

Calvary Chronicles



CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK

April 2008

Dear Friends,

It's just after Easter and our Thursday Bible class is taking up the study of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Paul clearly has affection for these new Christians and he chooses to commend and encourage rather than criticize or threaten. A softer St. Paul emerges where the strict Father in Christ seems to make appearances so often elsewhere. He wants to remind the members of Christ at Philippi that they are to expect joy in their life in Christ even though to follow Jesus is to court opposition, persecution, incarceration and even execution. Apparently the life of faith in Christ is so rewarding that there is nothing which the baptized wouldn't risk, even their very lives, for the sake of being a faithful friend and disciple. St. Paul was in prison when he wrote and others had found themselves in the same situation.

How different our life in Christ is from that of these first century believers. They had real opponents, we face yawning indifference; they were urged to accept suffering, we dread getting up early; they dared "to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear"; many of us are uneasy even admitting we go to church. Something world changing happened to those first believers and they described it as being saved from sin, destruction, death, taken out of the hand of the powers of darkness. Their joy was immense. We have definitely lost the edge.

What happened to the Gospel of power which some found threatening enough to imprison and execute people while others thanked God on their knees for delivering them from the enemy? I wonder if it is possible to reclaim that Word of God and recognize ourselves as engaged in a life and death struggle. I have a suspicion that if our Gospel doesn't matter too much, our life in Christ won't be very compelling and our joy not much more than occasional pleasure. I believe we still have opponents, but they are vaporous or disguised. The Gospel can still be threatening, but we're too unsure about that Word to risk being impolite. Church life today is as much, or more, about saving the Church as it is about God saving the world in Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have inherited the life, death and resurrection of Jesus which has been bestowed upon us at Easter. We are him and he is us. May our work of discernment of the mission of Christ in Calvary continue this Easter season under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. St Paul prays for us as he prayed for those in Philippi: "that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you discover what is best."

Faithfully,

Steven †

o^opine (ō-pīn')

From time to time, Calvary Chronicles receives unsolicited opinions from parishioners. In an effort to better characterize the nature of these submissions, an Opinions section has been created, where all such material will be found in future issues.

If you have an opinion you'd like expressed in a subsequent Chronicles, please email

your article/letter to the Editor at chicksooks@calvaryepiscopal.net. You may also drop off your letter/article to the church office. We will only print signed material; no anonymous submissions will be considered.

The Editor, Wardens and (finally) Rector reserve final decisions to print materials. We ask you to weigh your judgments, words and intent thoughtfully and prayerfully prior to submitting your work.

From the Pew

By George Mayer

Last time I mentioned some philosophies that are prevalent today that are false, such as the view that human beings will not experience an afterlife, have no purpose for living, so enjoy yourself, forget faith and morality, eat, drink and be merry for this moment, because that's all there is. These ideas are completely contrary to the true knowledge of scripture. They depend, as Paul said, "on human tradition."

Human knowledge is rudimentary, elementary, and basic to the fallen nature of this world. It stays on the periphery of truth, never getting to the real heart of spiritual reality. This is why our nation's university community, its entertainment community, its information and news community and its political establishment have become so saturated with people who claim the highest levels of human knowledge, yet they are filled with villainess, corruption, immorality, lawlessness,

drug abuse and every evidence of moral decay and spiritual deterioration. Today, all of these institutions in our society are permeated, if not dominated, by a philosophy called deconstructionism, a worldly philosophy that teaches that words have no objective content, and therefore, words have no truth. Today's liberal theology has become deeply infected with the disease of deconstructionism, and it fosters two very destructive beliefs.

First, if truth cannot be assigned to words, then we can make words mean anything we want them to. We no longer have to be concerned with objective truth, with true truth. Each of us can invent our own truth, our own reality. I can lie and call it truth if it gets me what I want. Second, the bible - the Word or Logos of God - can be deconstructed, emptied of all truth. These words of Jesus make no sense to deconstructionists: "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17) While Jesus says God's Logos is truth, the wisdom of this world cancels out the Logos of God, portraying the Word of God as empty and meaningless. "You have your truth," says the wisdom of this world, "and I have my truth - so don't you dare impose your truth on me."

Even at its very truest and most pure, human knowledge does not address the heart of reality as the Word of God does. The truth of this world, when it is validated by God's Word, can complement the truth of scripture (as when archaeological discoveries verify biblical accounts). But human knowledge can never supersede, contradict or invalidate God's Word. The wisdom of God always stands above any so-called knowledge of this world.

Save this Date: June 22!!



It's the First Annual...

*Calvary Courtyard Picnic -
A Berry Social Event*

Details to follow soon.

...from the Choir Room

While many folks may speculate that things begin to “wind down” after Easter, the music world is just getting geared up for some pretty spectacular springtime offerings, and we at Calvary are no exception.

We are pleased that your Parish Choir has been invited to participate in a local choral concert on the afternoon of April 27 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Main St. This concert is being presented to honor Frank Scinta. Frank has been extremely active in the choral world in Buffalo for years. From young to old, if you are involved in choral music in Buffalo, you have, no doubt, worked with Frank. Approximately 8 local choirs will be offering two short selections each and then we will all combine for the singing of some favorite hymns with organ and brass accompaniment. Mark your calendars now for **Sunday, April 27 at 4:00.**

On **Friday night, May 9 at 7:30 PM,** Calvary’s Parish Choir will host a recital and concert featuring guest organist Daniel Fortune. Many of you may remember Dan from his days as assistant organist/choirmaster at St. Paul’s Cathedral in Buffalo. This concert is being presented in order to showcase our newly renovated organ. Dan will play works of Bach, Whitlock and others. Also included on the concert will be the *Lux Aeterna* by Morten Lauridsen. As noted by the composer himself, the work is “...an intimate work of quiet serenity centered around a universal symbol of hope, reassurance, goodness and illumination at all levels.” Dan will accompany our choir in this magnificently scored work. A reception will follow in the Scaife Room.

Finally, on **Sunday afternoon, June 1,** Calvary will host the Harpur Chorale from Binghamton University. Harpur Chorale is a group of 24 college students who will be touring our area and Calvary will be one of their stops. We will need some assistance with receptions, a dinner and lunch as well as housing for these students. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at the church office (633-7800). Your generosity and support will be most appreciated.

...debi

We’re pulling out all the stops—

Really!!

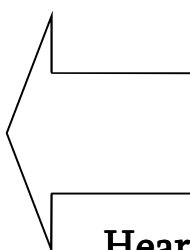
And celebrating our newly renovated, restored and enhanced church organ!



Friday, May 9th

At 7:30 pm

(see article)



Hear a recital and concert featuring Daniel Fortune. Enjoy works by Bach and Whitlock. The church choir will perform

Lux Aeterna

by Morten Lauridsen

“...an intimate work of quiet serenity centered around a universal symbol of hope, reassurance, goodness and illumination at all levels.”

The concert will be followed by an elegant courtyard

Champagne* Reception

sponsored by your Parish Life Committee

*featuring *champagnes, dessert wines, port, ginger ale, non-alcoholic punch, cookies, cheese, crackers, and fruit.*

In the event of rain, the reception will be held in the Scaife Room.

CYM

By the time you receive this issue of Chronicles, Sunday school kids will have completed their Lenten program and will be looking forward to Spring and all of the activities associated with the end of the Sunday school season the highlight of which is Confirmation for four of our own on April 6th by Bishop Michael.

This is an exciting day for the entire congregation. Please make sure to congratulate Dan Archdeacon, Virginia Freeman, Katie Grosner, Sara Kane and Charlie Munschauer on attaining this liturgical milestone. They have spent eight weeks with Fr. Steven and Fr. Cole in preparation for this day and they are to be congratulated for their dedication, hard work and commitment.

The role of confirmation has changed over the years since you and I were confirmed, but it is no less important in the lives of these children and their parents. It is our job as a congregation to support our young people and to give them a strong religious support base and opportunities for involvement in the church community. We don't want these kids to drop off the face of

the earth which is typically what happens once a child is confirmed! I am excited that a team is being pulled together as I type this article to support this Sr. Youth Group. Please don't say no if you are called upon

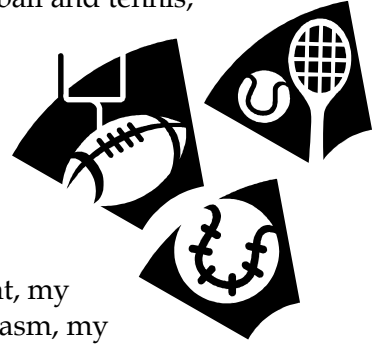
to lend your talents, humor and life experiences to this talented group of young people.

Lisa Maxwell
Co-Chair CYM/Vestry Representative



Episcopal Community Services 2008 George Mayer

When I was teaching chemistry and coaching football, baseball and tennis, it was my belief that one should lead by example. I would not ask my students or my players to do more than I would demand of myself. In other words, my commitment, my dedication, my enthusiasm, my energy level had to be greater than the very best student, the very best athlete. If I was not willing to pay the price for their success, for their development, for their excellence, why should I expect them to set their goals and standards extremely high? (In retrospect, I now understand that it was God who supplied the resources, energy, skills and every provision necessary for making a positive difference in the lives of these young people! All thanks and praise and honor and glory be to You, Almighty God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, forever!)



Since Steven asked my wife Barb and me to co-chair this year's Episcopal Community Services (ECS) campaign for Calvary, I feel once again that we should lead by example. If Barb and I donate just \$1 each per day, you can figure out what our contribution to ECS this year will be. For some, this may seem a trivial amount. For others, it may be an amount out of reach for them.

No matter.

Remember when Jesus fed the five thousand? One young person was willing to give his few fish and loaves of bread for Jesus to use. How our Savior blessed this gift, as small an insignificant as it may have seemed!



Just imagine if each and every one of us gave something, *any* amount to ECS, as an act of faith and devotion, trusting our Heavenly Father to bless our gifts in miraculous ways? Will He not do it!?! Let's "join hands" and let's "build hope" both to those who serve and those who receive. Thanks!

The Wardens' Corner

The Warden's Corner

If you attended the Annual Meeting, read recent issues of the *Chronicles*, received the invitation to attend a meeting April 2nd, and listened to Clergy announcements in the past few weeks, you have heard the words "Strategic Planning" and the campaign slogan "Here for Good" a number of times. As we progress through this year and into coming years, you will become even more familiar with the terminology.

It is Calvary Church's plan to be in Williamsville and a functioning Episcopal parish for many years to come. In recent months the newspaper and the television newscasters have featured articles about the sad impact the closing of a number of Churches in Western New York has had in our community. Not only are we seeing diminishing numbers of Churches but other community and cultural activities as well, specifically prominent is the recent announcement of the closing of Studio Arena Theater. The changing economy, loss of jobs, attrition of population to milder climates, retirement, changes in socialization and cultural desires, and the rising costs of daily living expenses have played a role in the de-

mise of a growing number of icons in our community. We are aware that we, too, could fall prey to this decline.

More than a year ago the Wardens, the Vestry, the Clergy, and the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee began to investigate models for successfully revitalizing and as well challenging ourselves towards new growth. As the vision unfolds, your input will be vital. You will be needed to help devise our plan for change. There will be surveys to complete, meetings to attend, data collection about a variety of Church related issues, and, of course, the work of facilitating change.

The Wardens and Vestry invite and encourage you to take part in this process. Learn more about the changes that will be forthcoming. Ask questions, offer your thoughts, share your views, and keep this journey in your prayers as we take a good look at whom and where we are.....and where we must be in order to continue as a thriving Church in the decades to come.

In peace,
Cari Evans
Warden

†

Chocolate Nut Sweet - By Pauline Dyson

This was served at January Coffee Hour, and there were requests for the recipe. Here goes!

Preheat oven to 350°. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.

Mix in bowl:

4 lbs. assorted whole nuts (e.g. walnuts, almonds, pecans, hazelnuts)

1 lb. candied fruit (e.g. currants, orange peel)

2 large 8-oz. chocolate bars (one milk chocolate; one dark chocolate), broken into pieces

Chop above into pieces.

In another bowl, mix:

3 cups flour

3 teaspoons cocoa powder

1 ½ lbs. honey

Stir the flour, cocoa powder and honey together, and pour into the nut mixture. This may be hard to mix. Dip hands into warm water to aid forming round loaves of this mixture.

Place rounds of mixture onto the baking sheets. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of the rounds. Brush with honey and water while warm.

Calvary Senior Class

Historic Walking Tour – Saturday June 7, 2008

Come tour the historic Albright Estate. When prominent Buffalonian John J Albright died his family subdivided his 13 acre estate into individual lots which were sold with the stipulation that each home built must have a value of at least \$20,000 and be designed by an architect. Peter Filim of the Erie County Preservation Coalition will lead us on a two hour tour of this neighborhood.

Carpoolers should meet at Calvary's parking lot at 9:15 a.m. The tour will begin at approximately 9:50 a.m. at the corner of West Ferry and Tudor Pl. (between Delaware and Elmwood Avenues).

The cost is \$10.00 per person, and we are limited to 25 people. Prepaid reservations are requested. **Contact Barb & Jack Thompson at 632-2675 for reservations and to arrange payment.**

After the tour we will meet for a Dutch Treat lunch at Mythos Restaurant, 510 Elmwood Ave. (Rain date June 14, 2008.)

~~~~~

#### *Calvarians Come Through with the Coffee*

Thank you to all who have hosted Coffee/Social Hour. Whether you sign up months in advance or fill in at the last minute, that you volunteer is truly appreciated.

#### **Recent Hosts:**

**Banach Family, Prestons with Petersons & Thompsons, Hilary Garton with Pauline & Steve Dyson, Pat Rooss & Joe DiBartolo, CYM, Karen & Bruce Davidson, Patrice & Megan Hannotte with Cris Hicks-Usta, Howells & Peperone Families, Girl Team of Jo Bissell/Judy George/Margaret Fiegel, Amy & Ed Rath, Kim Alexander-Thomson & Margo Davis.**

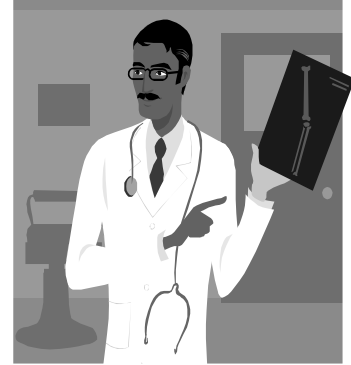
Please continue with your support; there are only a few remaining slots between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>. Perhaps the returning snowbirds would like to sign up??? We'd love to admire your relaxed, tan faces behind the carafes! Thanks, everyone, for your consideration and help.

Carol Merrill

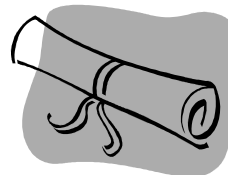
## Planning for the Future

### A program presented by your Planned Giving Committee

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 20, and plan to attend a special program following the 10 a.m. service sponsored by the Planned Giving Committee. Two outstanding speakers will talk and answer your questions about **HEALTH CARE PROXIES, LIVING WILLS, & POWER OF ATTORNEY**, subjects that affect everyone.



One of our own, Dr. Susan Graham, to whom we are indebted for suggesting this program, will present the medical perspective. She is Professor of Clinical Medicine in Cardiology at Buffalo General Hospital, where she has served on the Ethics Committee. Charles Beinhauer, expert in the field of elder law and estate law and partner in the firm of Pfalzgraf Beinhauer & Menzies, will discuss the legal aspects of medical decision-making. He is currently Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the Bar Association of Erie County, on the Board of Kids Escaping Drugs, and a member of the Hospice Advanced Care Directive Team.



Health care is a team effort that involves doctors, nurses, families, friends and advisors working with and for the patient. We need to understand the laws that affect our ability to talk freely about medical decisions so as to insure appropriate care. In New York State, everyone over the age of 18 should have a Health Care Proxy.

Plan to stay after the 10 a.m. service for coffee & goodies & bring your questions! Child care will be provided.

## Mission

Happy Spring!  
FOOD GIVING SUNDAY -  
April 13th

Each month, the mission committee provides information on the agencies receiving our food and monetary donations on Food Giving Sunday. Now more than ever our support is needed, as federal funding is being reduced or completely eliminated. Our APRIL 13th food and money will be donated to Homespace - Second Chance.

Perhaps this letter recently received from Homespace might encourage you to donate:

March 1, 2008

Dear Friends of Homespace,

*Due to poverty, poor education, non-existent family support, and a lifetime of learned dysfunctional behavior patterns, we have families in our area that are ill equipped to overcome the economic and housing challenges they face. The housing these families can afford is unsafe and substandard. Homelessness is far more than just a housing issue. For nearing fourteen years, Homespace Corp. has successfully responded to this tragic condition by opening its doors to serve homeless, single parents between the ages of 18-25 and their children by offering supportive services to help end the cycles that have held these families for generations.*

*Friends, this year we are in need of your help, now more than ever. After years of assisting families in breaking the cycle of dependency, our major federal funding source is ending its fiscal support to the Homespace Supportive Housing Program. We have therefore been forced to seek alternative means to assist young families with the skills they need to live independently in the community. After much research, Homespace Corp. has found a distressing growing trend that is not being adequately addressed and serviced in this area, which is assisting teens in foster care who are having children. With our expertise being assisting young families we feel that we will be able to fill this void and assist this population in the coming years by offering the type of support and programming that we already know so well. In fact, many of our young families over the past years have emerged from failed foster care placements, thus this a population we have actually already been serving after they have become homeless. Of course our greatest concern is to the families we are*

*servicing currently. We hope for a smooth transition and to help our current families find permanent alternative housing in the area. It is for this period that we must reach out to the community to seek assistance through financial contributions as well as the gift of your time. During this twelve month period, we are attempting to continue to offer the services we have provided for so long to our families in need so that they may successfully graduate and live independently. This certainly is a heartbreaking situation. Your generosity and commitment can bring relief to a sad and difficult time. Hope is in the future as we will continue to work with families in need. Together, we can continue to change the lives of two generations. . . one family at a time.*

With thanks,  
Kim Morris, Executive Director  
Martha Lamparelli, President, Board  
of Directors



**Please be generous. Your donations are greatly appreciated and so important.**

United Thank Offering (UTO)

**The spring UTO in-gathering will be held on Sunday, May 11th, Mother's Day.** The UTO is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is a way for each person to express tangible thanks to God. United with prayers and offerings of Episcopalians, its ministry reaches around the world.

You are invited to 'count your blessings' by placing a coin in your Blue Box in thanksgiving for large and small daily gifts from God that brighten your lives and the lives of those around you. The power of the Blue Box is unlimited. Your prayers and offerings have built churches and schools, made needed renovations, fed the hungry, clothed the poor, provided shelter for the homeless and have provided care and support for those with physical, mental, and emotional challenges.

If you do not have a Blue Box, please pick one up from the table in the back of the church. Letters and envelopes for your contributions will be sent in April.

(Mission News continued on next page.).

## Children's Mission and UTO

We're so pleased that the children will again be involved in the United Thank Offering ingathering. In early April, blue boxes and letters will be distributed. Since the children will be returning their Blue Boxes on Mother's Day (May 11th) and this is also Food Giving Sunday, we're asking the children to also bring a canned good to church. When they bring up their Blue Box, they can also bring up their food donation. The children will be receiving a surprise gift for their mother, grandmother, or whoever they want to give it to.

**A SPECIAL THANKS** to all of you who donated calculators for School #30, especially Lindamae and Raymond Braun, who donated 19 calculators, and an anonymous donor who left ten calculators in the mission mailbox. Thanks to those of you who contributed monetary donations for the purchase of calculators.

**THEME FOR SCHOOL #30** will be glue sticks and boxes of crayons (Crayola-24 count). We will continue to collect calculators until the end of May, although I think we have depleted the supply at local Big Lot stores.

### REMINDERS:

**April 13<sup>th</sup> - Food Giving Sunday to benefit Homespace - Second Chance**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> - Friends of the Night People**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>-- United Thank Offering and Food Giving Sunday- to benefit Hearts for the Homeless**

**June 8<sup>th</sup>-- Food Giving Sunday to benefit Homespace - Second Chance**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> - Friends of the Night People**

Thanks for all the support given to Mission. Volunteers are always welcome.

Sharon Jackson -

and the Mission Committee

# Thanks!!

Thank you to Mike Way and Jacque Peterson for moving all the furniture and polishing the floors and hallway in the classrooms downstairs. Their hard work for two days has the floors glistening, and their labor saved a good deal of money for the rest of us. They did a better job than any professional outfit would have. Mike took the initiative to contact the floor cleaning supplier to purchase what was needed, and said he "learned a few things" in the process. Thanks for the hard work, guys.

Jim Greno and B&G (Building & Grounds)