
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

I moved to Vermont April 1, 1995 and promptly joined the church's Spirituality Group. When it was announced that the group would stop in May because of gardening, I thought "what an odd set of priorities for a spirituality group" (Please remember I had lived in New York City since I was 19 and my only experience in gardening as a child was digging up dandelions). Yet, the next year, after the snow had begun to give way, exposing bare ground, I exploded out of the house, and began to get dirt under the fingernails, happy,

happy, happy as a clam. Yesterday, I repeated that ritual, accompanied by two kittens, experiencing their first Spring. The first crocus, the violet ones and the buttery yellow, are already blooming, so I have to work carefully not to disturb them as I clear out the detritus- last years, iris and lily leaves, fallen twigs and branches, stalks of Mallow and Queen of the Prairie. There are also dry maple, birch, and elm leaves that crumble in my hand, "wormy food" I call them, happy they will do their part in building up the soil. I know the soil as a living creature, supporting life for others, receiving life from others. As I work, I smile. This is deeply spiritual work, I have found. The members of the Spirituality Group had their priorities exactly right.

Every place, every people have their gifts. I have come to know Vermonters have a gift for stewardship of the land, a deep knowledge that we humans are part of the natural landscape, a visceral connection with the hills, mountains, valleys, streams, and lakes, and the creatures with which we share them. Our gift of place shows itself also in our sense of community. The kind of sensitive care I take with my early garden is the kind of sensitive care a healthy community takes with each member. Community is a living organism, supporting life for each other, receiving life from each other. You have warmly welcomed me and Stephen into your community. Stephen and I

will do what we can, from our particular gifts, to support the community. We also no less depend upon the community through its gifts to support us. Hopefully I will do a better job of learning “place” than I did my first months in Vermont. This is the process of mutual discernment: careful protection of newly emerging life, clearing away the debris, using the dead leaves of the past to feed what will come, honoring the life in the community as much as we honor the life in the soil, knowing that growth and flourishing takes its own time. For me, your warm welcome is the end of my long winter and I am exploding into the garden, thankful that I am not the only gardener but part of an experienced team. We are mutually inviting each other into mutual care of the garden. The spiritual practices that support this work include reflection, listening, and empathy. It is early days and new life is stirring.

Regina†

Services: March & April

- **Sunday, March 25:** The Fifth Sunday in Lent. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, April 1:** Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, April 4:** Tenebrae. Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, April 7:** Great Vigil of Easter. First Eucharist of Easter at 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, April 8:** The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Easter Egg Hunt!**
- **Sunday, April 15:** The Second Sunday of Easter. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Vestry Meeting**
- **Sunday, April 22:** The Third Sunday of Easter. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, April 29:** The Fourth Sunday of Easter. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

Other Important Holy Days

- **March 26:** The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **April 25:** Feast Day of Saint Mark the Evangelist

- **May 1:** Feast Day of Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles
- For scriptural readings for these holy days, see BCP, page 997

Thoughts and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: The Bloch family, family of Amy Bombard, and the Connelly family, Jay Foy, Patricia Gillespie, Karen Lawsing, Joseph Lawsing, Susan Lehman, Marta Mares & family, Sophie Pycella, 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.

Warden’s Message

It is a time of transition for Calvary. Regina+ has been with us now for two Sundays and is on a mission to get to know and understand our congregation.

It is natural that all of our hopes and fears will surface with the arrival of a new minister. For my part, I am taking a deep breath and trying to be in the present with all of this.

I believe that we have made a wonderful choice for Calvary and Regina+ for us. Our contract was signed at last Sunday’s vestry meeting and now we are in an official working partnership.

There was a lot of behind the scenes work that went into this. We can be grateful for all of you who filled out the parish survey, which fed in to the updating of our Parish Profile. We can be grateful for Ken Wiggin who diligently tabulated, reported and steadfastly carried that mission forward. We can all thank the members of the MDC who hung in there to see the calling process through: Karen Lawsing, Jack & Tyna Westman, Fran Ganter and Jeff Hill. We can be thankful for the vestry members who helped with candidate interviews, reference

checks and making the final decision: Chuck Bongiorno, Jack Manning, Fran Ganter, Pat White, Pam Parshall and Karen Floyd.

So, take a deep breath, be thankful and appreciate each other!

John

Announcements:

Lenten Soup and Scripture Series

The last Soup and Scripture Series will be held on March 28, at the Jericho United Methodist Church, hosted by Rev. Goodwin, beginning promptly at 12 noon and concluding at 12:45 pm. Please join the group for soup and a generous serving of the bread of life.

Calvary's Community Soup & Bread Supper

Our Soup and Bread Supper attendance is climbing, so the word must be getting out. In February we had approximately 30 attendees, and we raised \$169 for our local Food Shelf. More great soups were enjoyed by all. Please signup in the Undercroft to bring soup and/or bread to this month's supper which will be held on Thursday, March 29. Donations will benefit Vermont Irene Relief. If you have a local charity you would like funds to go to, please let John or Karen Lawsing know. Any questions? Please call John Koier at 899-1830 or e-mail him at jbkoier@gmail.com or contact Karen Lawsing at 899-4801. Thanks!

Holy Week and Easter Services

The schedule for Holy Week is shown below. We will not be having a Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services this year.

- **Wednesday, April 4:** Tenebrae. Liturgy at 7:00 p.m.

- **Friday, April 6:** Good Friday walk starting at St. Thomas and stopping at Calvary on the way.
- **Saturday, April 7:** Great Vigil of Easter. First Eucharist of Easter at 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, April 8:** The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Sunday. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Easter Egg Hunt!**

Sunday School Update

In the fall, Laura and Jeff Hill are stepping back from teaching Sunday school. They have done an awesome job the past two years, and we can't thank them enough for the dedication and great teaching skills. They are NOT leaving Calvary, and would like their children to continue attending Sunday school. We have a great group of young families with children, and in an effort to keep up the Sunday school momentum, please give thought to whether you would like to teach Sunday School, perhaps on a rotating basis. One thought is that adults could take turns teaching on a rotating basis, either alone, or with a partner, and if we have enough volunteers, you might only have to teach once every two or more months. By doing so, nobody will get "burned out," and you would also be able to attend the first part of the service when not teaching. We are open to your thoughts, and please e-mail Laura Hill if you have questions, or John & Barbie if you are interested in teaching. Again, please give this some serious thought as we are continuing our Sunday school program! Thanks!

Sunday School Dates

Sunday school will be held on the following Sundays unless you hear otherwise from Laura Hill.

March 25	May 6 and 20
April 8: Easter & Egg Hunt	June 3 and 17
April 15	

EJU Ecumenical Food Shelf News – April is Our Month to Work!

Signs of spring at Calvary include observing a flock of robins near the parking lot, watching the first snowdrops poke up from under the snow, and remembering that April is Calvary's month to staff the food shelf activities.

Sorting for the distribution is scheduled for Thursday, April 19 from 6:30 on, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This is a family friendly activity as young people are welcome and encouraged to participate. Just show up and you will be directed to some area of the preparation.

Distribution will happen on Saturday, April 21, also at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church beginning at 9 a.m.

During the past year there has been a considerable increase in the number of families arriving for a supply of food which is designated to each family for one week. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Calvary continues to be responsible for supplying canned fruit throughout the year. Thank you for your help with this most worthy local outreach activity.

Call Fran Ganter for more information or answers to your question 899-5489 or e-mail her at fganter@myfairpoint.net

Rummage Sale

Please begin saving your unwanted, **clean** (free of stains, dirt, animal hair) clothing, linens, household goods and misc. items for our sale on May 11 and 12. **After** Easter all items may be brought in to church. Any large items can be accepted **with your name attached**, in case they don't sell. Computers, electronics, etc. cannot be accepted. Help will be needed setting up, selling and

cleaning up. Any questions, please ask Gail or Karen.

Calvary's Own Cookbook

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 included. There is no deadline as the project is just in the beginning stages. Calvary is becoming known for their great soups, breads, and various meals held after church. Fran and Tyna are expecting tons of recipes to show up in their e-mail/mail, so let's all help this be a great and rewarding project. Please direct any questions to Fran at fganter@myfairpoint.net, or Tyna at tynawestman@myfairpoint.net.

Music

If you have a favorite hymn that we haven't sung lately, please let Laurel, John, or Llanda know. We do take requests! Please call or email Laurel, John, or Llanda...or leave a note on the organ. Thanks!

Your friendly musicians...

Vestry Minutes: January 8

- December budget shows Rental income, plate and undesignated gifts are up. Total income less expenses is in the black. Special Offerings and Soup Suppers will be kept separate. Capital Campaign and Ken's Kitchen money will also be kept separate.
- Auditing indicates Soup Supper donations must show how much and to who given. Thank you notes will be saved also.
- DSL charges will increase in 2012. Our donor will be notified.
- The Annual Meeting will take place on Jan. 15. Chuck and Pat are due to leave vestry. Pat will stay on. Chuck will not continue. Will Jack remain? John will continue as Senior Warden.

- Linda's Housing Allowance was approved.
- We will need someone to update our website once Linda leaves.
- Jack Manning has begun work on improvements to Ken's Kitchen. All are encouraged to participate.
- A space is still needed for the new priest.
- Vermont Habitat for Humanity will receive proceeds from the January 26 Soup Supper.

• Vestry Minutes: February 19

- Budget figures show that rental income is up and open plate is doing well.
- A letter was received from Bishop Ely asking us to consider increasing our assessment to the Diocese for 2012 after having received a reduced assessment this year. Request was tabled until later in the year.
- The Parochial Report was reviewed and accepted. It will be sent to the National Church and the Diocese.
- Fran and Llanda attended the vestry orientation. A suggestion was made to invite Angie Emerson to address our stewardship campaign before Fall.
- Recipients of proceeds from our next two Soup Suppers will be: Food Shelf in February and Irene in March. Once every three months Food Shelf will be recipient.
- John would like to show his son's video on Irene, "The Strength of the Storm" at March Soup Supper.
- Regina Christianson was called by the MDC to be our new rector.
- The vestry approved preliminary lay out for undercroft renovation project. Jack will send out a letter to parish asking for "space claim committees" to meet to work out details. The project will be done by incremental steps as monies come forward.
- Llanda was welcomed to the Vestry.

May Chronicle

Please submit articles to me by Thursday, April 26, for the next Chronicle. In the interim, please watch the Sunday bulletins for weekly announcements. Thanks!
(jbkoier@gmail.com)

Barbie

Fun Stuff...

"Now, this is for my dog friends and my friends who need to smile!"

An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard. I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of. He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour. This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3. He's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?'

