long time but it was graded by others. Pvt's this coming Saturday we have another PT test by the Drill Sgt.'s so that will be the true test. I went on an FTX with my company to complete my basic training. OK lights went out and had to go to bed. This morning I played dodge ball in our bay. We take road guard vest; those are the vests you see construction workers wearing. We wear them as road guards, Pvt's who block the road as we march or run by. We also have to wear them when we go on details and we all laugh about that, because we all look like convicts. We are on the side of the road picking up garbage or moving down branches or picking up leaves (200 some Pvt's, 10 rakes) because we all have road guard vests on., all we need is the chains, we would look like convicts but anyway I went to church and had all my gear on.

It was a little tough at church today because my battle buddy Beamer's good friend committed suicide and it is tough on him. So some of the company is on pass right now, but I am back in the bay because I did not have a high enough score, so I have been off and on writing this letter and playing games. But back to a page ago. The Ftx, fight training exercise was cold but fun. We started by going with a full rucksack on our back and rucking 10k out to the site. The site was sweet, they made it look like a real FOB (forward obstruction base) with walls and gates they have towers and fortified postings to guard them. On the way we carried our M16A2 and we loaded with blanks. We were rucking as a platoon element (about 50 pvt's) and were ambushed and had a fire fight. Once we were there we set up security and set up the FOB. We put up all the tents and each tent got two stoves in them that had to have two pvt's stay there to tend them 24/7. as fire guards. When walking around we had to wear our ACH (Kevlar helmet) LBV (armor vest), IBA (armor vest), Pro Mask (gas mask) that would be around 60 lbs on plus you uniform and things you want to carry. Now when going around the FOB except when in tents you have that on 95% of the time. Your weapon on the other hand is on you 100% of the time, even when you sleep. An M16A2 is in your sleeping bag is not the most comfortable thing in the world let me tell you. The reason we wore our gas masks is because they made it as we were in a real FOB and one thing in an FOB

that can happen is you can be gassed by the enemy. Our Drill Sgt. pop gassed on us two times. The gas they used is SCS gas or known as tear gas and it was not that bad all you



do is hold your breath get out your mask and put it on. You then clear it and breathe normal. I got a little SCS gas in mine but it was not bad. Some people ran it was funny, the Drill SGT.'s yelling and made them go back. With their mask AFTER the second time we had to go to MPO level 4, which all that on it gets hot and you can only drink with a straw like device through the mask. This is a hard feat to do for the mask is hard to breath in and then drinking you feel like your suffocating. We also had to run and do other things with it on you felt like you were going to pop, I was VERY hot in that stuff and hard to breath. We also did a bunch of missions as a squad; my squad had 10 pvt's in it.

Ok back to this letter, it is President's Day and on Federal Holidays we do not train. I did not get a pass today I have been bored. Army training you do a lot of cleaning and sitting around. Back to the fun missions, the first was setting up a hasty check point as in Iraq. They had a hum vies pull up and it had in it two Iraq dressed pvt's. When we search them one had a bomb. We then had to react to it. Next we had to react to contact, which means go out into the woods and find the enemy and kill them. It was coo they set up an IED that killed my squad leader and member. Next we went to Mout site, which is where we did all the really cool missions. Mout is the Urban Warfare. The first one that we did was to patrol through city streets. In the Mout site they have a city block set up looking like a city in Iraq. When we went through we had to shoot any enemies but at the same time we had things messing us up. Civilians trying to mess with you bad and good plus they could pull a weapon on you. We also had "CNN" reporters messing with us. Any window could be shot from, IEDs going off smoke grenades making it hard to see, trip wire setting off IEDs. It was a rush. The next one was we had to go into City Hall and clear the room. We killed everyone. We were bad asses from hell, we scared pants off the pvt's acting as OP4 (enemies).

OK I am done this letter is too long, Miss you all hope you all doing good.

Love, Pfc Kid

PS Send me more jokes, little food will not hurt. Not emergency but some stamps would be cool.