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Dear Friends,

We enter November while still at a considerable level of anxiety in our lives. At this writing there has been no election and have no President-elect. As you read this, there probably will be and, whoever is elected, that fact will not alleviate the anxiety for many of us. As well, the markets slip and slide all over the place, the most volatile since the 1930's, or maybe ever. I don't need to make a complete list; these are issues enough for the point to be made.

I am all too keenly aware that most of us learn to look to the world outside of us to clue us in to whether we should be calm or agitated, serene or troubled, tranquil or afraid. Things outside will always be uncertain, however. Some events will reassure while others will send our equilibrium reeling. We'll encounter some people who inspire trust, while others make us more than wary. In uncertain times we have to learn to find our bearings on the inside. Confidence and trust are qualities of life which emerge from within. Our lives depend on being in touch with the One who feeds us from within so that we might remain steadfastly calm in the face of whatever threats seem to gather around us.

That One who gives us life and peace is God, of course, and his unlikely way of entering our lives in power is through Jesus Christ. Being in touch with God in Christ is as easy as prayer, as uncomplicated as investing in the life of this community of faith. In our life and worship each of us enters prayer that is shared, none need be "adequate" in faith because where one is weak another is strong. We can be immersed in the reassuring words of the centuries that God is in charge when every thing points to the contrary. That I know I am loved and that my life is precious makes all the difference when uncertainty calls to claim another victim. There are certainly saints who have found a relationship with God individually and isolated from the regular participation in the Christian Community. We call such people anchorites or hermits. I doubt any of us are called to that specific way of life and faith.

God has called us into community and promised to be there with us. If we want to be in touch with God, in good times and in threatening situations, here is where you'll find him. Remember, this is Christ's promise, not mine and it is Christ we seek not perfect human community. In Christ, God is here among us. Let us find his peace even in a broken and decidedly uncomfortable world.

Faithfully,

Steven+

Editor: Christine Hicks-Usta

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't'is the season...

ADVENT 2008

From the Choir Room...

On November 2 at 5:00 p.m., we will offer an Evensong for the Feast of All Saints. One of the principal feast days of the liturgical year, our Evensong service for this feast day is one not to be missed. The evening canticles will be The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E Herbert Murrill,

"Sleepers wake!" A voice astounds us, the shout of rampart guards surrounds us: "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"...Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight." (Hymn 62, vs. 1)

We need this rousing reminder, lest our thoughts and energies wander beyond the true meaning of this season. John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah, and in Advent we prepare our hearts once again for the Lord's coming. The emphasis of our Advent worship is on His arrival; in the carols (did you know that Carols are actually dances or songs of praise and joy?), the Scripture readings, the declarations and the prayers.

Our annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols will be celebrated on Sunday, December 7 at 5:00. This "not to be missed" service always includes favorite hymns, readings and anthems enjoyed by all.

# evensong

and featured anthems will be "An Evening Hymn" by H. Balfour Gardiner, and the glorious "Faire is the Heaven" by William Harris.

The evening is certain to provide an opportunity for peace, the sense of God's beauty and love, and the resolve to humanity's highest aspirations which are best lived out in our lives in the world. Plan now to join us as daylight settles into evening for the opportunity for recollection and stillness before God.



Let us, together as a Parish family, ask that Jesus come into our lives. Let us, together as a Parish family, share the new "beginning" as we await the coming of our Lord and Saviour to warm our hearts and minds. See you on the 7th!  
...debi



Calvary's Senior Class invites you to join us for the Buffalo Philharmonic's Classical Christmas Concert on Saturday December 13, 2008 at 8 PM.



Tickets are \$30.00 per person. A block of tickets is being held.

Make an evening of it! Salvatore's Restaurant offers a special pre-concert menu for \$23.95 per person and bus transportation is also available from Salvatore's for an additional \$7.00. Watch the Church Bulletin for details!

## The Wardens' Corner

The Vestry and Wardens represent the lay leadership of Calvary. As in any organization, strong leadership results in a dynamic community best poised to face problems and lead it into the future. Shortly, you'll be introduced to a slate of candidates that are running for Vestry and Warden. Please show them your support and appreciation. Acting as a candidate in an election is something most of us have little to no experience with. It's an experience that tends to be out of our "comfort" zone.

Our system of providing lay leadership begins with an election. We are fortunate to have dedicated candidates willing to test their "comfort" zones by providing us options. Greet them and support them as they model our Gospel: Many are called - but few are chosen.

Jim Waack, Warden

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? Okay, What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy," the young boy replied excitedly. "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," she answered.

## Ivana's Birthday Gift: 15 Baskets

Ivana Russell and a friend are currently organizing a Christmas Charity Basket to benefit the Ronald McDonald house. This idea came out of planning for Ivana's birthday party. She decided that, instead of having 30+ kids sit and watch her open gifts, they would instead encourage party attendees to make out a check to a charity. From this idea sprang the larger idea of orchestrating a separate charitable event to which kids attending might donate, and could even extend to their churches and families.

The Ronald McDonald House offers comfortable and affordable living for families whose children are receiving medical attention. They don't turn away those that have difficulties paying, and also provide a compassionate place for people and families in crisis.

### Items being collected are:

- \$10 prepaid phone cards
- \$10 gift card for Tim Horten's, Starbucks, or similar establishments
- Stuffed animals and/or
- \$15 gift cards to Target, Kohl's, or other teenager-targeted stores (for kids 8 - 18 years)
- Family movies (preferably a DVD)
- Bags of chocolates/ sugar free candies (please - no nuts)
- Gently used or new children's or young adult books
- Family games (such as Scrabble, Monopoly, playing cards)

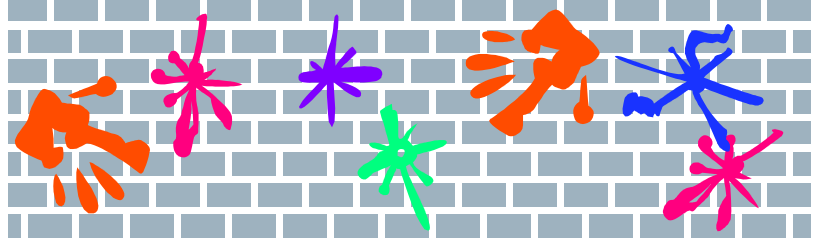
Checks (payable to Therese Floss) are also always welcomed. **For more information on donating, please e-mail [Anavi-ariam@hotmail.com](mailto:Anavi-ariam@hotmail.com).** Thank you for your time and effort!

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Y

M

On the heels of a successful acolyte trip to Washington, D.C., our vision for youth involvement at Calvary continues to grow and take shape. If you haven't done so, please take a look at the new youth room upstairs. The kids have put their own personal stamp (literally) on the walls. More outings and outreach are being planned so make sure to watch the insert for dates.



Along with our focus on the growth of our Senior Youth Program, I thought you might like to see what our other priorities are for the year. If you see an area where you can lend your talents and skills, don't be shy get involved! Our game plan is as follows:

- Providing more outreach opportunities for children of all ages
- Continue to build our music program for the children
- Build dialogue with CHNS and encourage active participation in all events
- Update marketing materials (new brochure has been completed)
- Encourage youth involvement in deanery happenings and CYM meetings
- Continue efforts to work with other committees to foster inter-generational social events at Calvary
- Develop "path of volunteerism" so that the all have a role to play and the same handful of people don't "do it all!"
- More regular integration of children into the service (youth Eucharist)
- Continued refinement of Sunday school curriculum and documentation as this is year three of our three-year customized plan.

Lisa Maxwell  
CYM Committee



## GIVE OTHERS SOMETHING TO GIVE THANKS FOR

Thanksgiving is a time of great joy as families come together to talk, eat, and spend time with each other. We get to see family and friends that we may not have seen in a year or more and perhaps welcome new members of the family for the first time. It is difficult not to feel fortunate when we are surrounded by an abundance of food and people we love. And we are often moved to help those who are less fortunate with gifts of food, clothing, or time spent volunteering at a soup kitchen.



Another opportunity that Thanksgiving provides is the chance to talk to your family about things that are important to you. Once the meal has been eaten and people are lingering over coffee, you might consider telling them about your charitable values and priorities. By openly discussing your own volunteer work and donations, you are helping your family to consider making such efforts themselves. It may seem self-evident, but one important legacy that you can leave your loved ones is the desire to reach out to those in need.



## *Planned Giving* **Committee**

Gail Adema  
Bill Clark  
Jim Eaton  
Jim Finley  
Betsy Greno  
Liz Harten  
Jeanne Naylor  
Patty Rooss  
Pat Zebrowski  
Nancy Nuzzo (Endowment Board),  
Charlie Russell (Vestry liaison)  
Frank & Wilma Cipolla, co-chairs  
([fjc@buffalo.edu](mailto:fjc@buffalo.edu) or 839-0410)

Similarly, one of the most valuable things that we can do for a ministry we cherish is to convince others to support it as well, either financially or through the gift of time and effort. Leading by example and encouraging others to join you can help ensure that the ministry you most value will continue to be supported in the future.

As you define your charitable priorities, consider how you can help to sustain the parish ministry of Calvary Church after your death. One option is leaving a bequest in a will or making a planned gift. In this way, your financial support for Calvary will continue for years beyond your life, and the gift will serve as a witness to the values you hold dear. Both wills and planned gifts are fairly easy to create. If you would like more information, contact anyone on the Planned Giving Committee listed above.

# Mission News

This is a very busy time of the year for Mission. So many charities and organizations are looking for donations. With the economy in such a disastrous state, agencies are having a very difficult time meeting their needs, especially the food banks. Therefore, we appreciate all the help that you have given Mission/Outreach and anticipate your continued support.

## Meals on Wheels



We are happy to welcome Jeanne Eaton back to Meals on Wheels. She will be accepting the calls from volunteers, getting substitutes, and finding new people for routes. The routes grow weekly, so new volunteers are always welcome. Substitutes are especially needed, as the snow birds will soon be migrating to warmer climates with the geese. Please call Jeanne Eaton (626-5066) if you can help.

## FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE

We are pleased to announce that Bill Clark (741-9124) has volunteered to chair our Friends of the Night People area of Mission/Outreach. Joan Fischer has been the Chair for many, many years and we want to thank her for her dedication to this important area of Mission. However, the Nelsons have moved to Cincinnati to be near family. Joan worked diligently right up to the time of leaving to organize everything for Bill. December 21<sup>st</sup> will be the next date for serving at Meals on Wheels. Don't let Bill down. Sign up to serve.



## SCHOOL #30 MITTEN TREE

It hardly seems possible that we are talking about mittens and Christmas gifts. It hardly seems possible that it is November. We will again be donating gifts for the students in the Pre-K and 4<sup>th</sup> grades of School #30. The tree will be visible in the reception room on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>. **All gifts should be returned on or before December 14<sup>th</sup>.** We are asking that you purchase a hat, scarf, mittens or gloves, and a book for the fourth graders. This year, the children are wearing uniforms at school. We're considering having a sweater, shirt, and book purchased for the Pre-K children. You will receive more information in the Sunday bulletin.



Please note: You have always been so generous with gift-giving, and some children get much more than asked for. This causes inequity, which can lead to hard feelings. For this reason, we ask you to respect the school's request to ***purchase only what is asked for.*** Also, when you take a name from the tree, please sign your name in the book next to the name of that student. This enables us to follow up on gifts that aren't returned.

We are in dire need of more volunteers. There are many teachers who desire helpers, and not enough volunteers to meet the need.

Please call me if you can lend a hand – Sharon Jackson (877-4866) – to help out in any way – big or small – with mission and outreach with a few hours a week.

## Acolyte Festival – Washington, D.C.

Calvary's first trip to the Acolyte Festival held at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC was a resounding success! A bus load of Calvary, St. Phillip's - Buffalo, and St. Luke's - Jamestown acolytes and chaperones ventured down to Washington, D.C. over the Columbus weekend to partake in the festival that included a special service with over 1,000 acolytes from around the United States.

In addition, there were classes available instructing acolytes about the Eucharist, and even a presentation on the grotesques and gargoyles of the Cathedral. The groups toured Washington together and also attended church Sunday morning at St. George's Washington, D.C. where they heard jazz music incorporated into the service.



Many new friends were made and people's faiths deepened on this trip. Speak to attendees Evan and Linden Merrill, Sarah Fiegel, Susie George, Jeff Munschauer, Kelsy Waack, Lauren

Cornell, and Taylor Stone to hear how much fun was had. Chaperones Fr. Cole, Carol and Rob Merrill, Judy George, Janet Newall, Steven Munschauer, and Jim Waack all asked: "When's the next trip?"

## Please

... think about contacting the church office to get your copy of Chronicles electronically. It will save the church printing and mailing costs, paper and time. You'll get the newsletter far sooner than 3rd class mail will ever allow, and your copy will be in full color. Cheaper, sooner, better.

You can still print the newsletter at home on regular paper. And if you have always wished the newsletter was printed in a larger font for ease of reading, make it so on your desktop computer, and read the newsletter in whatever size suits you.

So, won't you please take a minute to **email your request for electronic Chronicles?**

Send your request off to:

[bernadette.ruof@calvaryepiscopal.net](mailto:bernadette.ruof@calvaryepiscopal.net)

————— **and** —————

## Thank You!

At the time of publication, the All Saints and Sinner Dinner Dance and Auction was still on the calendar as a future event. By the time you read this, it will be history. Parish Life will certainly wish to thank everyone who participated in a far more personal manner, and will do so in the December issue of Chronicles. We'll also announce the results of our fundraiser.

Until that time, this is a generic thanks to people (known and as yet unknown) who helped make the Fundraiser the success we feel certain it will be.

Julie Preston, PLC Chair

## o°pine (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 [chickscooks@msn.com](mailto:chickscooks@msn.com), or drop it off at 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.

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## From the Pew

By: George Mayer

Do you read the Bible to learn about God, or do you read the Bible as His living word, so that you may know God and His nature better and better?

Here is a test. It seems to me that those who study the Bible as an intellectual exercise are more inclined toward explanation than toward obeying what our Lord commands. They would argue: "First, I must understand the Bible. Then, I will do what it says."

Truth does call for explanation, but not as much as we think or as much as we want. There is an order in the way God reveals Him-

self, and that order is inviolate: He speaks; we obey; He explains – maybe! It is simply not true that God must explain everything to us before we can obey Him. He is not obligated to explain anything to us, and some things He can't explain until we get to heaven and have His pure heart. God is in charge!

Scripture teaches us that we must obey God's word whether we understand it or not. We must bow before each word in humble submission. As T.S. Eliot taught us, "You are not here to verify, instruct yourself, or inform curiosity... You are here to kneel." When we kneel in worship and submission, then – and only then – do we begin to see! "Obedience," Toyer says, "is the opener of the eyes."

As you read a passage from the scriptures, pause after each verse or phrase to hear what God is saying to you. Consider how to practice what you've read. Think about how other believers may have lived out this truth. Consider what might keep you from living out this truth in your own life.

As you sense your inability to obey some truth yourself, come before God humbly and tell Him how helpless you are. Ask Him to live His life in you and to do all that you cannot do. He will finish the work that He has called you to do.

Think of what Peter said: "Rid yourselves of all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." (1 Peter 2:1-2)

If we obey what we already know of God's word, and rid ourselves of the pathogens of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander, we will understand what we have read and we will develop a hunger for more. Are you very, very hungry?!

## Milestones

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### Mission Report on the...

#### UNITED THANK OFFERING

Although our total donations did not equal those of the May Ingathering, we are very pleased with the UTO monetary donations contributed by our church family, which totaled \$1,292.10. Of that amount, the children contributed a total of \$103.40. Kudos to our kids!

Our check was presented at the Episcopal Diocesan Convention on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our contributions are combined with the offerings of hundreds of thousands of other Episcopalians whose ministry reaches around the world. We are proud to be one of the leading contributors of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York.

**I'm not a psavvy psychic.  
I do not have such power.  
So won't you wear your  
name tag  
At church and coffee hour?**

#### DEATHS

Margaret Randazzo

#### BAPTISM

Owen Wright

#### CONVENTION 2008 DELEGATES

Steven Metcalfe

Ethan Cole

Cari Evans

Janet Newall

Jim Turner

#### FAREWELL...Come Back & Visit!

Karen Sandburg

Joan Fischer

Charles and Nancy Golightly

Richard and Sonja Kingdon

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR WITH THESE IMPORTANT DATES:

November 9 <sup>th</sup>	Food Giving Sunday to benefit <i>Hearts for the Homeless Mobile Soup Kitchen</i>
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mitten Tree (to benefit <i>School #30</i> ) available in the reception room <i>(See pg. 7 for information regarding Mitten Tree and gifts)</i>
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Food Giving Sunday to benefit Homespace
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Deadline for return of Christmas gifts for the children of <i>School #30</i>
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Friends of Night People</i>