
The Calvary Chronicle

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Calvary Episcopal Church
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Calvary Episcopal Church is a welcoming, caring, Christian community called to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, grow our spiritual gifts, and serve our neighbors.

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Rector's Message

From Reverend Regina Christianson

Epiphany

The sky is blue and snow glistens, a perfect day to snowshoe; it must be time to write annual reports. Sigh. I'm chuckling because the first report I ever wrote for an annual meeting was when I was Sacristan in the convent. I had never been to an annual meeting before and had never heard a report. In fact, I was still a Novice and couldn't actually attend the annual meeting. I carefully took inventory of what we had and what condition everything was in and made note of the various worship services. The

report was handed back to me for complete revision. I was entirely too factual, gave too much bad news, and didn't adequately express the beauty of our actual chapel and services. Silly me, I thought we already knew how beautiful and meaningful it all was, but what we needed was a new alb and a plan for what to do with the things we no longer used. As a result of the "first draft," we got the new alb, yet continued to stockpile items we no longer used. I also learned that purple prose (the "final draft") may finesse awkward situations so that problems can continue *ad infinitum* or can be looked at honestly without shame or blame, just a chance to find good solutions.

Since that time I have written many, many reports for annual meetings. Some of them have been trips down memory lane, a chance to revisit special communal moments. I have also used them as a chance to highlight *why* we do what we do, *why* we have made choices to keep or to change, and consider *what other* choices are out there for future consideration. I have used them to make visible the decision-making process and the underlying issues. I have used them as an occasion for others to witness to their experience, an invitation for others to step forward with their insights.

I take Christmas and Epiphany seriously as our Christian theological baseline: incarnation. We are imbedded in creation: in community, in physicality, in economics, in

emotions, in relationships. The business of the church is at the intersection of all of these. Our mission is mission; our business is to facilitate each other in doing mission. Our annual meeting is the time when all this comes together visibly. The physicality of our being as Calvary Episcopal Church is looked at and discussed, votes are taken. Who we are spiritually is expressed through what we do, where we focus our attention, where we place our assets, where we invest time, talent, and money. Incarnation. This is the moment when we flex our muscles and enjoy our freedom to act. The source of our freedom to act without fear is God, “the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom...”

I look forward to writing and reading those reports. I look forward to seeing us incarnate our spiritual being by commitments and by relationships. I look forward to hearing your voices. I look forward to witnessing Calvary Parish incarnate, an Epiphany of God’s overflowing love.

Regina✠

Services: January, February, and Early March

- **Sunday, January 6:** Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, January 13:** The First Sunday after the Epiphany. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Vestry Meeting**
- **Sunday, January 20:** The Second Sunday after the Epiphany. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Annual Meeting**
- **Sunday, January 27:** The Third Sunday after the Epiphany. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Vestry**
- **Sunday, February 3:** The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

- **Sunday, February 10:** The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Vestry Meeting**
- **Wednesday, February 13:** Ash Wednesday. Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, February 17:** The First Sunday in Lent. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **February 24:** The Second Sunday in Lent
- **March 3:** The Third Sunday in Lent. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **March 10:** The Fourth Sunday in Lent. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Vestry Meeting**
- **Other Important Holy Days**
- **January 18:** The Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle
- **January 25:** The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle
- **February 2:** The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
- **February 25:** Feast Day of Saint Matthias, the Apostle

For scriptural readings for these holy days, see BCP, pages 996-997.

Thoughts and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: The Bloch family, the Foster Family, Jay Foy, Patricia Gillespie, Llanda and Hubbard Richardson, Karen Lawsing, Joseph Lawsing, Susan Lehman, Marta Mares & family, Sophie Pycella, Farmer Ama, the Westman family, all of our college students, and all of our military men and women, home and abroad, especially Jesse Arbogast, Aaron Decker, and Scott Jackson.

The Warden’s Corner

Dear Calvary Folks,

Happy New Year to you all! The Three Kings arrived with gifts for Baby Jesus and we had a celebration with the Cake of Kings,

a gleeful slightly chaotic celebration, just the kind that I enjoy. Thanks to all who helped us pull this off. There were a lot of moving pieces and no one got hurt.

Well, we are on to a new year and what could be better than to have a Calvary Annual Meeting. This is your opportunity to gather with the congregation to nominate/elect new officers, fill positions, form committees and take the pulse of your community. You will hear reports from all of the various committee heads, treasurer, warden and our rector Regina†. You will have opportunity to reflect and respond to the old and new business of the church while enjoying coffee and delicious hors d'oeuvres. What's not to like about that?

The Ken's Kitchen Committee is doing great work. We have a plan and we're moving it forward. Thank you Jack and Tyna!

Love to all,

John

Announcements:

Annual Meeting

Calvary's Annual Meeting, along with the coffee hour, will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013 immediately following the service. New vestry members will be elected and delegates will be nominated for Diocesan Convention. Calvary's Annual Report containing our 2012 year end financial report, our 2013 budget and all committee reports will be available for each family. **Please have all committee reports in to Karen by Sunday, January 13.** Thank you!

Calvary's Community Soup & Bread Supper – January 31

We were sorry that we had to cancel the December soup supper due to weather conditions. This month's supper will be held on January 31, and will benefit Ken's Kitchen.

We now have a Soup and Bread Supper Committee who will review charity ideas and determine each month's recipient. Please submit your ideas to any of the committee members who are: John Koier, Karen Lawsing, and Pat White.

We raised just over \$200 for Hunger Free Vermont in November.

Call for Greeters

We would love to have a few more greeters volunteer. One of the great ministries of the church is hospitality. We greet one another as Christ, and are met by Him. A greeter at the door is a sign that all who cross the threshold are honored guests invited to the feast. We regularly have guests who may or may not know the Episcopal service, our various books and our customs. A designated greeter would go far in making sure that these Christ-bearers are put at ease, a form of outreach which any member of the church can exercise. **The greeter would be ready to greet people at least 15 minutes before the service**, make sure all who come have the bulletin and any inserts, to make sure they can follow the service, and to invite them to coffee hour after the service. It would be helpful if the greeter could be a liaison between the guests and the priest, giving a heads-up to the celebrant if the guest is new to the Episcopal service, if they have visited us in the past, or if they are friends of parishioners. Please prayerfully consider being on this rota, taking one's turn to welcome friend and stranger in Christ's name.

Regina†

Food Shelf

The number of families needing assistance remains high. As always thank you all very much for your continued support of this much needed and very worthy project. Please remember that it is Calvary's ministry to donate fruits to the food shelf. Thank you

for past donations, and please continue to donate. All contributions are greatly appreciated.

Sunday School Dates Through June

Laura has submitted the following Sunday School dates through June. If you have not already done so, please contact Laura Hill to choose a Sunday or two that you would like to teach. Thanks!

January 13 & 27

February 10 & 24

March 10, 24, and 31 (Easter)

April 14 & 28

May 5 and 19

June 9 (last Sunday School until fall)

Meditation Group Moved to Monday Morning

Our parish is continuing to host a meditation grouping the chancel, on Monday mornings, starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending around 10:00 a.m. Please feel free to attend whenever you wish.

Choir

Calvary's choir is wonderful! Please join us for Choir Practice at Calvary on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend Wednesday nights, please arrive at church at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday. It is a fun multigenerational experience and we are seeking more members!

Calvary's Own Cookbook

As we have mentioned, Fran Ganter and Tyna Westman have generously offered to undertake the huge task of publishing a cookbook which will include any and all of your favorite recipes that you would like to submit. They are suggesting that we make it a soup and bread cookbook, as it has become

very apparent that Calvary folks definitely know how to make lip-smacking good soups and breads. So, we need your recipes! E-mail, photo copies, handwritten recipes are accepted. Please, please send them along to either of us. If you have any questions, please contact Fran at fganter@myfairpoint.net, or Tyna at tynawestman@myfairpoint.net.

March Chronicle

John and I will be traveling for approximately 6 weeks. Therefore, the next Chronicle will not be published until after March 10. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for announcements. *Barbie* (jbkoier@gmail.com)

Fun Stuff...

So Stephen is in the check-out at Price Chopper and meets a check-out lady who asks "Aren't you that Episcopal Pastor?" He answered, "No, that would be my wife; but I am one of the church musicians." She said, "I'm a Sunday School teacher at my church. One of my students yesterday asked me if I was there at the first Epiphany. I said 'No, but I was there when Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments.' As my personal revenge, I'm going to teach them all twelve verses of *Dem bones gonna rise again* and make them sing it in church." You never know where you are going to find a kindred spirit.
