
The Calvary Chronicle

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The mission of Calvary Episcopal Church is to be a loving, caring Christian community, living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

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Rector's Letter!

by the Reverend Harrison Heidel

Pentecost, 2009

Dear Friends,

These days, the physical plant of Calvary is very much on the mind of her people. With a generous grant from our diocese the roofing project will soon be underway. That has prompted even more interest in the long delayed maintenance and beautification projects of our building. Almost daily now many email messages between vestry members regarding the building and its needs go through my inbox (thank you for including me in what's being discussed). We've got a lot of information and opinions regarding the building's needs to sort through, much to consider, and a fair amount of money to raise ourselves (at least half of what is

needed to complete the project) beyond folk's

pledges and usual giving, but I have no concern that Calvary is not up to the task.

Thanks to good leadership and stewardship within the vestry and the congregation's trust in their ministry, folks are staying connected and forward movement is obvious. And me, well, I'm staying connected to our "Advocate," the Holy Spirit, that we may *hear what she has to say in all this*. While we are "seeing visions" and "dreaming dreams" of our building projects completed and paid for, someone has to keep connected to that which provides all we really need: the Holy Spirit. That's my *most important* role in all this...keeping us focused, keeping our faces turned toward that which makes possible what we cannot do on our own...The Holy Spirit.

From time to time you may hear me say, "I don't like doing the 'business' of the Church." I am more of a "*the Holy Spirit will provide all we need, just you wait and see*," type of person....that's at least partially why you called me as your rector, however, in my own defense, I do recognize that the church has business that needs to be addressed....and as your rector, I promised to take on and lead that charge.

Like so many businesses, Churches today must place an emphasis on leadership development as part of their ongoing and changing strategic plans. Many of those plans will model corporate business practices, and capital raising campaigns. Indeed, there are gains to be had in doing so. I know discerning and taking the gift of leadership seriously and diligently then developing it for a particular locale can be advantageous to a church's health and future. But using a business

model alone as the dominant way of doing church "business" also raises questions.

Successful business practice includes collecting data, analyzing it, thinking through application formulas, then using it to develop, implement and evaluate winning strategies. Companies achieve their goals largely on the strength, intelligence, and foresight of their leaders. God does not need to show up for them to accomplish their plans and purposes..... “there’s no place for God in the board room!”...unless of course you’re one of the “big three” auto makers, right now.

The church is different. Church leaders (ordained and lay) must invite God into their business deliberations. Every vestry meeting could begin with at least a short study of scripture (rather than the gratuitous “let us pray...” Bible study can set the tone and allow space for God into the entire purpose and process of any gathering. Vestry members could wonder and seek to know “*what would the spirit of Christ-like love say about this issue/matter,*” before business is discussed and acted upon. Putting off making decisions about very **important matters** until the “next meeting after the current discussion,” could allow for deeper listening and prayer... for the Spirit to have her say.

When it comes to doing business in the church, **I believe**, it is *more important* to understand the basics of the Gospels above any leadership strategy; *more important* to take the risks the apostle Paul did than the advice of Timothy Geithner (Sec. of The US Treasury); *more important* to be familiar with Jesus’ teachings about money (the human need he had more to say about than anything else throughout the Gospels) than with the successful business strategies of Google.

Scripture gives a very different model of how the church is to operate. According to scripture, success does not depend on a personal achievement, subscribing to the latest best investment practices, or the ability to master business strategies. It depends on God....and empowerment by the Holy Spirit. But on the other hand, the people we know of from scripture are often failures (personnel defect number one). Many appear to be inconsequential and insignificant, cast away, marginalized people, (unemployable). And the secret of their success

is their *radical reliance* on God and their

faithfulness in following God's lead, (spiritual nut-cases, unreliable).

Truth is, doing business in the church does not have to be an **either/or**. Church business decision makers can study scripture and business principles together. Most likely, some principles that succeed in the marketplace **will** work in the church as well. But that doesn't mean we should uncritically adopt them as matter-of-fact in the church. We must ask, “*What does the Holy Spirit have to say about this practice?*” before or as a business practice is adopted.

Human nature often dictates that one system is going to have to be dominant, and be the foundation on which we approach all else....someone or group will want to “win the argument.” I prefer Scripture, in the *stories* it tells, the *approach* to God it teaches, and the *history* it invites us to be part of as the **foundation** in all we decide to do in the church.

These three questions for now:

1. How is God renewing our lives and church, in these building projects we prepare to take on?
2. What is God doing in our life and church that we are now enabled to take on these tasks after only talking about them for so long?
3. Scripture, discernment, prayer, and deep listening will keep our sacred place as it is meant to be...where do they fit into our plans now?

fr.harrison@gmail.com

Peace and joy,

Harrison †

Services in June, July, and Early August

- **Sunday, June 7:** The First Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, June 14:** The Second Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
Vestry Meeting
- **Sunday, June 21:** The Third Sunday after Pentecost.. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, June 28:** The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost.. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

- **Sunday, July 5:** The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, July 12:** The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. **at the Koiers, 15 Pine Ridge Road, Underhill Center.**
- **Sunday, July 19:** The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, July 26:** The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, August 2:** The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Bishop Ely will be visiting.**
- **Sunday, August 9:** The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist **at 10:00 a.m. at the Hills, 36 Fitzsimonds Road, Jericho.**
- **Sunday, August 16:** The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Vestry Meeting.**

Other Important Holy Days

- **June 11:** Feast Day of St. Barnabas, the Apostle
- **June 24:** The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- **June 29:** Feast Day of St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles
- **July 22:** Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene
- **July 25:** Feast Day of St. James the Apostle
- **August 15:** Feast Day of St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- For scriptural readings for these holy days, see BCP, pgs. 997 - 998.

And a special day for all Americans:

- **July 4:** Independence Day. Have a great day!

Thoughts and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: Jim Bresee, Betty (Malone) Burkart, The family of Amy Bombard, Margaret Connelly, Paul Connelly, Joseph and Catherine Lawsing, Sally Marcotte & family, Marta Mares & family, Ross Perri, Shirley Strong, Lindsay Waiksnoris, Kenny and Alix Wiggin, all of our college students, and all of our military men and women, home and abroad, especially Jesse Arbogast, Aaron Decker, Jessie Decker, and Scott Jackson.

The Warden's Corner

Summer is almost here! Well, at least according to the calendar – certainly not according to the temperatures we’ve been experiencing. I was planting flowers on Saturday (May 30) and as soon as I got done, I was moving the window boxes indoors and covering everything else with sheets. Jack Frost just doesn’t seem to want to give it up.

Summer means our fine Chronicle editor takes a bit of a well-deserved break. Thanks Barbie for your ministry and the excellent job you do keeping us connected. I often hear from other churches how jealous they are of our Chronicle.

Summer also means the end of Sunday School for the season. It was great to see the kids get their attendance pins on Sunday – the program has come a long way in a short period of time. Calvary is alive with the sounds of children – is there a better hope for the future? Many thanks to Marcie for leading this ministry so well – you have given the next leader a great foundation to build on.

Summer this year does not bring the usual slow down for all activities. We are going to be heading into a Capital Campaign and we are already laying the groundwork for this effort. Calvary needs some TLC and your vestry is reviewing bids and making decisions about what happens next. Certainly fundraising will be a part of it – and we’ll be in touch. I’m pleased to announce that Jeff Hill has volunteered to co-chair the campaign with me. And we are off to a great start with a \$9,000 grant from the diocese toward our campaign effort. With prayer and hard work, we know we can be successful.

Speaking of prayer, one project will be taken care of with only a little effort from us. Larry Paap, whom I have dubbed our patron saint of painters, is going to paint the undercroft, including the bathroom and kitchen, and only charge us the cost of the paint. We will have a wallpaper removal party at some point and then watch the transformation. Lest anyone is wondering – the Holy Spirit is alive and active at Calvary!

So enjoy the summer. I know we all go in many directions and don’t see each other as often as we’d like, but when you are home – come to

Calvary and worship with friends. We are a special community – one that is continuing to

grow both spiritually and in number. We have two "Mass in the Grass" services planned, as well as our annual get-together with our friends from Good Shepherd. It promises to be a full summer. Have fun – safe travels – and come home when you can. We will gather together and make a joyful noise!

Blessings,

Chuck

Announcements:

Blessing of the Animals

On Saturday, June 27, Fr. Harrison and Pastor Dagmar Rosenberg of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will jointly celebrate a Blessing of the Animals service at Mills Riverside Park at the pavilion at 3:00 pm. The blessing is open to the public. Invite your friends and neighbors and please bring your pets, large and small, furry or winged, slick or scaly, as we bless and give thanks for "all creatures great and small."

Mass in the Grass

This summer we will celebrate two services of "Mass in the Grass," an outdoor Holy Eucharist with a pot-luck lunch to follow: at the home of John and Barbie Koier on July 12, and at the home of Jeff and Laura Hill on August 9. Both services will begin at 10:00 a.m. Please sign up in the undercroft

Bishop's Annual Visitation

Bishop Tom Ely will make his annual visit to the parish on Sunday, August 2. Those parishioners who may wish to be "received" into full membership in the Episcopal Church, or reaffirm your baptismal vows (see pages 412-419, Book of Common Prayer, Service for Confirmation and Reception), may do so on that Sunday. See Fr. Harrison (soon) for more details.

Food Shelf

Calvary's monthly responsibility to the local food shelf is to provide 36 cans of fruit and 76 cans of vegetables.

Flower Ministry

We are looking for someone to take over the Flower Ministry at Calvary. Andrea Hook has retired after many years in this position and is willing to help train someone. Please see Fr. Harrison or Karen if you have questions or are interested.

Parish Picnic

Please join us on Sunday, August 30, for our Annual Eucharist and Parish Picnic with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at Mills Riverside Park beginning at 10:00 a.m. We ask that you please bring a dish to share.

Diocesan Summer Camp

Our diocesan Summer Camp, Rock Point, has expanded and is offering several fun-filled weeks for the 2009 camp season. Rock Point camp sessions are open to all children (not just those of the Episcopal Church), and scholarships are available. See Fr. Heidel for information and application forms. He will be attending as volunteer chaplain during one of the week long sessions.

Vestry Meetings

Due to the fact that our Mass in the Grass summer services both fall on the second Sunday of the month, both our July and August vestry meetings will take place on the third Sundays, which will be July 19 and August 16.

Stewardship in Action

On May 21, a group of us joined in carrying out our first Stewardship in Action activity, helping cook dinner, serve and clean up at the Salvation Army. I think I can speak for all of us that we had fun while being out there helping others. Everyone was so friendly and appreciative and needless to say the Salvation Army has it down to a science and the gig was so well organized it verged on easy. Calvary was a presence and it felt good! Dave, who was subbing in at the SA for the night, had lots of good information for us so we have a much better idea of what to do next time. Our next date is Wednesday June 24. I will be sending out an email about it in a week or so. I will also be emailing Teresa the coordinator

there and setting up some dates for down the road so people can plan ahead a bit. Next time we will be doing a salad and bringing some fresh fruit

along with the dinner as those two things are hits on the menu! Thank you to everyone who helped out Fran and Dave, Tyna and Jack, John and Barbie. No one could ask for greater support than I've gotten from Calvary. I urge everyone to take part in some way, either donating food, milk, cooking and/or serving. It is great fellowship and truly what we are about.

Pam Bloch

Finance Committee Report

At Calvary's annual meeting in January, we committed to provide regular financial reports to the congregation. This is the first of these reports.

As a reminder, Calvary's annual budget is \$40,346.

We track budget performance year-to-date as a percentage of the annual budget. This report is year-to-date through April, the fourth of 12 months, or one-third of the year. Our target for expenses and income through April is 33% of the annual budget, or, \$13,448. Actual expenses have been \$17,057. We have overspent by \$3,609. The Finance committee has analyzed spending line by line. Much of the over spending occurred on items which naturally occur early in the year. Those will recover by year end. Other items will need adjustments or changes in our approach. These latter items will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting.

It was also noted that pledges year-to-date are only 26%. We are not alarmed by this since we view pledges as an annual commitment; however, the combination of overspending and under pledging is putting the checkbook balance in a more precarious position. Calvary started the year with a checkbook balance of \$6,344. Today it is only \$1,052.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ken Wiggin
Pam Parshall
Fr. Harrison*

Vestry Minutes – March

- * The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.

- * Jeff Hill was given the annual audit instructions and informed of the September deadline for completion.
- * We are still looking for a capital campaign co-chair to work with Chuck on the roof project.
- * Gail put forward the idea of an ongoing "Tag Sale". Items collected on a regular basis would be sold on specific days of the month. She also suggested a bottle drop.
- * Funds will be kept in the budget for paying musicians, even though current musicians do not accept compensation.
- * A procedure to standardize and provide guidance for thanking members of the church for the work that they do should be created.
- * Jack outlined a few options for creating a combination online and hard copy version of a Calvary directory.
- * Chuck called a second electrician to look at our alarm system and is waiting to hear back from him.
- * Jack will schedule time with Karen to create a video inventory of Calvary.
- * Chuck is updating the list of church members to include new vestry member calling assignments.

Vestry Minutes – April

- * Harrison thanked Jeff for taking vestry minutes in March while Karen was away.
- * Pledges are behind (Peter is concerned). Expenses are going well. We are not spending much extra.
- * Pam asked the bank to stop sending check copies, so we will save \$5 a month.
- * Continuing paying for trash pickup was discussed. Fran, Harrison and Ken offered to take garbage home. Pam will call and cancel trash pickup. John offered to start taking the garbage immediately and will announce this next week. Ken will support John. Organizations using the building will be asked to carry in and carry out. John will call the boy scouts to make them aware.
- * Jeff was given the paperwork necessary to complete the audit, with questions to Pam.
- * Fundraising-Gail will hold a larger tag sale in June and work on the Harvest Market Silent Auction.

- * Laura will draft an email about a Sunday School meeting for parents on May 3. The wedding committee will also meet on that day.
- * Many donation requests have been received. Do any of these conflict with Pam Bloch's plans? Harrison will ask Chuck to contact Pam about the Salvation Army and her ministry, asking her to attend a vestry meeting. Ken pointed out that we have limited funds.
- * Flowers-Andrea has retired from the flower ministry. We will offer this ministry to the congregation.
- * Finance Committee will meet April 30 to discuss the first quarterly finance committee report to the congregation.
- * Pledge update-7 families are up to date on their pledges, 9 families are overpaid by \$690 and 10 families are behind by \$2,055. Three families prepaid their 2009 pledges totaling \$825 in 2008.
- * Pro-Tech Painting has offered to paint our front doors, some outdoor trim and seal our front deck, free of charge. Owner Larry Paap, a Christian, does this each year to help out churches in the area.
- * Several complaints have been received about the inefficiency of our vacuum. Since some people are able to get it to work, John will get a new manual online and we'll have a training session.
- * Laura Hill has an idea in mind for a new Calvary sign.

August/September Newsletter Deadline

August 18, 2009 will be the deadline for the next issue of the Chronicle. Please e-mail items to Barbie at jbkoier@gmail.com or place them in her mailbox at church. Thank you.

Recipe Corner

The following recipe was contributed by Karen Floyd. These bars are delicious, believe me! Thanks Karen!

Key Lime Bars

- 1 cup plus 2 _ tablespoons graham cracker crumbs (1/3 of a 1 pound box)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted
- 3 large egg yolks
- 1 _ teaspoons finely grated lime zest
- 1 (14 oz) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2/3 cup Key lime juice
- _ cup heavy cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir together crumbs, sugar and butter in small bowl. Press evenly onto bottom of 8 inch square glass pan. Bake until dry and golden brown, about 10 minutes. Let cool in pan on a wire rack. Leave oven on.

Place egg yolks and zest in a bowl. Beat on high speed until mixture is very thick, about 5 minutes. On medium speed, pour in condensed milk in a steady stream, scraping down sides of bowl. Beat on high speed until thick, about 3 minutes. On low speed, add lime juice; mix until just combined.

Pour filling over crust; spread evenly. Bake until just set, about 10 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack. Chill at least 4 hours or overnight.

Beat cream in a medium bowl until stiff peaks just form. Cut dessert into 18 rectangles. Garnish each with whipped cream. Bars will keep, wrapped in plastic, in the refrigerator for up to three days.

Our next issue of the Chronicle will be out the week of August 17. Fr. Harrison and Karen will continue to make important announcements in our weekly Sunday Bulletins. Our web site www.calvarychurchvt.org is also full of current information

Have a great summer!